

(Last updated 12 March 2014)

A Where are we now?

Around us

- Growing evidence of climate change, growing demands on limited government funding, fire management becoming increasingly political, lots of mining activity in WA

Rangelands WA

- North of line from Kalbarri to Esperance; comprises 7 sub-regions (Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison, Goldfields, Nullabor & Desert); corresponding NRM group in place; highly variable vegetation; pastoralism the main land use; lots of vacant Crown Land

Strengths

- Lots of energy & collaboration
- Examples of good local results on the ground
- Growing Indigenous engagement & re-connection with country
- Some innovative funding models
- Good & improving mapping tools
- Significant untapped Indigenous fire knowledge

Weaknesses

- Fire management is inherently risky business
- Increasing bureaucracy
- Rangelands a very large, diverse & inaccessible region
- Divide between Indigenous / biodiversity-focused land managers & pastoralists
- Fickle & piecemeal funding for fire management
- Limited information & knowledge sharing amongst fire professionals
- Fragmented & sometimes conflicting fire policy & legislation (e.g. people & property vs biodiversity)
- Changed fire regimes contributing to ecosystem & biodiversity declines
- Some conflict between Indigenous cultural practices & legal requirements
- Many pastoral enterprises are economically marginal
- Complex land tenure arrangements
- Rangelands not recognised by general public

Focusing question

How can we best manage fire in the WA Rangelands to deliver long-term positive biodiversity, cultural & economic outcomes for the benefit of all stakeholders?

B Where do we want to be?

Vision

- One integrated fire management regime:
- That is proactively planned & coordinated
 - That recognises local circumstances
 - That delivers cultural, economic and ecological benefits
 - That benefits all stakeholders

Values

- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Adaptation

Guiding principles

1. Capture & share knowledge
2. Involve all stakeholders
3. Identify & pursue co-benefits
4. Ensure effective governance
5. Raise profile of region
6. Encourage TO stewardship
7. Seek diverse funding sources

C What do we do to get there?

Our strategy

Establish a cross-sectoral leadership group to plan, mobilise support for, & coordinate the following strategic thrusts:

1. Engage with pastoralists
2. Develop a regional strategy
3. Develop a sustainable funding model
4. Develop a widely-recognised brand
5. Improve & streamline legislation

D How do we make this happen?

What?	Who?	When?
1. Prepare & distribute Fire Forum outputs	CS	3/14
2. Take every opportunity to share ideas & energy from Fire Forum	All	Ongoing
3. Work with Rangelands WA NRM to establish leadership group	NB/RS/JS	4/14
4. Collate all available data & information	TBD	6/14
5. Keep Fire Forum participants informed about progress	JS	Quarterly