

# the burnett buzz...

Spring 2019

## Monto Agricultural Strategy



**O**n Thursday evening, 29 August 2019, a crowd gathered to see the official launch of the Monto Agricultural Strategy. The Monto Agricultural Strategy was funded by the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund. BBRF as it is known is an Australian Government initiative, designed to create employment, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities.

Mr Ken O'Dowd MP, Federal Member for Flynn performed official opening duties as local supporters watched on. Also in attendance was Mr Colin Boyce NP, State Member for Callide and Mr Paul Lobegeier, North Burnett Regional Council Division 1 Councillor. Representing the Burnett Catchment Care Association Board were Mr Paul Lobegeier and Mrs Beth Shanks.

Approximately 45 guests from the Monto district attended the official launch and had a wonderful time learning about the Monto Agricultural

Strategy and mingling with fellow Producers. A highlight of the night was listening to guest speaker Mr Rob Cook. Rob humbly led guests through his life journey and included an insight into his multi-faceted and successful agricultural business.

The Monto Agricultural Strategy was developed by Burnett Catchment Care Association in partnership with the North Burnett Regional Council, Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation, Monto Growers Group and Farmstuff Monto.

The concept for the Monto Agricultural Strategy came from our local Monto farmers following the October 2017 flood event. When the aftermath of the October 2017 flood set in, local Producers' resilience had been pushed to the absolute limit and they were left somewhere in between melancholy and despair. As a result, the application for the Monto Agricultural Strategy was born.

The Monto Agricultural Strategy aims to support the

development of meaningful and long-lasting resilience by addressing the fundamental economic and Natural Resource Management foundations of the region. By carefully researching current agricultural practices, economic, market, consumer and environmental trends, the strategy provides a plan for long-term success that delivers a vision for the region's agricultural and environmental sustainability. The strategy seeks to determine the support and infrastructure required for existing markets and examine value-adding opportunities to drive productivity and growth along the supply chain, ultimately empowering growers and yielding financial rewards for individual operations, the local economy and the wider community.

If you would like a copy of the published strategy, please contact Burnett Catchment Care Association on 07 4166 3898 or refer to the website: <https://betterburnett.com/building-better-regions-fund-agricultural-strategy/>

*The Monto Agricultural Strategy is delivered by BCCA thanks to the Australian Government's funding through the Building Better Regions Fund – Community Investment Stream.*

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Cr. Paul Lobegeier, Mr Colin Boyce MP & Mr Ken O'Dowd MP

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### Highlights

- Upcoming RCS Clinic— Biggenden
- Inland Burnett SMART-Hub survey!
- Managing Risk in Agriculture
- Drought Declaration

## Register Now for Upcoming RCS Grazing Clinic

It was a hit with graziers earlier this year and it's on again – the Resource Consulting Services' (RCS) Grazing Clinic is coming to the North Burnett!

Delivered as a hands-on workshop and property visit, the clinic will address the principles and practices of grazing management to assist participants in becoming better 'grass managers'. Thanks to funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments, the two-and-a-half-day clinic will cost only \$250.

Practical sessions will address the setting of rest periods for a paddock to suit pasture growth rates, property design for water and fencing placement and matching stocking rates to carrying capacity. Participants will also learn how to apply grazing charts and undertake profitable property planning.

This RCS Grazing Clinic will be held in Biggenden between 9 – 11 October. To register, please call RCS on 1800 356 004 or email [info@rcsaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@rcsaustralia.com.au).



RCS Grazing Clinic participants March 2019

*This workshop is supported by the Burnett Mary Regional Group and Burnett Catchment Care Association through funding from the Australian Government Reef Trust Program with the common goal of securing the future health of the Great Barrier Reef. The workshop is also jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland*

*Governments through the 2017-18 Natural Disaster Resilience Program.*

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Inland Burnett: SMART Audit and Strategic Gap Analysis project is funded by the federal governments Building Better Regions Fund—Community Investment Stream. The founding concept behind this project is based on the fact that agriculture is fast becoming more knowledge intensive and being able to source timely, accurate information, that is specifically tailored to the Inland Burnett conditions is critical for farmers. Enabling them to be able to make the most of their resources in often changing circumstances.

