

# South Australian Pastoral Lease Handbook

December 2024



Government  
of South Australia

Pastoral Board



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# Introduction

This handbook provides an overview of key sections of the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* (Pastoral Act) relating to the management of pastoral land and leases in South Australia.

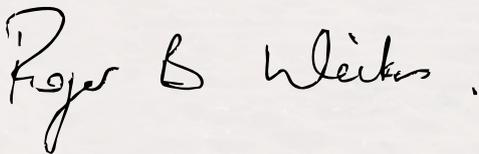
South Australia's Pastoral Board (the Board) has a vital role in overseeing the sustainable management of the state's pastoral lands. The Board aims to work with pastoral lease holders (lessees) and other partners to manage this vast estate, which in turn enables the continued delivery of significant economic, environmental, social and cultural value to all South Australians.

For over 100 years, the Board has been performing this strong regulatory and land stewardship function, and it continues this role today, working closely with the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and with lessees to maintain the land condition for the state, while aiming to improve the prosperity and growth of the state's pastoral industry.

This handbook provides lessees with an overview of their obligations under the Pastoral Act, along with the Board and Minister's roles, and other factors including further legislation that should be considered in the management of pastoral lands.

Pastoral leases enable the occupation and use of Crown (government) land for the purpose of grazing or raising livestock (pastoralism), conservation and a range of other uses. Pastoral land provides a major contribution to the state's economy, underpinning the pastoral industry which provides food and fibre for the state and the world. Pastoral land is also used for a range of other industries, including mining and tourism as well as emerging industries such as carbon farming, hydrogen and renewable energy.

It is thus important for all South Australians that lessees understand their core responsibilities under the Pastoral Act, and this handbook provides the information needed to help productively and effectively carry out the management of pastoral leases.



**Roger Wickes PSM**  
Presiding Member  
Pastoral Board

## How to use this handbook

### Part 1

provides information about core elements of pastoral leases – what leases are, who is responsible for what, how the Pastoral Act works, and your core responsibilities as a lessee.

### Part 2

sets out a high-level summary of other legislation that lessees need to be aware of in managing their leases. More detailed information about the requirements of these Acts is available from the relevant agencies.

### Part 3

is a simple FAQ section answering some of the most common questions that lessees ask of the Pastoral Board and the Pastoral Unit.

### Part 4

provides contact details for a wide range of other organisations that lessees may need to contact.



# Part one

# Overview of pastoral leases

## Pastoral leases

A pastoral lease allows the occupation and use of Crown (government) land for the purpose of grazing or raising livestock (pastoralism), conservation, and a range of other uses such as carbon farming and tourism (when approved by the Pastoral Board). In South Australia there are 322 pastoral leases that cover over 40% of the state. Pastoral leases are granted by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water under conditions set out in the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* (Pastoral Act).<sup>1</sup>

## Lessee responsibilities

Pastoral lease holders (lessees) must follow good land management practices, prevent land degradation, and endeavour to improve the condition of the land.<sup>a</sup>

**Lessees are responsible for complying with the conditions of their pastoral lease,<sup>b</sup> including:**

- paying lease rent and associated costs
- complying with relevant legislation and regulations
- allowing people who have a right of access to access their lease
- pasturing only the species of animals detailed in their lease
- not exceeding the maximum number of stock specified in their lease
- only using the land for pastoral purposes, unless with prior approval of the Pastoral Board
- maintaining fencing to a stock-proof standard and maintaining stock watering points
- if required, closing sections of land (and allowing land access points to be closed or moved) to support rehabilitation of the land
- submitting annual stock returns by 31 July each year
- complying with Pastoral Board notices
- complying with other relevant legislation relating to management of the lease, specified in the Pastoral Act and Regulations (such as the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*).

<sup>a</sup> Section 7 Pastoral Act

<sup>b</sup> Section 22 Pastoral Act

## Pastoral Board

### Role of the Board

The Pastoral Board (the Board) of South Australia has operated since 1895, and administers pastoral leasehold tenure on 322 pastoral leases, which comprise over 40% of the state's area (approximately 422,000 km<sup>2</sup>). The Board is a statutory authority responsible to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water in administration of the *Pastoral Act* for:

- supervision of the pastoral lease system
- defining management conditions, including the number and types of stock to be managed
- managing and enforcing lease terms and conditions
- assessing and reporting on the condition of leased land
- implementation of property plans and other measures to prevent land degradation
- managing and recording submission of annual stock returns
- producing an annual report
- assisting the Valuer-General of South Australia in determining pastoral lease rents
- administration of the Pastoral Land Management Fund
- providing advice to the Minister on policies and other general advice.

In administering its functions, the Board must have regard to plans or guidelines of other relevant government bodies, and to the terms of any Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) on pastoral land.

The work of the Board is supported by the Pastoral Unit based in the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

### Strategic Plan

The Board has a strategic plan which guides its direction and priorities to meet its legislative responsibilities, and community and industry expectations. It creates opportunities for other stakeholders to identify prospects to partner with the Board in the management of pastoral regions. *The Strategic Plan*<sup>2</sup> also provides guidance for the Pastoral Unit in supporting the operation of the Board.



## Members

The Board comprises six members who are appointed based on criteria defined in the Pastoral Act, for a 3-year term. Members come from a range of backgrounds and have extensive knowledge of the administrative, environmental and economic pastoral issues faced in the South Australian Rangelands. A list of the current members can be found online [here](#).<sup>3</sup>

Members meet every two months for Board meetings, covering a vast range of matters including, but not limited to, land condition assessments and inspections, compliance matters, the Board's direction (e.g. Strategic Plan and governance), communications including correspondence and reporting, policy, property plans and any other arising business.

The Board aims to hold some meetings in the regions with a public forum at each, to help foster contact between Board members and lessees.

## What is the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*?

The Pastoral Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage the pastoral region in South Australia. It outlines the aspirations for the pastoral landscape and the role of the Board and the Minister in overseeing and administering the Pastoral Act. The Pastoral Act is also supported by the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Regulations 2006* (the Regulations). The Act and Regulations can be found online [here](#).<sup>1</sup> The Board is responsible to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for the administration of the *Pastoral Act*.

The objectives of the Pastoral Act are to ensure that pastoral leases:

- are well managed so resources are maintained and yields sustained
- provide a system of tenure for pastoral purposes, that is, for the pasturing of stock and other ancillary purposes
- can be used for conservation purposes
- while being used for pastoral or conservation purposes, can also be used for other appropriate purposes (such as carbon farming)
- recognise Aboriginal persons' rights to follow traditional pursuits
- provide a system of public access to, and through, pastoral land
- provide for the operation of renewable energy infrastructure and the undertaking of associated infrastructure activities.

The pastoral region has unique and diverse natural resources, and these resources in turn support a variety of communities, industries and uses. The Pastoral Act is designed to find a balance between the use of the landscape for pastoralism and conservation, and sustaining land condition, for both current and future generations. Importantly, it also allows the Minister to issue pastoral leases over this Crown (government) owned land for a term of 42 years, defining terms and conditions for the operation of leases and the responsibilities of lessees.

Apart from outlining the role of the Board and Minister, the Pastoral Act also sets out provisions for access and use of the pastoral landscape for the general public, Aboriginal persons and lessees.

