

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

Official publication of The Australian Rangeland Society

Copyright and Photocopying

© The Australian Rangeland Society 2012. All rights reserved.

For non-personal use, no part of this item may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission of the Australian Rangeland Society and of the author (or the organisation they work or have worked for). Permission of the Australian Rangeland Society for photocopying of articles for non-personal use may be obtained from the Secretary who can be contacted at the email address, rangelands.exec@gmail.com

For personal use, temporary copies necessary to browse this site on screen may be made and a single copy of an article may be downloaded or printed for research or personal use, but no changes are to be made to any of the material. This copyright notice is not to be removed from the front of the article.

All efforts have been made by the Australian Rangeland Society to contact the authors. If you believe your copyright has been breached please notify us immediately and we will remove the offending material from our website.

Form of Reference

The reference for this article should be in this general form;
Author family name, initials (year). Title. *In*: Proceedings of the nth Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference. Pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

For example:

Anderson, L., van Klinken, R. D., and Shepherd, D. (2008). Aerially surveying Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) in the Pilbara. *In*: 'A Climate of Change in the Rangelands. Proceedings of the 15th Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference'. (Ed. D. Orr) 4 pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

Disclaimer

The Australian Rangeland Society and Editors cannot be held responsible for errors or any consequences arising from the use of information obtained in this article or in the Proceedings of the Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conferences. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Rangeland Society and Editors, neither does the publication of advertisements constitute any endorsement by the Australian Rangeland Society and Editors of the products advertised.



The Australian Rangeland Society

A REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE WESTERN DIVISION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

John Kerin

PO Box 3, Garran ACT 2605

The paper relates entirely to recommendations made by the author following a Review of the Western Division of NSW as commissioned by the Hon. Richard Amery, Minister for Agriculture and Land and Water Conservation.

The Terms of Reference addressed the sustainable management requirements for economic, social and environmental outcomes. They were specifically directed to the effectiveness and operation of the existing Western Lands and associated Acts, issues impacting on desirable outcomes and actions to implement more sustainable management and use of the western lands resources.

While we yet have much to learn about rangeland condition and management, actions for improvement remediation and care lag behind our depth of knowledge and understanding of landscape processes. Tenure of most of the land is by perpetual leasehold title with grazing the predominant activity.

While some laws and regulations are no longer relevant or are ignored, more contemporary Acts and regulations to carry out sensible and relevant policies involving the Western Division sometimes lack resources, expertise and Agency coordination. Private organisations, Local Government and many consultative bodies established by government either lobby for particular needs or are under-resourced or are not sufficiently empowered. The bi-cultural nature of the people of the Division can best be addressed by a whole of government approach and negotiation – this includes dealing with Native Title claims which cover most of the Division.

The current economic, if not political fad, of the society's powers that be is that markets should prevail and determine outcomes, and that governments should marginalise themselves so that the private sector, individuals and shareholders thrive and thereby enhance the general good of the economy. Greater flexibility is needed in land use decisions but on the basis of land capability. Markets tend to fail when dealing with fragile natural systems and ecological processes.

People, all people, need to be recognised as having the capacity to resolve many issues. Land management (the role of leaseholders) and land administrators (the role of public and private sector organisations) should not be considered as unlinked activities.

More sustainable management and better administration of the Division is not beyond the wit of man. Both need to involve land users in these activities with better co-ordinated government agencies acting more as information providers and monitors. While the Western Lands Act could be repealed to be replaced with a Western Division Resource Act (to identify the essential characteristics of the Division) other State-wide laws should prevail e.g. Native Vegetation and Conservation Act. It is seen that there should be ongoing input from researchers to assist decision making by three geographically based Committees of land users and stakeholders.

POSTER PAPERS - BROAD CATEGORY

(A) RANGELAND DYNAMICS

- 1) Ayers, D. and Beckers, D.143
"WEST 2000 Woody Weeds and Biodiversity Project"
- 2) Boer, M.M. and Puigdefábregas, J.....145
"Site Water Balance as an Indicator of Dryland Degradation Status: Concepts and Approach"
- 3) Boer, M.M. and Stafford Smith, M.....148
"Predicting the Effect of Utilisation on Plant Composition in Rangelands: The Role of Rooting Depth and Root:Shoot Ratios"
- 4) Callister, K. and Westbrooke, M.150
"Regeneration and the Effect of Simulated Rainfall on Semi-arid Woodlands in North-western Victoria"
- 5) Gowans, G. and Todorov, S.....152
"Recovery of Mallee Vegetation Following Disturbance on Seismic Lines in Far-western NSW"
- 6) Hall, T. and Douglas, J.R.....154
"Clearing, Grazing and Burning Interactions on Tree Dynamics in an *Aristida/Bothriochloa* Community"
- 7) Ludwig, J.A., Bastin, G., Eager, R., Liedloff, A., Andison, R. and Cobiac, M.156
"Recovery of "Vegetation on Kidman Springs: 1973-1999"
- 8) Noble, J.C.158
"Decomposition of plant litter by termites in mulga landscapes of western New South Wales"
- 9) Norton, M.R., Whalley, R.B.D., Mitchell, M.M., Friend, D.A., Garden, D.L., Auricht, G.C., Kobelt, E.T., Sanford, P., Waters, C. and Koetz, E.A.....160
"Evaluation of Native and Low Input Grasses"
- 10) O'Neill, S. & Tiver, F.....162
"The habitat preferences of re-introduced stick-nest rats (*Leporillus conditor*) Roxby Downs, South Australia"
- 11) Orr, D.M., Phelps, D.G., Bates, K.N. and Yee, M.C.164
"Plant Species Responses to Grazing in *Astrebla* Grasslands"
- 12) Phelps, D.G., Bosch, O.J.H. and Bates, K.N.166
"Identifying State and Transition Models in the Mitchell Grasslands"
- 13) Semple, W.S. and Koen, T.B.....167
"Recovery of *Austrodanthonia eriantha* Following One-off Disturbances in a Humid Derived Grassland"
- 14) Westbrooke, M.170
"Relationship between perennial species richness and distance from water in *Casuarina pauper* (belah) woodland"

