



A U S T R A L I A 2 0 2 5

XII IRC



XII INTERNATIONAL RANGELAND CONGRESS

AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE | JUNE 2-6 | 2025

**WORKING
TOGETHER FOR
OUR GLOBAL
RANGELANDS
FUTURE**

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International
Rangeland
Congress



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@IRC Australia 2025



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PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



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**XII INTERNATIONAL
RANGELAND
CONGRESS
AUSTRALIA 2025**

WELCOME

The Australian Organising Committee of the XII International Rangeland Congress, on behalf of the Australian Rangeland Society and the International Rangeland Congress Continuing Committee, invites you to participate in the International Rangeland Congress to be held June 2-6, 2025 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, Australia.

It is our goal to provide a vibrant platform for scientific exchange and education on the contemporary challenges and opportunities facing the rangelands and its communities.

We will ensure there are many opportunities to network and connect with fellow delegates and to celebrate achievements in our fields. It is the aim of this Congress to make it a highly interactive in-person event. It will be nearly a decade since the last International Rangeland Congress in Canada where everyone was able to gather to network so making this an in-person event is important. Further, given Australia's time zone, implementing full virtual attendance is unlikely to be successful because daytime in Australia is night time in many other parts of the world. However, we are planning to provide the recording of selected sessions for those who cannot attend in person. A modest registration fee will be charged to access the recorded sessions. Should circumstances regarding international travel change between now and June 2025, the Organising Committee will re-assess the options for virtual attendance.

We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide in 2025!



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International
Rangeland
Congress



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Acknowledgement

The International Rangeland Congress recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the Traditional Owners of Australia and thank them for their stewardship of Country - sea, water and land. The Congress respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Australian rangelands and pays its respects to their cultural and customary practices, and acknowledges their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains, land of the Kaurna Aboriginal people. We also pay respect to and celebrate First Nations across the world, and their connection to rangelands.



VENUE

Adelaide, with a population of 1.3 million has grown into a modern, vibrant multi-cultural city.

Its ring of parkland on the River Torrens is home to renowned museums such as the Art Gallery of South Australia, displaying expansive collections including noted Indigenous art, and the South Australian Museum, devoted to natural history.

Nestled between the rangelands to the north, world famous wine regions and magnificent beaches of white sand, Adelaide and its surrounding regions offer a range of unique experiences that will enhance the Congress experience for delegates.

The Adelaide Convention Centre is situated in the heart of Adelaide. Conveniently located 15 minutes from the airport and with over 3,500 accommodation rooms within five minutes' walk, it is the perfect location for the IRC in 2025. The Adelaide Convention Centre is newly redeveloped, having re-opened in September 2017. The hosting of the IRC in Adelaide is being generously sponsored by the South Australian government through Business Events Adelaide.



Cape du Couedic, Kangaroo Island
Photo: Aquiles Pamparana

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Tungaa Ulambayar

Theme 1: Valuing rangelands and pastoral systems for their societal contribution

Dr. Tungalag Ulambayar (Tungaa) leads the Zoological Society Luujin, a Mongolian conservation NGO. She holds a Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecosystem Science from Colorado State University, where her award-winning dissertation examined social outcomes of community-based rangeland management in Mongolia.

Tungaa also holds an MA in International Development from the International University of Japan. She has extensive experience with various international organizations, including leading the Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction team at the United Nations Development Programme in Mongolia from 2005 to 2012.

Tungaa was one of the pioneering facilitators of Participatory Rural Appraisal for community-based natural resource management in Mongolia.



Nick Webb

Theme 3: Technology, information systems, communication, and big data to aid monitoring and decision making

Dr. Nicholas Webb is a Research Physical Scientist with the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Range Management Research Unit, based at the Jornada Experimental Range in south-central New Mexico, USA.

Nick's research cuts across themes of rangeland ecology, soil erosion, and integrating decision-support tools with big data to inform adaptive management. He coordinates the US National Wind Erosion Research Network and co-leads the Landscape Data Commons - an effort harmonize and link standard rangeland monitoring datasets with digital technologies to enable data-informed understanding of rangeland ecological dynamics and management. Nick grew up in Brisbane, Australia and prior to moving to the US worked on projects across Queensland's dry southwest and northern tropical savannas.