## Pastoral Unit

The Pastoral Unit supports the Board and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water to administer the Pastoral Act. The Pastoral Act enables pastoral lands to be used sustainably for pastoralism, conservation and other uses (i.e. carbon farming and tourism).

The Pastoral Unit provides the following support:

- land condition assessments
- lease condition matters including investigating compliance issues
- lease tenure dealings (e.g. consents for transfers, mortgages, sub-leasing)
- verification of stock levels
- collection of rent
- maintaining operation of the Board including organising meetings and communication to or from the Board
- assistance and advice regarding access to pastoral leases (including management of public access routes and advice on rights of access for Aboriginal persons and the general public).

The Pastoral Unit can be contacted on (08) 8429 0333 or [DEW.pastoral@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.pastoral@sa.gov.au)

### Lessee contact information

The Pastoral Unit holds the details of all pastoral leases and associated registered lessee contact details and, if supplied, manager details. The Pastoral Unit under the following specific circumstances may provide lessee contact information:

- For the purposes of obtaining the consent of a lessee to travel across or temporarily camp on pastoral land under section 48 of the Pastoral Act, the Pastoral Unit may provide the lessee contact name and landline phone number or email, or direct them to other publicly available sources where they exist.
- If emergency services, including the Country Fire Service (CFS) and SA Police (SAPOL), are seeking lessee details, the Pastoral Unit may provide lessee contact details to assist in emergency planning and response, and to assist with law enforcement.
- In some specific cases, lessee contact details may be shared with another public sector agency for specified purposes in accordance with the *Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016*.

<sup>c</sup> Section 5 of Pastoral Act

<sup>d</sup> Sections 25 & 26 of Pastoral Act

<sup>e</sup> Section 28(1) of Pastoral Act

## Role of the Minister

The Minister for Climate Environment and Water is responsible for the administration of the Pastoral Act, with their duties detailed in the Act.<sup>c</sup> The Board is responsible to the Minister for the administration of the Pastoral Act and, in carrying out that function, is subject to the control and direction of the Minister.

The Minister has a range of powers such as, the:

- appointment of authorised officers
- appointment of Board members
- removal of Board members
- granting of pastoral leases
- waiving or deferring payment of rent on the Board's recommendation
- consenting to transfer, assign, mortgage, sublease or otherwise deal with a pastoral lease
- consenting to the whole or partial surrender of a pastoral lease
- altering pastoral lease boundaries
- varying the land subject to a pastoral lease
- resumption of pastoral land
- care, control and management of Public Access Routes
- registering Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) in relation to pastoral land
- consenting to accessing pastoral land (i.e. travel across or camp on pastoral land)
- maintaining a public register of details of pastoral leases subject to an ILUA.

The Minister may delegate any of their powers or functions to the Board or to a particular person (i.e. a person within DEW).

## Tenure

Tenure defines how land is allocated and held. Pastoral land is held under tenure referred to as 'pastoral leases'. Pastoral leases allow the occupation and use of Crown (government) land for the use of pastoralism, conservation and other approved uses. Pastoral leases have a term of 42 years which are renewed up to the maximum 42 years, following a periodic land condition assessment at least every 14 years.<sup>d</sup> The Pastoral Act allows for leases to be 'dealt with'.<sup>e</sup> A dealing allows for pastoral leases to be transferred, assigned, mortgaged, sublet or partially or wholly surrendered. All dealings with pastoral leases require consent from the Minister, and can be applied for with an application form available on the DEW [website](https://www.dew.sa.gov.au).<sup>4</sup> Questions regarding this or any other land matters can be directed to DEW.

[PastoralTenure@sa.gov.au](mailto:PastoralTenure@sa.gov.au)

## Land condition assessments

The Pastoral Act requires that the Board must conduct land condition assessments at least once every 14 years for each pastoral lease.<sup>f</sup> This function is undertaken by the Pastoral Unit on behalf of the Board.

The objects of the Pastoral Act includes preventing degradation of the land and its indigenous plant and animal life, and for the rehabilitation of the land in cases of damage.<sup>g</sup>

The Pastoral Act specifies that the lessee has a duty to carry out good land management practices, prevent degradation of land and endeavour to improve the condition of the land. Consequently, degradation is the key determinant in the assessment of the condition of the land.

The assessment process comprises three stages: desktop assessment, on-ground field assessment, and assessment report.

### Stage One: Desktop assessment

The desktop assessment gathers infrastructure (e.g. fencing, waterpoints etc) updates from lessees/managers and information about currently active waterpoints on the property. Previous assessment and inspection reports are reviewed, including photopoint comparisons.

### Stage Two: Field assessment

Land condition assessments are undertaken on-ground by trained pastoral officers from the Pastoral Unit. During an assessment pastoral officers assess indicators such as:

- soil surface stability under varying seasonal conditions
- whether native vegetation communities can seed/recruit and recover from disturbance and over utilisation (i.e. high grazing pressure)
- productivity and diversity of native vegetation communities
- the control of pest plants and animals
- the utilisation state of vegetation (i.e. level of grazing pressure)
- current and past management practices
- infrastructure maintenance and development.

A particular focus is taken on assessing these indicators around waterpoints and at photopoint sites.

Photopoints were established in the first round of assessments in most paddocks, at a set distance from water (marked by rio-rod and jarrah pegs). Photopoints provide a photographic sequence and an indication of condition trend of land under various grazing practices.

See figures 1-6.

<sup>f</sup> Section 25 of Pastoral Act

<sup>g</sup> Section 4 of Pastoral Act

Each lease has two hard copy photopoint manuals, with the lessee holding one and the Pastoral Unit holding the other. Photopoints can be a useful way for land managers to inform the Board about management of their lease. Updated photopoints are required for applications to increase stock maximums. All photopoints are mapped and available on the property maps which can be obtained from the Pastoral Unit. Historical photopoint data is also documented in previous assessment reports. If a lessee wishes to locate photopoint information or establish new sites they should contact the Pastoral Unit at [DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au)

If there are concerns about land condition, pastoral officers will communicate with the lessee/manager to discuss observations and seek their feedback and intended management. If concerns are significant, the Board may propose varying the land management conditions of the lease, or place a lease on its Risk Register for monitoring and/or follow-up inspection to determine if further action is required.

If clear breaches of other legislation are observed, including the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, these instances will be referred to the relevant agency and the lessee will be advised of this referral by the Pastoral Board. Things that may be referred include (but are not limited to):

- the construction, modification, or removal of dams or structures to collect or divert water (i.e. water-affecting activities)
- the installation of new piped waterpoints
- building structures, or obstructing, or depositing solid materials in a water course, lake or floodplain (e.g. for erosion control, planting vegetation, construction of water crossings, or dumping material)
- excavating material from a watercourse or lake, or the floodplain of a watercourse (such as excavating or cleaning soaks, rock holes, springs, waterholes or on-stream dams)
- clearance of vegetation beyond allowances detailed in the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- pest plants and weeds considered Landscape Board priorities.

Breaches of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and/or *Native Vegetation Act 1991* may also constitute breaches of the pastoral lease condition under the Pastoral Act, which requires that lessees comply with a range of other legislation.

