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For the latest in red meat research and development

Broken Hill, NSW – 14 October 2026

Improving Tactical Decision Making in western NSW

Christine Plummer – Western Local Land Services, Buronga

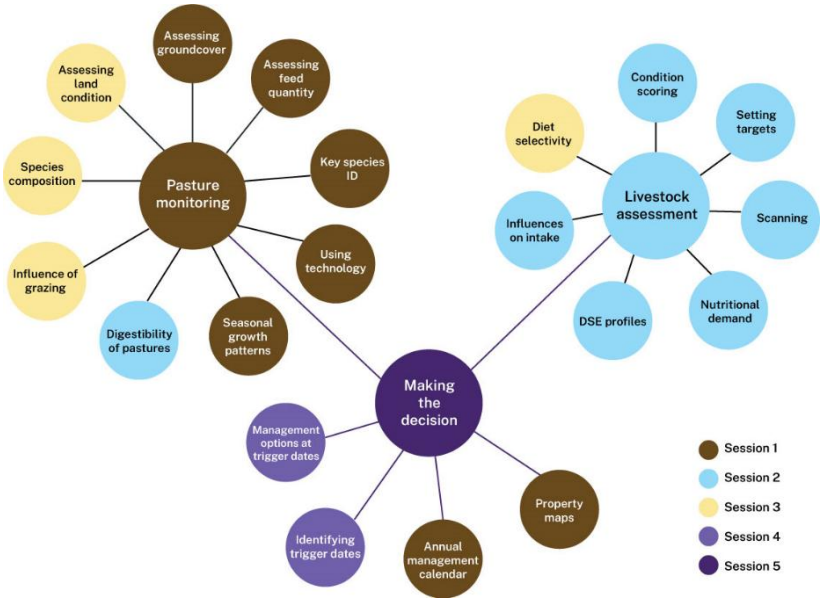
Bree Wakefield – Banoon Station

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Improving Tactical Decision Making: Overview

- Group-based training – five sessions over 12 to 18 months.
- Tailored specifically to the needs of rangeland producers in NSW.
- Non-prescriptive.
- Focusing on building capacity in decision making related to:
  - pasture identification and management
  - diet selectivity and grazing influence
  - livestock assessment and performance.



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Tools and skills



Paddock monitoring

- Step point
- Site observations
- Key species identification

Livestock condition scoring

Remote sensing

- Geoglam RaPP
- Cibo Labs

Pasture sampling

Feed budgeting

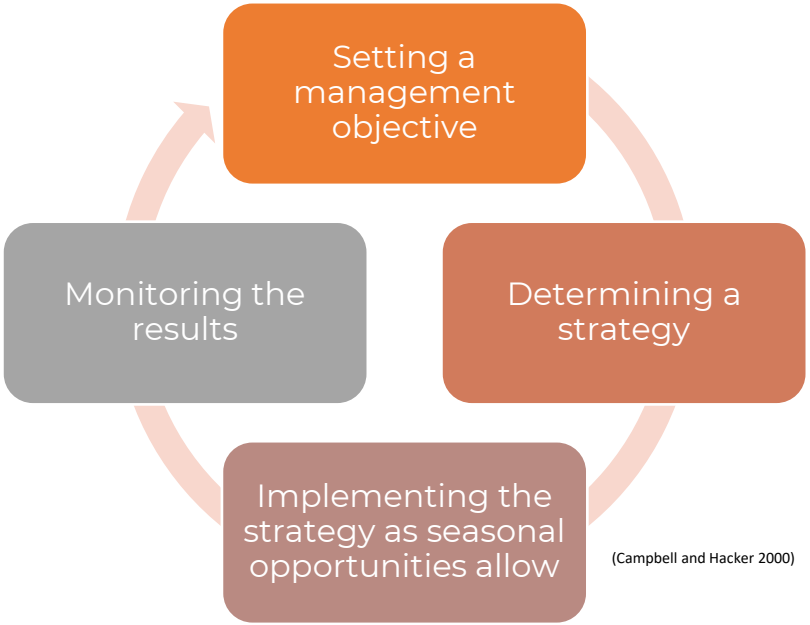
- Energy balance
- Long term forage budget

