

## Rangelands

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1. Protect and manage water-remote areas, especially in the more densely settled pastoral areas.
2. Create large-scale meta-reserves to protect diffuse evolutionary processes.
3. Ban any further flow controls on arid river systems.
4. Resource a truly national rangelands monitoring scheme, encompassing biodiversity and other land values properly.
5. Establish a regionally integrated system of tourism and conservation management.
6. Resource local (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) stewardship of public natural and cultural heritage values as proper jobs with well-defined goals.
7. Replace all drought-related subsidies and tax provisions for grazing, with incentives supporting ecological responses to climate variability.
8. Define a new concept of multiple-use rangelands and have its implications flow through all institutions.
9. Establish formal regional learning systems that develop persistent community local knowledge.
10. Establish an Outback Capital Trust with powers to set and receive natural resource use rents, modelled on the Alaska Permanent Fund.

### Introduction

Conventionally, 'rangelands' were the outback grazing lands of Australia. They comprise over 50% of the continent's land area between the core deserts and the marginal agricultural lands, overlapping with the tropical savannas in the north and extending to the Great Australian Bight in the south. This chapter focuses on this area, but, as people find new values in these lands (Holmes 1997), they have come to incorporate a variety of values beyond grazing, tourism, mining, conservation, Aboriginal, defence and localised horticulture values. The rangeland economy is dominated by mining and, a distant second, tourism, but livestock grazing is still by far the main use by area. Except where these uses are creating pockets of patchy population, mainly for mining and tourism, their non-Aboriginal population component is declining at the same time as the Aboriginal component is increasing (Brown *et al.* 2008).