



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.

Scott Muller is a fourth-generation farmer from Biloela in central Queensland. He runs his 1600ha broadacre cropping and cattle property "Karinga", alongside his family. When considering issues he faces on farm, Muller 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, Scott soon realised that a lack of connectivity on his farm required to run the units, was a significant issue that was not easily, or cheaply, resolved. "I initially thought the issue was security cameras, but I soon realised the gap was a lack of connectivity holding us back. So, I started looking for more reliable, connected on farm security solutions", he said.

This search led him 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," Muller said.

Muller had initial doubts about the benefits of the system versus its cost. However, the significant hardware and infrastructure installed on his property, combined with the comprehensive service and after-sales support, convinced him of its value from day one. Muller 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 Muller knows it's impossible to eliminate all risks of crime, the enhanced surveillance has significantly eased his 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 Muller's decision to invest was the 50% rebate offered through the On Farm Connectivity Program. "Without the rebate, I would never have considered such a comprehensive solution to our security needs," Muller said, also praising both the supplier and the government for simplifying the grant application process from the producer's end.

Muller applauded the On Farm Connectivity Program and its role in connecting farmers with knowledgeable suppliers to solve connectivity problems, like his. "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,” he concluded, emphasising the initiative’s impact on fostering much-needed connectivity solutions for technology adoption on farm.