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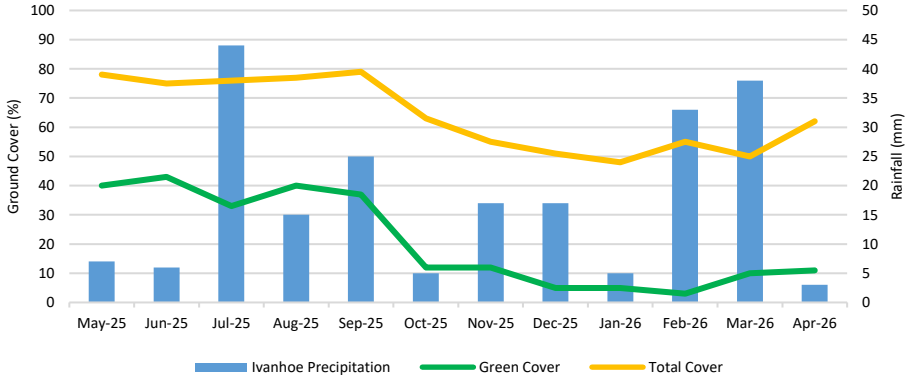
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Paddock monitoring



(Campbell and Hacker 2000)





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9 April 2023


13 July 2023


9 October 2023


19 November 2023


9 January 2024


19 February 2024


23 April 2024


February 2025


August 2025


February 2026


September 2026

Feed Budgeting





Feed On Offer (kg/ha)	4600
Dry Matter of Pasture (%)	36.9
Feed On Offer (kg DM/ha)	1697.4
Feed Quality (DMD %)	62.3
Pasture ME (MJ/kg DM)	9
Neutral Detergent Fibre (NDF)	63
Predicted Intake (% BW)	1.90

SRW (kg)	60
Predicted Intake (kg DM/d)	1.14
ME Obtained from Feed (MJ/d)	10.29
Ewe ME Requirements (MJ/d)	17.7
Surplus or Deficit (MJ/d)	-7.41

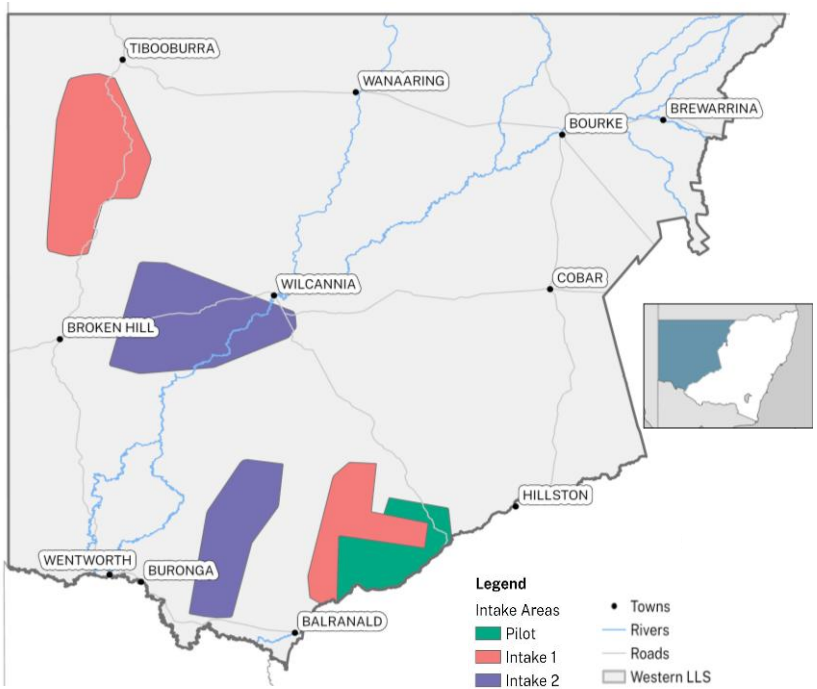
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Program Participation to Date

- Pilot Intake: 2021
  - Oxley
- Intake 1: 2023-2024
  - Booligal / Ivanhoe
  - Packsaddle
- Intake 2: 2025-2026
  - Willandra Lakes
  - Menindee / Wilcannia (on-going)
- **Intake 3: EOIs open**



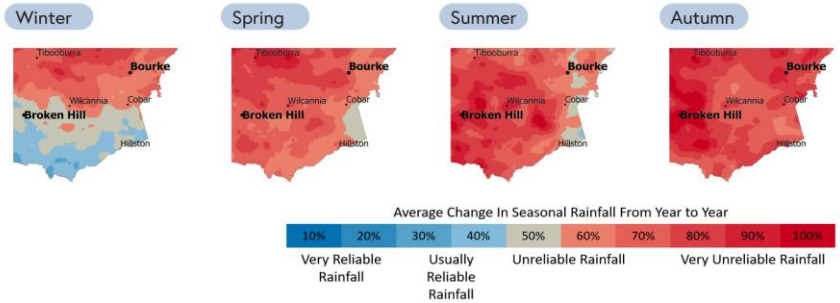
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Why Participate?

