



The Australian Rangeland Society

Out-of-Session Council Meeting No. 233

MINUTES

6pm Queensland Time via Teleconference – Tuesday 6 August 2013
Start deferred to 7 pm.

1. **Present:** John Taylor (Chair), Carolyn Ireland, Peter Marin, Graeme Tupper, David Phelps, Kate Masters, Ben Forsyth. There were no apologies.

2. **2014 and 2016 ARS Conferences and Council's response to the NT Organising Committee (OC):**

Background: The NT OC have worked hard to organise a conference for the correct time slot in September 2014 without success; all relevant correspondence from them has been forwarded to Council Members. They have polled members in their State to canvass opinion about the various options. April 2015 is the NT OC's preferred choice (Sunday 12th to Thursday 16th April, immediately following Easter). If Council agrees, it gives the NT OC time to properly organise the NT conference and should leave sufficient time for the next host state to organise the following conference in the latter part of 2016, thus returning conferences to their biennial status.

Council comments: Disappointment from Council that it cannot be done by Sept 2014 but NT OC have given good reasons. Do we want to put pressure on a volunteer group? There was a willingness from Council to accept the deferral to April 2015. However India in 2015 may be a problem. There is strong support from surveyed group for the new date. Lessons from Council about lead time – should we make it more competitive, with any state allowed to bid for a biennial conference.

Moved by Carolyn: Disappointed but understand that the new date of April 2015 be accepted by Council and that information be forwarded to Pieter Conradie. However the NT OC need to fill in conference proposal template, nominate bank account signatories and make bookings of venues asap. **Seconded:** Graeme. **Carried.**

Action: John to inform the NT OC. Members to be advised in an email alert once the date and theme are confirmed. Peter and Carolyn to consult with people in SA before Sept 4th Council Meeting about running a SA-based Conference in 2016.

3. **Honorarium for the Chair of the Publications Committee:**

The letter from Council inviting Dr Ron Hacker to accept the position of Chair of the Publications Committee stated an honorarium of \$5000 p.a. which is twice that of any other ARS Honorarium. Although a draft of the letter to Ron was reviewed by Ken Hodgkinson (who was paid \$5000 for Chair of the Publications Committee **and** Website Manager roles), he has now advised that the Chair, Pubs Committee Honorarium should have been \$2500.

Council Comments: Is Council aware of this and is it comfortable with John calling Ron Hacker to explain about the mistake? Council agreed and asked John to get back to Council with Ron's response.

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm Queensland time.