

Increased connectivity and GPS capabilities through the On Farm Connectivity Program

The Australian Government's On Farm Connectivity Program is helping sheep graziers and crop growers like David Newman increase their connectivity across the farm through Global Positioning System (GPS) and mobile phone signal boosters.

David Newman is the owner of a sheep grazing and cropping farm in the Wheatbelt agricultural region of Western Australia (WA). With access to a rebate of 50% through the Program, he purchased a GPS receiver and mobile phone signal booster, providing much needed connectivity across his farm. David had always had these items on his wish list, but with help from the Program, he was able to make the purchases.

With the addition of the mobile phone signal booster, David can now contact other farm workers and conduct business across the property, increasing safety and productivity.

David said he now had reception in places that he hadn't before.

'We will use both of these items all across the property, giving much needed signal to areas of our property,' he said.

Furthermore, the GPS receiver allows David to track the location of his tractors and gives him the ability to drive them more accurately to different locations across the farm.

David said his experience with the process was very positive.

'The supplier helped with the paperwork and it was fantastic as it turned out our application was successful,' he said.

The Program has been a valuable initiative for farmers, reducing the financial barriers to improving connectivity across farms. The On Farm Connectivity Program is set to benefit more farmers, with a third round due to open later in 2025.