

Handling change in land management in the Condamine Alliance region

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Introduction

A survey was mailed to 7600 landholders in the region to find out the social and economic factors that affect their decisions on adopting land management practices. Scores were 1 (low)–6 (high).

Overall statistics

Average size of property: 654 ha (50% under 250 ha)

46% of the region was used for dryland pasture, 27% for dryland cropping

Average age of respondents: 56 years

Only 46% expected to make a profit from their property in 2005–2006. Of those expecting a profit, the average expected income was \$35 000

73% earned some off-farm income and this averaged \$39 000

Constraints to adopting new technology

Financial	Cost of inputs	5.1
	Cost of new machinery	5.0
	Cash flow	5.0
Environmental	Climate variability	5.0
	Ground water availability	4.9
Social	Stage of life	4.8
	Access to reliable information	4.4

Priority land management objectives

Want to learn more about:

Cropping —	
Weed control	4.8
Ground cover	4.4
Minimum till	4.3
Grazing —	
Rotations	4.1
Weed control	4.7
Monitoring and grazing management	4.2
Remnant vegetation —	
Control of introduced plants	4.6
Keeping up to date with new technology	4.5

Most useful sources of information for learning about new land management practices

Books and rural magazines	4.2
Field days	3.9
Newspapers	3.8
Brochures	3.5
Local workshops	3.5
Radio	3.3
TV	3.1
Internet	3.0
Land management officers to property	2.3

Most useful people for information

Neighbouring farmers	4.3
Agric business sales and tech reps	3.7
Landcare officers	2.9
Private consultants	2.6
Government field officers	2.4