



# Pastoral Bulletin

## 16 January 2013

### **EARMARKING & BRANDING**

Officers from DAFWA (Kevin Chennell, Michelle Rodan, and Farran Dixon – on telephone) met with the President, Chair of the Pastoral Committee and Jim Motter to discuss the department's position on voluntary ear marking and branding. The XO and Edgar Richardson also attended. The department's position seems to be that as it can not rigorously enforce the regulatory requirements of ear marking and branding, it can not therefore support it as a mandatory requirement. The PGA's position is quite simple, in that it should be mandatory irrespective of the ability to enforce, as it acts as a visible deterrent to livestock theft. Notes of the meeting are available on request.

### **COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE**

Members should have received a package of correspondence regarding destocking. The Pastoral Committee meeting agreed to send all the correspondence (including the Chair of the PLB's reply) with respect to destocking to all PGA pastoral members.

The PLB now allows destocking without authority for an initial period of 5 years. The committee's position is that this risks a decline in maintaining infrastructure such as fences and water points while the lease is destocked. Any such decline reduces the value of the lease, and therefore the pastoral industry as a whole.

The committee believed that such was the importance of this correspondence that it was posted out rather than e-mailed.

Meanwhile, the Chair of the committee has written to every Western Australian Member of Parliament listing the current areas of concern to the pastoral industry. There are 95 members of parliament spread between both houses. A copy of the letter is available on request.

Replies have been steadily trickling in since early November. The replies have been tabulated and it is the committee's intention to use them to inform the committee's policy position.

### **FIREARMS**

Members are reminded that possession of firearms is defined in the *Firearms Act 1973* as "having and exercising access to it (firearms and ammunition) in any place", etc. By implication this means that by holding the keys to a locked firearm cabinet or container, a person could have access to them. Therefore it is not recommended that other householders store valuables in firearm cabinets, as they could therefore be in 'unlawful' possession of firearms and ammunition.

### **ARE YOU READY FOR DIGITAL TV**

On 25 June 2013 analogue TV will be switched off in WA and free-to-air TV will be broadcast in digital-only.

The Aurora satellite service will cease in late 2013. Residents unable to receive terrestrial TV need to apply for Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) to continue watching free to air satellite TV.

To find out more about digital switchover and what assistance is available, visit the Digital Ready website at [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au) or call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13.

### **GOLDFIELDS DIVISION MEETING**

Due to unspecified reasons, the traditional Australia Day meeting held at Yakabindie Station has been cancelled. An alternative date is yet to be determined; although it is likely the meeting will be held in Kalgoorlie

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2013**

Pastoral - 23 January; Executive - 24 January; PGA AGM – 28 February; Kimberley Division. - 19 April.