



# Pastoral Update

## GREAT WESTERN WOODLANDS

The Department of Environment and Conservation have released the conservation strategy for the Great Western Woodlands. The strategy was the outcome of the Great Western Woodlands Stakeholder Reference Group, in which the PGA participated.

In the meantime, another private study group has been formed, called the "Great Western Woodlands Collaboration". The collaboration is funded by Cliff Natural Resources.

The collaboration consists of 4 groups who were members of the government organised stakeholder reference group. They are;

1. The Nature Conservancy
2. Gondwana Link
3. PEW Environmental Group - Australia
4. The Wilderness Society

These groups believe there is more work to be done on the way land is being used.

The PGA office is concerned over the reincarnation of this new group but will participate as required.

## LAND TENURE

The PGA President and office staff has been meeting with state government representatives from the Department of Regional Development and Lands and the Pastoral Land unit.

Sadly, however, there is nothing of any significance to report.

(Issued 3 December 2010)

## MINING AND PASTORALISM

Dr Henry Esbenshade continues to meet with Mr Kevin Mancini, General Manager of the Investigation and Enforcement Branch, DMP.

Mr Mancini gave a 'power point' presentation on the rights and obligations of prospectors and fossickers when exploring on pastoral leases.

Mr Mancini has also said he hopes to begin investigating unresolved legacy issues from mining exploration on pastoral leases.

However, due to government budgetary constraints and staff leave requirements, the Investigation and Enforcement Branch is well under its establishment strength.

In addition, Dr Esbenshade has been tele-conferencing with members of the PGA Mining & Pastoral working group. The purpose of this is to find out which issues are currently of most concern to members and how best they can be addressed.

## RENT RELIEF

Despite written requests for an 'across the board' rent relief there has been no action.

The only way pastoralists can seek rent relief is to apply individually for the PLB to make a favourable recommendation to the Minister of Lands. The web address of a summary of the requirements to apply for rent relief is below.

[http://lands.rdl.wa.gov.au/Pastoral\\_Lease\\_Rent\\_Relief\\_Overview\\_v2\\_0\\_\(Sep\\_2010\).pdf](http://lands.rdl.wa.gov.au/Pastoral_Lease_Rent_Relief_Overview_v2_0_(Sep_2010).pdf)

## RANGELAND CONDITION MONITORING, aka, SELF-MONITORING

At the most recent Pastoral Committee meeting, Ms Jodie McTaggart of the Gascoyne Catchment Group presented her group's RCM model. It was an excellent presentation.

The model uses data input to an EXCEL computer program using values or scores derived from vegetation types and condition and soil erosion and leaf litter.

Previous historical data can be entered and all entries can be saved for future reference.

Established monitoring sites can be reused.

Unfortunately, a representative from DAFWA was unable to attend, so committee members could not compare and contrast the recommended DAFWA model with the GCG alternative.

The Pastoral Committee still has concerns with any type of self-monitoring. These are time, cost, skills and making this the responsibility of pastoralists, when imposed as a legislative solution to the lack of expertise and short comings of the land lord's current system of reporting on the condition of land under pastoral leases.

## MEETINGS:

Although the Pastoral Committee meeting will not be held, the Chair and Mr David Steadman will be in the PGA office from 1300hrs on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.