



The Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
Deputy Leader of the Nationals
Federal Member for Maranoa

Ref: MC20-012641

18 SEP 2020

Dr Dana Kelly
President
International Rangeland Congress Continuing Committee

Via email: dana@danamkelly.com

Dear Dr Kelly

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 September 2020, co-signed by Dr David Phelps, seeking Australian Government support for the Mongolian Government's proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. I appreciate the time you have taken to bring this matter to my attention.

The Australian Government shares your view that rangelands are places of critical economic and environmental importance, and notes that about 80 per cent of Australia is classified as rangelands. The proposed International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists will help highlight the challenges facing rangelands management, sustainability and agricultural productivity, as well as the opportunities rangelands present for rural prosperity.

The Australian Government supports the proposal to have an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and considers it to be an important opportunity for industry to raise awareness of these issues.

I have sent a similar reply to Dr Phelps.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D Littleproud', written in a cursive style.

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP