



## **Media Statement**

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### **Satellite Pasture Growth Data Provides Improved Monitoring**

Livestock producers across Australia now have easy access to new satellite aspects of pasture growth rates (PGRs).

“Pastures from Space” [www.pfs.landgate.wa.gov.au](http://www.pfs.landgate.wa.gov.au) has provided Western Australian farmers and Government with an insight into the seasonal and yearly fluctuations in pasture production of agricultural regions since 2003.

This data can now be accessed by producers in the eastern states – Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania.

Two new improved tools have now been added to Pasture Watch to give more accurate results for subscribers to Landgate’s Pastures from Space.

“The Variable Rainfall Tool allows farmers to directly input rainfall value specific to their property,” Landgate’s Richard Stovold said.

“To date, PGR values supplied to farmers in WA and Eastern Australia were based on the rainfall figures supplied by the Bureau of Meteorology.

“The rainfall amounts for individual properties may be different from these figures and so the Rainfall Tool will result in a new more accurate PGR value for the property.”

The New Feed on Offer, FOO, Constant Tool allows farmers to account for local differences between modelled FOO and observed FOO on farm. This in turn will make the FOO product more accurate at the critical times of the year. (*Available in WA, March 2007 and eastern states 2008.*)

Mr Stovold said one of the major difficulties graziers faced with recent climatic uncertainties was how to manage feed demand throughout the year.

“With a rapidly changing climatic and economic landscape it is critical that producers use tools capable of measuring positive and negative effects on their farms and farming regions generally,” he said.

“Pastures from Space” offers accurate estimations of PGR by the use of remote sensing to provide information on feed resources. This in turn allows producers to more effectively manage their enterprise and potentially raise the productivity and profitability of the business.

(more.....)

“PGR information assists farmers with management decisions such as grazing rotation, feed budgeting, fertiliser application and other “precision” techniques.

“Matched with electronic delivery of the information, near real time decisions can be made.”

Pastures from Space is a collaborative project between Landgate (formerly the WA Department of Land Information), CSIRO Livestock Industries, the WA Department of Food and Agriculture (DAFWA) and a commercial partner WA based Fairport Technologies.

Farmers have the opportunity to subscribe to the Pasture Watch software package distributed by Fairport technologies at [www.fairport.com.au/pasturewatch](http://www.fairport.com.au/pasturewatch) or call 1800 5000 195.

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