

COMMERCIAL OUTCOMES FROM RANGELAND FORUM

The Regional Based Alternatives Sub-committee (RBASC) of the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy convened a major forum in Carnarvon on Wednesday 19th-Thursday 20th May, to support the development of the pastoral industries. Pastoralists from 35 stations in the rangelands travelled up to 700 kilometres to attend the forum. The forum's central objective was the formation of commercial supply chain partnerships for pastoral sheep/goat meats and fibre products.

Of special interest to pastoralists was the opportunity to hear about further developments in the new Damara and Dorper sheep industries and Wesfarmers new Fibre Direct wool selling procedure. Case studies from a number of successful pastoral supply chain structures including Organic Beef Exporters (Queensland), Q Lamb and Three Rivers Beef were presented.

130 delegates including industry representatives, National and State experts in supply chain management and Agriculture Western Australia staff attended. Forum delegates and organisers were pleased to see the first steps taken in developing groups for the Rangeland industries.

Examples of actions taken as a result of the Forum include

- moves to form a producer alliance for the emergent goat meat industry
- support for wool focused groups from the Mt Magnet and Yalgoo areas
- improved communication and information channels between the various sheep meat industry players.

Ongoing support for industry partnerships that have formed or are forming will be crucial. A meeting will be held in Carnarvon, on June 16th to look at how the goat meat partnerships are progressing and what steps can be taken to overcome bottlenecks in the process.