

Rangelands NRM takes regional funding case to Parliament House

Funding uncertainty threatens environmental work, regional jobs, education and community partnerships



Western Australia's regional NRM network at the Partnering for Prosperity reception, Senate Courtyard, Australian Parliament House, Wednesday 16 September 2026.

CANBERRA, 17 September 2026: Rangelands NRM has taken the case for continued investment in regional natural resource management to Parliament House, warning that a funding gap would have devastating and long-lasting impacts across regional and remote Western Australia.

Rangelands NRM joined NRMWA and Western Australia's regional NRM organisations at the Partnering for Prosperity reception in the Senate Courtyard on Wednesday 16 September. The reception was hosted by the office of Senator the Hon Slade Brockman, co-convened by Senator Varun Ghosh and emceed by Senator Dean Smith. Attendees included Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Regional Development, for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and for Resources, Senator David Pocock, Kate Chaney MP, Independent Member for Curtin, Rick Wilson MP, Member for O'Connor, and other senators and members of Parliament.

“ Western Australia has the most beautiful and diverse natural environment in the world. It is vital for the health and prosperity of our great state that our environment is protected for future generations. The hard work, diligence and expertise of Natural Resource Management WA play a critical role in this endeavour.

SENATOR VARUN GHOSH, SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Guests hear from the evening's speakers in the Senate Courtyard. The reception was hosted by the office of Senator the Hon Slade Brockman and co-convened by Senator Varun Ghosh.

Rangelands NRM works across approximately 227 million hectares, about 87 per cent of Western Australia. With no statewide core-funding arrangement for the State's regional NRM organisations, delivery relies heavily on Commonwealth agreements that end in June 2028.

227M ha RANGELANDS NRM FOOTPRINT	~87% OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA	25+ yrs OF ON-GROUND DELIVERY	\$700M+ DELIVERED IN REGIONAL PROGRAMS	\$4.20 RETURNED FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED
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Delivery, investment and return figures are for Western Australia's regional NRM network.

Rangelands NRM Chief Executive Officer Debra Tarabini said the consequences of that funding stopping would reach well beyond the environment.

“If funding stops in 2028, the impact on the environment, employment, education, regional economies and communities will be significant and long-lasting. Threatened species lose the people monitoring and protecting them. Rangers lose opportunities to work on Country,

regional staff lose their jobs, and agricultural and pastoral programs are disrupted,” Ms Tarabini said.

“The effects would be felt across the regional economy, from agriculture and pastoral businesses to mining, tourism and local services. Just as importantly, 25 years of trusted relationships across Traditional Owners, Ranger groups, pastoralists, industry, government and communities cannot simply be rebuilt if that capability is lost.”

“ We are asking government to keep what already works and provide the certainty needed to continue delivering for regional Western Australia.

DEBRA TARABINI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RANGELANDS NRM

As a Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partner, Rangelands NRM showcased programs at the Ramsar-listed Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach wetlands, Malleefowl recovery, a Greater Bilby environmental offset delivered with an industry partner, national soil monitoring and ranger partnerships across the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison and Goldfields.

Rangelands NRM is seeking multi-year Commonwealth investment. This would provide the certainty needed to plan and deliver long-term programs across regional and remote Western Australia, rather than operating one contract at a time.

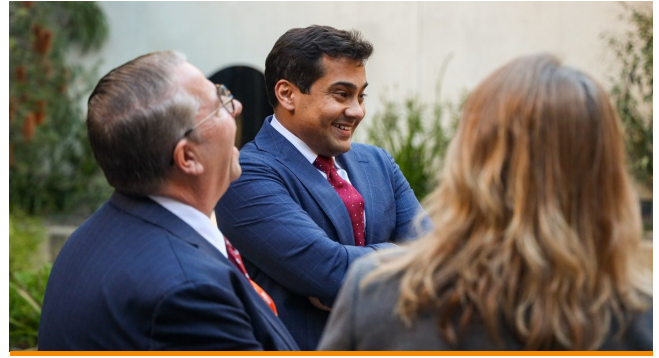
Senator Smith said: “Over more than 25 years, WA’s regional NRM network has built the expertise, scientific knowledge, local partnerships and community trust that cannot simply be recreated overnight.”

“ We cannot allow 25 years of expertise, relationships and regional capability to disappear when the current agreements expire. Governments must provide certainty beyond 2028, because once that capability is lost, rebuilding it will take years and taxpayers will pay the price.

SENATOR DEAN SMITH, SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA



NRMWA and member organisation representatives with the network's Enabling prosperity for all West Australians banner.



Soil monitoring, Ramsar wetlands, threatened species and Ranger partnerships were all on the agenda for the night.

Ms Tarabini said the reception and portfolio briefs were well received and showed the need for more regular engagement between parliamentarians, government and regional NRM organisations.



Guests talk on in the Senate Courtyard after the formal proceedings.

“The conversations showed there is an opportunity to build a wider understanding of what regional NRM organisations do, how we deliver on the ground and the long-term outcomes this work creates for the environment and communities.

DEBRA TARABINI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RANGELANDS NRM

“That is especially important in our work with First Nations groups across regional and remote Western Australia. These are trusted relationships built over many years. Government needs to understand their value and the damage caused when short-term funding interrupts people, programs and partnerships,” Ms Tarabini said.

Next steps

Rangelands NRM and NRMWA will follow up with parliamentary offices and Commonwealth departments to seek a nominated government contact, further meetings and a clear commitment on timing for multi-year commissioning through the existing Regional Delivery Partners Panel.

Rangelands NRM thanked Senator Brockman and his office, Senator Ghosh, Senator Smith and all senators and MPs who met with the delegation.

ENDS**MEDIA CONTACT****Jo Lassey** | marketing@rangelandsnrm.com.au**ABOUT RANGELANDS NRM**

Rangelands NRM is a Western Australian natural resource management organisation established in 1997. It designs, delivers, monitors and reports environmental and agricultural programs across remote and complex landscapes in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison, Goldfields-Nullarbor and Western Desert. Rangelands NRM works with Traditional Custodians, Aboriginal organisations, ranger groups, pastoralists, industry, research organisations, communities and government.

ABOUT NRMWA

NRMWA is the peak body for Western Australia's seven independent, regionally governed natural resource management organisations. Together, the network has delivered more than \$700 million in environmental and agricultural programs over almost three decades, connecting government priorities with trusted regional delivery, monitoring and reporting.