

## Field days offer producers helping hand with leasehold issues

Details of the state's Leasehold Land Strategy and the long term impacts of leasehold rent increases on rural producers will be the focus of a series of free field days being held in Richmond, Hughenden and Charters Towers from 15-17 July.

The AgForce Projects field days are open to all producers and provide an update on leasehold issues including lease renewal, property mapping, leasehold rents and monitoring.

AgForce North regional manager John Hardaker said leasehold land issues impact many landholders in the region and it is important that they understand the impacts on their farming operations.

"A lot of landholders are impacted by the Government's Leasehold Land Strategy and need to know their rights in regards to this policy," Mr Hardaker said.

"Landholders who are affected by the Delbessie agreement, and in particular those with leases expiring in the near future, need to be aware of the situation and where they stand with the renewal process.

"The field days will outline and explain some of the definitions in the leasehold land paper and explain the impacts and implications of the agreement that are coming their way."

AgForce policy officer Lauren Hewitt will provide an overview of how leaseholders can calculate leasehold rents and the long term impacts of rent increases on their business.

"With most rents increasing at 20 per cent per annum until 2017 and land values fluctuating wildly, it is crucial that all leaseholders/lessees find out about the current methodology for calculating leasehold rents," Ms Hewitt said.

"The regulation that sets lease rentals is being reviewed next year, so leaseholders need to consider how these rental increases will affect their business, industry and communities and what should be reflected in any future leasehold rent methodology."

Department of Environment and Resource Management senior natural resource officer Rob Hassett will outline details of the lease renewal process under the Delbessie Agreement (State Rural Leasehold Land Strategy) including land management agreements.

Mr Hassett will also explain land condition and self-assessment requirements of the agreement and will outline land management tools to assist landholders with productivity and sustainability.

Other speakers include AgForce Projects technical manager Graeme Bell who will discuss the Australian Government's proposed Carbon Farming Initiative.

Leasehold land/cyclone recovery field days will also run in Chillagoe and Einasleigh on 12 and 13 July.

Field days are delivered free to all landholders through AgForward, an initiative of AgForce within its project division, funded by the Queensland Government and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Carbon on Farm initiative.

To find out more or to register for these events please contact Paddy Roe on (07) 3238 6048, email [roep@agforward.org.au](mailto:roep@agforward.org.au) or visit [www.agforceprojects.org.au](http://www.agforceprojects.org.au).

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