Media Release

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine
Minister for Land Resource Management, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

**The Red Centre home to Rangelands Conference**

14 April 2015

More than 300 delegates have converged on Alice Springs for the 18th Biennial Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society.

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries and Land Resource Management Willem Westra van Holthe said there will be more than 150 presentations over four days.

“This year’s theme is ‘Innovation in the Rangelands’. The conference will look at how Rangelands people can live sustainably into the future. Delegates will come together to share their ideas, network and learn from each other,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“The Country Liberals Government is working hard to increase understanding of the Rangelands estate, with $500,000 in annual funding going to monitoring and assessment programs.

“Central Australia relies heavily on the Rangelands for economic sustainability and growth within pastoral production, horticulture, tourism and mining and energy - it’s important those industries are protected well into the future.”

Seven broad topic areas will be discussed at length, including:

- Leadership and relationships
- Pastoral Management
- Water Sharing
- Natural Resource Management
- Mining and Energy
- Police Direction
- Adaption and Resilience
Keynote speakers include Fred Chaney, AO whose life work is in Aboriginal Affairs, water expert Professor Stuart Bunn and Dr Phil Holmes who will discuss environmental and economic sustainability.

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