



April 2014

Working with leverage

Land holders battling to control feral animals stand to reap the benefits of several Fulcrum Apps we have developed and are currently rolling out.

Our smartphone apps, built with the Fulcrum software by our very own Jade Fraser, enables users to record the sightings of any feral animals or weeds they come across in their travels or around their properties. This data is then uploaded into a central database where it can be viewed in a number of ways.

Jade is our Geographic Information Consultant, and collecting and manipulating data is his specialty. The Fulcrum Apps have him very excited because they have the 'anytime, anywhere' functionality that overcomes the lack of mobile coverage across the Outback.

"They run equally well on either Apple or Android systems, and it doesn't matter if you don't have coverage," Jade said, "they simply store the data, then automatically upload it as soon as you come into service."

"You can use the apps on tablets as well as your smartphone, and if you don't have either, you can have them on your PC and enter the data when you get home."

Jade sees the Fulcrum Apps as essential tools for landholders to combat ferals and weeds. "We currently have 156 people out there collecting data, automatically feeding it into a central database where it can be used for better management and control of pests."

Within 24 hours, data is pushed to **Google Maps** where it can be composited with other information layers such as baiting tracks, property control methods and more ([see https://mapsengine.google.com/16431920479244186942-02976990931589504598-4/mapview/](https://mapsengine.google.com/16431920479244186942-02976990931589504598-4/mapview/)). This creates a powerful tool for decision making and management, as users can access sighting information from around the region along with other Google Maps data.

As part of our continuous improvement program, we are constantly upgrading our Fulcrum Apps and have recently included additional data like sex, colour and weather conditions (for wild dog sightings). We have also made the Queensland local government areas and a

topographic map available in the off line mode, so users can take advantage of them even when they have no mobile coverage. And as an added bonus, we have integrated Fulcrum data into Tableau so users can visualise the data and make timely business decisions.

Our aim is to assist land holders to manage feral animals and weeds in the most strategic and cost-effective way possible; our Fulcrum Apps are playing a key role in this. If you would like to join the effort, and start collecting information on feral animals and weeds in your area, give Jade a call and he will organise access to the relevant Fulcrum App, and will show you how to use it.

Is the DCQ Fulcrum App a good business tool? Well, 9 shires, 5 NRM groups and 156 users says it is.

\$320 million

Under the Federal Government's \$320 million drought assistance package, up to \$10 million has been made available to control feral animals, and \$12 million for water-related infrastructure.

The feral animal component will apply primarily in Queensland and New South Wales to help reduce the impacts of wild dogs and other pest animals and manage total grazing pressure in drought-affected regions.

While the guidelines have yet to be finalised, this funding may be delivered through local government, industry groups or natural resource management organisations like DCQ - we are already fielding calls in this regard.

It appears that funding may be used for fencing to manage livestock grazing pressure, and for the exclusion of pest animals, while the lethal control of non-native pest animals will depend on the local circumstances.

In relation to the assistance for drought-affected farm businesses to install water-related infrastructure, a partnership between Emerald-based environmental consulting group, 4T Consultants, and Sydney-based Geo9, a groundwater exploration company, is providing aquifer mapping services which are eligible. If you are interested in this service, visit http://www.geo9.com.au/4T_water_rebate or call 1800 346 392.

For information relating to the Australian Government's Drought Assistance Package please go to: www.daff.gov.au/assistance

As DCQ receives updates in relation to the feral animal funding component we will send information out in our newsletters or, if you have contacted us regarding this and provided your details, we will email you directly.

Social and mental health support

In an effort to assist farm families, farm businesses and rural communities suffering from drought, the Australian Government is providing free professional help. They are also , and a link between people and services to meet their individual needs.

Drought coordinators have been appointed to service drought-affected areas. They will help connect people needing professional medical assistance to appropriate services.

This initiative complements existing services and support available to assist people experiencing distress or mental illness. These services include Lifeline and Kids Helpline, mindhealthconnect and Mindspot.

For more information, phone 1300 653 227, visit dss.gov.au/familysupportprogram or dss.gov.au/targetedcommunitycare, or call your local Drought Coordinator.

Drought Coordinator	Location	Phone	Email
Paul King	Armidale NSW	0477 304 621	paul.king@humanservices.gov.au
Jennifer Jeffrey	Tamworth NSW	0428 265 024	jennifer.jeffrey@humanservices.gov.au
Todd Cavanagh	Charleville QLD	0477 322 051	todd.cavanagh@humanservices.gov.au
Kelly Hoey	Longreach QLD	0408 124 524	kelly.hoey@humanservices.gov.au
Peter Walsh	Mt Isa QLD	0408 117 488	peter.walsh@humanservices.gov.au

Signs for the times

With the tourist season fast approaching, DC Solutions has been busy designing and producing a range of information signs around the region.

