

# Possible costs of climate change to the WA horse industry

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**Regional Landcare Facilitator**

1



# My Background

2

- Follow up meetings with 35 HLW FD attendees;
- Life time with horses, work & play but not an expert
- Farmer & Horticulturist, (Citrus orchard Chittering)
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Industry best practice
- Carbon farming Initiative



# Climate change - The evidence is here

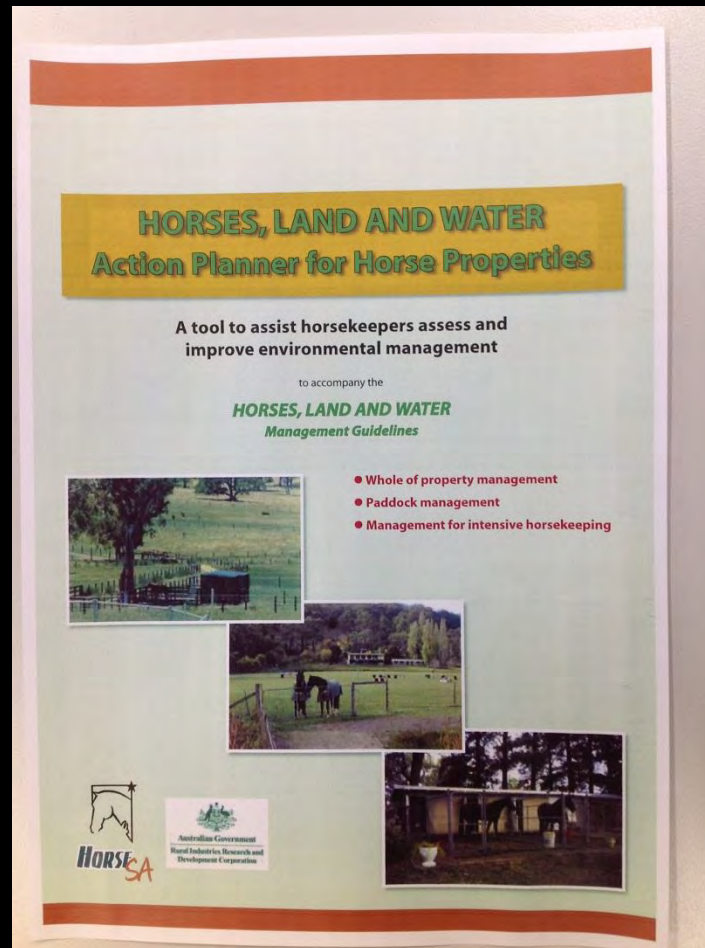
3

- Declining rainfall
- Increase in frost.
- Hail damage to cars
- Extreme events flash flooding & extreme heat
- El Nino to reappear



# Best place to start, always industry best practice

4



# Horse Land & Water Field day, Bullsbrook

5



# Property surveys

6

After surveying the properties of 35 HLW FD attendees;

- Very impressed with careful planning
- Very environmentally aware
- Horse psychology is obviously a high priority
- Perennial pastures increased interest
- Water - water - water

# Water availability

7

- Develop and or deepen bores
- Clean up bore water using micro filtration small desalination system
- Harvest more rainwater
- Bore sharing with neighbours
- Shandy water supplies



# Gingin examples

8

- Gingin Brook has stopped flowing only 2 years since records have been kept.
- Gingin is on north end of Gnangara mound
- Water table has dropped 5-7 metres in some areas
- Hydrological survey by air happening now
- Gingin swamp dry with loss of vegetation & mussels
- Problems to provide water for future sub divisions



Australian Government



Regional Landcare Facilitator

Hosted by Perth Region NRM Incorporated  
for the Swan region



# What issues may property managers face?

9

- Less surface water, poorer quality water, deeper bores
- Winter pastures not in sync with rainfall
- Decline or death of native and non trees & shrubs
- Increase erosion through wind and water (storms )
- Weed problems, deeper rooted tougher species (dock)
- Harsher climate more pressure on birds and native animals

# Comments from SARDI-Melissa Rebbbeck

10

- Heat stress effects on breeding & fertility, advanced ovulation by 9 days
- 20% reduction in rainfall = 15% decrease in pasture production.
- Increase in mosquito borne arboviruses, symptoms such as sore muscles, joint soreness, stiff gait
- Some bacterial infections increase in warmer drier conditions.
- Climate change can increase greasy heel, bot flies, snake bite, colic etc

# Increased costs \$

11

- Increased costs- feed- hay, grain, cubes etc.
- Increased costs- water, bores, dams, filtration
- Increased costs - horse welfare heat, cold, wind
- Increased costs - Pastures shade & shelter
- Increased weeds and diseases-

# Possible solutions

12

A good starting point always industry best practice

Have a property plan, aerial & property photos

How many horses do you want to run & can you?

Grow your own feed or buy or both

**PLEASE CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK TO THE NEW HORTICULTURE  
INDUSTRIES INFORMATION PORTAL**

<http://sustainableagricultureperth.targeton.com/>

# The end, time to..

13

