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The agricultural and natural resource based industries operate in a competitive environment with many economic, environmental and cultural challenges. This means that we cannot address sustainability issues in isolation from the socio-economic context and there is a key role for Governments in supporting the role of Landcare and community empowerment through skills, knowledge and information that allow for local solutions.

The paper will canvass the role of the Australian Government in supporting the management of the rangelands for productivity and sustainability outcomes through the Landcare Program, Natural Heritage Trust and research activities. The paper will draw from relevant initiatives such as the Australian Collaborative Rangeland Information System in supporting provision and application of accessible and relevant information at a range of scales. It will also canvass the role of Landcare and other capacity building initiatives in enhancing the productive and profitable resource based industries.