Maria Fernandez-Gimenez

Theme 2: Co-design, partnership and incorporating traditional knowledge for more enduring rangeland outcomes

María E. Fernández-Giménez is a Senior Research Scholar and retired Professor in the Department of Forest & Rangeland Stewardship at Colorado State University, where she led the Rangeland Social-Ecological Systems Lab from 2003-2021. She works with ranchers and pastoralists in the western US, Spain and Mongolia to support sustainable and equitable rangeland management through knowledge co-production and participatory research. Major themes of her work include traditional/local ecological knowledge; rancher and pastoralist decision-making; participatory research, knowledge integration and co-production; community-based and collaborative rangeland management; rangeland governance; and gender and social justice in rangeland social-ecological systems.

María and her students develop and evaluate practical tools and approaches such as state-and-transition models, participatory rangeland monitoring, and collaborative adaptive rangeland management that engage diverse rangeland users and stewards directly in research and tool development. As an ecologist and social scientist, she uses a broad range of methods from field ecology studies to ethnography and poetic inquiry. María has received numerous awards for her community-engaged research, including Honorable Champion of Agriculture (2014) and the Order of the Polar Star (2016), from the Government of Mongolia, Senior Fulbright Scholar (2010-2011) and Global Fulbright Scholar (2018-2022). She has published over 130 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.



Susi Vetter

Theme 4: Integrating rangeland ecology into management

Susi Vetter is an ecologist in the Department of Botany at Rhodes University. Her research interests are interdisciplinary and include vegetation change, rangeland dynamics, plant-herbivore interactions, fire ecology and the cultural importance of nature and biodiversity. While based on fundamental work to understand vegetation dynamics and human-environment interactions, her research also has a strong applied dimension aimed at informing policy and management.

She serves as the President of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa and as a member of the Working Group on Afforestation that supports the UN-sanctioned 2026 International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralism.



Anika Molesworth

Theme 5: Managing risk – climate and other system shocks and trends

Dr Anika Molesworth is a thought-leader of agro-ecological systems resilience and international farming development. With a passion for rural communities and healthy ecosystems, she is committed to help create sustainable and vibrant rural landscapes now and for the future.

She is a Founding Director of [Farmers for Climate Action](#) – a national network of nearly 8,000 Australian farmers undertaking climate change action. She has presented the TEDx talks “Farmers are key to a better future” and “Repairing the Broken Food System.”

She is the author of her book, *Our Sunburnt Country*, which won the Royal Societies of Australia and New Zealand Writer’s Award for *Outstanding Writing on Social Change*. Awards include Young Farmer of the Year (2015), Young Australian of the Year, New South Wales Finalist (2017), and Young Conservationist of the Year (2022).



Joe Morrison

Theme 7: Multi-functional land use in rangelands – moving beyond niche opportunities

Joe Morrison is Dagoman and Mualgal and has over 30 years’ experience working with Indigenous people in northern Australia, nationally and more recently globally. He has extensive experience in public policy, governance, research, Indigenous development, native title, land rights, land and sea management and economic development.

He is currently the Group Chief Executive Officer of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC).

Prior to this he was the Chief Executive Officer of Australia’s largest land rights authority, the Northern Land Council and the founding CEO of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA). He is currently a Director of the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, International Savanna Fire Management Initiative, National Centre for Indigenous Excellence, Primary Partners Pty Ltd, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia and a member of the AFL Indigenous Advisory Council.



Appolinaire Djikeng

Theme 6: Livestock production systems in a world of changing drivers

Professor Appolinaire Djikeng is the 4th Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Senior Director for the Livestock-based systems of the CGIAR. Prior to ILRI and the CGIAR, Professor Djikeng was Director of the Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health (CTLGH) and based at the Roslin Institute, and Professor and Chair for Tropical Agriculture and Sustainable Development at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. Professor Djikeng has over 20 years’ research, research management and institutional development experience in academia and in international not for profit research institutions in Africa, Europe and the USA.

Professor Djikeng’s work and interests have been primarily centred around bioscience (and particularly genomics and related disciplines) and their applications in agriculture (both animals and crops), animal, human and environmental health. Professor Djikeng co-founded the African Animal Breeding Network (AABNET) with the aim to drive the development and dissemination of livestock

improved and most suitable genetics and broader sustainable genetic improvement solutions in Africa. Professor Djikeng also co-founded the African Biogenome project (AfricaBP) – a community of practice of scientists and related professionals, policy makers and stakeholders with the aim to harness the power of genomics for the characterisation, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity in Africa.

Professor Djikeng is Honorary Professor at the University of Queensland, Center for Animal Science (Australia), Professor at The Roslin Institute, The University of Edinburgh (UK), and Distinguished Professor at the University of South Africa.

