

2273 Stock Route Management

Governance Policy

PURPOSE

- 1) The purpose of this Policy is to create a consistent approach for the ongoing management of Stock Routes, and Roads within the North Burnett Regional Council Area used for the purpose of grazing and/or moving livestock pursuant to the *Stock Route Management Act 2002* (Qld) and the North Burnett Regional Council Local Law No.2 (Animal Management).

SCOPE

- 2) This policy applies to all Relevant Land within Council's local government area where landowners or other individuals seek to move and/or graze their livestock and will be applied in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Act	<i>Stock Route Management Act 2002</i> (Qld)
Community	The residents of any location occurring within the Council defined boundaries of the North Burnett Region.
Council	North Burnett Regional Council.
Effective Control	Control measures that restrict and prevent the movement of livestock from the areas they are permitted to occupy/graze. This may include fencing, tethering or other means to achieve such control, where failures to contain livestock do not occur.
Livestock	Cattle, horses, goats, sheep, pigs or any other animal used for agricultural purposes.
North Burnett Region	Includes all properties, roads and other land that fall within the defined boundary of the North Burnett Regional Council area.
Regulation	<i>Stock Route Management Regulation 2003</i> (Qld)
Relevant Land	Means a Stock Route, a reserve for travelling stock or a road under Council's control.
Reserve	Means a reserve for travelling stock which is land dedicated as a reserve under the <i>Land Act 1994</i> (Qld) and may be used for travelling stock.
Road	Includes all Council controlled roads within the North Burnett Local Government Area and includes Rural Road Easements.
Stock Route	A road or route ordinarily used for travelling stock or declared under a regulation to be a stock route.
Stock Route Agistment Permit	Permit for the agistment of stock for grazing purposes on Stock Routes and issued under Chapter 3, Part 4, Division 1 of the Act.
Stock Route Travel Permit	Permit to allow stock driven on foot on relevant land in Council's area and issued under Chapter 3, Part 5 of the Act.
Wandering Livestock / Unauthorised Grazing	The animal is not under the effective control of someone, and the animal is in either a public place or a private place without the consent of the occupier.

POLICY

- 3) Council is responsible for the administration and management of Relevant Land across the North Burnett Region. The Act contains the legislative requirements for the administration and management of Stock Routes, Reserves and Roads by providing for an application, approval and renewal process for obtaining a Stock Route Agistment Permits and/or Stock Route Travel Permits (“Permit”).
- 4) Council is not required to adopt a Stock Route Network Management Plan as provided for in section 104 of the Act.

OBJECTIVES

- 5) The objectives of this policy are to:
 - (a) Establish a transparent and consistent approach to stock route management;
 - (b) Ensure sufficient pasture resources are retained by providing greater access to available grazing resources;
 - (c) Reduce pasture resource wastage within the Relevant Land;
 - (d) Reduce incidents of wandering livestock and unauthorised grazing;
 - (e) Outline Council’s role as the administrator of applications for Stock Route Agistment and Stock Route Travel Permits as provided for under the Act.

PRINCIPLES

- 6) Council aims to mitigate risks associated with incidents of wandering livestock and unauthorised grazing on Relevant Land through the assessment of applications and appropriate conditions imposed on Permits issued under the Act.
- 7) During times of declared drought, Council will promote the option for livestock owners and/or other individuals within the North Burnett Region to apply for the relevant Permit for stock grazing purposes on Relevant Land.
- 8) Council will promote the grazing of livestock on Relevant Land where there is sufficient width of the Relevant Land to support livestock grazing and minimise safety risks to persons and property.
- 9) Unless an exemption in section 133 of the Act applies, the grazing of stock can only occur once Council has approved a Permit pursuant to the requirements of the Act.
- 10) This policy operates in conjunction with Council’s Wandering Livestock Policy and associated procedures.
- 11) Council is authorised under section 128 of the Act to cancel a Permit if satisfied:
 - (a) the Permit was issued because of a materially false or misleading representation or document (either made verbally or in writing);
 - (b) the Permit Holder has not complied with a condition of the Permit; or
 - (c) the Relevant Land under the Permit can no longer provide enough pasture or water for the continued agistment and the use of travelling stock.

If cancelling a Permit under section 128, Council will follow the required procedure outlined in sub-section (2).

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 12) Council is responsible for the management of the Stock Route Network within the North Burnett Region which is primarily achieved through the administration of its Permit assessment and compliance process.
- 13) As such, Council is responsible for appropriately assessing Permit applications and imposing relevant conditions on Permits in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
- 14) Livestock Owners and other individuals seeking to graze stock on Relevant Land are responsible for obtaining the required Permit and carrying out the activity in accordance with the Permit conditions.

- 15) Permit Holders (and Livestock Owners without a Permit) will assume all responsibility associated with grazing stock on Relevant Land and will be liable for any and all claims, damage and/or losses that arise in carrying out the activity.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 16) Related documents are:
- a) Stock Route Permit Procedure;
 - b) Application for Stock Route Grazing (Agistment) Permit;
 - c) Application for Stock Route Travel Permit; and
 - d) Wandering Livestock Policy.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

General Manager Corporate and Community

APPROVAL DATE

24 May 2023

REVIEW DATE

May 2027 (Standard four year term)

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Meeting	Approval Date	History
1	General	24 May 2023	New