

What are the main the issues impacting you and your community because of the drought?

- Lack of feed and water
- Mental health, turnover, affect on cattle, degradation
- Water/feed Water and feed issues
- Future will be less as had to sell down
- Everybody gets really down in light of how big the issue is. It is the worst its been in 30 years. No surface water and problems getting underground water make it worse.
- Availability of resources. Eg. Feed and water
- Water is the main issue, people stealing water from their supply
- Lack of water/feed. Costs of supplements
- no feed, running out of water
- Mowing slashing business first time in 20 years been stood down and employees. Destock grazing land
- Dams - having to dig them out so cattle don't get stuck. Cost of everything

What are the main the issues impacting you and your community because of the drought?

- Lack feed water, Mental issues stress Speed of grazing permit process. Lack of info and advertising on subsidies available
- Water issues are the worst water drought in 51 years. Have to check paddocks all the time and check pumps. Got to keep at it all the time. The number one job is looking after the cattle and we are doing this constantly
- Running out of feed and water. We still have a little bit of water
- Lack of water
- Mental health/general health goes down
- As a dairy farmer water and feed is the main issue - income has been halved.
- Feed/water
- Because of the drought no grass - we are ok for water as we have 18 bores on the property

What are the main the issues impacting you and your community because of the drought?

- Not being able to clear enough land and also to put in some food for animals and put in more dams for water and for animals. Can plant anything at the moment as there is no water.
- Feed for animals, because the fires came through last year - not much food around. Not enough water and all the dams are drying up The weather - we just need rain. If its not in drought we are facing catastrophic floods.
- There is no feed around, everything is so dry, fire dangers, lack of water, only one road in and out of Deepwater
- Lack of water and we cant afford to buy it. It is very stressful all the time - I have to constantly think about when and where can I wash.
- No water - No water means farm production is dramatically affected and consequently the costs of watering the orchard when you got no town water supply. I have to run the bore twelve hours a day which means extra electricity costs.

What percentage of your water supply do you think you currently have?

- 10% if that. Largely relying on bores
- 3%
- 5% Relying largely on bores Natural water sources gone. Largely relying on bore water
- 30% Surface and under ground water - very low
- 15-20% capacity
- 50%
- 0% enough to spray trees for this year and that's it
- 10% 1 dam nearly empty, all others empty. Virtually no water.
- Constantly pumping water Have had recent rain in last week which has topped up dams but before that

What percentage of your water supply do you think you currently have?

- 10%
- 20%
- Most dams empty.
- Approx. 8% of normal
- Paddocks only have a few weeks water supply left. If it doesn't rain soon we will have to shut down some of the paddocks and will have to sell the stock.
- That is our income.
- Directly affects income.
- 25% at my foreshores property and 50% at home
- 0%
- 20%

What percentage of your water supply do you think you currently have?

- 3%
- 40-50%
- all the dams are empty
- Nothing, dam is empty
- 50%
- 25%
- 10%
- 5%
- The dam is empty - we don't have any water. They were emptied last year and have not been refilled since.

Are you purchasing water?

- Drinking water purchased
- No
- No
- No, however has put down 6 bores and 3 were dry.
- No
- No - busy getting new bores (50% success rate) and buying new tanks
- No.
- Has bought drinking water in the past, however has put in plan to prevent this need
- Can't afford to
- No yes we did a bit - get from truck wash area and have to pay
- yes
- No, not yet, have 4 tanks and on the last one

Are you purchasing water?

- No.
- Have put down extra bores
- No
- No
- No
- No
- Not at the moment we are relying on the bore
- Have purchased water this year
- No

Do you have any additional comments or concerns about your water supplies?

- Borewater is more mineralised due to it being so low
- Cleaned 49 dams this year, relying on bores
- Being proactive, cleaning dams, equipping bores
- Making do with what got atm. Putting down more bores and digging dams out to prepare for future.
- Not sure what to say, if affordable more dams or a bore
- Infrastructure needs to be set up for future water supply.
- Policies need to be put in place to make gov owned water available in these situations. Tried to purchase water GAWB refused

Do you have any additional comments or concerns about your water supplies?

