**Farm Household Allowance activity supplement – David and Lisa’s story**

We live in this beautiful property not far from Lismore. We've got 160 acres and we've got beef cattle.

What I love about farming is the long-term view of it. So what can I do to this farm? What can I do to our genetics and our cattle? What can I do to the soil and the grasses?

I think it's the freedom when you wake up in the morning, of being able to do things in your own time. You're the boss, so you decide what your priorities are.

It's been pretty intense. So we had a drought, which was a new experience for us. We weren't overly prepared for it. We did okay, but there were some traumatic times in there. Then we had a flood.

‘22 the Lismore floods, which had a huge impact on Lismore obviously, but really everybody. The valleys just filled up with water and the night of the heavy rain, we could just see tractors moving in the valley. We could see people trying to move cattle, just trying to come up the hills so, a lot of action that night of the flood and, terrible things the next day when the sun came up and people being rescued off roofs, out of roofs.

FHA has been, well, a great support. It's financial assistance when you need it, that's day to day bread and butter stuff but, we've really enjoyed the training and getting better as farmers, so learning more about the science of soil, the science of grasses. So those big things that hopefully make sustainable long term improvements to our farm, and then just basic things like getting my excavator ticket. So if a flood happens again, that I can dry hire machinery and not wait 18 months like we had to last time to get an operator and a machine, so really practical things.

We didn't know we get money to be educated. And because we are previously educators, we're like, wow, what can we do?

(Sally, Farm Household Case Officer:) “And also too by working together as a group within your footprint, that is so much better.” Our case manager has been brilliant in pointing us in the right directions and seeing what suits us and we discussed those options and then we, we do them. “We hosted a farmers night out” We are always astounded at how positive and encouraging she is. We are amazed at her depth of knowledge. We're amazed at her ability to connect with us and relate to us right where we're at. “It's fantastic the information we're getting. Yeah. Really good.” “So you are now like um...” “...Groupies.”

Australia’s here to support farmers in lots of ways, with grants and Household Allowance and rural financial counsellors and things. Yeah, it's a real gift.