**Figures 1 to 4 provide examples of improving land condition trends in differing land systems, and figures 5 and 6 demonstrate a decline in land condition trend at a photopoint site.**

December 2008



May 2016



Figures 1 & 2: This photopoint comparison demonstrates an increase in land condition in a chenopod shrub land. The photos compare December 2008 and May 2016, showing improvement with bladder saltbush colonising the previously bare areas.

July 1999



October 2016



Figures 3 & 4: This photopoint comparison demonstrates an increase in land condition in a dune field land system, often largely driven by seasonal conditions. The photos compare July 1999 and October 2016. At the site in 2016 (compared with 1999) was an increase in annual species density and leaf biomass on the sand spread, including bindii species, billybuttons, sea heaths and a variety of annual grasses. There was no current stock disturbance apparent and the sand and gibber surfaces were stable. The site rating was changed from Fair to Good due to the increase in species diversity and lack of disturbance.

June 2007



October 2017



Figures 5 & 6: This photopoint comparison demonstrates a decline in land condition. It compares June 2007 and October 2017, with over-utilisation of pearl bluebush and bladder saltbush. The site was re-rated from Fair to Poor due to the decrease in species diversity, heavy grazing impact and the reduction in ground cover, leaving the soils susceptible to erosion.

### Stage Three: Assessment report

The Pastoral Unit will prepare an assessment report detailing findings from the on-ground field assessment and conclude whether the lessee is compliant with the Pastoral Act. The report is then presented to the Board for review and approval, with a copy then provided to the lessee along with any additional recommendations.

If a lessee wishes to obtain copies of historical lease assessment reports, email [DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au)

## Lease extension

Lease terms are extended following land condition assessments, depending on whether there are proposed variations to land management conditions (such as a change to the leases stock maximum).

Within 12 months of the completion of the most recent land condition assessment, the Board must:

- if there are no proposed variations to land management conditions of the pastoral lease, extend the term of a pastoral lease for 42 years, or
- if there are proposed variations to land management conditions of the pastoral lease, offer to extend the term of a pastoral lease for 42 years. If an offer is made, the lessee must accept the offer with variations to land management conditions for the lease extension to occur. If it is not accepted the offer is withdrawn and the lease is not extended. An offer made is valid for 12 months.<sup>h</sup>

<sup>h</sup> Section 26 of Pastoral Act

<sup>i</sup> Section 41 of Pastoral Act

<sup>j</sup> Section 43 of Pastoral Act

<sup>k</sup> Section 37 of Pastoral Act

## Land management and protection activities

There are several protection provisions the Board can impose if the Board is of the opinion that pastoral land has, from any cause, been damaged, or is likely to suffer damage or deterioration. To prevent, arrest or minimise damage to or deterioration of the land, or to rehabilitate the land, the Board may do the following:

- It may require the lessee to submit a property plan detailing proposed management of the pastoral land over a specified period.
  - If a lessee fails to comply, the Board may prepare a property plan and recover the cost from the lessee as a debt.
  - If a lessee fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the requirement, the failure constitutes a breach of the conditions of the pastoral lease.<sup>i</sup>
- It may issue a notice to destock or take other action which may include the following:
  - Removing a specified number of stock from the land or part of the land.
  - Keeping the amount of stock on the land or part of the land to a specified level or no stock at all.
  - Carrying out specified improvements to or land treatment works on the land.
  - Adopting or desisting from specified land management practices.
  - If a lessee fails to comply the Board may cause the required action to be carried out and recover the cost of doing so from the lessee.
    - If a lessee fails to comply with a notice, the failure constitutes a breach of the conditions of the pastoral lease.<sup>j</sup>

For any breaches of lease conditions, the Board can consider imposing a fine up to \$10,000 or cancelling a pastoral lease.<sup>k</sup>

## Verification of stock levels – stock returns

Annual livestock return forms (stock returns) are the primary way the Board captures stock numbers on a pastoral lease.

A lessee must by no later than 31 July each year, provide the Board with a statutory declaration of stock levels on the pastoral lease as of 30 June of that year.<sup>l</sup> Failure to do so without reasonable excuse, constitutes a breach of lease conditions. For a breach of lease conditions under this provision, the Board can consider imposing a fine up to \$10,000 or cancelling a pastoral lease.

The maximum level of stock specified in a lease is intended to provide a mechanism to ensure sustainable land management. A lessee must ensure that numbers of stock on the land do not exceed the maximum levels of stock specified in the lease, unless with prior approval of the Board.<sup>m</sup>

The Board continues to consider opportunities to help lessees effectively and efficiently meet their legislative obligations. One example is the use of online stock returns; while stock returns have historically been lodged in hard copy, an option to lodge an online stock return is now available to all lessees.

In addition to annual stock returns, the Board may, at any time, require a lessee to provide the Board, within a specified time, with a statutory declaration as to stock levels on the lands or require the lessee to muster stock to allow a person authorised by the Minister to count the stock. The statutory declaration must contain any such information the Board may require.<sup>n</sup>

If a lessee fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply it constitutes a breach of lease conditions.

## Alternative uses of pastoral land

A range of activities undertaken on pastoral land are managed under the Pastoral Act, including but not limited to pastoralism, conservation, carbon farming, tourism, telecommunications infrastructure, and workers camps. A range of other activities also take place on pastoral land that are governed by other legislation, such as mining and hydrogen and renewable energy developments.

In March 2024, the Parliament of South Australia made minor amendments to the Pastoral Act to enable pastoral leases to be used for conservation and carbon farming, with the approval of the Pastoral Board.

*The Change of Pastoral Land Use Guideline*<sup>5</sup> provides a guide for the Board's decision-making when considering applications to change the use of pastoral land, to support diversification and enable productive enterprises on pastoral land, while preserving the pastoral estate. The guideline outlines the information required to be provided for an application, and includes an *application form*.<sup>6</sup>

Below are some of the key alternative activities that lessees often undertake on their pastoral leases. All applications for a change of land use must be submitted to the Board for approval. If it is unclear whether a certain activity may require approval, contact the Pastoral Unit for advice at *DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au*

## Conservation

The Board can approve conservation as a primary land use on a portion of, or across a whole pastoral lease. The Pastoral Act defines conservation as:

*'conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems or native vegetation (including by way of heritage agreements or environmental benefits under the Native Vegetation Act 1991) or other ancillary conservation uses.'*

Environment offsets and heritage agreements under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* can be established on pastoral land and bind future owners to those agreements.

Application must be made to the Board for approval to change the purpose of part or all of a lease from pastoralism to conservation (and the reverse, to change from conservation to pastoralism), and the Board may impose certain conditions on that approval. More information will be included in the Board's updated Change of Land Use Guideline.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>l</sup> Section 42(1) of Pastoral Act

<sup>m</sup> Section 22(1)(b)(ii) of Pastoral Act

<sup>n</sup> Section 42(2) Pastoral Act

## Carbon farming

Carbon farming may be undertaken on pastoral leases in addition to the primary purpose of pastoralism or conservation. The Pastoral Act defines carbon farming as:

*'land management activities that avoid or reduce carbon in the atmosphere or sequester carbon in the landscape.'*

Application must be made to the Board for consideration of approval for a non-pastoral use (i.e. change of purpose). Depending on the nature of the project, the Board may deem it to be an ancillary operation to the primary use of the lease (either pastoralism or conservation).<sup>o</sup>

## Tourism

Tourism includes, but is not limited to, accommodation and camping, 4-wheel driving, 'farm tours', bicycle riding and bushwalking. Tourism operations may be undertaken on a pastoral lease with approval from the Board for a 'change of land use'.