Professor Djikeng serves on numerous science advisory boards and has received many awards including the Nelson Mandela Peace Award and his recognition by the Decade of Health as one of the 10 people in the United Kingdom changing health outcomes.

PROGRAM THEMES

The Congress will be organised under seven themes. These are aimed at capturing diverse knowledge and perspectives on rangeland socio-ecological systems, with the objective to strengthen partnerships for more resilient and sustainable rangelands

The Program will include keynotes, oral and poster presentations, lightning talks, panel discussions, forums, and other fun social and networking activities. All presentations will be delivered in English, but the Congress will endeavour to provide simultaneous translations in a number of languages for selected sessions.

01

Valuing rangelands and pastoral systems for their societal contribution

- International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists – recognising rangelands
- Gender, youth and other intersectional perspectives for sustainable and resilient rangelands
- Indigenous perspectives for sustainable and resilient rangelands
- Land use and demographic changes in rangelands
- Land tenure, land rights & governance: emerging trends, competing interests and opportunities
- Understanding social licence for rangeland activities
- Power, equity and social justice in rangelands
- Social, health and other support services in the rangelands

02

Co-design, partnership and incorporating traditional knowledge for more enduring rangeland outcomes

- International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists – partnership building
- Strengthening the science-policy interface
- Integration of Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge and Western science
- Extension, communication and capacity building
- Indigenous intellectual property

03

Technology, information systems, communication, and big data to aid monitoring and decision making

- Data collection and data platforms
- Remote sensing and land monitoring
- Decision support tools for pastoralists, extensionists, and other institutions – from design to adoption and positive impact
- The role of technology in facilitating collaborative rangelands research
- Working towards an internationally harmonized set of definitions and SDG indicators
- Technological innovation and access: novel opportunities for rangeland communities

04

Integrating rangeland ecology into management

- Rangeland degradation and restoration
- Wildlife, biodiversity, invasive species and pest management
- Water management in rangelands
- Fire ecology and plant management
- Preserving and enhancing soil health
- Improving rangeland ecological health

05

Managing risk – climate and other system shocks and trends

- Climate change impacts and opportunities for strengthened adaptive capacity in rangelands
- Supporting rangelands under geo-political instability and extremism
- Risk management and resilience in the face of shocks
- Drought management for sustainable livestock production
- Mobility, reciprocity and opportunism

06

Livestock production systems in a world of changing drivers

- Livestock systems – production, health and welfare
- Carbon neutrality in the livestock sector – the role of rangelands
- Livestock intensification: opportunities and trade-offs
- Integrated crop, livestock and forestry systems for social, economic and environmental sustainability
- Grazing management for long term sustainability

07

Multi-functional land use in rangelands – moving beyond niche opportunities

- Showcasing alternative land use and diversification of income streams
- Rangelands in a global carbon economy
- Biodiversity and environmental services, markets, offsets
- Market-based approaches for control of non-native and unwanted herbivores
- Agricultural intensification of rangelands – “de-ranging” for other food production
- Economic capital flows in regional rangelands: the in and outs

More detail on the Congress Themes can be found on the [Congress website](#).



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS 2026

With 2026 being proclaimed the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) by the United Nations, the Australian Organising Committee is working closely with the IYRP secretariat to ensure the Congress program and activities provide an important platform for discussing the challenges and opportunities facing rangelands and pastoralists.



This will involve a Traditional/Indigenous Knowledge Forum that will be held immediately prior to the Congress. Indigenous land managers and traditional knowledge holders from around the world will be hosted by Australian First Nations peoples.

Key insights from the Traditional/Indigenous Knowledge Forum will be discussed within the main Congress Program, which will feature two International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists sessions.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MONDAY JUNE 2

8.00-9.00am	IRC Business Meeting #1
9.00am	Welcome Address & Keynote
10.00-10.30am	Morning tea
10.30-12.00pm	Concurrent sessions
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch
1.00-2.30pm	Concurrent sessions
2.30-3.00pm	Afternoon tea
3.00-4.30pm	Concurrent sessions
4.30-6.00pm	Poster session
6.00-7.30pm	ARS 50th Anniversary Event

TUESDAY JUNE 3

8.30am	Plenary Speakers
10.00-10.30am	Morning tea
10.30-12.00pm	Concurrent sessions
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch
1.00-2.30pm	Concurrent sessions
2.30-3.00pm	Afternoon tea
3.00-4.30pm	Concurrent sessions
4.30-6.00pm	Poster session

