

**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

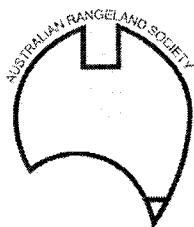
The reference for this article should be in this general form;
Author family name, initials (year). Title. *In*: Proceedings of the nth Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference. Pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

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

CONSERVATION VALUES IN MINED LANDSCAPES

Ian Kealley

Department of Conservation and Land Management, Goldfields Region

What is the Mined Landscape? The area of the direct disturbance or the regional zone of influence at the mining operation? It can include both especially where mining companies manage extended areas of rangeland.

While a very limited number of directly disturbed mined landscapes have some residual or created conservation values (e.g. remnant bush areas or created wetlands), this does not generally apply within the rangelands.

Mined landscapes do not have conservation value as once the landscape is altered it always remains altered. Many mined rangeland landscapes, even rehabilitated ones, in fact have substantial negative local conservation impacts and influences such as:

- exposed salt water areas
- artificial permanent water points and changed drainage
- disturbed and unstable surfaces and altered landforms
- altered vegetation associations

The positive aspects and value to conservation from mining and mined landscapes in the rangelands are secondary and relate to the capacity of mining companies and mining operations to influence regional conservation outcomes, input to conservation and biodiversity and achieve management of the wider rangelands for conservation. Specifically:

- Achieving regional conservation outcomes through tradeoffs and processes to ensure no overall loss of conservation values.
- Land Management for conservation. By managing for conservation the land not directly impacted by mining on mining tenements or where companies own pastoral leasehold. Allocation of areas for conservation, creation of formal conservation reserves (excisions, donation, purchase) or conservation outside of reservation (S16a, MOU, Covenants etc).
- Allocating resources (\$, time, people) for conservation and biodiversity work outside of directly impacted areas.
- Management of feral animals (herbivores and predators) in a regional sense.
- Contribution to programs that reduce threatening processes within the region (e.g. impacts of grazing, reduction of artificial waters, feral animals, fencing).
- Research and survey. Both through the EIS and PER processes and while operating the mine by contributing to improved knowledge by survey of flora and fauna. Extend surveys outside of the direct zone of influence, contribute to regional data bases and knowledge systems.
- Survey, for manage and research regional populations of rare, threatened and priority species of flora and fauna.
- Provision of infrastructure and support for regional conservation initiatives (access, accommodation, data, and staff).
- Develop partnerships with conservation agencies, community groups and indigenous communities to achieve conservation outcomes through the points above and active land management.
- Information education and knowledge. Develop awareness and education campaigns for conservation within the sites, with the community and as targeted programs.

- The 'being there' factor. Having staff on site provides eyes and ears to manage rangelands and allows input to conservation programs.
- Integrated land management. Manage all areas for all uses including conservation especially for areas outside those directly disturbed.