In addition to approval from the Board, there are often other approvals required for tourism operations including, but not limited to, planning and development approval for infrastructure, health and safety aspects, and food service, depending on the nature of the operation. For further information refer to [Tourism SA](#).<sup>7</sup>

## Stock maximums

Each individual pastoral lease has a stock maximum which can be found on the lease title and Pastoral Unit records. In managing pastoral leases, the Board encourages all lessees to manage stock at sustainable levels and be mindful that the lease stock maximum is intended to reflect a maximum stocking rate in favourable (i.e. above average) conditions, rather than at all times.

Maximum stocking rates were originally determined at the first assessment under the Pastoral Act, by using the average numbers of stock as reported on annual stock returns over the previous 10 years, with adjustments based on district comparisons, and adding 20%. The additional 20% was intended to account for those years of favourable conditions where additional stock numbers could be run over and above the level run in average years.

Exceeding a lease's approved stock maximum constitutes a breach of lease conditions.

The Board is currently reviewing its policy regarding longer term or permanent stock maximum increases and is not considering such applications at this time.

## Temporary stock maximum applications

Lessees can apply for shorter term or temporary stock maximum increases for seasonal temporary increases when exceptional seasonal conditions allow for increased numbers of stock to be sustained on a lease for relatively short periods (less than 12 months). An [application form](#)<sup>8</sup> is available online and can be submitted to the Pastoral Unit at [DEW.pastoral@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.pastoral@sa.gov.au)

## Stock proof boundary fencing

It is a lease condition for lessees to 'maintain existing fencing in a stock proof condition', and failure to do so constitutes a breach of lease conditions.<sup>p</sup> This is a legal obligation regardless of the pastoral enterprise type (sheep, cattle or other approved stock species) stocking rates or other approved land use.

While the legal requirement to maintain fencing applies to all existing fencing, the Pastoral Board has developed a [Stock Proof Boundary Fencing Guideline](#)<sup>9</sup> specifically relating to boundary fencing which provides a framework for the Board to apply a consistent and transparent approach to lessees' compliance. It also identifies other matters that may be relevant to pastoral land fencing including: Native Title, obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, native vegetation and other obligations.

The Board has also developed a [Boundary Fencing Case Study](#)<sup>10</sup> document which outlines practical on-ground examples of how lessees have managed their boundary fencing obligations where one neighbour requires a different standard of fencing to another.

<sup>o</sup> Ancillary purposes include purposes which are associated with, connected to or support the primary use of the lease, whether pasturing of stock or conservation, but does not include purposes that are remotely or indirectly connected to the pasturing of stock or conservation.

<sup>p</sup> Section 22 (1)(b)(iv)

# Access to pastoral land

## Public Access Routes

A Public Access Route (PAR) is a designated route that allows members of the public to traverse defined areas of pastoral leases without needing permission from the lessee (pastoral lease holder). These routes are established under the Pastoral Act.<sup>q</sup>

Currently, there are 23 PARs gazetted in South Australia, covering approximately 727 kilometres. These routes are not formal roads, but unimproved dirt tracks designed for 4-wheel drive travel under dry conditions. Their purpose is to enable access to sites of interest such as Conservation Parks, National Parks and Historic Sites, which can only be reached by crossing a pastoral lease.

For a complete list of PARs, you can refer to the **Public Access Routes and Sites of Interest information**.<sup>q</sup> Camping along a PAR is allowed, however, with specific guidelines in place. Travelling across station tracks or camping on pastoral land outside of the PAR network requires consent from the lessee, and such actions without consent are prohibited and constitute an offense under the Act. More information can be found [here](#).<sup>11</sup>

The Board may temporarily close a PAR at the request of a lessee (on whose land the PAR lies) to:

- Ensure public safety
- Facilitate stock management activities
- Conduct rehabilitation work on adjacent land.

Requests for temporary closures from lessees should be submitted to the Pastoral Unit at [DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au) or (08) 8429 0333. The request will then be assessed for approval and a gazette notice published. Temporary closures are listed on the *Outback Roads Special Notices*.<sup>12</sup>

Once a PAR has been established, the lessee's general pastoral lease rights over the track cease and the care, control and management of a PAR becomes the responsibility of the Minister.

Lessees are not obliged to maintain PARs or keep stock off a PAR (and may use a PAR for the purposes of driving stock). If a lessee undertakes maintenance of a PAR without approval from DEW, they may be liable for any accidents that occur as a result of those repairs. Therefore, all maintenance requests must be submitted to the Pastoral Unit at [DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au)

## Review of Public Access Route management

In 2023–24 the Pastoral Unit undertook a PAR repair program with ex-cyclone Tiffany Flood Relief funding granted in 2022. The works focused on basic grading to address public safety hazards on 22 PARs covering approximately 660 km of unsealed dirt tracks. This included repairing defects such as corrugations, washouts, rutting, potholes, drainage and inadequate crossfall. More extensive repairs were undertaken on Level Post Bay (PAR 2), Halligan Bay (PAR 13) and Nonning (PAR 23) to address public safety risks associated with the higher volume of visitors using these routes and tourist destination PARs. New signs were also installed at the entrance and end of each PAR, to provide visitors with safety information.

A review of PAR management is being conducted in 2024–25 to examine options for the future management of PARs. This will involve extensive engagement across a broad range of stakeholders to identify risks, areas for improvement, opportunities and potential funding options for ongoing management.

## Rights of Aboriginal persons

The Pastoral Act allows Aboriginal people to enter, travel across or stay on pastoral land for the purposes of following traditional pursuits. Camping is not permitted within a radius of 1 kilometre of any house, shed or other outbuilding, or within a 500-metre radius of a dam or other stock watering point. The Pastoral Act does **not** require an Aboriginal person, following traditional pursuits, to seek permission from the lessee or notify the lessee.<sup>r</sup>

However, Aboriginal persons are encouraged to notify lessees to help ensure that traditional pursuits are not disrupted or endangered by lessee activities (e.g. stock mustering) and vice versa.

If an ILUA is in place, the conditions set out in that agreement, relating to the rights of Aboriginal persons, take priority over those set out in the Pastoral Act.<sup>s</sup>

<sup>q</sup> Section 47 of Pastoral Act

<sup>r</sup> Section 47(3) Pastoral Act

<sup>s</sup> Sections 48, 49 Pastoral Act



## Right to travel across and camp on pastoral land

If a person wishes to travel across pastoral land via motor vehicle, horse or camel, they may only do so with the consent of the relevant lessee or the Minister, and in the course of travelling, camp temporarily on the land. The person who proposes to travel across or camp on pastoral land must first seek the lessee's consent to the proposal and the lessee may refuse consent if they are of the opinion that it is necessary to do so for:

- the purposes of safety of the public
- the management of stock or carrying out rehabilitative work on the land
- any other good and sufficient reason.

If the lessee refuses consent, the person who wishes to travel on the pastoral land may seek the Minister's consent to the proposal, which the Minister may or may not grant. Camping is not permitted within a radius of 1 kilometre of any house, shed or other outbuilding, or within a 500 metre radius of a dam or other stock watering point.

