



Introduction to monitoring for management

- Short Course -

INTRODUCTION

Monitoring is a valuable tool for providing quality information for management decision-making, to improve profitability, to demonstrate best practice and duty of care, and provide evidence of compliance with quality assurance standards and legislation.

However, there is a confusing array of monitoring systems and techniques available, and this course will help you to clarify your objectives for monitoring, to get started with monitoring, or to make more effective management use of the monitoring you are doing now.

This introductory course is designed for someone venturing into monitoring, and explores reasons for monitoring and approaches that will best meet your information needs. The course provides an opportunity to learn the basics of monitoring as well as develop an individual action plan to track progress towards enterprise goals.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will help you:

- Clearly think through why you need monitoring for your own circumstances. What are the objectives and what do you hope to get from the monitoring?
- Appreciate how monitoring can help meet the production, financial, social and environmental goals of your grazing-based business
- Understand the drivers behind the increasing importance of monitoring (for example. Australian Government Envirofund grants will not be provided without an element of monitoring in the project)
- Make the link between monitoring seasonal conditions and longer-term trends, and better management of the production, financial, social and environmental aspects of your enterprise
- Identify best available indicators of trends in land condition (e.g. plants and other organisms, soils, biodiversity, catchment and enterprise health), and the drivers of those trends
- Understand the fundamentals of monitoring design and sampling
- Using sound principles, be able to evaluate and select monitoring systems and/or monitoring tools (based on their strengths and weaknesses) with respect to your particular monitoring needs
- Learn how to keep up to date with the skills, tools, techniques and developments in monitoring
- Learn practical monitoring skills through use of South West NRM's monitoring system - "Monitoring Made Easy".

Completion of this course can help you gain further formal qualifications such as a Certificate IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma. This is because the content of the course has been mapped to one or more units of competency from nationally accredited training packages such as the Conservation and Land Management training, Amenity Horticulture, Rural Production and Business Services training packages. If you satisfactorily complete all the assessment activities during and after the course, you will be awarded a **Statement of Attainment**. This is issued by the University of Queensland Gatton Campus Vocational Training Framework. You will learn more about these requirements at the course.

Of course, if you are **not interested** in gaining **formal recognition** for the course, your participation will still be formalised with a Statement of Participation, issued by Rangelands Australia, so that you have a record of the learning which you have completed.

TIME

7 hours (i.e. 1 day), scheduled to suit the group.

SUGGESTED PARTICIPANTS

Pastoralists/graziers; Landcare and catchment management groups.

DELIVERY

This course will involve indoor and outdoor activities, including a practical field session in monitoring skills. It can be delivered at various locations in a face-to-face workshop. Minimum numbers apply.

COST

\$450 plus GST*

*Note: This is a FarmBisQ Approved Training Activity, and participants may be eligible for a 50% subsidy of course costs.

BACKGROUND TO THIS COURSE

The need for this course was identified by a national survey of education and skills needs for success in the rangelands. The structure, content and key resources were influenced by a panel of experienced producers, agency staff and scientists from New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. This course was piloted in Miles, Queensland.

This short course was developed with funding from the national FarmBis program, and Meat and Livestock Australia.

The practical component of this short course is based on the "Monitoring made Easy" monitoring system developed by South West NRM. Delivery of this course in the South West region is in collaboration with South West NRM.