



ARS2019 – Resilient future rangelands: integrating environment and livelihoods. Call for papers

On behalf of Australian Rangeland Society and the ARS 2019 Organising Committee, we now invite abstracts for posters and presentations, to support Australian rangelands practitioners and researchers showcase how their practices, connections, and diversity provide policy advice and practical solutions for managing rangelands in a changing climatic, social and political environment in Australia and overseas.

The Biennial Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society provides an ideal forum for obtaining up-to-date information about the latest developments, exchanging ideas, identifying future trends and networking with the national and international community of rangelands researchers and practitioners.

Conference Themes:

The conference programme will be guided by three overarching themes that are important to the conference's focus on resilient future rangelands:

- Explore the big issues for rangeland management in times of changing markets, environments and societal expectations
- Identify opportunities for aligning policies to support the resilience of rangelands communities and environments
- Incorporate emerging technologies, new practices and innovative social arrangements in the rangelands

Proposed papers can address any of these themes through one or more of the following six topics.

1. **Towards an integrated and improved approach to rangeland policy**
2. **Rangeland management in practice**
3. **People and partnerships for resilient rangelands**
4. **Australian rangeland expertise in the sustainable management of rangelands and drylands nationally and globally**
5. **Integrating biodiversity conservation, culture and primary industries**
6. **Challenging trends in rangeland management; how far have we come and where do we go from here**

Topics:

1. **Towards an integrated and improved approach to rangeland policy**
 - Investing for sustainable rangelands: what kind of investments are required? Carbon farming – implications for pastoral production and wildlife management; what should policies and strategies for sustainable investment look like? Drivers of investment and profile of investors
 - Drought in rangelands: policy and practice, effects and solutions. What has changed since last time we needed drought policy, what are the consistent messages from science and policy from the past 50 years?
 - Trends in tenure and landuse in Australian Rangelands
 - What is the right policy mix for enabling rangelands managers to be adaptive and supported in the face of changing markets, social expectations and environments?

2. Rangeland management in practice

- Livelihood opportunities from new technologies, carbon farming, biodiversity management, and supporting other ecosystem services
- Innovative rangeland management for balancing conservation and production.
- Practical insights in animal production, managing total grazing pressure and feral pests, enterprise management, preparing for drought and climate variability
- Stewarding Australia's temperate and high-altitude rangelands: their importance, value and management (e.g. invasive pests and weeds)
- What is different about developing the northern rangelands?

3. People and partnerships for resilient rangelands

- Traditional knowledge and local knowledge: What do we have? What can we already say? What information can we combine to tell a story now? What do we need for monitoring, management and rangelands policy
- The role of women, the private sector, NGOs in biodiversity conservation, tourists, pastoralists and indigenous people in the future of our rangelands
- Monitoring of indigenous management practices and outcome; Indigenous Protected Areas – a mature success (case studies)
- Changing attitudes to climate change in the rangelands
- Communications, arts and humanities – different ways of seeing our rangelands

4. Australian rangeland expertise in the sustainable management of rangelands and drylands nationally and globally

- China-Australian rangelands connections – diverse and deep: at least one session will highlight these diverse connections
- The contribution of rangelands to meeting Australia's/world's climate targets; Climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation - challenges and solutions for rangelands
- Rangeland soils and their ecosystem services: what do we know? carbon sequestration, food security, land-based interventions for climate change adaptation/mitigation
- Planetary boundaries for rangelands and meat production

5. Integrating biodiversity conservation, culture and primary industries

- Promoting and measuring rangeland cultural and ecosystem services for livelihoods
- Multiple uses of rangelands: Monitoring pastoral land use compared to other land uses – is there a radical difference in land condition? Biodiversity? Production? Animal and human health? Community structure?
- Managing total grazing pressure, and native and exotic invasive pests and weeds

6. Challenging trends in rangeland management; how far have we come and where do we go from here

- Technologies for rangelands management and monitoring; challenges in turning increasingly available sensors and associated data streams (e.g. big data) into useful information and insights for management decisions
- Innovative management on the ground for conservation and/or production; improved business/tourism, opportunities in nature-based tourism; alternative livelihoods
- Making rangelands more secure: Are invasive species degrading our rangelands? Alternative management strategies of native and exotic invasives under a changing climate
- Connecting people to people and people to country: communities, markets, technology for resilient rangelands
- Strategic land management to balance livelihoods and broader community interests at landscape to national scales

Presentation format:

Authors must indicate their preferred form of presentation:

- Oral presentation: 12 minutes plus 3 minutes for questions
- 3 min speed talk, no more than 2 slides (can be combined with a poster)
- Poster Presentation (posters will be displayed during breakfast, morning and afternoon tea, as well as dedicated end-of-day sessions)
- 3 min "Pushing the boundaries" speed talk: Participants pitch new ideas about what could be done or share learning about something that works (policy, management, technology or arts!) for resilient rangelands.

The organising committee will decide on the final allocation depending on the number of submissions received.

Guidelines for abstract preparation:

- Provide a title, author name(s), and affiliation(s) of author(s).
- The abstract body should be 200–300 words, using clear and concise language with minimal jargon. All abstracts should include three to five highlights, ie. result-oriented dotpoints that give an at-a-glance overview of the main findings or conclusions (your message in a nut shell).
- Ideas for 3 min talks or Posters can be submitted using a text-based or 3-5 highlights.
- Browse through the conference topics and select up to 3 topics of your interest that match the theme of your abstract.
- Select your preference for presentation format. However, please be aware that there is no guarantee that an oral preference can be realized.
- Specify the corresponding author.

Acceptance of abstracts and notification to authors

The organising committee will assess abstracts against the following criteria:

- Clear conclusions and/or perspectives / recommendations for future directions
- Relevance to identified theme and topic(s)
- Quality of abstract presentation, within the word limit
- At least the corresponding author must be committed to attending the conference

Papers accepted for the conference will be given the option to extend the abstract up to 2 pages with a set structure: introduction, methods, results and discussion, and conclusion, and resubmit before 1st August 2019.

Abstracts (or extended abstracts) will be included in the Abstract booklet of the conference; this will be available online just before the conference.

Authors interested in preparing a full paper may submit it to the Rangeland Journal; there will also be a Special Issue of the Journal “Resilient future rangelands” arising from the conference, which will invite some papers (further details will be announced on the conference web page).

IMPORTANT DATES

Call for abstracts open	ASAP Feb 2019
Registration opens	15 Feb 2019
Call for abstracts close	1 May 2019
Author’s notification of acceptance	10 June 2019
Early bird registration deadline Deadline for registration of presenters	10 Jul 2019
Deadline for submission of extended abstracts (up to 4 pages), optional.	1 August 2019
Booklet of Abstracts published	30 August 2019