<sup>t</sup> Sections 48, 49 Pastoral Act

A person may (subject to the terms of any Indigenous Land Use Agreement [ILUA]), on giving verbal or written notice to the lessee, travel across pastoral land (other than a public access route) by any means other than a motor vehicle, horse or camel, and in the course of travelling, camp temporarily on the land.

As a condition of pastoral leases, it is the lessee's obligation not to hinder or obstruct any person who is exercising, or attempting to exercise, a right of access to the land pursuant to the Pastoral Act or any other Act. Therefore, locks should not be placed on gates on pastoral land as there are certain cases where people are not required to seek lessee approval to travel across a lease.<sup>t</sup>

## Pastoral lease conditions and breaches

Section of Pastoral Act		Key information for pastoral lessee activities (general terms)
<b>22</b>	<b>Conditions of pastoral leases</b>	<p>Payment of annual rent, rates and taxes.</p> <p>Compliance with various other Acts, e.g. <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i>.</p> <p>Lessee must not hinder or obstruct any person who is exercising (or attempting to exercise) a right of access to the land under the Pastoral Act.</p> <p>*Can only pasture animal species specified in the lease, unless prior approval is sought from the Board.</p> <p>*Stock numbers cannot exceed the maximum specified in the lease, unless prior approval is sought from the Board.</p> <p>*Can only use the land for pastoral purposes unless prior approval is sought from the Board.</p> <p>*Obligation to maintain existing fences in stock proof condition.</p> <p>*Obligation to maintain existing waterpoints in proper working order.</p> <p>*Obligation to close off specified areas or close or move specified access points for purposes of rehabilitation of degraded land.</p> <p>*In relation to the Arkaroola Protection Area, the lessee is obliged to use the land in accordance with the 's obligation to use the management plan under the Arkaroola Protection Act 2012.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only conditions that can be varied by the Board are the land management conditions (marked with * above).</li> <li>• A lessee and the Board may enter into an agreement for the variation of the condition of a lease either at the request or with the consent of the lessee.</li> <li>• A minimum stocking rate for a pastoral lease is of no effect.</li> </ul>		
<b>41</b>	<b>Property plans</b>	The Board may require a lessee to submit a property plan if they are of the opinion the land has been or is likely to suffer degradation, or to arrest or minimise damage. If a lessee fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with this section, it constitutes a breach of lease conditions.
<b>42</b>	<b>Verification of stock levels</b>	The lessee must not later than 31 July each year submit a statutory declaration as to stock levels on the pastoral land as at 30 June that year. Failure to do so constitutes a breach of lease conditions.
<b>43</b>	<b>Notices to destock or take other action</b>	The Board may require destocking or other action if it is of the opinion the land has or is likely to suffer degradation, or to arrest or minimise damage. Failure to comply with a notice under this section constitutes a breach of lease conditions.
<b>Implications for breach of lease conditions</b>		
<b>37</b>	<b>Cancellation of lease conditions or imposition of fine on breach of conditions</b>	If lease conditions are breached the Board may impose a fine on the lessee of an amount not exceeding \$10,000 or cancel a pastoral lease.

## Other penalties

Section of Pastoral Act		Key information for pastoral lessee activities (general terms)
<b>35</b>	<b>Penalties for late payment of rent</b>	Penalties may be applied for late payment of rent.
<b>44</b>	<b>Reference areas</b>	<p>A lessee must not allow stock within a fenced reference area, and must inspect the area and its fences and make reports to the Board if required.</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$5,000)</b></p>
<b>46</b>	<b>Verification of stock levels</b>	<p>A person travelling with stock must comply with conditions set out in the Pastoral Act and regulations (i.e. the route that must be used and minimum distances to be travelled per day)</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$1,250)</b></p> <p>Where land is fenced a lessee must provide a gate or means of access where a stock route is intersected by a fence.</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$1,250)</b></p>
<b>48</b>	<b>Right to travel across and camp on pastoral land</b>	<p>An authorised person (pastoral lessee or employee or person acting on the authority of the lessee, or native title group in relation to an existing ILUA) may give directions that might be required to a person travelling across or camping on pastoral land where there is an ILUA.</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$1,250)</b></p>
<b>48 B</b>	<b>Trespassers on pastoral land the subject of an ILUA</b>	<p>If a person trespasses on pastoral land where there is an ILUA and fails to leave within 24 hours of being asked, a penalty may be imposed.</p> <p>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$2,500 or imprisonment for 6 months)</p> <p>A person who trespasses on pastoral land where there is an ILUA must, if asked to do so by an authorised person, give his or her name and address to the authorised person.</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$1,250)</b></p>
<b>49</b>	<b>Public access not to be obstructed</b>	<p>A person must not, without lawful authority, place any obstruction across a public access route or stock route.</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$1,250)</b></p> <p>If a fence intersects a public access route the lessee must provide a gate or means of access and keep any gates unlocked.</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$1,250)</b></p>

Section of Pastoral Act		Key information for pastoral lessee activities (general terms)
57	Misuse of pastoral land	<p>A person who, without lawful authority or excuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>occupies pastoral land</li> <li>brings animals onto pastoral land or causes or permits animals (for which the person is responsible) to enter or remain on pastoral land</li> <li>damages or interferes with pastoral land, or anything on pastoral land; or Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989—11.7.2024</li> <li>cuts down, lops branches from or otherwise damages any living tree or bush on pastoral land</li> <li>pollutes any water on the land, whether stored or a natural source of water</li> <li>deposits litter or abandons any goods on pastoral land</li> <li>erects or places any structure on pastoral land, or</li> <li>hunts or shoots on pastoral land, is guilty of an offence.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$10,000; expiation fee \$315)</b></p>
58	Notice to be given of cattle muster	<p>Notice must be given to neighbours prior to mustering cattle on pastoral land outside the dog fence at least 14 but not more than 28 days before mustering (unless an agreement is approved by the Board).</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$1,250)</b></p>
60	Policing powers	<p>An authorised officer may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>require any person who is on pastoral land without lawful authority or excuse to leave the land</li> <li>require any person reasonably suspected of having committed an offence in relation to pastoral land to state his or her name and address</li> <li>arrest any person on pastoral land who is reasonably suspected of having committed an offence in relation to pastoral land.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$2,500)</b></p>
63	Offence of hindering or obstructing person exercising powers under this Act	<p>A person who hinders or obstructs, uses offensive language or assaults a person exercising powers under the Pastoral Act is guilty of an offence.</p> <p><b>(Failure to comply – maximum penalty \$2,500; expiation fee \$210).</b></p>



# Part 2

## Further relevant legislation

In addition to the Pastoral Act discussed in Part 1 of this handbook, there is a range of other legislation that applies to pastoral land. It is a condition of all pastoral leases that the following Acts must be complied with (\* denotes more information is provided below):

- *Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (Landscape Act)\**
- *Dog Fence Act 1946*
- *Mining Act 1971*
- *Petroleum and Geothermal Act 2000*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- *Native Vegetation Act 1991\**
- *Plant Health Act 2009*

### **Landscape South Australia Act 2019**

The Landscape Act provides the framework for promoting sustainable and integrated management of land, water, pest plants and animals and biodiversity across the state.