(B) RANGELANDS IN THE NEW MILLENIUM

15)	Bastin, G., Ludwig, J.A. and Eager, R.....	173
	“Can Aerial Videography Indicate Landscape Function?”	
16)	Clipperton, S.....	175
	“A Technique for Rapid Acquisition of Spatial Ecological Data”	
17)	Clipperton, S.....	178
	“Vegetation Community Change and Its Effect on Bird Populations”	
18)	Cowley, R., Rogers, R., Mott, J. and Johnston, P.....	181
	“Herbivores behaving badly – Paddock Scale Spatial”	
19)	Gilroy, J., Curran, G. and Gay, E.	183
	“Dealing with an Epidemic in Macropods”	
20)	Gilroy, J. and Cairns, S.....	185
	“Re-appraisal and Enhancement of the Current Methodology Used in the Estimation of Kangaroo Populations in Western New South Wales”	
21)	Gilroy, J.....	186
	“Kangaroo Management – A Brief History, Current Issues and the Future”	
22)	Hodgkinson, K.C., Marsden, S. and Müller, W.J.....	188
	“Defoliation Sets the Death-trap for Grasses and Drought Springs the Trap”	
23)	Jones, P. and Sullivan, A.....	190
	“Silver-leaved Ironbark (<i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i>) Recruitment is Affected by Management in Central Queensland”	
24)	King, J., O’Reagain, P. and Alchin, B.....	193
	“Grazing Behaviour of <i>Bos indicus</i> Cattle on Rangelands in North-eastern Queensland”	
25)	Pringle, H., Morrissey, T & R., Mitchell, R & K., Tinley, K., Blood, D. and Jaensch, R.....	195
	“Planning Ecologically Sustainable Pastoral Management through the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy”	

(C) INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

- 26) Badman, F. and Farrington, V.196
“Minimising Environmental Damage During Major Infrastructure Developments”
- 27) Bailey, K. and Alchin, B.....198
“Comparative Impact of Livestock and Kangaroos on Rangelands”
- 28) Dale, A., Bellamy, J, Bischof, R., Zhu, X., Laredo, L. and Pollock, L.....200
“CHRRUPP: Building a better system of regional planning for sustainability”
- 29) Irvin, M., Mooney, M. and Westbrooke, M.....201
“Grazing Effects on a Post Fire Regenerating Mallee Community, South-western New South Wales”
- 30) Macgregor, C.202
“Social Science and the National Land & Water Resources Audit”
- 31) Patton, D., Milthorpe, Wynne, M.J. and Honeysett, B.M.....205
“Re-establishing Perennial Vegetation: The Saltbush Case. An Environmental or Economic Proposition!”
- 32) Pegler, L. and Bentley, D.....207
“The ‘Triple Bottom Line’ of Natural Resource Management”
- 33) Pegler, L209
“South West Strategy and Sustainable Rangeland Management”
- 34) Sawtell, G.R and Miller, K..211
“Vegetation Mapping of Western Division Section of Walgett Shire NSW”
- 35) White, A.213
“Sustainable Grazing in the Channel Country Floodplains”

(D) PEOPLE IN RANGELANDS

- 36) Beange, L.....215
“INTERNET Use in the Rangelands”
- 37) Campbell, T. and Hacker, R.217
“The Glove Box Guide to Tactical Grazing Management Guide for the Semi-arid Woodlands”
- 38) Campbell, T.219
“Combining “BESTPRAC” and “Property Management Planning”
- 39) Claymore, K., Ferraro, T., Nelson, R. and Panton, W.221
“BushCare in the Rangelands: Beyond Raising Awareness and Education ”
- 40) Cross, J. and Stafford Smith, M.....225
“Taxation Policy Instruments and Sustainable Grazing Management in the Rangelands”

41)	Holmes, J.	227
	“Pastoral Lease Tenures as Policy Instruments: From the 1847 Order in Council to the 1997 Post-Wik Draft Legislation”	
42)	Kerr, M. and Westbrooke, M.	228
	“Conservation and Reservation of Endangered Saline Plant Communities in South-western New South Wales”	
43)	Silcock, R.G.	230
	“Native Rangeland Trees and Shrubs that can be Grown from Seed”	
44)	Silcock, R.G. and Brady, S.	233
	“Hand-held Computers Are Needed for Rangeland Monitoring”	
45)	Witt, G.B. and Steel, K.	235
	“Land Use Conflict in Rural Australia: From a Shared Vision into a Great Divide”	