

## **Balranald Township**

There are 7 crofts in Balranald Township with each croft having a share in the township common areas. Traditionally there would have been 7 active crofters working together in the township. Although all croft and common land is still utilised there are now only 4 active crofters in the township. The average age is 63 and older crofters tend to unofficially sublet their crofts and common shares to other township members while retaining SFP and environmental payments.

The Common Machair area is split into 2 areas, which follow a 2 years cropped 2 years fallow (natural regeneration)/grazed rotation. The cropped area is closed off to livestock between 15<sup>th</sup> May until 2<sup>nd</sup> November but the fallow/grazing area remains available throughout the year for grazing. The cropping plots for Balranald have been amalgamated into larger areas more suitable for modern machinery. The common hill and common pasture are also available for grazing between 15<sup>th</sup> May and 2 November.

Crofts	7
Active Crofters	4
Average Age	60
Common Hill	177ha (25.3 ha per croft)
Common Pasture	110ha (15.7 ha per croft)
Common Cattle Ground	2.74ha
Common Machair	201ha of which 87ha is cropped (about 12.4 ha per croft)
Cattle Numbers	85
Sheep	150

### Torlum

There are 25 crofts in Torlum Township with approximately 11 active crofters. Some crofts belong to absentees and are not used for any agricultural production at present. The common machair is split into small plots with each share amounting to 1.43ha. Active crofters use the majority of common shares with informal permission from inactive crofters and absentees.

The machair plots follow a 2 years cropped (under sown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year); 2–4 years Silage rotation, with very few plots left to naturally regenerate. Livestock are excluded from the common machair from 15<sup>th</sup> May until 1<sup>st</sup> September and most livestock are wintered on the croft inbye. Benbecula hill common is shared with all other townships on Benbecula and Torlum crofts each have one share of 258.

Crofts	25
Active Crofters	11
Average Age	60
Torlum Machair	36ha in 25 shares (1.43 ha per croft)
Benbecula Common	1,344ha in 258 shares of which Torlum has 25 of 5.2 ha each
Cattle Numbers	45
Sheep	10

### Linclate

Linclate Township has 33 crofts of which active crofters occupy 25. Again, there are some absentee crofters but the majority of land is used by active crofters through informal arrangements. The livestock exclusion dates are again from May to September. The machair plots follow a 2 years cropped (under sown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year); 2–4 years Silage rotation, with very few plots left to regenerate naturally.

Crofts	33
Active Crofters	25
Average Age	60
Common Machair	32 ha in 33 shares of 1 ha per croft
Benbecula Common	1,344ha in 258 shares of which Linclate have 33
Cattle Numbers	10
Sheep	300