



managing  
pastoral  
country

# LandWater & Wool

## Shaping the future



Australian Government  
Land & Water Australia

another australian wool innovation  
limited



### Enhanced profitability, productivity and positive environmental outcomes for wool producers throughout Australia's pastoral zone

There are approximately 2,000 woolgrowers in Australia's pastoral zone managing properties ranging from a few thousand to several hundred thousand hectares.

The industry is currently recognising and responding to a wide range of issues including land degradation (it is estimated that 16 per cent of pastoral land is degraded to some degree), animal welfare, uncontrolled pests and weeds and the negative impact of these issues on native plants and animals.

The *Managing Pastoral Country* Sub-Program is working with woolgrowers to identify how pastoral country can be better managed to address these key environmental issues while maintaining productivity.



Photo courtesy: Robert Hassett, Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

*Managing Pastoral Country* is the most recent addition to the Land, Water & Wool Sub-Programs. It will utilise woolgrower experience to develop, test and extend management approaches that deliver enhanced profitability, productivity and positive environmental outcomes.

Encouragingly, adoption of management practices to improve natural resources among woolgrowers is already high with 88 per cent saying they have undertaken practices to manage their land profitably and sustainably.\*








In addition, 61 per cent of woolgrowers in the pastoral zone said they were interested in receiving assistance to develop a whole farm plan to incorporate NRM into their daily farm management.\*

In 2004, five projects were approved in locations across Australia's pastoral zone, which is also the focus for the *Managing Climate Variability* Sub-Program:

- *Informing the decisions of pastoral woolgrowers for country and profit* (Western Australia)
- *Wool producers with remote control: new tools for whole of property management* (Northern South Australia)
- *Delivering a land condition framework for grazing land management education* (Queensland)
- *Stocking rate decision tools for rangeland pastoralists* (Western Division, New South Wales)
- *Mitchell grass death in Queensland: extent, economic impact and potential for recovery*

**Land, Water & Wool (LWW)** is a joint investment between the wool industry's peak research and development body, Australian Wool Innovation Limited, and the nation's premier investor in natural resource management research; Land & Water Australia.

**Managing Pastoral Country** is one of eight **Land, Water & Wool** Sub-Programs. The others include:

-  Benchmarking and Evaluation
-  Sustainable Grazing on Saline Land (SGSL)
-  River and water quality
-  Managing climate variability
-  Managing pastoral country
-  Future woolscapes
-  Sustainable Grazing Systems Harvest Year

\*Land, Water & Wool Best Practice Survey 2003

## National Research Projects

### *Informing the decisions of pastoral woolgrowers for country and profit, (Western Australia)*

With the economic performance of the pastoral sheep industry under pressure and with environmental aspects more prominent, improved use of natural resources is essential to preserve future land use options and ensure optimum sheep productivity. *Informing the decisions of pastoral woolgrowers for country and profit* aims to 'get stocking rates right' in terms of impact on both environment and production.

### *Wool producers with remote control: new tools for whole of property management (Northern South Australia)*

Management of natural resources on rangeland wool-producing properties requires knowledge of the condition of the resources, the rate of use of those resources by stock and prediction about future climatic conditions. *Wool producers with remote control: new tools for whole of property management* is developing products from remote-sensed satellite sources that show ground cover in a format useful to producers.

### *Delivering a land condition framework for grazing land management education (Queensland)*

This project aims to enable sheep producers in the mulga zone and Mitchell grasslands of Western Queensland to be able to implement and monitor strategies for improved environmental management. *Delivering a land condition framework for grazing land management* seeks to achieve this

through the adaptation and delivery of proven management tools that have been developed for the Queensland beef industry.

### *Stocking rate decision tools for rangeland pastoralists (Western Division, New South Wales)*

Stocking rate decisions are fundamental to pastoral management. While graziers factor in many environmental issues into their stocking rate decisions, few effectively incorporate all of the information that is either routinely collected on properties or could be easily acquired. *Stocking rate decision tools for rangeland pastoralists* aims to make this information more readily useable to assist graziers with the difficult decisions that are fundamental to their economic and ecological success.

### *Mitchell grass death in Queensland: extent, economic impact and potential for recovery*

Queensland's Mitchell grasslands represent 19 per cent of the State's native pasture area supporting in excess of 10 per cent of the cattle herd and more than 40 per cent of the Merino sheep flock in Queensland. During the 2001-2004 drought large areas of Mitchell grass tussocks died. The project, *Mitchell grass death in Queensland*, run in conjunction with Meat & Livestock Australia, seeks to estimate the geographic extent of poor pasture condition, assess the impact of dieback on the profitability of enterprises, encourage and assist graziers to restore pastures to good condition and begin to understand how to improve management during future droughts.

## The study area

The Land, Water & Wool Managing Pastoral Country Sub-Program currently has five projects focusing on improving natural resource management and wool production in the rangelands of Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.

## For further information, contact:

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## Managing Pastoral Country - stay informed

If you are interested in receiving regular research and other updates from the Managing Pastoral Country Sub-Program, please complete the section below and fax this entire page to:

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