

Ms. Robyn Adams
Chair, Desert Uplands Committee

BIOGRAPHY

Robyn Adams, a fourth generation grazier, runs a cattle breeder operation with her husband Terry Brennan, on wooded spinifex pastures in the southern Desert Uplands. Committed to a holistic approach to country, cattle and community, Robyn has a wide range of interests, skills and past experience including twenty years working in the costume and fashion industries interstate and overseas.

Robyn joined the Desert Uplands Committee in 2002. Elected chair in October 2007, she continues to meet the challenges of policy and funding changes, whilst being a passionate advocate for the extensive rangeland beef industry within the anthropogenic climate change debate and an increasingly discerning urban consumer.

Also involved with growing the arts at a provincial level, Robyn is further capacitating the region with an integrated approach to community and culture.

ABSTRACT

The Desert Uplands: succeeding with bioregional deliverance

In the centre of Queensland southwest of Townsville is the Desert Uplands Bioregion of some 75,000 square kilometres. The elevated interrange plateau of weathered sandstone supports 350 grazing enterprises and a population of over 6,000; and is a nationally declared biodiversity hotspot (70% remains uncleared timbered country) with a fast developing Galilee Coal Basin in the south.

The Desert Uplands Committee (DUC) has been a proactive and energetic regional player since forming fifteen years ago, progressing the sustainability and capacities of its enterprises, ecologies and communities. Subsequent to thorough processes to identify key regional issues, many innovative projects and programs have been conceived and implemented; utilizing secured funding (in excess of \$12 million). Collaborative effort with scientists and a wide range of government agencies created finely tuned, targeted strategies and effective, efficient deliverables that increased rangeland grazing productivity, identified and worked to secure biodiversity assets, and enhanced its resilience to climatic extremes.

The DUC continues as a regional success story evolving beyond the dwindling NRM funding options, and its failure to equitably deliver to remote Australia. The impending Galilee Basin coal mining expansion will challenge the Committee's regional leadership role as it forges new alliances and seeks inventive ways to protect the Desert Uplands' food productivity, rich biodiversity, agrarian community and cultural identity. Keen to present its valuable experience and learnings, the presentation will be adapted to maximise the benefits to the conference delegates, themes and agendas, whilst being prepared for a strong open debate to progress innovative solutions.