



Pastoral Update

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RENTS

No formal replies have been received with respect to the President's letter to the PLB seeking advice as to the status of the PGA proposal to administer pastoral lease rents on a regional basis.

The Chair of the PLB attended the May Pastoral Committee meeting and she reported that a review was resting with the Minister, and the board had encouraged him to take action on it.

Informal inquiries to RDL officers have shown that government have been waiting for the results of the recent appeals to the SAT with respect to the "Valuation Review" for Heytesbury Pastoral P/L and S. Kidman & Co Ltd on pastoral rents, before handing down the inquiry.

As readers would know, both companies' appeals were recently dismissed.

SELF MONITORING

The PLB has made a decision to postpone the mandatory installation and monitoring of Rangelands Condition Monitoring sites until 2015, to coincide with the issuing of new pastoral leases. Until then, installation and monitoring of these sites will be voluntary.

RANGELANDS REFORM

Whilst the PGA is of the understanding that approval has been given to draft amendments to the Lands Administration Act there is only 7 more parliamentary sitting weeks until the end of the year.

An election must be held on the 9th of March, 2013.

There is somewhere in the vicinity of 73 bills, great and small, currently being considered by parliament.

STOCK THEFT

The President and Mr Edgar Richardson recently attended a round table meeting called the Livestock Industry Standards Forum.

The President reported that Regional WA Commander Murray Smalpage told the meeting that WAPOL would have to be pedantic and tough to be effective. Mr Smalpage said that the industry needs to be involved for it to work, or not.

Ear marks and brands are the only way to identify livestock. Good record keeping is very important and best estimates aren't good enough to secure an investigation and a conviction.

GOLDFIELDS DIVISION

A well attended meeting was recently held in Kalgoorlie, followed by fellowship over dinner at the Palace Hotel.

Mr Doug Brownlie was reelected Chairman of the division.

The meeting was fortunate in having Dr Graham Jacobs MLA, state member for Eyre in attendance. Dr Jacobs stood in for the Hon. Wendy Duncan MLC who was a last minute apology due to family circumstances beyond her control.

A good presentation on sandalwood was given by the principal of Santaleuca Forestry. Copies of this presentation are available from the EO.

SANDALWOOD

PGA Goldfields Division member Mr Keith Mader has been waging a campaign against the Forest Products

Commission over mismanagement of the sandalwood resource on his station.

The PGA has supported him where it can by attracting media attention to the issue.

Mr Mader has now submitted a petition (number 152) with almost 2000 signatures to the WA Legislative Council Standing Committee on Public Affairs and the Environment calling for a Royal Commission of inquiry. This compares favourably to other petitions before the Standing Committee, such as "Review of Laws Pertaining to Domestic Violence" and "Hydraulic Fracking for Unconventional Gas".

The PGA has written to the Chairman of the standing committee supporting an independent review of mismanagement of the sandalwood industry infringing the rights of pastoral lease holders.

Members who have an interest in sandalwood can make a submission to the standing committee. Go to the following web address for more details.

<http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/WCurrentNameNew/5A73802849C79D1E48257831003B03B2?OpenDocument>

MEETINGS

Readers are reminded that the dates of the next Pastoral and Executive Committees and Kimberley Division meetings have changed (see below).

Pastoral	5 Sep
Executive	6 Sep
PGA Convention	26 Sep
Kimberley Division at Fitzroy Crossing	24 October