

## CASE STUDY XII INTERNATIONAL RANGELAND CONGRESS

**IRC2025 WAS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EVENT WITH STRONG INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION. THE CONGRESS ENABLED KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACROSS THE GLOBAL RANGELAND INDUSTRY, WITH ITS IMPACT EXTENDING BEYOND THE DURATION OF THE EVENT.**

### OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT

The XII International Rangeland Congress 2025 (IRC2025) was held from Monday 2 June to Friday 6 June 2025 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The event welcomed 772 delegates from 46 countries. Pre-congress workshops were also held on the weekend prior, for approximately 150 attendees.

Rangelands are extensive natural terrains dominated by grasses, shrubs, or sparse trees, primarily used for grazing and ecosystem management. The International Rangeland Congress provides a global platform for the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge on all aspects of rangelands.

Three pre-congress tours were curated, individually departing from Perth, Alice Springs, and Sydney, and concluding in Adelaide on Saturday 31 May. Over the course of these week-long tours, 63 delegates undertook immersive experiences in rangeland management, developing expertise in the landscapes, industries, and communities that shape the character of South Australia's rangelands.

Six mid-Congress tours took place, designed to deepen delegates' understanding of local rangeland systems. Each tour focused on a specific theme, ranging from Indigenous heritage and water management in the Murray–Darling Basin, to innovations in agricultural and rangeland research and development. Delegates also experienced the distinctive ecosystems of South Australia, including the Burra region, Clare Valley wineries, the Adelaide Hills, and McLaren Vale.

### **BUSINESS EVENTS ADELAIDE'S ROLE IN BRINGING THE EVENT TO LIFE**

**BUSINESS EVENTS ADELAIDE SUPPORTED THE PLANNING PERIOD FOR THE IRC2025, WHICH COMMENCED IN 2021, INCLUDING PROPOSING THE ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE AS THE VENUE.**

### WHY ADELAIDE WAS CHOSEN

Adelaide was selected following a bid presented by *Business Events Adelaide*, with funding that enabled the Organising Committee to maintain registration fees at an accessible level, allowing people from a wide range of countries to attend.

The Organising Committee was also impressed with the facilities at the Adelaide Convention Centre, as well as the opportunities for mid-congress Tours in the area around Adelaide.



## TEAM ADELAIDE SUPPORT

The congress was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, chosen due to its central location within the city and its ability to accommodate expected delegate numbers.

*Business Events Adelaide* played a central role in coordinating the Congress, working closely with the professional conference organiser, All Occasions Group, to manage event logistics. Exhibition booths and poster displays were provided by Adelaide Expo Hire. Transport arrangements, including services from Sealink and Kanga Coachlines, ensured delegates moved efficiently between sites.

Accommodation was organised to give delegates convenient access to both the ACC and city amenities. Delegates stayed at nearby hotels including the Grosvenor Hotel, Holiday Inn Express, InterContinental Adelaide, Majestic Roof Garden Hotel, Oaks Embassy, Oaks Horizon, and The Playford.

**“THE IRC2025 WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT, AND EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES, THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED, IN THE QUALITY OF THE PRESENTATIONS AND IN THE NETWORKING EVENTS HELD AS PART OF THE PROGRAM.”**

DONALD BURNSIDE AND CATHLEEN WATERS  
CO-CHAIRS, IRC2025



## OUTCOME OF THE PROGRAM

The 494 published papers from the Congress include 292 presented as keynote, full and lightning presentations. A further 192 posters were available for delegates to view. The papers will be a lasting legacy from the Congress, and will be available to all those interested and committed to progressing the science and art of rangeland management across the many domains in the world.

## IMPACT ON ADELAIDE

With delegates attending from 46 countries, the Congress increased international awareness of Adelaide and South Australia, showcasing the city as a premium destination for major business events. Delegates' spending on accommodation, dining, transport, tours, and conference services also contributed to the local economy.

The event further strengthened Adelaide's reputation as a centre for agricultural and environmental research. Acting as an epicentre for knowledge sharing, the Congress brought together leading international experts and created opportunities to strengthen the local rangeland and agricultural industry.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Congress was designed to be sustainable, accessible, and inclusive. Delegates experienced thoughtfully sourced materials, such as biodegradable badges and lanyards made from recycled bottles, with clear options to compost, recycle, or reuse them after the event. Consideration for diverse needs extended to dietary requirements, translation services in over 15 languages with live captioning, and financial support to enable wider international participation. Cultural inclusion was woven throughout the program, highlighted by Welcome to Country ceremonies at both the Welcome Reception and the Opening Ceremony.

The Congress featured strong engagement from government throughout the program. The opening keynote was delivered by the Honourable Susan Close, Deputy Premier of South Australia, and the Congress dinner was MC'd by Jaidyn Eastaughffe from the Northern Territory Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