Therefore, BCCA is asking landholders to complete a short survey, to identify the type of information you are currently

accessing for your business and what information you would like access to which is specific for the Inland Burnett.

**'... identify the gaps in resources available to landholders,....'**

This will help us identify the gaps in resources available to landholders, how useful your current resources are and also identify the impediments you face in accessing resources.

Ultimately, we plan to create a website

with regionally specific information from landtypes, soils, mapping, pests and weeds to natural disaster information and landholder funding.

We encourage all landholders in the Inland Burnett to complete this short survey.

Please follow the link— <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NJLSD3>

If you would like a hard copy of the survey please contact the BCCA office.

Contact BCCA@  
P: 07 4166 3898  
E: [admin@burnettcatchment.org](mailto:admin@burnettcatchment.org)

## What's on 'round the Burnett...

19 Sep - Annual Reef Science Forum—Bundaberg  
19 Sep - Improving Resilience—Coalstoun Lakes  
20 Sep - Using Creativity to Manage Change—Monto  
20—22 Sep - Heartland Festival—Gayndah  
21 Sep - Annual Landcare Festival—Gympie  
23 Sep - Soil Solutions—Emerald

24 Sep - Sugar Research Australia— Childers  
28 Sep - Central Burnett Landcare AGM—Mundubbera  
9—11 Oct - RCS Grazing Clinic—Biggenden  
15 Oct - Women in Agriculture—Mundubbera  
16 Oct - BIEDO—North & South Burnett Ag Network  
17 Oct - BMRG Mapping Workshop—Tansey

# Managing Risk in Agriculture Workshops

August saw BCCA host a series of Risk Management Workshops across the North Burnett. The Managing Risks in Agriculture Workshops aimed to enhance producer knowledge around agricultural risks, as well as provide some additional tools to manage these risks and build on overall business resilience,



Des Crane (Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd), Ann McKenzie (BMRG) & Peter Crawford (Norther Aust. Climate Program)

particularly in regard to Natural Disasters.

Topics covered included, General Risk Management, Insurance and Climate Risk Management; facilitated by Des Crane - Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd, Jarrod Kath - University of Southern QLD (in consultation with Ross Henry - Queensland Farmers Federation) and Peter Crawford - Northern Australia Climate Program.



Participants ranged from grazing and grains to horticulture and mixed enterprise producers - across the 2 workshops at Coalstoun Lakes and Monto. All were able to acquire a broad range of knowledge and skills in regard to managing risks, and all believed that this would improve the resilience of their agricultural businesses.

## Manage Risk in Agriculture—Coalstoun Lakes Workshop

BCCA were able to provide these subsidies thanks to the 2017-18 Natural Disaster Resilience Program, proudly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments.

