

Attention:
M. Ulaan Chultem
Minister for Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia
13381 Zasglin gazriin IX bair
Enkhtaivnii urgun chuluu 16a, Bayanzurkh duureg.
Ulaanbaatar
MONGOLIA.



29-6-2021

Dear Minister,

I am writing to confirm that the Australian Grassland Association (AGA) 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 AGA facilitates the ongoing improvement and development of the pastoral industry. We hold symposiums that bring together the scientific community, leading producers and industry stakeholders who present the latest research and outline future investment priorities and agendas.

The pastoral industry sometimes lacks the positive mainstream attention and coverage that is received by other agriculture sectors and can sometimes be a target for negative media coverage on issues such as animal welfare and greenhouse gas emissions. The AGA sees considerable benefit in the proposed IYRP in promoting positive stories and actions of pastoralists in rangelands and improved pasture grasslands. The IYRP would draw considerable attention to the benefits of grasslands and their importance in not only livestock production but also environmental stability.

The AGA host a symposium every 2 years, with a symposium due in 2026 coinciding with the proposed IYRP. The AGA would promote the IYRP not only at the symposium but throughout the year in all our communications to our stakeholders.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rowan Smith". The signature is stylized and includes a small mark at the end that looks like a cross or a flourish.

Dr Rowan Smith
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