



# The Royal Society of Queensland

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Director, Environment and Development Association "JASIL" Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA

Mr.Mendsaikhan Zagdjav  
Minister for Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia  
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Enkhtaivnii urgun chuluu 16a, Bayanzurkh duureg,  
Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA

Dear Minister

Re: Support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

The Royal Society of Queensland is the senior scientific institution in the sovereign State of Queensland, Australia. It wishes to express support for the proposal by the Government of Mongolia to declare an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

In 2019, the Society collaborated with AgForce, Queensland's peak representative body for broadacre agriculture and NRM Regions Queensland, the umbrella body for Queensland's (non-government) catchment management organisations to convene a two day-Dialogue in July to examine the future of the State's rangelands, which occupies some 80% of its land surface.

Our motive for initiating this collaboration was the belief that looming climate change and ongoing economic insufficiency are inadequately factored into national and Queensland's policy. Current fiscal and policy settings seem unlikely to restore vigour to Rangelands communities. Since that summit meeting, the collaboration has been maintained through a vigorous discussion forum, publication of a [Special Issue of our peer-reviewed journal](#) and the preparation of research papers summarising contemporary knowledge from across sectors of the community and scholarly disciplines.

It is clear that an IYRP would increase community and government awareness of the challenges facing Rangelands communities.

On behalf of the scientific community of Queensland, I advise that The Royal Society of Queensland supports the declaration of an IYRP to help raise awareness of the contribution that international rangelands make towards the maintenance of humans' life-support systems and the challenges that Rangelands communities are facing through forces such as climate change outside their immediate control. We endorse a recommendation that the United Nations support the proposal from the Government of Mongolia.

Yours faithfully

*Ross A Hynes*

(Dr) Ross Hynes  
President