

SAALLB-GM13721



Government of South Australia

South Australian Arid Lands
Landscape Board

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

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13 July 2021

H.E. Mr. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)
13381 Governmental building 9th, Peace Avenue 16a,
Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
info@mofa.gov.mn

Dear Minister,

I am writing to confirm that the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board (the Board) is a strong supporter of the proposed International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), and where possible will support the IYRP with events in Australia. We endorse the recommendation that the United Nations support the proposal from the Government of Mongolia to declare an IYRP in 2026.

The Board exists under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The area of South Australia it has stewardship for and oversight of is over fifty percent of the state (approximately 525,000 square kilometres) and takes in almost all of the Pastoral estate.

The vision for the Board as set out in its Strategic Plan 2021/2026 ***Leading the way to biodiverse and productive landscapes in a changing climate***. The landscapes in the SA Arid Lands are biodiverse and culturally rich. They contain a diversity of natural ecosystems, supporting native plants and animals, First Nations and European cultural values, ecosystem services and established industries that underpin the regional economy. These include pastoralism (sheep and cattle production on native pastures, covering 77% of the region), mining and energy production (mineral, gas, petroleum and renewables), conservation (public and private) and nature-based tourism. In turn, these industries sustain the remote townships and communities of the region.

As a member of the National Rangelands Alliance and an affiliate of the Australian Rangelands Society the Board can offer collaborative opportunities with other rangelands regions across state boundaries and in South Australia specifically, to bring community together at events such as field days or forums. These may align with projects our Board runs, such as the Building Pastoral Sustainability Program, where innovation, adaptation and diversification are drivers of engaging best practice rangelands management, or showcasing projects where threatened species or threatened arid ecosystems are the focus of our conservation work and monitoring.

Should this proposal be successful and IYRP comes to fruition, I am confident a range of positive opportunities to celebrate the rangelands globally will emerge, in which our board will proudly participate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jodie Gregg-Smith'.

Jodie Gregg-Smith
General Manager
SA Arid Lands Landscape Board