- Driest have seen in lifetime
- We have been accessing some small holes in the creek but they are drying up too.
- We will survive on the house water - watching water usage.
- The stock/water supply is unsure.
- Lack of water
- Relying on bore water
- Has baffle creek to rely on
- Look at better resources for the region to capture water and not let it run off.
- we put our bores down early

Do you have any additional comments or concerns about your water supplies?

- Yes - there is no water. I would like to put in another dam. And also bores. - the govt charges us to try and get our own water.
- Cost of getting water and also as we live in a remote area - getting the water to the property is an issue.
- I have purchased water previously (3 time over 8.5 years) we are very stingy with the water we use.
- Don't even know where to start it is just too stressful and heartbreaking - don't want to think about it
- I am looking to make the property more drought proof by doubling the size of the dams when the rains do come

What additional costs have you encountered as a result of the drought

- Hundreds of thousands has been spent on feed and water supplies
- Bore digging, cleaning dams, building dams, supplement feed
- Bores/tanks/feed supplements
- Supplementation for cattle, including molasses, lick blocks, etc.
- Costs spent well into 6 figures
- Equipping bores - \$20,000 with solar power F
- eeding cattle and moving cattle around has time costs
- Freight costs, buy feed and supplements. Buying more diesel due to having to do more feed and water runs

What additional costs have you encountered as a result of the drought

- Focus on feed, can't focus on other jobs around the place
- Supplementation prices more feed, petrol for the pump and cars (driving around) pulling animals out of the dam dropping feed out
- Extra agistment \$80000. \$10000 purchase of water \$3000 bores and excavating of underground water.
- Digging out dams, supplementation
- \$1300/month Feed. Supplements. Extra agistment costs
- Buying the feed and molasses for the stock - prices of getting feed are significant. Need to buy more supplements because there is no grass.
- Every three days we have to put out feed. Feed is lasting only half as long 250/tonne. We never had to do this when we had grass.
- Feed for animal - \$600 a week
- Feed supplements including hay and grain.

What additional costs have you encountered as a result of the drought

- \$3m going to making dam bigger
- Costs of pumping water and putting more water troughs in
- No additional cost due to having enough feed, however loss of revenue due to prices
- We are currently feeding 180 head which is huge cost.
- Have put down extra bores
- I have 1000l pods that I fill up from a friend's house to feed the horses. The costs of petrol and travel to get the water from friend's house.
- no stock so no additional costs as yet Feed costs are phenomenal and the costs of travel and fuel to get the feed, We are just trying to keep things going.
- Laundry costs water in general. I have to drive to Gladstone when I can to go to my brother's house but don't want to be a burden. I washed a couple of weeks ago at a laundromat which cost us \$70 - we have a big family, and we are using the same bath water, not flushing the toilet etc

Is there anything you have been unable to do because of the drought?

- Can't go away due to having to be around 24/7
- Take a break. It is more about what has to be done, than what has been unable to do
- Pasture management
- Have time off due to always having to pump water and feed cattle.
- Has become difficult to turnover stock
- Don't go away as often
- Running the property in maintenance and fencing
- Not much they haven't been able to do, more so things just slowing down
- Locked in atm, can't do anything

Is there anything you have been unable to do because of the drought?

- Can't do much other than feed cattle
- No money to do anything, can't go away.
- Not being able to sell cattle this leads to over stocking and further agistment costs
- Routine maintenance on property not being carried out due to money being spent elsewhere.
- Not being able to sell as may cattle due to feed not being sufficient to finish them off
- We don't get all the normal work done as we are constantly tending to the cattle as they are requiring more attention to take care of.
- Can't fatten up the cattle
- Improved pastures Haven't been able to improve pastures or plough land due to being so dry

Is there anything you have been unable to do because of the drought?