*Landscape SA*<sup>13</sup> is the system for managing South Australia's landscapes, primarily through nine regional landscape Boards. You can find your regional Board [here](#).<sup>12</sup>

Landscape Boards invest landscape and water levies into regional priority issues as well as leveraging state government and Australian Government funding towards managing and protecting productive natural landscapes. Landscape Boards support building the capacity of local communities and land managers to be directly responsible for managing their region's natural resources.

Landscape Boards can provide information on managing water resources, sustainable land management practices and pest plant and animal control. Lists of declared animals and plants can be found [here](#).<sup>14</sup> While Landscape Boards are the responsible authority for undertaking compliance in relation to these matters under the Landscape Act, they also deliver targeted programs and provide assistance to landholders including coordinated pest, plant and animal, sustainable agriculture and production workshops. Each region details their priorities and plans on their website. Landscape Boards report to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water.

### **Native Vegetation Act 1991**

South Australia's native vegetation is protected by the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*. Native vegetation refers to any naturally occurring local plant species that is indigenous to South Australia, from small ground covers and native grasses to large trees and water plants. It also includes naturally occurring regrowth and in certain circumstances, dead trees.

The *Native Vegetation Act and Regulations*<sup>15</sup> aim to manage native vegetation on private and public land in SA, promoting the conservation, management and regeneration of native vegetation. The *Native Vegetation Council*<sup>16</sup> (NVC) is an independent body established under the Native Vegetation Act and monitors the overall condition of the state's vegetation and makes decisions on a wide range of matters concerning native vegetation in South Australia.

The Native Vegetation Act provides protection for native vegetation in SA and sets out a process for applying to clear vegetation, while the Regulations allow certain clearance activities to be exempt from the Act. More information on clearance associated with fire hazard reduction, vehicle tracks, fences, pipelines, dams and other waterpoints and grazing practices can be found [here](#).<sup>17</sup>

# Aboriginal Heritage and Native Title

## ***Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988***

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* protects Aboriginal remains and Aboriginal sites and objects and is separate to Native Title. The Aboriginal Heritage Act applies to all lands and waters within South Australia, not just Crown lands.

Aboriginal sites and objects are areas of land and objects that are of significance according to either Aboriginal tradition or Aboriginal archaeology, anthropology or history.

It is an offence for a person, without the authority of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, to:

- excavate for the purpose of uncovering any Aboriginal heritage<sup>u</sup>
- damage, disturb or interfere with an Aboriginal site, object or remains.<sup>v</sup>

In undertaking any works on land (or waters), a pastoral lessee needs to be aware of their obligation not to contravene the Aboriginal Heritage Act and seek independent legal advice as appropriate. Lessees can contact [\*Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation \(AAR\)\*](#)<sup>18</sup> for further information.

Early engagement with AAR and relevant Traditional Owners may assist in identifying whether Aboriginal heritage is known to (or may) exist in an area of proposed works. Guidance can then be sought on avoiding damaging, disturbing or interfering with Aboriginal heritage.

Although Native Title and the Aboriginal Heritage Act are distinct and different laws, where the area is determined Native Title land, early engagement could be commenced with the relevant Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC). The contact details for RNTBCs can be located on the Office of the [\*Registrar of Indigenous Corporations website\*](#).<sup>19</sup>

Should a lessee or their employee or agent discover Aboriginal remains on their pastoral land they should contact SA Police, and they must stop work to avoid unlawful interference with the heritage and report the discovery to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs as soon as practicable and comply with any direction from the Minister for the protection or preservation of the Aboriginal remains.<sup>w</sup>

## **Native Title, including *Native Title Act 1993* (Federal Legislation)**

Native Title describes the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and waters, according to their traditional laws and customs. Under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) Native Title claimants can make an application to the Federal Court to have their Native Title recognised by Australian Federal Law. Native Title may exist over areas of Crown land or waters, irrespective of whether there are any Native Title claims or determinations in the area.

- The use of Crown land as pastoral lease land does not extinguish Native Title. As a result, Native Title will usually co-exist with the lessee's rights on pastoral land. Where the Native Title rights and interests are inconsistent with rights and interests under the pastoral lease, the rights and interests granted by the pastoral lease will prevail.
- Lessees must only exercise rights granted to them under their pastoral lease. This will ensure that a lessee does not breach their lease, the Pastoral Act or any other laws, and avoids conflict with the surviving Native Title rights and interests.
- Lessees also need to be aware of their obligations under other laws, such as the *Mining Act 1971*, particularly when digging out minerals (including sand, gravel, stone, shell and clay) on pastoral land, such as from borrow pits, for use in fencing or other pastoral purposes.

## **Indigenous land use agreements**

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) is a voluntary agreement between Native Title parties and other people or bodies about the use and management of areas of land and/or waters. An ILUA can be made over areas where Native Title is determined, a claim has been made or where no Native Title claim has been made.

Some pastoral land in the state is covered by registered ILUAs. ILUAs are an agreement that can be used to modify some processes under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). ILUAs usually require compliance with a notification protocol before certain acts are undertaken and often include requirements for the lessee (or other non-Native Title signatories) to consider undertaking an Aboriginal heritage survey before undertaking certain works (should the Native Title holders request it). The obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* (outlined above) will, in any event, continue to apply.

<sup>u</sup> Section 21 Aboriginal Heritage Act

<sup>v</sup> Section 23 Aboriginal Heritage Act

<sup>w</sup> Sections 20(1) and 20(3) Aboriginal Heritage Act

Registered ILUAs are a contract between the signatories that bind the parties and all Native Title holders (whether or not party to the ILUA) for the area covered. Where an ILUA has been entered into by a lessee in relation to particular pastoral land, that ILUA continues to be binding on any future lessee of that land even though they were not the signatory to the ILUA.

Persons bound by an ILUA should consider their obligations under the ILUA where they propose to undertake, authorise or consent to activities on pastoral land that may affect Native Title. In order to know more, lessees should seek independent legal advice about their Native Title obligations, including what activities may affect native title.

ILUAs are listed on the [National Native Title Tribunal website](#).<sup>20</sup>

## Biosecurity and pest management

Primary Industries and Regions SA's (PIRSA) Biosecurity division manages the risks posed to South Australia by animal and plant pests and diseases, food borne illnesses and the misuse of rural chemicals. Currently, biosecurity is governed by several pieces of legislation:

- *Livestock Act 1997*
- *Plant Health Act 2009*
- *Impounding Act 1920*
- *Dog Fence Act 1946*

PIRSA is currently drafting a new *Biosecurity Bill*<sup>21</sup> for the state which will repeal and consolidate all the above listed legislation into a single piece of legislation.

Pest plants and animals are managed under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The *Regional Landscape Board*<sup>12</sup> works with land managers to identify and manage the pest, plant and animals they may encounter on their properties.

## Waterpoints

Installation of new, or modification of existing, waterpoints and associated infrastructure may require approval under several different pieces of legislation, including:

- *South Australian Landscape Act 2019*
- *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*

For more information please refer to the information sheet.<sup>22</sup>

## Mitigating fire risk on pastoral land

The clearance of vegetation for the purposes of fire prevention and control measures around dwellings and fence lines is permitted in the context of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

The Country Fire Service (CFS) advises that the best mitigation for fire risk is to ensure that lessees are establishing and maintaining fuel reduced areas around key assets and have a plan for a safe area to move livestock and machinery should it be required. In addition, earthmoving machinery can be used to create effective breaks up to 5 metres in width along boundary fences or roads to help establish a break within the vegetation which could inhibit the spread of fires.

