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Matching management and investment to land capability

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Glenelg Estate

Introduction

- *Glenelg* – 2000ha at Gretna.
- *Serat* – 3500ha at Interlaken.
- *Rathmore* – 800ha (leased) at Hollow Tree.

16,500 Merino sheep for wool production.

Forestry at *Serat*.

Extremely variable climate, and many different land classes.

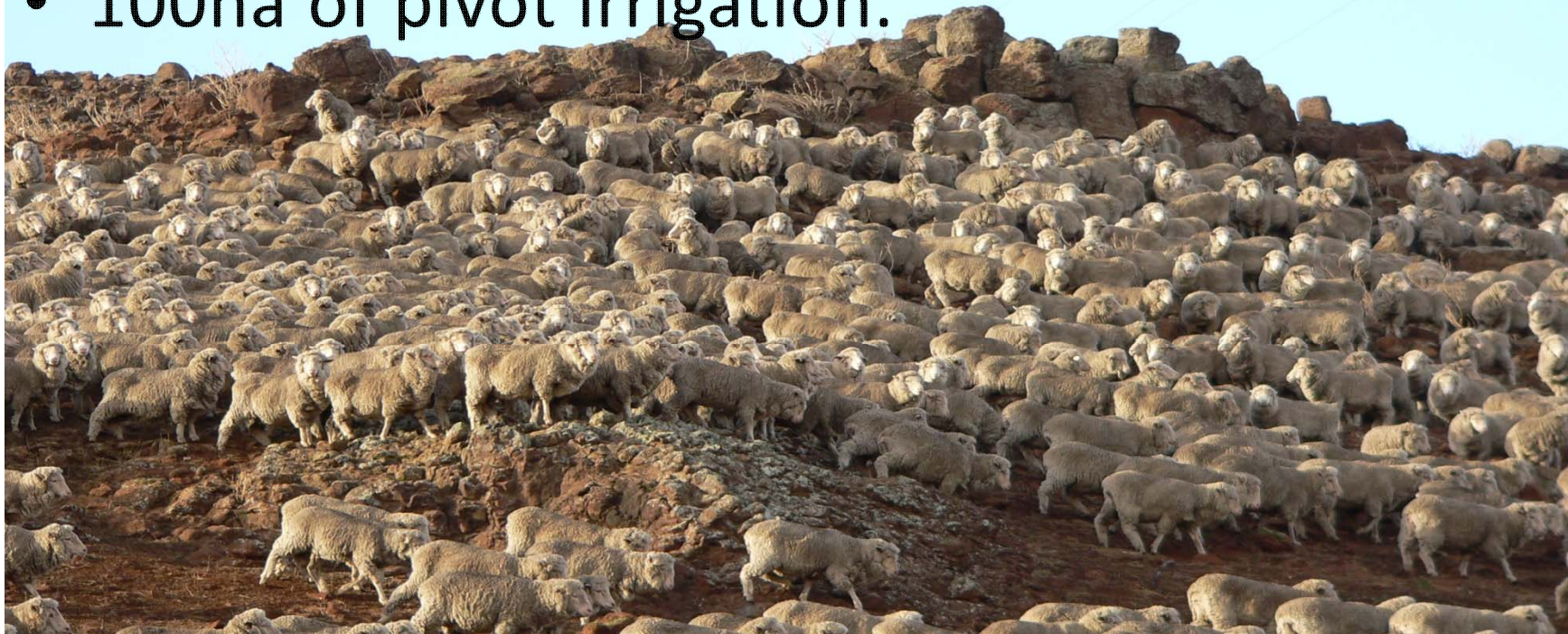
Land types/climate

- *Glenelg* is very hilly.
- Aspect, soil type and rainfall determine stocking rate.
- Pasture improvement has had varied long term success.
- Extremely variable rainfall.



Management

- Merino wool production considered best fit with environment.
- 100ha of pivot irrigation.



Information

- Software used to track stock movements across all properties.
- There is now almost 15 years of continuous data.
- Data is only worth collecting if it yields useful information.

Investment

- Long-term stocking rate data along with land class determines investment:
 - fertiliser
 - pasture improvement
 - paddock subdivision
 - valuing land for sale or lease.



Top three take-home messages

1. Have an objective method of determining land capability.
2. There is no point collecting data if it doesn't yield useful information.
3. Don't overcomplicate. If something is not simple it won't be used.

Tools, resources and training

- PAM farm management software – www.fairport.com.au
- AgAssist – soil testing and advice – www.agassist.net.au
- Holmes Sackett Pty Ltd – Farm business advice – www.holmessackett.com.au



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