



Pastoral Update

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RENTS

It is abundantly clear from correspondence received from the PLB that it and the government believe that the level of rent charged for a pastoral lease in Western Australia is appropriate. The PGA and its executive have made numerous efforts, both in writing and in meetings with the Minister and his government officers to review pastoral lease rental without any success.

In the meantime, the President has written to Minister Grylls and the PLB seeking the outcome of the PGA's proposal to administer pastoral lease rents on a regional basis. The President and Chair of the committee last met with RDL departmental officers on May 23 last year, before the suspension of live export of cattle to Indonesia intervened. Since then, nothing has been heard.

SELF MONITORING

The PLB has responded to the Chair's letter on self-monitoring.

As with rents, the PLB has once again endorsed its position with respect to Rangelands Condition Monitoring.

That is, sites must be installed in 2012 and baseline data collected by lessees and submitted to the board by end of March 2013. It will be a mandatory requirement and those who fail to lodge their RCM data with their Annual Return will be in breach of the conditions of their lease

The PGA and its executive have made numerous efforts, both in writing and in meetings with the Minister and his government officers to review self-monitoring without any success.

RANGELANDS REFORM

The PGA is of the understanding that approval has been given to draft amendments to the Lands Administration Act. This is important to land tenure reform, as any catches will be hidden in the detail of the amendments.

The PGA will ensure that legal counsel is engaged and has sufficient time to consider any documentation.

LAKE GREGORY FERAL HORSES

The President and the Chairman of the Kimberley Division have met with Minister Collier to gather support for a cull of the feral horses around Lake Gregory.

Jim Motter made the point that the Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association has funding immediately available to control these horses without the need to seek money from the government.

GOLDFIELDS DIVISION

Following a motion passed at the recent Goldfields Division meeting held at Yakabindie Station, Mr Edgar Richardson with the assistance of the EO will be collecting information on stock theft as well as other forms of criminal activity like trespass, illegal camping, fire lighting and fence cutting, etc.

Activities such as this are so routine to pastoralists that they rarely bother to report them to police. Without reporting, it is very difficult to get the police to do any further investigations.

CARNARVON BUSHFIRES

The PGA is seeking a meeting with Minister Buswell to discuss the

provisions of WANDRRA so that the value of pastoral grazing lands is treated fairly in comparison to property damage to houses.

New Pastoral Committee member Locky McTaggart has been active in gathering information on damages sustained in the area.

PASTORAL CONFERENCE

The conference attracted a strong line up of speakers and was opened by the Premier of Western Australia. He was followed by the Consul-General of Indonesia and Mr Bill Farmer AO, underlying the importance of the live export trade to the pastoral industry.

A local industry focus was provided by the Director-General of DAFWA, followed by DAFWA's State Beef Leader, Brad McCormick, who spoke to the Northern Australia Beef Strategy and Luke Bowen, Executive Director of the NTCA.

After lunch, a political perspective was provided by Senator Matthias Cormann, Minister Norman Moore and Ms Carol Martin MLA

The conference received good media coverage in the Farm Weekly, with less extensive comment in the Countryman and a smaller reference in Saturday's West Australian

MEETINGS

CCA Beef Industry Strategic Plan Consultation meeting (by invitation)	
Fremantle	21 May
Pastoral	23 May
Executive	24 May
PGA Convention	September
Kimberley Division	17 October
at Fitzroy Crossing	