Dear pastoralists

I recently met with the Minister for Lands, Hon Rita Saffioti MLA. I provided her with an overview of the Pastoral Lands Board’s strategic advice on the future of the pastoral industry, which was developed through workshops held with you and your colleagues around Western Australia. Our advice was forwarded to both Minister Saffioti and Minister MacTiernan in March this year in the form of a paper entitled *Priorities for Strengthening the Economic Viability and Ecological Management of the Pastoral Estate*.

In its paper, the PLB emphasised that legislative, regulatory and policy change is required to provide economic development opportunities, improve ecological management and enhance social outcomes on WA’s pastoral estate.

More specifically, the recommendations made by the PLB include:

- creating a strategic vision for the pastoral industry;
- improving security of land tenure for pastoralists;
- introducing a risk based approach to assessing applications for diversified economic activity on pastoral leases;
- introducing a new optional lease type which would enable more diverse activity on pastoral leases;
- developing a land condition monitoring system that assists the State Government as land owner and pastoralists as land managers, to acquit their respective responsibilities; and
- developing a program to assist Aboriginal pastoralists to better realise opportunities for economic, environmental and social benefits.

The PLB will continue to work with Government on the pastoral reform agenda being progressed by Ministers Saffioti and MacTiernan. The PLB is mindful that the changes it has recommended are complex and that staged implementation over time may be necessary.

The PLB’s paper to Ministers Saffioti and MacTiernan is available on the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage website [www.dplh.wa.gov.au](http://www.dplh.wa.gov.au) (click Lands>Pastoral).

Thank you again for your input to date. We will endeavour to keep you informed on progress with the reform program.

Regards

Tim Shackleton
Chairperson
Pastoral Lands Board