WEDNESDAY JUNE 4

Mid-Congress Tours

THURSDAY JUNE 5

8.30am	Plenary Speakers
10.00-10.30am	Morning tea
10.30-12.00pm	Concurrent sessions
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch
1.00-2.30pm	Forum – in partnership with IYRP
2.30-3.00pm	Afternoon tea
3.00-4.30pm	Concurrent sessions
4.30-6.00pm	Poster session
7.00-11.00pm	Conference dinner

FRIDAY JUNE 6

8.30am	Plenary Speakers
10.00-10.30am	Morning tea
10.30-12.00pm	Concurrent sessions
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch
1.00-2.00pm	IRC Business Meeting #2
2.00-3.30pm	Closing Session including awards ceremony

Submission of Abstracts for Oral Presentations and Posters



The Congress publications sub-committee invites submission of abstracts for oral (15 minute), lightning (5 minute) or poster presentations.

The abstracts should be submitted online through the **Abstract and Paper Portal** and should follow guidelines as available on the **Congress website**.

Abstracts will be peer-reviewed and the selection criteria will include:

- Relevance to the Congress theme and sessions
- Significance of information and enriching current state of knowledge,
- Originality and novelty, structure and clarity and scientific validity.

The official language of the Congress is English and all Abstracts and Papers must be submitted in English.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for submission of Abstracts is July 2, 2024.

Authors will be notified in July 2024 as to whether their abstract has been accepted and whether it has been allocated as a standard oral presentation (15 minutes), a lightning presentation or a poster session. We encourage early submission of Abstracts for those authors who may have lengthy processes for visas and/or seeking approval to attend the Congress, or who may be seeking delegate support to attend the Congress.

All authors of accepted abstracts are required to submit a full paper (3-4 pages) for their presentation, for publication in the conference proceedings. Guidance on paper submission will be provided after abstract acceptance.

Deadline for paper submission is December 2, 2024.

Submissions will not be accepted after the closing date.

Call for Expressions of Interest in sponsoring and hosting pre-Congress workshops



We welcome proposals to host pre-Congress workshops. Workshops require sponsorship of AUD \$30,000 (Gold sponsorship) and can be held on Saturday May 31st and/or Sunday June 1st.

Workshops will be provided with a room and audio-visual equipment as part of their sponsorship. Proposals should be well aligned to one or more of the seven Congress Themes and may feature oral presentations, panel discussion, World Café, small group activities or other formats. Proposals for workshops sessions should be submitted to the Congress organisers by December 31, 2024. The number of rooms available for workshops at the Adelaide Convention Centre are limited so get your proposals submitted soon!

Call for Exhibitions or Trade/Information Booths



The organising committee has planned for an Information/Market Place/Trade Show. There will be a large space available for Exhibitors that will be strategically located near the posters and close to where lunches and breaks will take place. This space will serve as the networking hub of the meeting and offer Exhibitors a great opportunity to showcase their organisation or company.

The aim of the market/trade show will be to showcase rangeland technologies, innovations, products and services. Potential exhibitors will include companies with an interest in rangeland development, technologies and innovations; national and international research institutes; country and government institutions; international development organisations; natural resource management groups; and rangeland based enterprises. Congress sponsors will be offered free information booth space, depending upon level of sponsorship.

<https://irc2025.rangelandcongress.org/sponsorship/>

Call for special meetings or group needs

Any group or persons who require meeting space during the Congress are required to submit their request to the local arrangements committee using the **Congress email**.

Registration



Registration is now open!
Secure Earlybird rates until 30 September 2024.

Registration Prices	
Earlybird Registration	\$900 AUD
Standard Registration	\$1,000 AUD
Earlybird Student Registration***	\$650 AUD
Standard Student Registration***	\$750 AUD
Accompanying Persons*	\$400 AUD
Congress Dinner**	\$150 AUD

Registration includes full access to the Congress, Mid-Congress tour, all Congress materials, catering and one ticket to the Welcome Reception.

* Accompanying persons includes the Welcome Reception, Congress Dinner and Mid-Congress Tour

** Congress dinner ticket sold separately to registration

*** Students must provide a written verification of student status from their place of study.

Visas

All international delegates will need to obtain a visa to enter Australia.

Details on visa requirements can be found at:
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>

The website above allows you to enter where you are travelling from and the purpose of your visit. It provides a visa sub-class that can be used to enter into the website below that indicates typical visa processing times.

