

AN INVITATION

AUSTRALIAN RANGELANDS CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 2019



AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY

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AUSTRALIAN RANGELANDS CONFERENCE 2019

Australia's rangelands cover more than 70% of the country.

More commonly known as the 'outback', rangelands are home to many of Australia's Indigenous people. They are culturally important to all Australians and a key component of Australia's identity.

The rangelands make a significant contribution to Australia's economy. Annual gross revenue from mining is more than \$50 billion, tourism is greater than \$2 billion, and pastoralism and agriculture combined are worth \$5 billion. There are limited national data for other products such as bush foods and rangeland timbers although the value of kangaroo production approaches \$200 million.

Rangelands represent the largest group of Australian ecosystems in a natural state and contain important groundwater sources and soil carbon storage capacity.

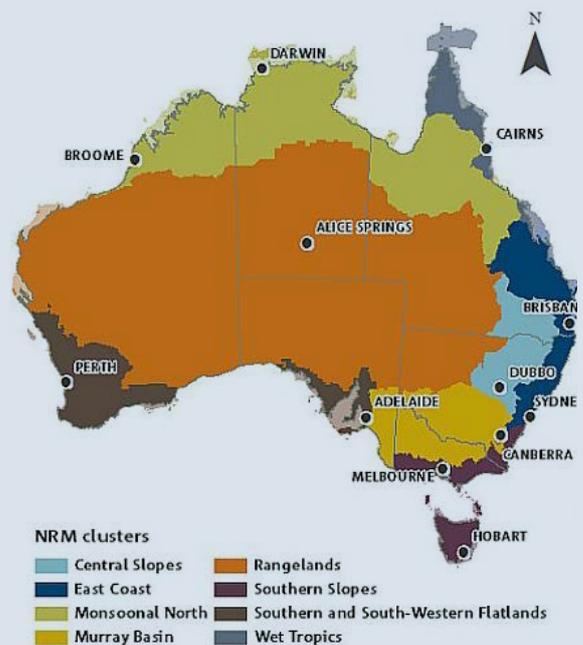
The 2019 Conference title is

Resilient future rangelands: integrating environment and livelihoods

The Conference will bring together industry representatives and practitioners, researchers, and policy makers. It's a great opportunity for sponsorship to promote your organisation and develop strategic networks.

Program

The conference will consider issues such as management of rangelands, improving land use productivity, diversifying livelihoods, sustainable land use, social licence to operate the importance of Indigenous local knowledge, and of women, to enabling resilient rangelands and coping with change.



Established 42 years ago, the Australian Rangeland Society returns to Canberra for its 20th biennial conference in September 2019.

ARS is an independent and non-aligned association connecting people who care about improving sustainable management of natural resource, life and business in the rangelands.



Who will be there?

The Conference will maintain its usual interest for land-holders and other practitioners, but with more focus than usual on policy.

It will engage domestic policy interest in areas such as northern development, Indigenous affairs, environmental stewardship and climate policy, whilst seeking to reinvigorate Australia's connection to the UN Convention for Combating Desertification (UNCCD) and other international activities, partly by showcasing Australian expertise that is or could be applied overseas.

The Conference will attract rangelands people from across the continent to meet with a significant number of attendees from national policy and NGO backgrounds, as well as a small but important number of overseas attendees.

Attendees are involved in the rangelands across Australia and include:

- Grass roots land managers
- Natural resource management facilitators and practitioners
- Research Scientists
- Owners and managers of businesses
- Members of Non-government Organisations
- Agency staff
- Tertiary students and Early Career Researchers

Why Canberra?

Canberra is the birth city of the Australian Rangeland Society, but the ARS has not met there since its foundation. The ARS proposes that is timely to meet in Canberra again as a springboard for raising political and policy awareness of the rangelands once again, in synergy with other engagement efforts.

This awareness would have both domestic and international drivers – engaging the policy world with rangelands practitioners and researchers in order to highlight the need for more attention to be paid to our own rangelands, but also to show how Australian rangelands expertise is and could be influential internationally.

As a location, Canberra is easy to access with proximity to temperate rangelands for field trips; there are also many attractions in the city, including museums, galleries, zoo and arboretum, and growing social and cultural venues. Canberra is ranked #3 best city to visit in Lonely Planet's best in travel 2018. The meeting place, the Kambri Centre at the Australian National University is a great new facility with easy access and ample accommodation nearby.



Sponsors will benefit

Sponsoring ARS Biennial Conference provides an opportunity to directly support and invest in the management and sustainability of rangeland environments, industries and communities. It is also a great platform to launch new products and technologies directed to a highly motivated and innovative audience of rangeland professionals and practitioners.

Target the rangeland community

Biennial Conference Sponsors are visible to a unique national audience of rangeland technical, operational and policy making communities.

Foster a resilient rangeland into the future

Sponsorship revenue significantly reduces the overall cost of participation, enabling more attendees to participate at the Conference. Your Sponsorship support helps to bring the widest possible range of regional participants to the Conference, and of Early Career Researchers and practitioners with a passion for our Outback.

Profile your company as a key industry participant

Sponsoring presents an opportunity for stakeholders within the industry to highlight their commitment and support to the unique rangeland environment. Sponsorship offers your organisation

- Marketing opportunities and National exposure during the whole life cycle of the Conference;
- Access to influential and engaged delegates;
- Connections with leading industry professionals; and
- The chance to unlock and share scientific, traditional, local and experiential knowledge.

Be an influencer of policy debate on rangelands

A key focus of this Conference in Canberra will be engagement with policy matters (especially Federal); however, the Conference will still cater as usual for the interests of land-holders and other practitioners engaging with research.

It will highlight Australian connections with overseas rangelands, especially China, showcasing Australian expertise that is or could be applied overseas.



Promotion

A unique opportunity for cross-sectoral reach out of your business!

The Conference will be widely promoted throughout Australia and the international rangeland community via the Society database, newsletter and website, plus publicity including social media, interest group newsletters.

Conference focus

Supporting Australian rangelands practitioners and researchers to showcase their connections and innovations in managing rangelands in Australia and overseas.

Potential sessions

- The unique features of rangelands that guide and determine successful rangeland policy.
- Integrating pastoralism with carbon, biodiversity conservation, and culture.
- The contribution of women and Indigenous people to resilient rangelands.
- Australian rangelands expertise and issues in the world context, especially Asia.
- The big issues for rangeland management, how far have we come and future issues.
- Balancing rangelands policies and management towards resilience.





Overview of key activities

The core Conference is proposed to run from Monday evening with a welcome reception to Thursday lunchtime, with the Monday and Thursday afternoon available for additional activities as follows:

2 SEPTEMBER 2019

- Field tours
- Early career day option
- Optional time for workshops
- Early evening welcome reception

3 SEPTEMBER 2019

- Opening plenary session, with possible reflective policy panel session
- 3x quarter day parallel sessions
- End of day drinks and poster session
- Free evening

4 SEPTEMBER 2019

- Plenary session
- 3x quarter day parallel sessions
- End of day drinks and poster session
- Conference dinner

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- ARS business meeting over breakfast
- 1x quarter day parallel session
- Closing plenary
- Close at lunchtime
- Optional afternoon workshops



The Conference will take place at the new Kambri Convention Centre at the Australian National University.

For further information email ars2019@kaigi.com.au or visit <http://www.ars2019.com.au/>.