

# INFORMATION SHEET

BE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE

[cqu.edu.au](http://cqu.edu.au)

## Call for producer partners – GPS tracking livestock

Are you interested in GPS tracking your livestock to optimise grazing landscape utilisation? Then CQUniversity is keen to talk with you about being involved in a research project!

CQUniversity and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries are seeking producer partners interested in undertaking collaborative on farm research to improve grazing management of sheep and goats in western Queensland rangelands.

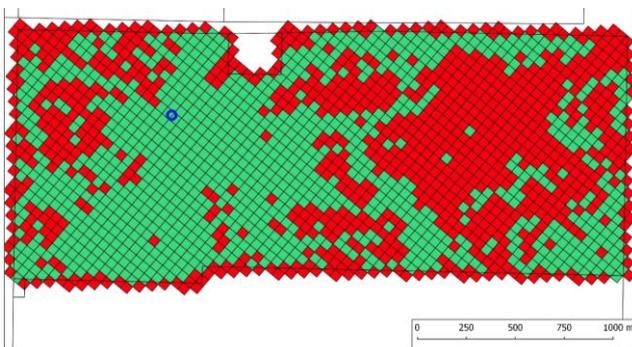
The rollout of exclusion fences across western Queensland means that small ruminant production (sheep and goats) are becoming an increasingly popular option. These production systems provide flexibility and diversity in cash flow and may be a key part of developing resilient livestock enterprises in rangeland environments.

However, sheep and goats are well known for their tendency to overgraze some areas of a paddock while leaving other areas completely untouched. This provides a risk as the over grazing can lead to erosion and soil loss. But, most importantly, it provides an opportunity. By measuring the spatial grazing activity of sheep it may be possible to design intervention strategies that encourage sheep and goats to use all of the available resources in a paddock. This means optimal use of the feed-base which maximises pasture utilisation, productivity and profitability at the same time as reducing the risk of overgrazing.



*GPS tracking collars provide data on the landscape utilization of grazing animals that can be used to optimize production and sustainability*

This research project is seeking producer partners to deploy GPS tracking collars on sheep and managed goat flocks in Western Qld to better understand the base-line grazing distribution of these animals and identify exactly how they use the landscape. The project will also explore techniques that might optimise grazing landscape utilisation with future work aimed at implementing and evaluating these ideas.



*Grazing utilization map from GPS tracking sheep in Western Qld. The green areas are areas commonly grazed by sheep and the red areas were not frequented. The blue circle is the location of the water trough which has a clear impact on the landscape utilization in this particular paddock.*

animals and identify exactly how they use the landscape. The project will also explore techniques that might optimise grazing landscape utilisation with future work aimed at implementing and evaluating these ideas.

If you are a producer keen to improve the productivity and sustainability of your grazing systems we would be very keen to hear from you!

To get involved please email [gps.sheep@cqu.edu.au](mailto:gps.sheep@cqu.edu.au) or get in contact with Mark Trotter (CQU) on 0447 441 841 or Leanne Hardwick (Qld DAF) 0436 912 349.