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Implementing irrigation in a dry climate and
maintaining sustainability in a changing
production system

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Llanberis Pastoral

Our business



- Llanberis Pastoral
- Fifth-generation farming business
- Managing 9100 ha in cropping, wool and fat lambs
- 420mm annual average rainfall

Environmental sustainability

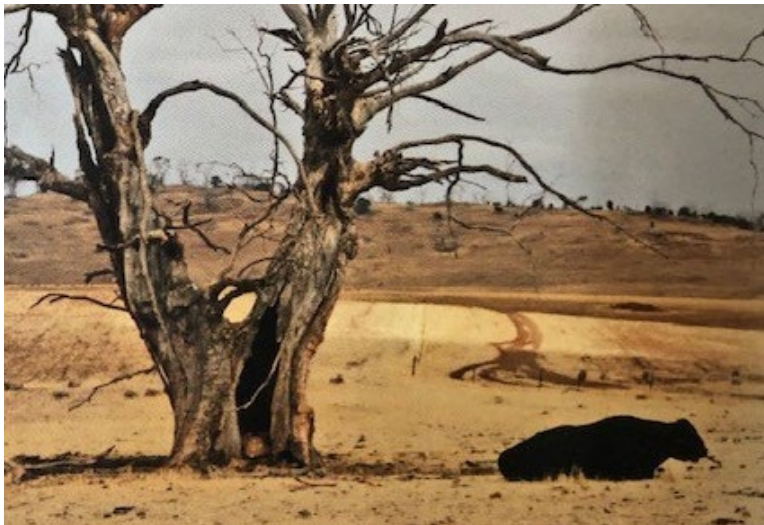
Conservation is a big focus of our property management

- Private Forest Reserve Scheme
- Soil carbon farming group
- Sustainable Farms Tasmania program
- Corridors of Green program
- Landcare



The journey

- Gone from a drought-susceptible property to a highly productive cropping and grazing operation.
- Currently installing our 25th centre pivot.
- Effectively transformed a 420mm rainfall zone to a 700mm rainfall zone.



The business case for establishing irrigation

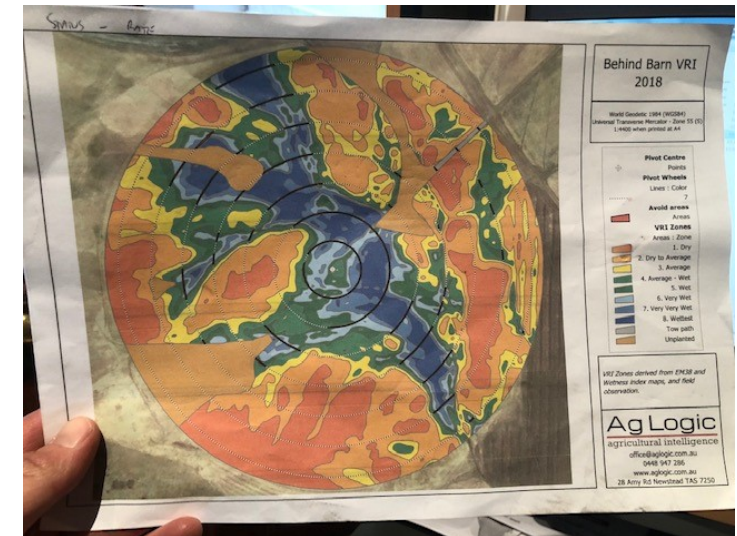
- Undertook a full assessment of irrigation development before investing.
- Developed a business case that didn't depend only on the original enterprises to work.
- Undertook a detailed and extensive land capability assessment.



Investing in irrigation

- Average cost of \$5800/ha to develop centre pivots and mains piping.
- \$1000/ha on drainage and 'in-circle' infrastructure.

Our aim: Average gross margin of \$1600/ha/year/pivot



Where to next?

- We are at the start of our red meat production story:
 - Can see a 300–400% increase in our red meat production enterprises over the next five years.
- Increase in irrigation technology.
- Branding:
 - Making the most of our state, regional and on-farm attributes to tell the story of our product.
- Maintaining our environmental stewardship.



Top three take-home messages

1. If you don't have the answer, find someone who does!
2. Upskill whenever possible.
3. Integrate environmental conservation as a key aspect of the business.

Tools, resources and training

- Pasture Principles – Macquarie Franklin
- Sheep Connect Tasmania
- FieldNet
- BOM
- Twitter – useful to follow other ag businesses and see what they are up to



RED MEAT UPDATES

T A S M A N I A

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