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>

Frequently asked questions about visitor visas can be found at:

<https://www.australia.com/en/facts-and-planning/visa-and-customs/australia-visa-and-entry-requirements-faqs.html>

For some countries, obtaining a visa to enter Australia can take quite a bit of time, so we encourage people to start that process early, especially for those that also need to obtain permission from employers to attend and may require letters of invitation from the Congress or have an approved abstract/paper to attend.



Delegate support



The Congress delegate support sub-committee invites submission of applications for delegate support.

Delegates will need to follow the guidelines as available on the website (<https://irc2025.rangelandcongress.org/>) and submit their application online through the Congress website.

A selection process will be used, as reflected by the criteria outlined in the application, to determine which delegates will be given support. Sponsorship will include part sponsorship to maximise the number of delegates offered support.

There are three levels of sponsorship:

- Priority Level One – Assisted Congress registration only
- Priority Level Two – Assisted Congress registration and part accommodation
- Priority Level Three – Assisted Congress registration, partial accommodation and contributions towards travel.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for submission of delegate support applications is August 2, 2024.

Delegates will be notified in November 2024 as to whether their application has been successful or not. If successful, notification will also include the level of sponsorship awarded and the terms and conditions of acceptance. Any given sponsorship that includes the contribution towards travel will be presented to the successful delegate upon arrival and registering at the Congress. If for some reason (e.g. inability to obtain a visa or change in work or personal circumstances) a delegate offered support cannot attend the Congress, the support provided will be offered to another applicant.

Accommodation



There is a wide range of accommodation types from hostels to 5-star hotels within walking distance of the Congress venue in the centre of Adelaide.

The organisers of the Congress have negotiated special hotel rates.

- **Grosvenor Hotel**
from \$139 per room/per night
- **Intercontinental Hotel Adelaide**
from \$240 per room/per night
- **Oaks Apartments**
from \$199 per room/per night
- **The Playford Hotel**
from \$292 per room/per night
- **Sofitel Adelaide**
from \$292 per room/per night

Backpacker/Hostel type accommodation

These are typically double or bunk bed rooms (up to 4 people) with a shared bathroom. They are clean and well maintained and prices range from AUD \$40-\$50/night per person on a shared room basis.

Examples include:

- > <https://www.yha.com.au/hostels/sa/adelaide/adelaide-backpackers-hostel/>;
- > <https://www.hostelworld.com/pwa/hosteldetails.php/Adelaide-Travellers-Inn/Adelaide/2489?from=2024-06-03&to=2024-06-07&guests=2&origin=microsite>

All prices are in Australian Dollars with current exchange rate of 1 AUD = 0.64 USD.

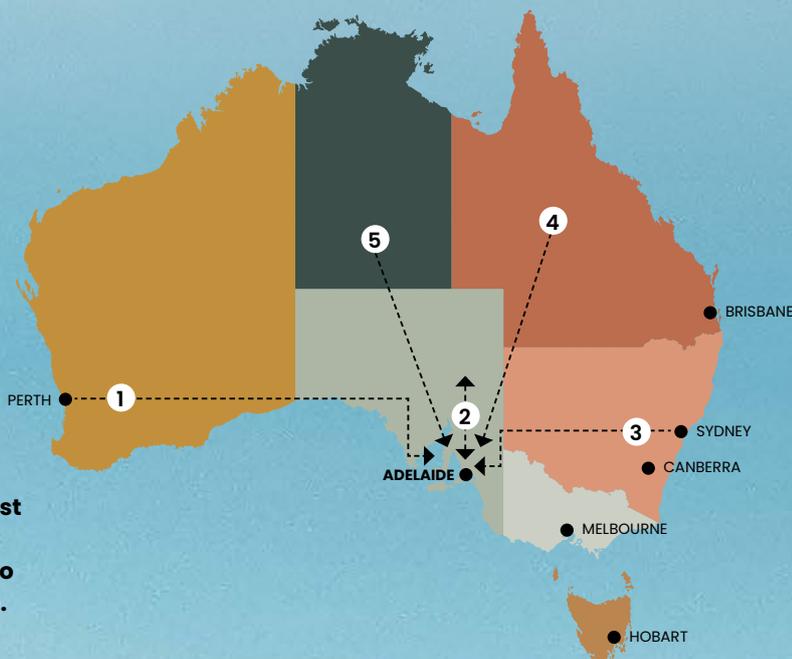
TOURS

Pre-Congress Tours

Five exciting Pre-Congress tours have been scoped with detailed itineraries developed and indicative costings provided. These will commence in different parts of Australia and end up in Adelaide, as well as an Adelaide to Adelaide Pre-Congress tour.

