



## Producers upskill at final GPS workshops

**Media release: 24 September 2012**

AgForce delivered the final free AgForward GPS Essentials workshops to a large crowd of enthusiastic landholders in Warwick and Boonah last week.

Attendees travelled from all parts of south-east Queensland to take advantage of the workshops before the project finishes at the end of September.

Graziers Leslie and Craig Hanson, “Perseverance”, travelled from Kandanga to attend the workshop in Boonah on Thursday and said the skills would be invaluable in future property management.

“We have previously attended an AgForward property computer mapping workshop and wanted to learn how to integrate a GPS unit with our mapping program,” Mrs Hanson said.

“Now that we know how to navigate using the unit, mark out waypoints and tracks, and transfer data to and from our mapping program, we are going to be able to achieve so much on our property.

“When we purchased the property it was quite run down so these technologies will help us manage the property more sustainably. It will also allow us to do photo monitoring for weed control and as a tool for managing vegetation, allowing us to easily and accurately see where we can and can’t clear.”

Mrs Hanson said the two technologies would help them plan out property infrastructure such as new watering points and fencing for rotational grazing.

“We would also like to construct some new watering points for rotational grazing and the mapping program and GPS will make it easy for us to accurately plan this out and maximise productivity.”

AgForce Projects GIS technical officer Noel Brinsmead, who has delivered GPS workshops since they were launched five years ago, said it was great to see landholders eager to discover the benefits of the technology.

“GPS is a valuable farm management tool and can make property planning, monitoring and management so much easier,” Mr Brinsmead said.

“GPS ensures new infrastructure is built precisely at the right location which can save costs on fencing material and polypipe, and can help with calculating the area of paddocks, and ground-truthing regulatory maps.”

These workshops were delivered free through AgForward, an initiative of AgForce, funded by the Queensland Government. Funding for this project will come to an end on 30 September, with no further workshops or one-on-one assistance available after this date.

For more information call (07) 3238 6048.

**Photo caption:**

**IMG\_6900 - Bruce Wagner and AgForce Projects GIS technical officer Noel Brinsmead.**

**IMG\_6902 - AgForce Projects mapping officer Catherine Perrett and Leslie Hanson**

**IMG\_6886 – AgForce Projects mapping officer Catherine Perrett helps landholders with their GPS units at the workshop in Warwick on Wednesday 24 September.**

**For comment call Noel Brinsmead on (07) 3238 6041 or 0400 665 436.**

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