- Gain practical skills tailored to your property and enterprise mix
- Make more confident livestock and grazing management decisions
- Strengthen resilience to variable seasonal conditions





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Bree Wakefield
R & B Pastoral

- Own and lease 96,000 acres in Southern Far West NSW
- Family business with my husband Ryan and three children, Angus, Harry and Alice
- Merino/XB and Dorper operation with a focus on fat lamb production
- Cropping – Sharefarmed
- Sustainability and Profitability



Our ITDM Group – Willandra Lakes

- 6 properties from the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area
- WLRWHA is 70% private pastoral land and 30% Mungo National Park
- One of only two World Heritage Areas in Australia that contain operating pastoral properties
- Landholders work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife, Traditional Owners and relevant stakeholders
- Activities are managed to protect the outstanding universal value, while allowing sustainable and productive land use to continue



Why we decided to participate

- Improve our knowledge of native pastures and the long term sustainability and productivity of our land
- Importance of making timely grazing decisions in an unpredictable rainfall environment
- Appeal of learning alongside fellow WLWHA landholders who face similar challenges
- Social aspect of getting off farm and catching up with people in our area

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Aspects that we found most valuable

- Deep dive into our grazing system, production calendar and developing tactical decision making
- The importance of ground cover and pasture monitoring
- Assessing feed quality and feed budgeting
- Nutritional requirements of livestock and assessing animal condition
- Trigger dates to review pasture and animal condition
- Managing dry times. Advice from Christine and fellow landholders




27 February 2025


7 July 2025


2 February 2026


11 March 2026


16 July 2026


9 September 2026

The benefits of learning as a group

- Opportunity to visit other properties, look at their country, type of enterprise and discuss how they manage it
- All from the same broad geographical area but each property has different landscapes, stocking strategies and challenges
- Benefit of informal discussions alongside the formal training
- Support of fellow landholders during dry times and how they were managing the conditions
- Realising that producers from the same area approach the same challenge quite differently

What we have taken away & how we are applying it

- Scanned for twins and singles and planned to supplement feed accordingly
- Calculating the nutritional requirements of each mob when supplement feeding during dry times
- Being more deliberate about monitoring pasture conditions
- Considering long term pasture health alongside immediate livestock production
- Using tools such as pasture assessment, feed budgeting and assessing livestock condition to support our decision making



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Unexpected benefits and why we'd recommend ITDM

- Learning practical skills that are directly relevant to Western NSW pastoral conditions
- Feeling more confident in making decisions because you better understand the reasoning behind them
- Having knowledgeable people like Christine available to ask questions and challenge your thinking
- Having dedicated time away from the daily demands of running a property – a break with benefits
- Catching up with fellow landholders and the incidental conversations that occur

Take home messages



- The ITDM increases producer confidence and capacity to make timely, informed grazing and livestock management decisions.
- The ITDM improves the adoption of pasture monitoring, feed budgeting and livestock assessment.
- The ITDM strengthens pasture condition and livestock performance for improved business resilience in variable conditions.

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MLA and relevant tools and resources

- Projects and programs
  - Profitable Grazing Systems – *Improving Tactical Decision Making*
  - Producer Demonstration Site – *Pasture Monitoring in the Rangelands*
- Resources
  - *The Glove Box Guide to Tactical Grazing Management for the Semi-Arid Woodlands* – Tac Campbell & Ron Hacker
  - *Betting on Rain* – Ron Hacker, Yohannes Alemseged, Paul Carberry, Bob Browne & Warren Smith
  - *Plants of Western NSW* – GM Cunningham, WE Mulham, PL Milthorpe, JH Leigh
  - *Glove Box Guide to Plants of the NSW Rangelands* – Greg Brooke & Lori McWhirter

Thank You

Christine Plummer – Western Local Land Services, Buronga

Bree Wakefield – Banoon Station

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