Tours will vary in length from 4 to 10 days. Some tours will commence with a full-day Forum engaging local communities. There will be a minimum number of delegates required for each tour before they can be confirmed.

Tour numbers are limited so please register your interest in pre-Congress tours via the [Expression of Interest Portal](#) by November 30, 2024. Preference will be given to those who submit an Expression of Interest by this date.



1 Perth to Adelaide: Woodlands, Shrublands and Wine

This 8-day tour (24 to 31 May) will cover 2,900 km by road. From Perth on the Indian Ocean coast, the capital of the state of Western Australia, the tour will travel 600 km through extensive dryland agricultural areas and the Great Western Woodlands before reaching Kalgoorlie. After a day in Kalgoorlie learning about environmental management and mining in the area, the tour will head east for 1,350 km along the Eyre Highway across the vast semi-arid Nullarbor Plain, skirting the Great Australian Bight, with overnight stops at motels and a cattle station along the way. We will visit the [Aboriginal Arts and Culture Centre](#) in Ceduna before travelling 470 km to Port Augusta, visiting a sheep station and a conservation reserve en route. From there, the tour will travel south for 380 km through rich agricultural lands pausing for a visit to the wine making district of the Barossa Valley before reaching Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, and host city for the XIth IRC.

The indicative cost for the tour is \$3,300 AUD inclusive of all transport, accommodation and meals. The coach will have space for 40 people, and for the tour to proceed, there will need to be at least 20 people to register.

2 Adelaide to Adelaide: Flinders Ranges and multiple land use tour

This 5-day tour (21 to 31 May) will cover 1,400 km visiting the picturesque Flinders Ranges and semi-arid region of South Australia.

From Adelaide, the capital of South Australia and host city for the XIth IRC, the trip will meander through the productive farming lands of the mid north, into the semi arid grazing lands onto the rugged Flinders ranges and Wilpena Pound.

Whilst in the Flinders Ranges, guests will share in Aboriginal cultural experiences and learn about the landscape and biodiversity from the perspective of the Adnyamathanha people and the modern history from the early days of pastoralism through to the re-introduction of threatened native animals. Then it is onto Port Augusta, the crossroads of Australia, where delegates will visit alternative land uses in the arid zone including renewable energy, modern horticultural industries, and future green hydrogen industries. The tour will then return through rich agricultural lands before pausing for a visit to the historic wine making district of the Barossa Valley and then onto Adelaide.

The indicative cost is \$2,500 AUD inclusive of all transport, accommodation and meals. The coach will have space for 30 people, with a minimum of 20 people for the tour to proceed.

3 Sydney to Adelaide: NSW and SA rangelands

This six-day tour (26–31 May) will cover 1900 km, travelling from Sydney to Adelaide. After passing over the Great Dividing Range, with a stop in the Blue Mountains, After a stay in Orange, we will pass through dryland farming areas, before arriving in Cobar in the semi-arid woodlands, 700 km west of Sydney. Around Cobar we will visit local pastoralists, managing invasive herbivores and woody plants, staying in Broken Hill) for two nights. Near Broken Hill we will visit the Fowlers Gap Arid Zone Research Station and experience the thriving art and movie scene (home of the Mad Max movies) in the town. From there, we travel 300 km south to Mildura and board an historic paddle boat to hear about the Murray–Darling River system and the history of irrigated agriculture in the rangelands. We Will then enter South Australia, staying at a conservation property; Calperum Station with stargazing and spotlighting for nocturnal animals. The final day of the tour stops in the historic wine making district of the Barossa Valley, with a range of options for wine tours and lunch. After that, it is a short trip into Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, and host city for the XIth IRC.

The indicative cost for the tour is \$2,500 AUD inclusive of all transport, accommodation, and meals. The coach will have space for 30 people, with a minimum of 20 people for the tour to proceed.

