

CALM Notes for Meeting at Muggon etc.My understanding of the situation as it stands now is as follows:-

Since 1989 29 whole pastoral leases have been purchased. This involves some 4.5 million hectares of land. I know of only one situation (instigated by the pastoralist sellers) where portions of the purchased land has become part of adjoining properties.

When these purchases occurred there was no real effort made to offer any sections NOT required by CALM to neighbouring properties. As a result CALM has taken land out of production *which they did not require*. These pastoral places have now been "shut down" and in effect abandoned, taken out of production and left to become conservation reserves. Buying *the whole property* has in so many cases NOT been a very intelligent practice. Homesteads have been left empty, old access roads left to become overgrown with scrub and trees. Little regular or co-ordinated action is taking place to manage both the native and feral animals on these properties many of which contain permanent water holes or river pools. Without proper access roads control will be difficult if not impossible.

It is suggested that insufficient funding has been made available to manage the areas that have been purchased though land acquisitions continue to be made.

While some pastoralists report a relatively co-operative approach by CALM to the matter of boundary fencing, in other cases there are problems. Unfortunately CALM is not a party to the Boundary Fencing rules within the Act., so has no obligations to either erect or maintain suitable boundary fences.

Matters to discuss:-

- a/ Abandoned homesteads
- b/ Control of native and feral species on CALM land
- c/ Access roads within conservation areas
- d/ Boundary fencing
- e/ Discussing with and adhering to, advice from (experienced) neighbouring pastoralists as to how best manage not only the acquired land but also the animals on that land.
- f/ Government/s to set aside sufficient funding to monitor and manage the land. These funds to be also used to conduct experiments, fence small special sites and so on.

Pastoral Lease Acquisitions

YALGOO, W.A. 6635
08.06.06

The Hon. Allannah MacTiernan, MLA,
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure,
Dumas House
Havelock Street,
WEST PERTH W.A. 6005

Dear Allannah,

During the past year and more the enclosed matter has come up for discussion at most pastoral and local Landcare meetings. The motion at the top of the encl. Document will be presented again at the next Pastoral Meeting.

Having lived and worked in the Goldfields and Murchison for all my life it is of grave concern to me that we occupants of this country are becoming "obsolete". The homes and gardens, the infrastructure and everything that we have built are in so many cases just being left to ruin and vandalism.

I urge your Government to immediately put funding aside to address the present trend. While I strongly believe that it is important to set aside some pastoral country in perpetuity for conservation purposes I believe that a lot more thought needs to be put into the process which at present is not working. I also accept that a few leases are not ever going to be viable in the future given **the present rules governing** the way we may conduct business on this land.

State Governments have the power to address this matter. Please act and do something before beurocracy completely shuts down any chance of an innovative future in the semi-desert regions.

With best wishes,

Jano Foulkes-Taylor

Motion for Attention- CALM Pastoral Lease Acquisitions

"The Pastoral Lands Board (PLB) be approached with a view to ensuring that where station homesteads exist on Pastoral Leases acquired by the Government for conservation and heritage purposes, they remain permanently occupied and maintained."

Background

Many whole or sections of Pastoral Properties are being acquired by the State Govt. through the actions of CALM in the move to exclude from grazing some 10 – 15 % of all "Land Types" in the W.A. Pastoral Zone .

There have been and still are many problems associated with this transition of land use from Pastoral Productivity to Conservation. Some of these problems are listed below.

One of the more serious repercussions from this policy is the physical deterioration of many formerly well maintained homestead complexes throughout the Pastoral Areas. Some have been abandoned completely, some occupied on an "Ad Hoc" basis by inexperienced caretakers/conservationists and some fully utilized by CALM/ Govt. Agencies.

The results of this lack of occupancy has led and is still leading to increasing problems for isolated areas and local towns:-

- Population drain
- Lack of control of feral and native animals and 'left-over' domestic stock.
- Boundary fences not maintained
- Less income for local shires (CALM do not pay Local Govt. rates)
- Bad image for the travelling public and tourists
- Non support for "mail-runs"
- Fewer School of Air students
- The "Good Neighbour Policy" put at risk.
- No custodians to regularly monitor these large ex-pastoral areas.

It is a matter of urgency that before any more homesteads are "let go" some legislation/regulation be enacted to ensure these places are permanently occupied and maintained. To address all of the above problems as well as from a strategic and safety aspect for W.A.'s outback the State Government should immediately set up a suitable fund to carry out the required duty of care.

There remains funding to allow for more acquisitions of land but totally inadequate resources allocated towards maintenance and the responsibilities associated with looking after these acquisitions.

Jano F.C.T.