Contact BCCA@ P: 07 4166 3898 E: admin@burnettcatchment.org

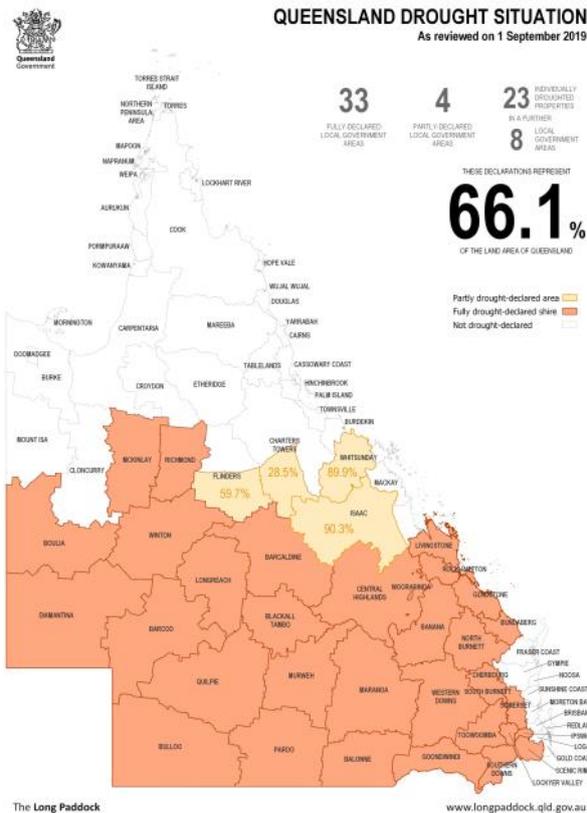
# Entire Burnett Now Drought Declared

Due to significant 'lack of rain and rapidly depleting pasture reserves', the North Burnett local Council area has been drought declared, back dated to 1 September 2019. The North Burnett local government area now joins the South Burnett (declared March 2017) and the Bundaberg council area (declared May 2019) as being officially drought declared.

North Burnett landholder can now access subsidies for; Transport of Fodder Freight, Transport of Livestock to (and from) Agistment Freight, Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate, Water Freight and Dam Desilting Rebate.

**'...North Burnett landholders can now access subsidies...'**

Application forms and eligibility requirements can be found on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website—<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/drought/assistance-programs/guidelines-forms>.



Rural Financial Counselling Services—Southern Queensland (RFCS), is also a valuable resource available to landholders in drought declared government areas. RFCS are free of charge, confidential, impartial, independent and have been trained and accredited to ensure the information you receive is of a high standard. They are flexible and can meet at a time and venue that is suitable to you. They are also available if you need help filling in Drought Relief Assistance Scheme forms. RFCS are out and about in the community and have offices located at Biloela, Biggenden and Kingaroy.

BCCA also has these forms in hard copy at our office, 6 Lyell Street Monto.

Contact BCCA@ P: 07 4166 3898 E: admin@burnettcatchment.org



*Monto Agriculture Strategy launch guest speaker—  
Rob Cook*

## Burnett Catchment Care Association

BCCA is a member-based, not-for-profit organisation, employing professional staff to develop and implement natural resource management projects across the Burnett Catchment.

We work directly with landholders to support sustainable land management practices.

We partner with associated, like-minded organisations such as the Burnett Mary Regional Group and landcare groups where much of our funding is derived from State and Federal Government funding programs.



### General Manager:

*Katie Muller* M: 0428 753 338

### Administration Manager

*Melinda Clarke* P: (07) 4166 3898

### Officers:

*Marisa Young* M: 0439 032 253 *Naomi Purcell* M: 0417 008 769  
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**O**ur General Manager, Katie Muller has been on maternity leave since the end of June 2019. Marisa Young & Melinda Clarke are filling in as General Manager while Katie gets to spend some well deserved time with her growing family. Katie and her husband Kendall, welcomed a baby boy—Darcy Glen on 1 July 2019. All are doing well and we look forward to Katie's return to BCCA.

Our Community Resilience Officer, Kirstie Roffey, has moved on from BCCA and has taken up a position in banking at Emerald. We are sad to see her go and wish her all the best in her new endeavors. Our loss is someone else's gain as they say!

BCCA launched our Monto Agricultural Strategy in Monto last month. The full story is on the front page of this newsletter. A highlight of the evening was guest speaker



Rob Cook and his lovely wife Sarah, who recounted his amazing story of resilience, determination and adaptation in the face of adversity, after a helicopter crash in 2008 left Rob instantly paralysed. Well done to Naomi Purcell and Misty Green on developing the strategy with input from local producers, community, industry and government as well as numerous hours of industry research. The strategy can be downloaded from our website or hard copies are available from the BCCA office in Monto.

## Last word...

As we continue to apply for funding, BCCA would love to hear from the community on ideas for projects that you would like BCCA to explore. So, we call on you to let us know what type of projects you would like to see in the Burnett region.



*Marisa Young & Melinda Clarke*

### 2018/19 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Renew your membership for only \$1 and keep up to date with BCCA activities**

- \$1 cash       stamps       **NEW \$5 for 5 year membership**

**CONTACT OFFICE FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT DETAILS!!!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**Please return with payment (postage stamps acceptable) to: BCCA PO Box 8, Monto Q 4630**