Further information on fuel load reduction, permitted clearance parameters and compliance with the Native Vegetation Act can be found [here](#).<sup>23</sup>

The vast majority of the pastoral lease area falls within CFS Region 4 (Mid North, Flinders and Pastoral Areas), and lessees are strongly encouraged to contact the CFS if in need of further assistance or advice on mitigating fire risk on pastoral leases. For further information on the CFS regions and contacts, please visit the CFS page [here](#).

For more information on bushfire planning for livestock, including pets and horses, please visit the CFS's dedicated page, [here](#).<sup>24</sup>

## Stray/wandering livestock

Straying stock matters are governed by the *Livestock Act 1997* and the *Impounding Act 1920*, which PIRSA administers. For more information, contact [PIRSA Biosecurity here](#).<sup>25</sup>



# Part 3

## Frequently asked questions

### 1. What's the difference between the Pastoral Unit and Pastoral Board?

The Board is a statutory authority responsible to the Minister for administration of the Pastoral Act. The Board comprises six community members with various skills sets who are nominated by a range of organisations (Primary Producers SA, Livestock SA and Conservation Council of SA) and Ministers. They are appointed by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for a 3-year term.

The Pastoral Unit supports the Board and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water in administering pastoral leases in accordance with the Pastoral Act. The Pastoral Unit undertakes some functions on behalf of the Board and the Minister, under delegation.

### 2. What's the difference between assessments and inspections?

The Board must undertake a land condition assessment of each pastoral lease every 14 years. The assessment process comprises three stages: desktop assessment, on-ground field assessment and assessment report. The on-ground component assesses land condition across the majority of a pastoral lease (via waterpoints and photopoints) to determine current land condition and identify areas of potential degradation. Depending on the size of the lease, an assessment may take multiple days.

Following an assessment, lease terms are extended (or offered to be extended).

The Board may undertake an inspection of a pastoral lease at any time to monitor compliance with particular matters or investigate potential breaches under the Pastoral Act. An inspection is generally shorter than an assessment and considers a more limited range of specific matters.

### 3. What is my stock maximum and how do I get approval to increase it?

Each individual pastoral lease has a stock maximum which can be found on the lease title and Pastoral Unit records. It is the maximum amount of stock you can manage on your lease at any point in time, and exceeding it constitutes a breach of lease conditions which may result in imposition of a fine or cancellation of the lease.

Maximum stocking rates were originally determined at the first land condition assessment under the Pastoral Act, by using the average numbers of stock as reported on annual stock returns over the previous 10 years, with adjustments based on district comparisons, and adding 20%. The additional 20% was intended to account for those years of favourable conditions where additional stock numbers could be run over and above the level run in average years.

Lessees can apply for shorter term (temporary stock maximum) increases for seasonal temporary increases when exceptional seasonal conditions allow for increased numbers of stock to be sustained on a lease for relatively short periods (less than 12 months). An *application form*<sup>7</sup> is available online and can be submitted to the Pastoral Unit at [DEW.pastoral@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.pastoral@sa.gov.au)

The Board is reviewing its policy regarding longer-term or permanent stock maximum increases and will consider applications once the policy is finalised.

#### **4. Why do we need to complete a stock return and why does it need to be witnessed?**

The Pastoral Act requires all lessees to submit a statutory declaration as to stock levels on the pastoral lease as at 30 June of that year (must be submitted by 31 July each year). This provides the Pastoral Board with regular information on stock levels on each lease to help the Board administer the Act.

Statutory declarations are a type of legal statement that must be signed by an authorised witness under the *Oaths Act 1936*. There is an expanded list of authorised witnesses that now includes (among others):

- A registered conveyancer
- A justice of the peace
- A police officer
- A bank officer (with more than 5 years' continuous service)
- A registered health practitioner
- A marriage celebrant
- A full-time teacher (school or tertiary)
- A veterinary surgeon.

For the full list of authorised witnesses visit the [Attorney-General's Department | Authorised Witnesses](#).

#### **5. How much vegetation can be cleared for installation and maintenance of vehicle tracks, fences and pipelines? Do I need approval under the Native Vegetation Act?**

Clearance for fences, tracks and pipelines is governed by the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. For the following clearances, you do not need to apply to clear native vegetation, providing you do not exceed the defined distances, however notification to the Native Vegetation Unit is required:

- clearance is limited to the extent required to obtain access
- a maximum of 10 m wide (or less) for a property boundary fence (5 m each side of the fence). Note, you must obtain permission from the landowner including if it is a government agency.
- a total maximum of 5 m wide (or less) for a dividing fence on a single property.
- Establishing or maintaining existing tracks: 5m
- conditions may apply, view the [Native Vegetation website](#)<sup>27</sup> for confirmation.

Clearance of native vegetation associated with new troughs and associated infrastructure, including tanks and pipelines are set out on the [Native Vegetation website – Infrastructure: construct or expand](#).<sup>28</sup>

#### **6. Can I install a new waterpoint? What permission do I need?**

You are likely to need approval from the Native Vegetation Council, Landscape Board and other bodies if you are expanding waterpoints or establishing new waterpoints. More information can be found [here](#).

#### **7. To speed up recovery of degraded areas can I direct-seed native plants?**

Only if the native seed is sourced from your own or an adjacent property.

## **8. Can I manage other stock species on my pastoral lease (i.e. goats, camels)?**

Pastoral lease conditions specify that only sheep and cattle may be pastured on pastoral leases, except with prior approval of the Board. The Board has not approved pasturing of other species on pastoral leases at this time.

## **9. How can I engage with the commercial kangaroo industry?**

As the landholder or land manager you are encouraged to engage a permitted kangaroo field processor to harvest kangaroos from your property. DEW recommends contacting the kangaroo meat processors to assist you in finding a kangaroo field processor to harvest on your property. Alternatively, you or your employee could become a kangaroo field processor; DEW offers a reduced permit fee for people to harvest kangaroos from one property. For more information please contact [DEW Kangaroo Management Program](#).<sup>29</sup> There is also a [Kangaroo Management Information for Landholders Fact sheet](#)<sup>30</sup> and a [Kangaroo Field Processor Factsheet](#)<sup>31</sup> online.

## **10. Who do I contact to get destruction permits for kangaroos and other native wildlife (i.e. emus, wombats etc.)?**

Permits are required for the destruction of any protected wildlife species, and may be granted to allow property owners to destroy animals that are causing or likely to cause damage to the environment or crops, stock or property, or pose a health and/or safety risk.

To manage protected species, including non-commercial destruction of kangaroos, contact your nearest National Parks and Wildlife office. Information and permit application forms can also be found on the DEW [website](#).<sup>32</sup>

## **11. What if boundary fencing isn't in stockproof condition? Who is responsible to fix it? What if neighbours disagree about its quality?**

The Pastoral Act requires all lessees to maintain existing fencing in a stockproof condition regardless of the approved use of the pastoral lease, e.g. pastoral or conservation purposes. This is a legal obligation regardless of the pastoral enterprise type (sheep, cattle or other approved stock species), stocking rates or land use (where there is approval to undertake a non-pastoral purpose). The Board's [Stockproof Boundary Fencing guideline](#)<sup>8</sup> provides a framework to apply a consistent approach to lessees' compliance with boundary fencing obligations.

