

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE PASTURE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

MLA Donor Company, Spatial Information Systems Research Ltd (CRCSI) and University of New England are seeking partners to further develop and commercialise a portable pasture biomass availability tool.



The problem

Real-time, accurate estimates of pasture quality and availability are essential for livestock management.

Most producers tend to make a visual estimate when assessing pasture availability, which are typically 20–50% inaccurate.

Accurate, objective and repeatable measurement of pasture quality and availability is required to improve:

- matching available pasture to meet livestock demand
- livestock productivity
- pasture utilisation
- profitability
- whole-farm management and sustainability.

A key issue for many producers is reliable access to timely, precise information on pasture availability.



The solution

A portable pasture biomass tool enabling producers to effectively determine green dry matter (when regressed against NDVI and height) has been developed.

The base technology includes Active Optical Sensors to easily convert field-collected data into estimated pasture biomass with up to 90% confidence. The tool also allows producers to generate their own calibrations.

Application of the pasture biomass estimates can be used for:

- setting pasture and livestock management targets
- pasture yield mapping
- ‘lead indicator’ of livestock performance
- informing sale and purchase decisions
- development of forward sale contracts when used with predictive tools (e.g. seasonal forecast and feed supply demand calculations).



The opportunity

MLA Donor Company, CRCSI and University of New England are seeking interested partners to commercialise the new portable biomass tool and further develop the product.

MLA Donor Company may co-invest with the successful partners to progress the product.

More information

For more information or to register your interest in the new product, please contact:

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Where is it up to?

- A portable, Smartphone-compatible prototype (coupled with a commercially available NVDI sensor) was developed and trialled across southern Australia on temperate pasture mixes across seasons.
- Training materials have been developed.
- Feedback has been positive, with a number of producers requesting ongoing access to the tool.