



RED MEAT UPDATES

T A S M A N I A

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Integrating water into a dryland grazing operation

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Do we need the water?

- Does buying water assist with long-term risk mitigation?
- What will be the options for water use in the future?
- What is the future value of water and what will its availability be?
- Can we incorporate irrigation into the system without compromising our natural capital?
- Does it provide opportunities for future generations?
- Can we integrate irrigation into the system and maintain a profitable business?

How do we use the water?

- **Add value to our existing livestock operation to strengthen long-term business position and enhance the natural capital and productivity of the land.**
- Use strategic water application and planned grazing to create a situation where the soil, sunlight and water is given the best chance of growing the maximum amount of quality pasture.
- Strategically use water to guarantee the spring and and create winter feed through autumn irrigation.
- Utilise water resource as another lever to pull when managing variable seasons.



What to produce?

- Enterprise mix 60:40 sheep to cattle in DSE terms
- 18–21 micron wool from Cormo Fflock
- Trade lamb
- Maternal Composite maiden ewes
- GAP accredited beef





Infrastructure and design

- Simple, robust and effective.
- Fixed electric machines varying in size from 30 ha to 200 ha.
- Pivots subdivided into 10–15 ha paddocks
- Design will allow for further temporary subdivision using electrics during growing season.





Challenges

- Positioning pivots and getting them around.
- Time balance between getting the day-to-day stock work done and finding time to plan and research.
- Drainage – get it right early.



Top three take home messages

- Have a clear plan and context for what you want to achieve.
- Be observant and continually challenge how the system can be improved.
- Be well planned, organised and work on communication.

Tools and resources

- Grazing for Profit School – Terry McCosker, RCS
- Rural Leaders Bootcamp – Jill Rigney, The Right Mind International
- Stock handling and sheepdog school – Neil McDonald