In addition to our engaging custom designs and informative content, we specialise in a high quality, graffiti-resistant, outdoor finish, that comes with a 7 year warranty. Our signs come with custom mounting systems, ranging from shelters to plinths. We can also custom make a mounting system to take advantage of existing infrastructure like a fence, guard rail or wall.

If you don't have suitable images, we can source contemporary ones from our extensive library or external sources, and historical images from the State Library.

To market your business or your local community with a signs for the times, phone DC Solutions on 0417 427 900 for a no obligation, free quote.

100% impressed

State Member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, said he is 100% impressed with the work being undertaken by Desert Channels Queensland in the area of sustainable agriculture.

“I’ve been looking at this Prickly Acacia problem between Aramac and Barcaldine for a long while,” said Mr Johnson, “and throughout the Central West region, and just from looking at the maps this morning, and looking at the photographs this morning, I can see that we’re on the right track at last.”

“The pastoral industry can take heart from the great work that Desert Channels has been doing ... and the passion they have displayed, to date, in getting an outcome ...”

Vaughan Johnson was referring to DCQ’s Prickly Acacia control work, funded by the Queensland Government, which is being value-added by Federal sustainable agriculture funding for on-ground trials and landholder education.

“Sound, logical, lateral thinking is going a long way towards correcting the problem,” he said.

“All I can see out of this is productivity on the rise.”

Wokingham Landcare Group

At recent field trials, members of the Wokingham Landcare Group got to see the operational application of lessons from previous mister trials to situations that they encounter every day in their battle with weeds.

Run over two mornings by DCQ on Wokingham Landcare Group member property, Ayrshire Downs, west of Winton, the work concentrated on the application of a range of chemicals to Prickly Acacia growing along 1,200 metres of watercourse.

Dr Wayne Vogler of Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, provided technical input as the DCQ team refined techniques and application rates informed by two years of trials at Audreystone near Barcaldine.

As well as sharing information on application rates and techniques, landholders learnt how to set up misters for best results, and had the opportunity to share experiences with Dr Vogler.

Early expectations are that Hotshot will outperform Starane Advanced, which has already been showing promising results in previous mister trials on prickly acacia. However, the sites will be monitored to verify results.

Regional Landcare Facilitator, Helen Cross conducted a Bio-condition Assessment at the site before spraying commenced, and will conduct follow-up assessments to measure the expected improvement in ground cover and pasture condition. If you would like information on the chemicals used, how the mister was set up or the techniques used, contact Helen Cross on 4652 7829.

Auteuil Field Day

If you're a landholder you'll be interested in our upcoming field day at Auteuil near Barcaldine on the 23rd May. The day starts at 8:30 with a cuppa, then gets into the nitty gritty with presentations on:

- the benefits of planning the control of pests
- restoring grazing capacity through pasture regeneration
- wild dog and feral pig control
- the benefits of the DCQ Area Management Plan
- land condition assessments as an evaluation tool
- the link between property valuation and pest plants
- preparation and planning for climate variability
- new technologies and sleeper issues

The day is fully catered and is topped off by a field trip to inspect the collaborative work done by DCQ and the landholder to restore healthy native pasture. For more information, or to reserve your spot, call DCQ on 4658 0600. Bookings are essential to ensure adequate catering.

25 Years of Landcare Achievement

The National Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regions' Working Group congratulates Landcare on their 25th Anniversary and welcomes the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) call for a new decade of action to tackle the challenges confronting Australia's land, water, wildlife and farmland.

The Chairs of Australia's 56 regional NRM bodies met in Launceston on 21 March 2014 to review and reconfirm their commitment to the Landcare Statement of Common Purpose and to continuing to work closely with the National Landcare Network and Landcare Australia Limited to identify new opportunities to support Landcare.

Pamela Green, Chair of the National NRM Regions' Working Group, said, "Regional NRM bodies have been proud to work with and support Landcare groups across the nation for more than 10 years. We look forward to continuing to build the partnership and to supporting the reinvigoration of Landcare networks. Working together helps produce the improvements in our natural resources needed to sustain our communities and our country into the future."

Looking after our land, waters and living things is a large and long term task and needs all hands, heads and hearts working together to make a difference. Landcare and regional NRM bodies have complementary strengths where Landcare's respected reputation helps to build local ownership and action. Their informal structure and networks provide a key to flexibility in adapting to change and their local knowledge supports innovation and sharing of new ideas. Landcare is a valued partner in delivery of priority activities to support profitable production of food and fibre and conservation of land, water and biodiversity.

Regional NRM bodies engage landowners, industry, all levels of government, non-government organisations, Aboriginal people, Landcare and other 'care' and volunteer groups in regional scale planning and prioritisation of action. They provide governance, accountability and technical underpinning of investment and deliver programs and projects under the regional plans. The regional NRM body network and regional plans encompass all of Australia and shares knowledge, examples and expertise.

"We are currently working with Landcare and others in contributing to the Australian Government's design of the new National Landcare Program and look forward to supporting its implementation over the next decade," Mrs Green said.