

Land, Water & Wool

Land, Water & Wool is investing in research and extension activities targeted at developing profitable and sustainable solutions to the key natural resource management (NRM) issues facing Australian woolgrowers.

The program is a partnership between Australian Wool Innovation Limited and Land & Water Australia and is the wool industry's largest-ever collaborative NRM investment.

Land, Water & Wool is focussed on providing the wool industry with NRM solutions so that woolgrowers can identify and work on overcoming their own on-farm NRM issues.

Background

Australia's 40,000 sheep and wool producers manage over 85 million hectares of the country's land and water resources from the high rainfall areas on the coastal fringe to the wheat-sheep belt and inland to the saltbush and mulga lands of the pastoral zone.

Across this vast area, the industry faces many environmental challenges – including dryland salinity, water quality and looking after native vegetation – all within a variable climate and the desire to balance production with good environmental outcomes.

The Land, Water & Wool program aims to tap into a decade of NRM research and development by Land & Water Australia and build on the wool industry's own experience and research.

The primary objectives of Land, Water & Wool are to:

- identify key natural resource management issues for the wool industry, through better understanding of producers' perceptions, needs, priorities and practices;
- increase woolgrowers' awareness and motivation to tackle natural resource management issues; and
- provide woolgrowers with information and profitable, practical and environmentally considerate management options to address land management issues that affect productivity.

Program outcomes

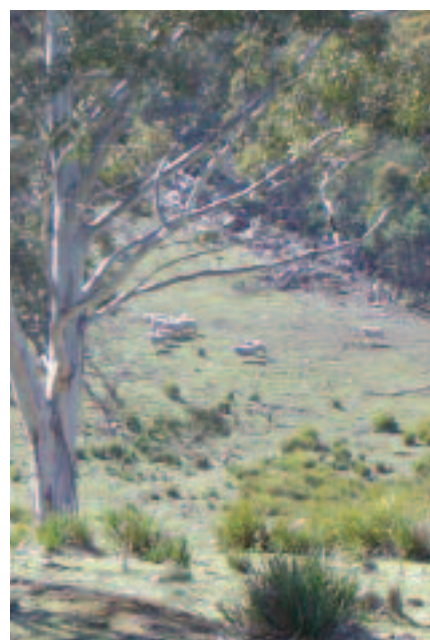
Land, Water & Wool's diverse research portfolio provides woolgrowers with the most up to date environmental information and, where it doesn't already exist, has established research to find the answers.

Research is currently underway with a range of woolgrowing groups on more than 230 properties across Australia.

Over 1,600 woolgrowers and their families are directly involved in the initiative with a further 6,000 growers receiving information regarding the sustainable management of the land, water and vegetation resources that underpin their businesses.

Land, Water & Wool researchers work closely with woolgrowers to develop production guides, technical manuals, detailed case studies, new information and advisory products for sustainable wool production systems.

Through Land, Water & Wool, woolgrowers across Australia are reaping the rewards from improved environmental management and by striving toward greater balance in their production systems they have healthier rivers, richer native bushland and a greater understanding of major issues such as dryland salinity and climate variability.



at a glance...

- The wool industry faces many environmental challenges including dryland salinity, water quality and looking after native vegetation.
- Land, Water & Wool is investing in research and extension activities targeted at developing profitable and sustainable solutions to the key natural resource management issues facing Australian woolgrowers.
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The investment mix

Land, Water & Wool comprises seven sub-programs:

- Benchmarking
- Sustainable Grazing on Saline Lands (SGSL)
- Rivers and Water Quality
- Native Vegetation and Biodiversity
- Managing Climate Variability
- Managing Pastoral Country
- Future Woolscales.

The program has also contributed to the Sustainable Grazing Systems (SGS) harvest year.

Benchmarking

Land, Water & Wool completed its 'Best Practice' survey in mid-2003. This baseline monitoring project was conducted to fully understand current and historical landscape and sheep management issues.

Sustainable Grazing on Saline Lands (SGSL)

The biggest of Land, Water & Wool's sub-programs, SGSL is looking at management options for saline land, including new pasture mixes and grazing management strategies.

SGSL is aiming to achieve improved production and profit from grazing saline land, better environmental outcomes from saline land, and more pride for livestock producers who have saline land on their properties.

Rivers and water quality

This sub-program is researching common riparian and river management issues for woolgrowers, including gully and streambank erosion, water quality, contaminants, weed management and riparian zone management within a total grazing system.

Practical management outcomes will include greater understanding of how to improve water quality, reduce stock mustering time, and reduce erosion rates and loss of valuable agricultural land.

Native vegetation and biodiversity

Research within this sub-program is examining management options that are practical and profitable to help protect, sustain and improve native vegetation across several regions of Australia.

Managing Climate Variability

This sub-program is helping woolgrowers in low rainfall areas to more effectively use, and better adapt, existing seasonal climate forecasts when making grazing management decisions for the season ahead.

Managing Pastoral Country

With a specific focus on the semi-arid rangelands, this sub-program looks at environmental issues and grazing management options to maintain productivity and improve sustainability.

Future Woolscales

A long-term scenario planning (or 'futuring') exercise designed to identify and analyse the key global and industry issues likely to impact on the wool industry over the next 25 years.

Products for woolgrowers

Land, Water & Wool has produced a range of products for woolgrowers to improve the natural resources on their properties. The products include guides, manuals and information sheets. These can be ordered or downloaded via the Land, Water & Wool website www.landwaterwool.gov.au or by phoning tollfree 1800 776 616.

For more information

Call AWI tollfree on 1800 070 099, visit www.wool.com.au, or get in touch with:

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