



Australia Earth Charter

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Chairman

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Rangelands Policy Dialogue

The Earth Charter and Sustainable Rangeland management

The Earth Charter is an ethical framework of values and principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society. Ecological Integrity is covered under principles 5 to 8:

- (5) *Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and natural processes that sustain life*
- (6) *Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach*
- (7) *Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being*
- (8) *Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open Exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired*

There are many sub-principles of these Earth Charter principles that provide more detailed management principles.

Rangelands policies:

1. Economics significantly impact, mostly negatively, on rangeland management and therefore economic policies (eg taxation, level of debt) need to be reviewed. Also, review the impact of current land ownership on rangeland management
2. Respect for all biological life requires a major understanding of our native wildlife and the integrated management of wildlife and domesticated animals. Integrated management may require a major change in the 'ownership' of wildlife, so that landowners may 'sustainability harvest' wildlife as part of integrated rangeland management or be paid to sustain wildlife. Also, landowners may be compensated for native vegetation regeneration and wildlife corridors. In other words 'wildlife is valued and not considered a pest'
3. Focused rangeland policy approach that relates to the unique ecosystem/vegetation being investigated – 'one policy does not fit all' and a regional approach needs to be considered. This can be difficult when policies are made by State or National bodies.
4. Water is a major resource for rangeland management. Ensuring a sustainable water supply, requires management and research of both above and below ground water resources, and 'when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach'.

'The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity and beauty is a sacred trust' – the Earth Charter.

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