



# Being in the rangelands for the long run: Balancing for economic, environmental and social outcomes

- Short Course -

## INTRODUCTION

To be in the rangelands for the long run, pastoralists/graziers will need to be profitable (the bottom line!), be positioned to meet market and community expectations, and to strengthen their capacity to be more sustainable. The future of enterprises in the rangelands depends on balancing the 'triple bottom line' – that is balancing i) the financial side, ii) meeting environmental obligations, and iii) ensuring family/staff capacity (i.e. skills and knowledge) to do the things that are critical to future success.

This course will bring a lot of information and knowledge together, and will help you distil it to identify what needs to be done to achieve future success in terms of 'triple-bottom-line' sustainability. As the course utilises key elements of the National Action Plan (NAP) for salinity and water quality and the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT2), the outputs will assist in developing property and regional plans, and, where applicable, may be fed directly into a property planning or regional funding initiative.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will help you:

- Appreciate the economic and environmental importance of the rangelands, and why sustainability is an issue for you
- Clarify what is sustainability – in the rangelands, in this region and in your particular case
- Understand why there's increasing community and government interest in the rangelands, and their sustainability in particular, and the changing community attitudes to development and the environment
- Identify your own personal sustainability objectives, and appreciate the perceptions and aspirations of others who have different objectives and an interest in your region
- Through a self-assessment, identify areas for strengthening your own capacity to progress towards sustainability
- Identify other areas for improvement, and the consequences of doing nothing or delaying action
- Clarify the intended and unintended consequences of proposed options for improving sustainability, the resources required, and the likely benefits/costs of investing in these strategies or actions
- Develop a sustainability action plan, together with a contingency plan to cope with the unexpected
- Learn how to source information to keep up-to-speed with the evolving concept of sustainability, changing expectations, etc.

Completion of this course can help you gain further formal qualifications such as a Certificate IV, Diploma or Advanced Diploma. This is because the content of the course has been mapped to one or more units of competency from nationally accredited training packages such as the Conservation and Land Management training, Amenity Horticulture, Rural Production and Business Services training packages. If you satisfactorily complete all the assessment activities during and after the course, you will be awarded a **Statement of Attainment**. This is issued by the University of Queensland Gatton Campus Vocational Training Framework. You will learn more about these requirements at the course.

Of course, if you are **not interested** in gaining **formal recognition** for the course, your participation will still be formalised with a Statement of Participation, issued by Rangelands Australia, so that you have a record of the learning which you have completed.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

Course modules will cover:

- Where did the concept of sustainability come from?
- What is this thing called sustainability?
- Why is sustainability important?
- Assessment of your capacity to be sustainable
- Defining the sustainability issues
- Exploring the consequences of action and inaction
- Exploring the intended and unintended consequences of proposed actions
- Developing an action plan
- Coping with the unexpected – the need for a contingency plan

## TIME

7 + 7 hours (i.e., total of 2 days), scheduled to suit the group. The two days would be approximately 4-6 weeks apart.

*Note: Significant property/home work is required before the second day to identify your current and potential sustainability issues. You will be using this information in the activities on Day 2.*

## PARTICIPANT AUDIENCE

Pastoralists/graziers, Landcare, catchment and regional groups, government advisors and facilitators, agribusiness, consultants, training and service providers.

## DELIVERY

This course will be activity-based and delivered at various locations in a face-to-face workshop in the rangelands. Minimum numbers apply.

## COST

\$850 plus GST, less any State/Territory applicable FarmBis or other subsidies available to eligible persons.

## BACKGROUND TO THIS COURSE

The need for this course was identified by a national survey of education and skills needs for success in the rangelands. The structure, critical content and key resources were influenced by a panel of experienced producers, agency staff and scientists from New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. This course was successfully piloted in Bourke, New South Wales.

This short course was developed with funding from MLA and the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry through the national Farmbis program.

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- *"Very interesting, very worthwhile"*
- *"Listening to others with similar views encourages me to keep looking for the right action/balance to overcome our problems"*
- *"Assessment of sustainability clearly identified (issues) that I hadn't thought of before"*
- *"Extremely interesting – important topics to address"*
- *"Sustainability assessment was good for self-evaluation – worked well for both producers and agency staff"*
- *"Will be a valuable tool in living and working in the rangelands"*
- *"As we assessed our sustainability, I discovered just how far this drought has dragged myself, my husband and our enterprise into just dealing with day to day needs and problems and just trying to survive"*
- *"Useful .. the process of doing a reality check"*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Rangelands Australia by telephone on (07) 5460 1660 or by email at [rangelands@uqg.uq.edu.au](mailto:rangelands@uqg.uq.edu.au) .