



### THE BESTFARMS TEAM TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE

Don't be surprised if you see the BestFarms car in the streets of your town over the next year, as we have a calendar full of workshops taking place in sixteen different locations around the Wheatbelt and Southwest. These workshops aim to assist local landholders in managing climate risks by using elements of the award-winning BestFarms Environmental Management System (EMS).

The workshops had an excellent start with eleven Natural Resource Management Officers (NRMOs), spread from Busselton to Dumbleyung, gathering at Kodja Place in Kojonup for an information session on the planned workshops in their area. It was an excellent trial run of the workshops to come, with valuable information learnt about the local zones of each officer as well as feedback on our training materials.

“The day turned out to be a great learning curve for the BestFarms team as well as the landcare officers with the different perspectives offered helping to improve our materials and strategy” Kathe Purvis, BestFarms Coordinator said of the workshop. In addition to gaining support for future workshops in their region, it was also a rare opportunity for such widely-spread NRMOs to come together and catch up on local issues and projects happening in other zones.



BestFarms participants discussing bore monitoring at Drover's Rest in Bridgetown.

The start of 2010 has indicated that, at the very least, the forecast of increasingly unpredictable weather is becoming a reality. With funding through the FarmReady Initiative the objective of these workshops is to equip landholders with a systematic method to identify and plan for the variability of our future climate. Workshop participants will learn how to manage the risks associated with climate variability, how to set achievable targets specific to their property or business and the importance of monitoring their progress over time. The process is completely voluntary and tailored to meet the particular characteristics of each property.

“We are offering landholders a friendly atmosphere in which to meet with other local landholders to discuss common land management issues and to receive some practical advice about how to plan for and manage climate variability without becoming overwhelmed” says Felicity Willett, BestFarms Facilitator.

Come and join the BestFarms Team in planning for future climatic changes and ensure the long term sustainability of our environment and rural industries.

*If you would like to find out more about the workshop locations and dates, how the BestFarms EMS can assist in your land management goals or for a full list of our fee for service options, please contact the BestFarms team on 97651555 or visit our website [www.bestfarms.com.au](http://www.bestfarms.com.au).*

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under the FarmReady initiative, part of Australia's Farming Future

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