

# OBSERVANT REMOTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

## USER PROFILE

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Leanne and Barry O'Sullivan, Glenalpine Station, Bowen, Queensland

This northern Queensland couple running their 23,170 hectare property say the Observant Remote Management System monitoring water at Glenalpine is worth its weight in gold. Having installed Observant initially to manage their medicator program for their 4,500 Brahm cattle, they are finding that the benefits from the system in terms of time saving, water-saving and consequently money saving is impressive.

Barry and Leanne O'Sullivan's system includes four solar powered Observant units on spears in the creek, river and tanks which record and relay information about the water flow and water levels to the homestead computer. At any time they can see what the water is doing at these monitored sites by looking at a simple series of illustrations on the computer.

"Observant was recommended to us for monitoring the Nutridose™ system, but we realised pretty quickly that this was something that was going to provide us much more than monitoring the medicators", said Leanne.

"We've had the system in for just under a year and the biggest benefit we are seeing is in identifying quickly when there is either a leak or overflow – the way the information is presented on screen makes it very easy to see if and where there are any problems".

When you are operating a 23,170 hectare property without permanent on-farm assistance there is much to be gained from a system that reliably monitors the water.

"It's been life saving material already. Barry is saving time by checking the spears and tanks less often, and after he has fixed a problem it is very easy to see if the work has actually returned the flow to normal just by looking at the tank levels on the computer", she said.

"We are now doing one water run a week to check stock conditions and pastures, because on a daily basis the tank levels are monitored by the Observant system. You can plan your day much more efficiently if you don't have to spend the first hour or so checking water".

The monitoring is backup up with sophisticated but simple software that records information to help with whole-of-farm management.

"It's a simple system and you can use as much or as little as the program has to offer. The great thing is that I can call Observant at any time and ask them a question about our system and they can help me straight away over the phone – so it's not a piece of technology that I'm intimidated by – I can really use it very effectively".

"I am quite interested in some of the more sophisticated features such as patterns of consumption over time and Barry is happy using the home page with the whole of property diagram that gives him the water snapshot".

"We predict that we will see a return on our investment in 1-2 years and I'd conservatively estimate that we are gaining 10 hours each week by using Observant to monitor the water instead of physically checking it every day", she said.

Currently Observant Remote Management Systems are being installed on both corporate and large scale family operations. Independent field trials are underway with the Desert Knowledge Co-operative Research Centre, E-Sheep Co-operative Research Centre and Meat & Livestock Australia.

*Observant Pty Ltd is an Australian company that locally designs and manufactures solutions for the remote monitoring and management of infrastructure equipment and is committed to innovation, reliability and simplicity. The head office is located in Melbourne, employing 14 specialist staff, supported by a nation-wide network of resellers. Further information can be found at [www.observant.com.au](http://www.observant.com.au) or by calling 1300 224 688.*