

ESRM (Ecologically Sustainable Rangeland Management) Property Planning

October 2018



What is ESRM?

A process

The ESRM process is focused on providing best practice grazing and environmental management advice to land managers. A key feature of the process is managers of pastoral properties working closely with specialist property planning facilitators to develop a shared understanding of the dynamics of their landscape, and provides a different perspective on how the landscape functions.

..... and a plan!

A core ESRM activity is the development of a property management plan (hard copy and/or electronic formats), including maps and diagrams, that integrate the production elements of the business with resource sustainability and nature conservation. The plan outlines the managers goals for the property and business, describes and analyses key property and business resources, identifies the important issues to be addressed and lists the potential actions the manager can take to reach their goals.

The content of an ESRM plan is flexible depending on the needs/interests of each property but can include consideration of:

- land systems and condition
- climate
- Livestock enterprises
- other enterprises
- grazing management
- land rehabilitation
- landscape function
- biodiversity
- infrastructure (fencing, water, stock handling)
- weed management
- fire management
- feral herbivore and predator status and management
- monitoring and reporting systems.

"I would have loved to have done this when I first started here. I might have done a few things a bit differently!"

Chris Daniells (Manager, Myroodah Station, via Derby)





How does it happen?

The ESRM planning process aims to improve the profitability of rangeland businesses through promoting improved grazing systems, enterprise productivity, resource sustainability and nature conservation.

Developing and implementing an ESRM plan can:

- Improve grazing enterprise productivity;
- Enhance the condition of the property's natural resources;
- Support the management of biodiversity;
- Demonstrate good natural resource management practices to external parties;
- Provide a quality tool to attract funding from a range of sources; and
- Assist the identification of diversification opportunities best suited to the land's capability and the land manager's values (eg irrigation, carbon, biodiversity, tourism, recreation, cultural).

Examples of management actions implemented following the development of ESRM plans in recent times have included changes to grazing management systems, construction of earthworks and other structures to combat erosion and restore landscape function and relocation and/or development of new fences and watering points.

What's involved in developing an ESRM plan?

Express interest – get in contact with one of the Rangelands NRM staff listed below, to express your interest in developing an ESRM plan for your property, work out a suitable time frame and discuss the issues that you'd like the plan to focus on.

Pre property visit work – a Rangelands NRM staff member will work with you and a specialist ESRM facilitator to organise the resources required for the property visit (ie maps, land condition information, air charter for the flyover if required).

Property visit – The specialist ESRM facilitator and Rangelands NRM staff member will then visit your property. The initial phase is usually conducted around the kitchen table and includes discussion on your goals for the property, your enterprises, the property's natural resources and any particular areas of interest or concern. A landscape mapping exercise will also occur. A charter flight around the station will usually be conducted to gain a different perspective of landscape function. Some areas of the station will also be inspected by vehicle. Typically this will take two to three days in one block and the property's manager will need to be available and involved throughout.

Drafting the ESRM plan – After the station visit the specialist ESRM facilitator will prepare a draft ESRM plan. This will include the digitisation and printing of maps developed during the station visit.

Finalising your ESRM plan – The draft plan will be provided to the station manager for review and comment. Usually the specialist ESRM facilitator will visit the property again to discuss the draft, as well as look at and discuss any areas/issues that need further attention. The plan is then finalised.

For further information and to express interest, contact:

Name	Landline	Mobile
Grey Mackay, Northern Rangelands Program Manager	08 9192 5507	0448 073 489
Chris Curnow, Eastern Rangelands Program Manager	08 9468 8250	0429 387 644
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Rangelands NRM is a not for profit, non-aligned community-based group which aims to facilitate collaboration and best practice in environmental management for land managers who want to achieve good natural resources outcomes.

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