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The Australian Rangeland Society

SURVEY OF LANDHOLDERS NEEDS FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IN THE WESTERN DIVISION OF NSW

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This survey's aim was to determine the needs of Western Division landholders for economic research, analysis and extension. It was a very simple survey and was returned by freepost mail in 1992. Of some 1350 questionnaires sent some 245 were returned (18%).

The replies came from a wide area across the Western Division (WD). With a space for comments some 41% took the opportunity to comment on many issues that ultimately reflected their economic concerns e.g. woody weeds, total grazing pressure, conservative stocking, landcare. The most surprising result, considering that this survey was undertaken in a period of extreme drought and very poor wool prices, was that 83% wanted better taxation measures for sustainable management.

The respondents ranked the topics on a level of need basis; the results are listed below:

	High	Med	Low	Other
	(to nearest %)			
On Farm Topics				
Financial analysis for property planning	61	16	15	7
Economic information on:				
a) Rabbit control	41	22	24	2
b) Stocking rates	62	25	12	2
c) Roo & goat control	75	16	7	.5
d) Woody weed control	62	17	18	2
e) Pastures & their management for sustainable production	62	25	10	3
f) Cropping techniques	17	13	56	15
g) Drought planning	66	27	7	1
h) Water conservation & reticulation	60	26	11	3
i) Tax concessions for landcare	65	23	10	2
j) Scald reclamation	16	35	45	5
k) Salinity	14	20	58	8
Property Planning				
Are you interested in developing a property plan for your property	55	29	16	
Off Farm				
Land Tenure	39	27	21	11
Drought Policy	64	24	6	4
Property Build-up	39	35	18	8
Better Taxation incentives for sustainable management	83	10	3	4
Loans for soil conservation & water supply	53	27	15	3

SOME OF THE UNEDITED COMMENTS FROM THE RESPONDENTS

'Have been using conservative stocking always, and am a great believer in this management style, also a large help in reducing fluctuation in income.' (Wentworth)

'Tax incentives need to be put in place to encourage floggers to care and repair their damaged land.' (Hay)

'Wish to do anything in my power to improve the land especially in controlling woody weeds.' (Cobar)

'Further information on most of these topics would benefit most graziers.' (White Cliffs)

'Property planning, stocking rates and control of woody weeds are very important if we are to remain viable and to succeed.' (Cobar)

'The last property plan for our place consisted of officials finding out what we did and presenting that info back to us in a neatly typed book (waste of financial resources).' (White Cliffs)

'Workshops at Landcare meetings etc. should spend more time at understanding feed supply and how production is influenced.' (Ivanhoe)

'More work on destocking roos and goats, no spelling on country possible now.' (Bourke)

One of many from various places. One suggested a bounty (\$2) on goats.

'Highly interested in regrowth problems, pasture regeneration on both red and black soils - Landcare groups a top move.' (Walgett)

'Woody weeds uncontrollable.' (Coolabah)

'Need research on grazing systems and strategies on semi-arid lands.' (Enngonia)

'I think drought planning and water conservation add up to land management or lack of it in this area.' (Hay)

'To come out of the present crisis long-term support is needed for proven Landcare works (rabbit ripping, woody weed control).' (Broken Hill)

'Some form of tax credit scheme for low income earners.' (Wentworth)

'Control of pest animals and shrubs are an early attack on drought. Conservative stocking is more profitable in the long run.' (Balranald)

'More available pamphlets and information on landcare, stocking rates.' (Lightning Ridge)

WEST 2000 PROGRAM

These issues raised in the survey have been confirmed by community consultation for the proposed WEST 2000 program. Many of the topics mentioned will be addressed and be part of the funding in WEST 2000. As part of WEST 2000 economic analysis, research, extension and benchmarking will help monitor the performance of this program in addition to providing valuable landholder information as requested.