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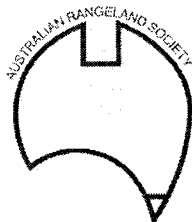
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The Australian Rangeland Society

PASTORAL AND MINING ACTIVITIES IN W.A. - IMPACTS AND SYNERGIES: IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRIMARY ECONOMIC USERS OF THE ARID RANGELANDS

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HISTORY

- Explorers, pastoral expansion and prospectors
- Pastoral activity, knowledge, and primary infrastructure to the first mining activities
- The pre 1960's, iron mines, into the nickel boom and then the gold boom
- Actions to improve an antagonistic relationship
- A more mutually beneficial relationship- but brought out?
- Today W.A and many pastoral people economically dependent on mining.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE: PASTORAL AND MINING HISTORY AND THE ABORIGINAL FUTURE

- Interest and attraction by visitors and therefore economic benefit
- Old homesteads, stock routes, and old minesites
- Dreaming paths, travel and trade routes.

SCALE - ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL POWER

- Relative to time and economics - sometimes social pariah's
- Poles apart: pastoral and mining industries and their economics
- Utilising Australian rangelands in a sustainable way
- Regional areas can wield some power while the "one vote one value" idea is not law
- Mining and the triple bottom line.

IMPACTS ON PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

- Scale - Small localised, but dramatic, at times activity overwhelms pastoral people
- Strip mining - prospectors and the future: nickel laterite mining and mineral sands
- Changes to the waterless plains -permanent water bodies and water of the future
- Physical risk, sources of pollutants, and points of attraction forever?
- Economics - disruption, disturbance and damage - local and regional
- Economics; temporal, resale values, compensation rights and buying out the industry
- Social impacts; lifestyle disruption, social change, boom and bust communities
- Mining however can destabilise local labour resources, through competition
- Sustainability; who will outlast who? environmental capital.

SYNERGIES PASTORAL AND MINING ACTIVITIES

- Pastoral people maintain the social capital and infrastructure while the miners are away
- Pastoral people maintain and support local organisations and one of the reasons the government maintain services - this is the conduit to future resources, and future industry through low cost exploration and mining

- Mining - reasons for the government to provide capital grants for regional infrastructure
- Mining - economic safety net during time of poor rates of return
- Mining - potential for capital injections to pastoral leases
- Mining capital for venture capital, alternative land use, and experimentation
- Social scholarships and foundations, social facilities and economic benefits
- Water resources identified tapped and available in inland areas
- Locals make good, solid, stable employees, and bring local knowledge
- Tax benefits and economic benefits could be enhanced for long term resident working people
- Some pastoral people understand impacts on country and can make good advisers
- Mining provides skill enhancement, growth in knowledge, and experience.

CONCLUSION

- Mining and pastoral land users are mutual stakeholders and if they approach each other with respect and understanding can both yield the benefits of a positive synergistic relationship.
- People in arid lands - of all types and persuasions need to ensure local politicians assist them in capturing a proportion of the constant one way flow of mine resource dollars to the cities, capital from these finite resources may never return.
- This capital requires wise investment, by communities and individuals to allow diversification of pastoral activities and the development of other sustainable industries from socially, healthy regional hubs.