



Western Local Land Services

21 Mitchell Street
Bourke NSW 2840
Tel: 02 6870 8600

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/western

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

25 May 2021

Dear Minister,

I am writing to confirm that Western Local Land Services is a strong supporter of the proposed International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), and is committed to support the IYRP with events in Australia.

Western Local Land Services

Local Land Services (LLS) are a regionally based NSW Government agency that delivers quality, customer-focused services to farmers, landholders and the community.

LLS staff are technical experts who can help you with agricultural production, biosecurity, natural resource management and during emergencies.

Our programs support you with information, networks and resources to help you:

- improve landholders agricultural productivity
- control declared pests and meet your legal obligations
- maintain market confidence in 'clean and green' agricultural products
- manage and improve natural resources.

The Western Local Land Service region is the largest in NSW, covering 314,500 km² or 40% of the state. It is larger than Victoria and Tasmania combined. Despite its size, it is the least densely populated region, with a population of approximately 42,873 people (18,500 of whom live in the city of Broken Hill).

The Australian rangelands

Australia could be called the 'rangeland continent' given that 80 per cent of its landmass is rangeland. The rangelands are sparsely populated, with resident people representing less than two per cent of Australia's total population of about 25 million; with 40 per cent of the population living in

the cities of Sydney and Melbourne. A relatively high percentage of the rangeland population are Indigenous, being 28 per cent of the total.

Pastoralism – grazing animals on native vegetation across 3.45 million km² – is the dominant land use in the rangelands and supports about 6,000 farm businesses which graze nine million cattle, mainly in the northern rangelands and five million sheep, which are nearly all grazed in the southern rangelands. The rangelands face challenges such as climate change, a declining population in some areas, lack of good telecommunications, and occasional disasters caused by floods, droughts and fires. The total economic contribution of pastoralism masks the challenges in maintaining profitability, with pastoral enterprises typically providing returns on capital of one to two per cent. On the positive side, the quality of Australian biophysical and socio-economic research in the rangelands is high, and the resourcefulness of rangeland people is legendary.

How Western Local Land Services will support the IYRP

Western Local Land Services will highlight the International Year through its publications and communication platforms. Western Local Land Services maintains a website, which carries material relevant to the rangelands, and social media including Facebook. Our social media platform will also build interest in and support for the IYRP amongst stakeholders, with material relevant to Australia, as well as to rangelands in other parts of the world.

In summary, Western Local Land Services is firmly committed to the proposed International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Western LLS will align its activities and the resources to the IYRP thus building the profile of the world's rangelands and the people who rely upon them.

Kind regards,



Erlina Compton
General Manager
Western Local Land Services