



**BATTLE PLAN:** Retired General Peter Cosgrove addresses the crowd at the Westpac Agribusiness forum.

Pictures: DANIEL BURDON

## Views on access

“HAS the land access framework improved relations between landholders and resource operations?”

That is one of several questions an independent panel will ask as it reviews the land access laws put in place about a year ago.

The panel includes former AgForce president John Cotter and is chaired by Queensland Competition Authority board member Dr David Watson.

It will complete a statutory review of the laws, which were put in place to create a more equal playing field between primary producers and the mining and coal seam gas industries.

On Tuesday of this week, Dr Watson sent an open invitation to interested parties and stakeholders to have their say about the laws.

While the letter invites individuals to send in their thoughts, it is understood both Queensland Farmers’ Federation and AgForce will be completing group submissions, as well as other sector bodies.

Dr Watson wrote that the review would assess the effectiveness of the laws against their “original policy objectives” – which some agricultural commentators have previously criticised as not going far enough to protect producers against some resource companies.

The review panel will consult with key industry and community stakeholders to assess the day-to-day workings and effectiveness of the land access framework. It will also consult with nominated landholders and resource companies directly affected by the framework and who have gone through the Conduct and Compensation Agreement process. A final report, including any recommendations to the government, will be completed by the panel in February next year.

The public submission period is open until Monday December 19. Submissions can be sent to [landaccessreview@deedi.qld.gov.au](mailto:landaccessreview@deedi.qld.gov.au). Alternatively, they can be posted to The Land Access Review Secretariat, Mining and Petroleum Policy Division, PO Box 15168, Queensland 4002.

■ For information, go to [www.deedi.qld.gov.au/mining/landholder-information](http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au/mining/landholder-information).

# New Year, New Start

WE’VE had natural disasters, man-made disasters and now the latest economic news from Europe isn’t looking good – but we must do our best to develop a real plan for the future of our industry.

That was the view expressed by AgForce president Brent Finlay in Rockhampton last week, before the National Farmers’ Federation “Blueprint for Australia’s Agriculture” discussion session. One of several speakers on the day, Mr Finlay said 2011 had been one of the most trying for graziers and farmers of all stripes in recent times.

But he believed that, despite the floods, Cyclone Yasi, the ban on live cattle exports, global economic uncertainty and a high Australian dollar, 2012 could herald

a new beginning for primary production in Queensland.

He said the NFF’s plan for the next 40 years was something with which every primary producer needed to be involved.

“We’ve had too many plans in the past like this that have just ended up being doorstops and now we have the chance for all producers, especially those in Queensland, to play a role in it and we need to ensure we do,” Mr Finlay said.

“We know we have the capacity to rehabilitate, to rebuild – and I think this plan can play a role in that.”

■ **Editor’s Note:** To have your say on the NFF plan, contact your relevant industry organisation.



**REHABILITATE AND REBUILD:** AgForce’s Brent Finlay at the Rockhampton forum.

## Yeppoon field day looks at carbon

GRAZIERS in the Capricorn Coast area have a chance to learn more about soil carbon and the opportunities in the beef sector for sequestration and pasture improvement at Yeppoon next Monday, December 12.

A free field day will be held where soil carbon experts Dr Ram Dalal and Dr Diane Allen, of the Department of Environment and Resource Management, will meet at Paul and Arienne McCosker’s property “Adelaide Park” from 9am.

Run by grazing specialist Mick Alexander and supported by Capricorn Coast Landcare and the Federal Department of Agriculture, the day will focus on improving pastures and soil health.

Dr Dalal will explain the benefits of carbon sequestration and reveal insights into the most effective methods of improving soil carbon levels.

Mr Alexander said: “We will link soil carbon nutrition and management to create some real actions.

“Farmers need to be ready to manage the grass as soon as the wet season begins and pasture and soil nutrition are the keys.”

The day will also look at the McCoskers’ grazing management and new nutrient management programs.

The McCoskers have undertaken specific soil nutrient and microbial analysis and are applying a foliar product to im-

prove pasture response and production.

A “pasture seed” session will also be held to help graziers to choose the most appropriate seed for their soils and climate. A new pasture seeding machine, called the “Pasture Planter LSS” for establishing pastures and cereal crops, will also be discussed.

This machine has been designed to plant directly into existing pastures to establish legumes, grass pastures, granular fertiliser and/or liquid nutrition.

■ For information and to book, contact Cathe at Grazing BestPrac on 4938 3919 or Rhonda at Capricorn Coast Landcare on 4939 1002.

**LARGEST FABRICATOR OF CUSTOM MADE PORTABLE PANELS IN CQ**

- TRAILERS, FLOATS AND GOOSENECKS
- TOW HITCHES AND ENTRANCES
- FENCING YARDS AND STABLES
- CUSTOM MADE LIVESTOCK HANDLING EQUIPMENT.

**REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE WELCOME!**  
**OPP. GRACEMERE SALEYARDS**  
 Supporting the Rural, Mining & Local industry for the past 5 years

**RPT'S CONTRACTING**  
 0427 505 705

# BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE\*

Buy a new Polaris Ranger and get a free Polaris Mower valued at \$4,699 or \$4,699 off any additional new Polaris ATV or Ranger.

**DIESEL, PETROL or ELECTRIC?** Polaris has a Ranger for you.

\*Offer ends 31/12/11 or earlier if stocks run out. Not valid with other offers. Excludes Ranger 400 and RZR and fleet clients. See dealer for details. Overseas model shown.



FREE Polaris 44" Rough-Cut Mower

**FARM AND GARDEN PRODUCTS**

396 YAAMBA ROAD, ROCKHAMPTON NORTH.  
 PH: (07) 4926 1414  
[www.farmandgarden.com.au](http://www.farmandgarden.com.au)