4 Longreach to Adelaide: Damper, dinosaurs and desert

This 9-day tour (22–31 May) will cover 2,500 km travelling from Longreach, Queensland, to Adelaide. The tour will drive through three of Australia's major deserts; the Simpson Desert, Sturt's Stony Desert, and the Strzelecki Desert. The tour will start with a welcoming 'Taste of Longreach', including a brief tour of the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, a sunset cruise, rail experience and a damper dinner on the banks of the Thomson River. The next day will start with a half-day rangeland forum with local pastoralists in the Qantas Founders Museum before enjoying a sunset dinner atop the mesas of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum at Winton. The tour will continue on to Boulia for a meal with local pastoralists, the opportunity to experience the Min-Min Centre (and to discuss the possible origins of this mysterious glow), taking in key elements of the famed Channel Country. The deserts, organic beef production and indigenous culture of Birdsville will be a highlight before adventuring further into the arid landscapes of Innamincka. The fate of the early European explorers Burke and Wills can be witnessed at the 'Dig Tree', before continuing south to the Flinders Ranges and into the winter rainfall sheep pastoral zones. The tour will join with the other groups at Port Augusta for dinner at the Arid Zone Botanical Gardens and finish by touring through premium wine vineyards enroute to Adelaide.

Minimum 18 passengers and maximum 30 people. The indicative cost for the tour is \$6,390 AUD (per person twin share) or \$7260 AUD (single), inclusive of all transport, accommodation, and meals.

5 Alice Springs to Adelaide: Visiting Uluru and the northern SA rangelands

This 10-day tour (21–31 May) will cover 3,200 km from Australia's Red Centre to the South Australian coast. Starting at Alice Springs (population 26,486) in the majestic MacDonnell Ranges, the tour will visit spectacular gorges and waterholes while heading 468km south to the iconic Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), and Watarrka (Kings Canyon) for spectacular scenery and to learn about Aboriginal culture before spending a spectacular evening dinner under the stars.

From there we will head south, visiting a number of cattle stations to find out about the opportunities and challenges they face before staying overnight at Marla (population 38), We then continue south to the unique opal mining town of Coober Pedy, staying in an underground motel (population 1,500). Passing numerous salt lakes and after spending a night on a

cattle station, including a campfire discussion about station life, we will travel to Woomera (the largest rocket test range in the world) and hear about its history including atomic tests of the 1950s through to modern day satellite and RAM Jet tests. The 181km finale of our desert trek will be across a changing landscape of broad treeless saltbush plains with views of Lake Gairdner, Myall woodlands and into the town of Port Augusta (population 16,700) before travelling south 380 km through rich agricultural lands, pausing for a visit to the historic wine making district of the Barossa Valley, and into Adelaide (population 1,367,000), the capital of South Australia, and host city for the XIth IRC.

The indicative cost for the tour is \$5,000 AUD inclusive of all transport, accommodation, and meals. Minimum registration 20 and maximum 30 people.

TOURS

Mid-Congress Tours

Congress delegates will have a choice of six Mid-Congress tours, with tours being held on the Wednesday of the Congress. All tours will leave from the Adelaide Convention Centre, and return to the Centre at the end of the day.

As described below, the tours provide a variety of cultural, historic and land use and management experiences. Delegates will nominate their preferred tours at the time of registration, and need to be aware that the tours will have an upper limit on the number of delegates than can be accommodated. Being early to register and nominate preferred tours is recommended!

Tour 1 Aboriginal Cultures

Australia is home to the 'First Nations' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are custodians of the oldest continual culture in the world, estimated to be 65,000 years.

This tour will learn about the culture and traditions of the Aboriginal 'First Nations' living in the Adelaide area and in other parts of South Australia, through visits to Aboriginal cultural exhibitions and the South Australian Museum. The tour will take most of the day, with a picnic lunch enjoyed on the banks of the Torrens River.

Tour 2 Water Management in the Murray-Darling Basin

Australia is a dry continent and water policy is an important matter for the Australian Government and the state governments. Our major river system is the Murray-Darling system which drains 1.061 million square kilometres of inland Australia, including large areas of the Queensland and New South Wales rangelands.

This full day tour will visit the Murray Darling Basin Authority to learn about water regulation, and then will travel along the Lower Murray River to Lake Alexandrina. A picnic lunch will be provided alongside the river.

