



finalreport

Natural Resource Management

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Adapting the Central Australian
version of the Grazing Land
Management workshop for
Indigenous people

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Abstract

Aboriginal land makes up about half of the Northern Territory, and a significant proportion of that is currently used for some form of pastoralism. While there have been a number of workshops and training available to the mainstream pastoral industry over the years, none are specifically targeted at Indigenous people. To address this gap, the central Australian version of Meat and Livestock Australia's Grazing Land Management workshop has been successfully adapted for Indigenous people involved in the pastoral industry. Through ongoing delivery of this workshop to targeted audiences we aim to improve the capacity for sustainable grazing practices across Aboriginal properties in central Australia.

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1 Background

Aboriginal land makes up about half of the Northern Territory, and a significant proportion of that is currently used for some form of pastoralism.

There have been a number of workshops and courses targeted at the mainstream pastoral industry over the years. Most recently the NT Department of Rural Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPPIFR) and the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) have supported the delivery of MLA Edge Network's Grazing Land Management workshops, and ongoing extension to participants.

However, none of these courses take into account the educational background and training needs of many Indigenous people involved in the pastoral industry in Central Australia. To address this gap, funding for development and delivery of a workshop tailored to Indigenous people was secured through a federal government Landcare Sustainable Practices grant.

The target audience is Indigenous people in central Australia who are involved in the pastoral industry and keen to learn more about sustainable pastoralism. These may include directors of Aboriginal cattle companies, directors of Aboriginal corporations managing an external grazing license, managers of cattle companies, workers on Aboriginal properties, and workers on non-Aboriginal pastoral properties.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) kindly agreed to support this project through both allowing the adaptation of the Central Australian version of their Grazing Land Management (GLM) education package for Indigenous people, and through provision of additional funding.

2 Project Objectives

1. Adaptation of the Central Australian version of the GLM education workshop for Indigenous people.
2. Production of the revised materials ready for use.

3 Methodology

Central Land Council engaged a consultant, Paul Mitchell, to undertake the work of adapting the GLM workshop, working closely with CLC and DRDPPIFR staff. An initial draft was completed in May 2009, and a stakeholder's workshop held to set direction for the final draft.

The final draft was completed in September 2009, in time for the first workshop held in the same month at Thakaperte Outstation. MLA staff provided input and feedback throughout this process, and attended the workshop. Running this first workshop provided valuable insights into improving the course, and the consultant provided final updated workshop materials at the end of October 2009.

4 Results and Discussion

The first Indigenous Grazing Land Management workshop was held over three days at Thakaperte Outstation near Alice Springs. Nine participants attended – five from Ooratippra, one each from Mangalawurru, Karlantijpa and Loves Creek and one from CLC. Presenters included Paul Mitchell (consultant), Kate Crossing (CLC), Jillian Fisher and Coral Allan (DRDPIFR) and Grant Allan (Bushfires NT). Mick Quirk from MLA also attended to observe and answer questions as needed.

We were fairly flexible in running the workshop, and modified sessions and activities on the go, to match participant needs. Participants were generally quiet but attentive throughout the workshop, though more involved in the outdoor activities. On the final night Francine McCarthy (the CLC participant), did a comprehensive feedback interview with all the participants. Overall the feedback was very positive with participants saying they had gained valuable new knowledge, and that they would recommend it to other people.

Insights from both participants and presenters feedback were used to complete the final updated workshop materials provided with this report. These materials include:

- Powerpoint presentations
- Workshop notes (for take home booklet)
- Facilitator notes

5 Success in Achieving Objectives

Feedback from the first workshop demonstrated that the project has successfully met the objectives of developing a Grazing Land Management workshop that is interesting, relevant and at an appropriate level for Aboriginal people involved in the pastoral industry.

The workshop materials produced through this project will be a valuable resource for future workshops, and we aim to continue improving and updating these materials as required for each audience.

6 Impact on Meat and Livestock Industry – now & in five years time

Successful development of an Indigenous Grazing Land Management workshop and materials provides us with the capacity to raise the skills and awareness of sustainable grazing practices across Aboriginal properties in central Australia.

We have already engaged with nine people through participation in the first GLM workshop held in September this year, and aim to continue running workshops in different locations at least for the next 12 months and hopefully in the longer term. We also aim to provide continuing extension services to enable people to get the most out of this training.

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

The central Australian version of Meat and Livestock Australia's Grazing Land Management workshop has been successfully adapted for Indigenous people involved in the pastoral industry. The first workshop held in September 2009 attracted nine participants from four properties, and feedback shows they enjoyed the course and gained valuable new knowledge.

It is recommended that the course continues to be delivered to target audiences across central Australia. Small groups on their own country would be the best way to hold future workshops, using local information and examples. It is also recommended that ongoing extension support is provided to participants to build on their skills and knowledge