



AgForward leaves lasting legacy for Queensland Ag

AgForce's iconic AgForward initiative, which has delivered vital skills and technology to more than 10,000 landholders across Queensland, will come to an end on 30 September after seven and a half years.

AgForce general president Brent Finlay announced at AgForce's annual Conference in Charleville last night that funding for the project had ended but said the project would leave a lasting legacy for Queensland landholders.

"The AgForward project was launched back in 2005 to help landholders deal with the Vegetation Management Act, one of the biggest issues to impact Queensland landholders," Mr Finlay said.

"While AgForce was opposed to the premises of the Act, this industry-driven program aimed to help landholders navigate the complex rules surrounding the legislation and provide some certainty and control over vegetation management.

"Led by AgForce Projects manager Sue Dillon, AgForward staff have delivered more than 800 free workshops across the state and provided free one-on-one assistance to more than 2000 landholders.

"This support has helped landholders understand the laws, make thinning, fodder and encroachment applications, and has given landholders the tools to dispute incorrect Regional Ecosystem and Regrowth maps and secure cleared farming areas by applying for a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV)."

Mr Finlay said a key legacy of the project is the practical application of technology on-farm.

"Through property computer mapping and GPS workshops, thousands of landholders have developed skills to utilise on-farm technologies to improve property management and productivity," Mr Finlay said.

"For the first time, landholders have been given access to free satellite imagery of their property and taught the skills to use technology for property planning purposes and as a critical tool for disaster recovery and preparedness."

Funding for AgForward will finish on 30 September, with no further workshops or one-on-one assistance available after this date.

The final round of workshops includes GPS Essentials in Goondiwindi, Warwick and Boonah from 18-20 September; and vegetation management in Alpha, Jericho and Barcaldine from 25-27 September.

To register for a workshop or for more information visit www.agforceprojects.org.au or call 3238 6048.

Pic Caption: Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Andrew Cripps and AgForce general president Brent Finlay at AgForce State Conference in Charleville.

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