

BARKLY RANGELAND MANAGEMENT COURSE

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The Barkly Rangeland Management Course was initially developed in 1999 through Landcare support and Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funding. It was developed in response to requests from landholders for information on sustainable land management in respect to beef production.

The course is an education package comprising a series of modules that are available to employees on all cattle stations in the Barkly Region. The objective of the course is to improve participants' understanding of native pasture dynamics, to train them in plant identification and basic monitoring techniques, and to stimulate their interest in using pasture monitoring to make sustainable land management decisions.

Participants are given a combination of theory and practical sessions over the duration of the course. Presenters are from the Departments of Business, Industries and Resource Development and Infrastructure, Planning and Environment. The information presented is based on local research and experience, and covers a range of topics, including plant identification principles and pasture dynamics, fire management, weed and poisonous plant management and beef cattle nutritional requirements and associated supplementation strategies.

The course is continually being developed and through an initiative of the Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association and NHT Envirofund has enabled a biodiversity management component to be added to the course in 2003.