



Enhancing farm security made possible through the On Farm Connectivity Program

The Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program is helping Australian farmers tackle the increasingly complex challenge of finding and adopting connectivity solutions that fit their farm operations.

The family are fourth-generation farmers from Biloela in central Queensland. They run a 1600ha broadacre cropping and cattle property. When considering issues we face on the farm, they remarked that "security has always been at the forefront of our minds, especially given the uptick in crime in our area. Despite always having a family member on-site, the safety of our machinery, livestock, and fuel supplies remained a significant concern for us."

After purchasing a number of off-the-shelf surveillance units, they soon realised that a lack of connectivity on their farm required to run the units, was a significant issue that was not easily, or cheaply, resolved. "We initially thought the issue was security cameras, but we soon realised the gap was a lack of connectivity holding us back. So, we started looking for more reliable, connected on farm security solutions".

This search led them to a nominated supplier under the government's On Farm Connectivity Program. "They introduced us to a video surveillance system that was nothing short of state-of-the-art, specifically designed with the unique needs of rural properties like ours in mind, and crucially, included the necessary connectivity,"

They had initial doubts about the benefits of the system versus its cost. However, the significant hardware and infrastructure installed on their property, combined with the comprehensive service and after-sales support, convinced them of its value from day one. They candidly expressed that "the level of support we received, particularly in monitoring and quickly verifying any suspicious activities, offered us the peace of mind we needed."

While they know it's impossible to eliminate all risks of crime, the enhanced surveillance has significantly eased their worries. This investment has paid off in acting as a deterrent to would-be trespassers, quickly and easily identifying any security breaches, and from an insurance perspective, offering a stronger basis for any future claims.

A pivotal factor in their decision to invest was the 50% rebate offered through the On Farm Connectivity Program. "Without the rebate, we would never have considered such a comprehensive solution to our security needs," they also praised the supplier and the government for simplifying the grant application process from the producer's end.

They applauded the On Farm Connectivity Program and its role in connecting farmers with knowledgeable suppliers to solve connectivity problems, like theirs. "The program's support, from funding to finding the right supplier, has been instrumental in allowing us to take

proactive steps towards a more secure future,” emphasising the initiative’s impact on fostering much-needed connectivity solutions for technology adoption on farm.

