

Savannah Symposium

Workshop – Where to after the Symposium?



Facilitated by: Ivor Davies
Panel: David Garnett (Tropical Savannas CRC),
David Morgans (Tourism Qld),
Mark Crummy (Tourism NT),
Kelly Vrolyks (Nitmuluk Tours).

Overview: This session was a chance for participants to have their say on the future of the Savannah Symposium and discuss ways forward to bring the whole of the savannas together across borders.

The panel were asked three main questions with audience participation in discussion. The following is a summary of this discussion.

QUESTION 1

*Regional Organisations – are they worth the effort? If so, how?
Organisations such as:*

- *Indigenous Community and Tourism groups*
- *Regional Tourism and Development Organisations*
- *Savannah Way and Savannah Guides*
- *CRC's*
- *Natural Resource Management Groups*

DISCUSSION

YES!

- Northern Australia – regional linkages across the north – linking people across borders
- CRCs – government view of CRCs not long term but should be
- Tourism – marketing collaboration in the region and state – similar messages
- Provided the orgs have new blood coming in all the time – refreshed

Challenge is the engagement of members/people for money and activities

- Passion for regional organisations is there but not understood by political boundaries
- Political boundaries an issue and needs to be pushed for the betterment of consumer and landscape

QUESTION 2

*What can they do to be more viable and channel efforts?
How can we bring Northern Australian governments together to support and develop long term initiatives – What can we do?*

DISCUSSION

- Cross border organisations like Savannah Way can provide a vehicle to tear down border boundaries and provide a mechanism to link same marketing etc across the top.
- Continue to let government know that regional orgs are doing the work for them – eg Tourism NT – make government look good
- National landscape – Savannah Way
- Sense of place – collective will and industry power has political pull at federal government level. “Getting along” – industry, regions, state/territory governments – working together
- Engage with other industries – not just tourism – this is even more powerful

QUESTION 3

Are these forums worthwhile? Do they offer lasting values?

DISCUSSION

- Good cross section of participation and presentation
- Needs grazier input
- Network very important
- Needs future vision – presentations/workshops for the future
- Expansion of partners - pastoralists
- Expansion of networks
- At end of each symposium need to have a feedback session like this to determine what else needs to be included and new/emerging issues and needs
- Injection of higher level business types – presenting - international
- Co-existence models and co-management models with natural and cultural values - social, cultural, human and economic
- More than just Savannah Way – whole of Savannas
- Take the symposium to Canberra – Mohammed going to the mountain
- This symposium for people from the bush to get together – don't lose sight of this

Frequency?

- Annual – biannual might lose momentum
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