

# Needs Analysis Summary

## Primary Producers of the Southern Burnett Catchment

As part of the *Building Resilience in the Agricultural South Burnett* project, BCCA conducted an online survey to identify the main challenges affecting primary producers and highlight opportunities to enhance resilience. Insights from 86 producers that responded to the survey, supported by input from five regional service providers, offered a clear understanding of the factors influencing agricultural resilience in the Southern Burnett.

### Producers of the southern Burnett Catchment



98% of survey respondents are involved in cattle production, 31% in fodder production, and 18% in grain and/or cropping. 61% of respondents are between 51-70 years of age.

### Work Life Balance



44% of respondents have paid off farm work, with half working at least 30 hours/week



65% are involved in volunteering activities, 27% of these respondents contribute greater than 20 hours/month



55% of survey respondents reported not having a holiday or break away from the business every year with 17% of the total indicating they never have a holiday or break.

### Stressors to primary producers

Survey participants were asked to identify topics causing stress in the last 12 months



The impact of legislation (85%)  
Politics around climate change (78%)



Threat of drought (67%)  
Risk of theft (74%)



Finances (70%)  
Their own health (66%)  
Family stresses (61%)

### Attendance at events



Survey respondents indicated that they would be most interested in attending events if they are relevant, timely and value for money.



Based on the feedback received, the most common reason for not attending events is the challenge of work/family commitments, despite their interest.



### Assistance to primary producers

Survey participants were asked to identify topics of interest and/or assistance their business.



The most popular assistance suggested is technical information, free/low-cost access to experts, on farm demonstration sites, financial management workshops and improved linking with like-minded people

## Topics of interest to primary producers



Survey respondents indicated that they are interested in Regenerative Agricultural Practices, Soil Health and Management, and Water Management and Conservation

## How to contact primary producers

Survey participants were asked how they would like to receive information about upcoming activities.



Email is the preferred way of receiving information, followed by texts/SMS, social media and flyers in the mail.

## Feedback from service providers



Growers may benefit from a better understanding of and confidence in managing their own finances.



The impact of droughts and natural disasters is significant and may be reduced by better preparedness.



Producers may benefit from spending more time on planning and prioritising their actions.



Many producers are squeezed by financial constraints and don't have a buffer for disasters.



Barriers to preparedness include financial constraints, access to useful resources and lack of confidence in information sources.



Engagement can be improved by working with local champions, leveraging existing networks and working in small groups.

## Activities and information

Workshops on numerous topics have been delivered throughout the region, including use of Excel, Soil Health, Grazing Land Management, Grasslands Regeneration, Grazing Naturally and Business Management.

BCCA staff will continue to work in partnership with existing groups to deliver workshops and activities to meet the needs identified in the survey.

Activities will be regularly promoted via the BCCA Burnett Buzz newsletter, social media and via the BCCA website.

## Contact details

BCCA staff delivering the project activities are located in Murgon.  
Wendy Thorsborne can be contacted via 0407 382284 or [wendy@betterburnett.com](mailto:wendy@betterburnett.com)  
Ann McKenzie can be contacted via 0448 400226 or [ann@betterburnett.com](mailto:ann@betterburnett.com)



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