Tour 3 Research and development in dryland agriculture and rangeland management

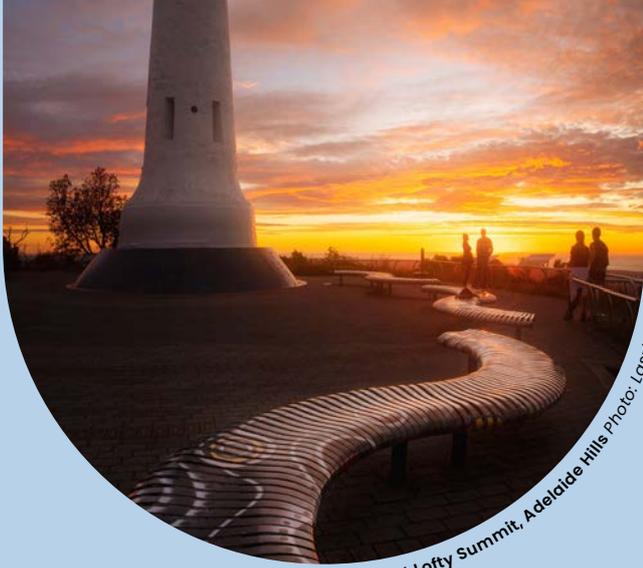
Australian scientists and land managers are world leaders in the management of dryland farming in Mediterranean climates, and in the grazing use of arid shrublands and grasslands. This tour will visit important research facilities in the Adelaide region, including the Waite Research Institute and the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus to learn about current research projects and how management is adapting to climate change in southern Australia.

The tour will also visit a commercial wheat and sheep farm, and a winery in the world-famous Barossa Valley. A picnic lunch will be provided.

Tour 4 Burra and Beyond

This will be a very long days' tour passing through the Northern and Yorke region of the South Australian wheatbelt and just reaching the start of the semi-arid shrublands east of Burra.

The tour will include property visits in the Rangelands District of the Region to learn about Goyder's Line and improving drought grazing management and drought preparedness in the non-arable ranges of the region. A picnic lunch will be provided at one of these venues. On the way back to Adelaide, the tour will call in at a winery in the beautiful Clare Valley for wine tasting and to learn about the history of wine making in the valley, before getting back to Adelaide in the early evening.



Mount Lofty Summit, Adelaide Hills Photo: Laszlo Bilki

Tour 5 Ultimate Adelaide and Hahndorf

This full day tour will take in a range of historic and scenic locations in and around Adelaide and the picturesque Adelaide Hills. The tour will pass by Adelaide City sights.

After this the tour will go up into the Adelaide Hills, stopping at the Mount Lofty Summit Lookout for panoramic views over the city and Adelaide plains. From there the tour will pass by the Bridgewater Mill water wheel and the villages of Crafers, Stirling and Aldgate, stopping in historic Hahndorf for lunch.

Although the tour itself is covered in delegate registration fees, participants will need to purchase their own lunch which can be enjoyed in one of the many venues in Hahndorf (see <https://hahndorfsa.org.au/>).

Tour 6 McLaren and the Cube Experience

This full-day tour will head south from Adelaide to the world famous McLaren Vale, home to many of Australia's most well known wineries. The tour will definitely suit those interested in the gourmet food and wine available in the Adelaide area. The tour will commence with morning tea at a venue in the area, followed by a visit to the d'Arenberg Winery and its famous Cube, with wine tasting.

Although the tour itself is covered in delegate registration fees, participants will be responsible for paying for lunch and any wine tasting costs. Further information will be available in the next announcement.

Accompanying partners

Accompanying partners are welcome at the Congress.

\$400 per person, and includes a ticket to the Welcome Reception, Congress Dinner and Mid-Congress Tour.

Sponsorship

The XII International Rangeland Congress invites sponsors to support the Congress through a range of sponsorship packages.

The Congress provides a great opportunity to support the Congress in its aim of bringing people together to drive a vibrant future for global rangelands and its peoples.

The Sponsorship Prospectus can be found at: <https://irc2025.rangelandcongress.org/>

Sponsorship money raised in Australia will be used to facilitate the effective running of the Congress and to support Australian delegates attending the Congress with a focus on supporting Indigenous Australians and rangeland practitioners.

It is the intention to use all international sponsorship to support international invited speakers and delegates to attend the Congress. There will be an emphasis on supporting speakers, delegates from low- and middle-income countries, First Nation delegates, and fostering opportunities for early career rangeland scientists, practitioners and pastoralists.



XII INTERNATIONAL RANGELAND CONGRESS AUSTRALIA 2025

KEY DATES

- NOW** ● Abstracts and proposals for Thematic Sessions are now open
- April 1, 2024** ● Registration now open
- July 2, 2024** ● Deadline for abstract submissions
- August 2, 2024** ● Deadline for submission of delegate support applications
- September 30, 2024** ● Deadline for Earlybird registration
- November 30, 2024** ● Deadline for Pre-Congress Tour registration
- December 2, 2024** ● Deadline for full paper submissions
- December 31, 2024** ● Deadline for pre-Congress workshop proposals
- Saturday May 31 and Sunday June 1, 2025** ● Pre-Congress workshops will be held in Adelaide. Sponsored workshop proposals are now welcome.

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