- Lots - grow feed, use water for feed impacting costs of running the farm
- Improved pastures
- extra work in checking all the pumps the work
- Water my plants and trees - they are all dying. No feed for the animals - cost of feed is ridiculous. It is just one thing after another
- We can't grow our own vegetables. We now have to travel to Agnes Water or Bundaberg which means extra costs in fuel - more expenses to purchase food also. We have to watch what we are washing and the water you use - would be helpful for money for farmers to get additional water tanks to create less impact - water tanks do not evaporate - cost about \$2800
- We can't go anywhere - I am a carer for my husband and I cant travel away to the hospitals with him as I have to stay on the farm to take care of the animals - it is just awful. Trying to clean up is hard due to water restrictions. We got some money from the Red Cross for clearing but unable to clear due to a protected plan in the area.
- Just being careful of what we do
- Yes - unable to implement plans to increase the size of the lime orchard.

What % impact do you think the drought has had on your costs or income?

- After electricity and wages and general bills, 95% of income is going to drought/ feed and water
- 1/3 of turnover costs down.
- About \$2.5m down
- 50% Income is currently good due to having to sell down, however income in coming years is going to be significantly less
- Definitely had a fair impact - down 40 % loss of income and additional costs
- 20-30%. Sale prices are still good however the cost to get them sale ready and to the yards has gone up significantly
- \$7m
- Little income for the coming years due to having to sell more than usual this year because lack of feed not sure, feed doubled in price.

What % impact do you think the drought has had on your costs or income?

- A Lot more than usual - hay was \$10 now \$25.
- Costing more than making
- Too hard to say
- Feed using twice as much.
- Income affected as I cant sell the cattle until I fattened them up We have had to sell 140 milking cows which is half of our income and trying to feed the rest of them.
- I am selling cows every month just to pay the bills.
- We don't farm - cattle are too poor to sell and at the moment they are a good price.

Do you have any additional comments about effects on costs or income?

- I want the right to manage our own land so we can protect ourselves from fires.
- We have additional wear and tear on your vehicle because we have to travel more, fighting with the kids all the time to save water very monotonous cost of family \$800 water more than you earn a week
- Because of the fire that went through, I have had to replace all the fencing. The last fires my property was used as a main road by the fire brigade and I am now in the process of being reimbursed for the damage.
- Mainly just buying the feed and the travel costs. We are not game to go to far or to do too much due to one road into Deepwater. If they shut the road we are stuffed and can't get home. The road is a big worry. A different access road through the back of Deepwater from Agnes or Fingerboard Road will assist.
- Not yet but will if I have to buy water. Water truck cost \$800 which is more than I earn in a week.

What support would you like to see from authorities that you are not currently receiving?

- Financial support
- Look at solutions for water assistance and water sources for farmers.
- Would like to see government land managed properly to lower to impact on his personal property Feed subsidies/more financial assistance
- Just some understanding - pretty happy with the way it has been handled.
- Not receiving anything, so to see something would be good support to buy hay, petrol, stocks are running very, very low
- Less red tape and green tape.
- Government cant fix mother nature.
- Put things in place to be better prepared for the future.

What support would you like to see from authorities that you are not currently receiving?

- Fodder is the major concern so more access to water or better water infrastructure will not only stock water but also the ability to grow fodder which will eliminate the need to purchase.
- Don't believe there is much that they can do. Just have to work through it
- Nothing I can think of I lost a third of my property in the last fires. Cut the red tape. Make application processes a lot simpler. Every drought assistance packages is hard to apply for.
- Make assistance packages more accessible Council should have given a waiver on rates for 12 months to take the pressure off.
- Authorities need to get out to see if people OK.
- Get people out to see the devastation we have to put up with.
- Financial assistance.
- Fodder subsidies.
- Transport subsidies (transportation of hay is more than the hay itself).

What support would you like to see from authorities that you are not currently receiving?

- Being able to manage the land to help protect ourselves - clearing of the land, no dams,
- Trust land owners to look after their own land, govt grants - concession on water tanks would make land owners more self sufficient
- It is mainly just the environmental impact that we all have to deal with weather events.
- We need some mental health assistance. Dealing with the constant stress, we are affected by PTSD and are feeling panicked and terrible. Last year some of our horses got burnt. When we see smoke we we are on tenderhooks.
- Water availability for the stock that are suffering, more assistance for farmers as well.

Do you have any additional comments on how this drought has affected your home, business, family or community?

- Pretty stressful, wondering where the next dollar from to buy something.
- Extra stress on the whole family, get cranky. Loans not helpful
- It has affected the community, can't go anywhere, no money to spend. People are tightening the purse strings
- The community is not spending as much money which affects the region
- No money, cant spend in the community - we are stuck between a rock and a hard place - makes its very hard to spend money when you don't have any. Know of people/family that are going into their super fund to get by
- All we need is rain.
- Affected the spending in the area so local businesses are feeling the pinch quite dramatically. Disposable income in the area is much lower than what it was.

Do you have any additional comments on how this drought has affected your home, business, family or community?

- I would like to be able to selectively clear parts of my land and the govt are stopping me from doing that.
- It is distressing when fires go through you property as you have to start again - cant get insurance also sometimes, impacts the family
- Got to do a lot more hand/manual work. I lost a pump in the fire which cost \$1500 to replace, but I can't afford to buy one right now and this affects my ability to get water.
- Not game to leave and go and visit family. Just trying to keep things alive and to replace all the little things that got damaged in the last fire.
- Emotionally the toil on the family as well as financially, kids have to go to school in dirty clothes, cant shower - its not their fault. We are trying to go to school to get some normality back but it keeps snowballing. Mental health is hugely affected.

Has the drought impacted your bushfire preparations?

- Yes
- No. Bad fires last year. Generally fires in high growing years
- No, no grass to burn
- No
- Not really/ already always prepared I am the Local fire officer - something we are aware of.
- No
- Will do in the future however still recovering from fires last year
- Haven't done any

Has the drought impacted your bushfire preparations?

- Yes
- Not much more we can do, preparation fire breaks, we have done what we can but we are quite vulnerable due to not being able to safely back burn.
- No, still trying to get something in place
- No We are pretty sorted for bushfire preparations.
- Not so impacted always ready
- Bushfires are caused by too much timber, got no grass or timber to burn much of. It is under control for now.

Do you believe there is an increased risk to bushfire hazards? What are they?

- Yes, more of a risk to put out due to lack of water
- No due to lack of matter to burn
- No as there isnt anything to burn
- No due to the lack of dry matter, the land won't carry fire. If you have grass/matter to burn, yes
- No due to nothing to burn
- Small areas of concern however due to nothing to burn not a major concern
- Yes definitely, not allowed to burn off which doesn't help Yes. Dry conditions neighbouring unmaintained un grazed properties government and absentee landholders.
- Yes because of how dry it is

Do you believe there is an increased risk to bushfire hazards? What are they?

- Yes. Dry weather build up of dead dry material on un grazed unmaintained land being government land absentee landholders
- yes unable to burn - hot dry weather came really early and we were not able to prepare as much as we would have liked
- Yes through the national parks as they wont burn through them.
- Yes, as everything is so dry it will catch easily
- Not a big risk on this place due to lack of matter to burn however in national parks it would take off
- Yes because of the dry conditions and lack of water

Do you believe there is an increased risk to bushfire hazards? What are they?

- Yes there is extra dead wood lying around the property - the next fire that comes through will be worse than the last one because we can't burn it.
- Yes - we need more management from the local fire brigade for landowners
- No because a lot of the land has been burnt out. We can always do more controlled burns.
- Definitely - all the bush that is not cleaned up. Also ash that is coming through in the air is affecting our health. We can't grow any vegies, we don't see any insects or animals for a long time - they are coming back slowly.
- Yes - Lack water and dry land its just so dry