When one landholder requires a different or higher standard of boundary fencing than the other, neighbours sometimes disagree about cost-sharing arrangements and fencing standards. When a resolution cannot be negotiated, lessees often seek the Board's assistance. However, the Pastoral Board has no role in determining cost-sharing arrangements, who is responsible for undertaking fencing works and the type of fence that is constructed. These matters must be negotiated and resolved between lessees themselves. The Board has developed a [document outlining practical on-ground examples of scenario appropriate fencing assist](#)<sup>9</sup> lessees with fencing arrangements where one neighbour requires a different standard of fencing to another. Information on general fencing matters including the need, costs, or nature of fence construction is available from the Legal Services Commission.



# Part 4 Other resources

## Useful agency contacts

Agency	Website	Phone number and email
<b>Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation</b>	<a href="#"><u>Contact   Attorney-General's Department</u></a> <sup>33</sup>	P: (08) 7322 7057 AboriginalAffairsandReconciliation@sa.gov.au
<b>CFS Region 4 – Flinders, Mid North and Pastoral</b>	<a href="#"><u>Contact us - CFS</u></a> <sup>34</sup>	P: (08) 8642 2399 CFS.Region4@eso.sa.gov.au
<b>CFS Region 3 – Murraylands and Riverland</b>	<a href="#"><u>Contact us - CFS</u></a> <sup>26</sup>	P: (08) 8532 6800 CFS.region3@eso.sa.gov.au
<b>Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) – Outback Road Warnings</b>	<a href="#"><u>Outback Road Warnings</u></a> <sup>35</sup>	P: 1300 361 033
<b>Isolated Children's Parent's Association</b>	<a href="#"><u>Contact the Federal Council   ICPA</u></a> <sup>36</sup>	
<b>Kangaroo Management</b>	<a href="#"><u>DEW Kangaroo Conservation &amp; Management</u></a> <sup>37</sup>	P: (08) 8648 5318
<b>Landscape South Australia – Eyre Peninsula</b>	<a href="#"><u>Landscape South Australia - Eyre Peninsula   Contact us</u></a> <sup>38</sup>	P: (08) 8688 3200 EPLBAdmin@sa.gov.au
<b>Landscape South Australia – Murraylands and Riverland</b>	<a href="#"><u>Landscape South Australia - Murraylands and Riverland   Contact us</u></a> <sup>39</sup>	P: (08) 8580 1800 Mr.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au
<b>Landscape South Australia – Northern and Yorke</b>	<a href="#"><u>Landscape South Australia - Northern and Yorke   Contact us</u></a> <sup>40</sup>	P: (08) 8841 3444 ny.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au
<b>Landscape South Australia – SA Arid Lands</b>	<a href="#"><u>Landscape South Australia - SA Arid Lands   Contact us</u></a> <sup>41</sup>	P: (08) 8429 9666 SAALLandscapeBoard@sa.gov.au
<b>National Native Title Tribunal</b>	<a href="#"><u>Contact (nntt.gov.au)</u></a> <sup>42</sup>	P: (07) 3052 4040 Enquiries@nntt.gov.au
<b>Native Vegetation Branch</b>	<a href="#"><u>DEW Contact Native Vegetation Team</u></a> <sup>43</sup>	P: (08) 8303 9777 NVC@sa.gov.au
<b>Outback Communities Authority</b>	<a href="#"><u>Contacts   Outback Communities Authority</u></a> <sup>44</sup>	P: (08) 7133 3500 oca@sa.gov.au
<b>Pastoral Unit</b>	<a href="#"><u>Department for Environment and Water - Pastoral Unit</u></a> <sup>45</sup>	P: (08) 8429 0333 DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au DEW.PastoralTenure@sa.gov.au
<b>PIRSA</b>	<a href="#"><u>contact - PIRSA</u></a> <sup>46</sup>	
<b>PIRSA – Family and Business (FaB) mentors</b>	<a href="#"><u>Family and Business Mentors (pir.sa.gov.au)</u></a> <sup>47</sup>	P: 1800 931 314 PIRSA.Recovery@sa.gov.au
<b>Rural Business Support Services</b>	<a href="#"><u>Rural Business Support</u></a> <sup>48</sup>	P: 1800 836 211 enquiries@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au

## Health and emergency services contacts

Agency	Website	Phone number and email
<b>Are You Bugged Mate?</b>	<a href="#"><i>Are you bogged mate?</i></a> <sup>49</sup>	
<b>Beyond Blue</b>	<a href="#"><i>Beyond Blue</i></a> <sup>50</sup>	1300 224 636
<b>Hospitals – SA Health</b>	<a href="#"><i>Hospitals   SA Health</i></a> <sup>51</sup>	Emergency 000
<b>Lifeline</b>	<a href="#"><i>Lifeline</i></a> <sup>52</sup>	13 11 14
<b>Royal Flying Doctor Service – Alice Springs Base</b>	<a href="#"><i>RFDS Bases</i></a> <sup>53</sup>	(08) 8958 8600
<b>Royal Flying Doctor Service – Broken Hill Base</b>	<a href="#"><i>RFDS Bases</i></a> <sup>45</sup>	(08) 8080 3777
<b>Royal Flying Doctor Service – Port Augusta Base</b>	<a href="#"><i>RFDS Bases</i></a> <sup>45</sup>	(08) 8648 9500
<b>SA Police</b>	<a href="#"><i>SAPOL – Find Your Local Police Station</i></a> <sup>54</sup>	Emergency 000 Police Assistance Line 131 444 Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
<b>Sober in the Country</b>	<a href="#"><i>Sober in the country</i></a> <sup>55</sup>	P: (08) 8841 3444 ny.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

## Avenza Maps

Avenza Maps is a free app that uses your smartphone's GPS for tracking and navigation on maps. Maps are available for free, purchased from the App Store/Google Play Store or can be provided by the Pastoral Unit.

### App features include the following:

- Locate your realtime GPS position and find direction, even when offline
- Record GPS tracks during your activities
- Navigate to features using compass tools
- Add photos and notes to any location
- Add placemarks to your map and style them with recreational symbols
- Measure distances and estimate times
- Supports KML, GPX, and CSV formats.

Upon request and with lessee consent, the Pastoral Unit can provide a georeferenced station map to upload onto the Avenza Maps app. These maps can be used to traverse your property, collect data and pinpoint locations. Any data that is collected can be extracted and provided to the Unit as a means to update the base map. The Unit has developed a [\*Training Guide for Pastoral Use\*](#).

# Appendix 1

## Referenced web links

- [legislation.sa.gov.au/\\_/legislation/lz/c/a/pastoral%20land%20management%20and%20conservation%20act%201989/current/1989.51.auth.pdf](https://legislation.sa.gov.au/_/legislation/lz/c/a/pastoral%20land%20management%20and%20conservation%20act%201989/current/1989.51.auth.pdf)
- [cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Pastoral-Board-Strategic-Plan-2023-25.pdf](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Pastoral-Board-Strategic-Plan-2023-25.pdf)
- [environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/pastoral-board](https://environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/pastoral-board)
- [www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/landscape-sa/pastoral-leases-in-south-australia/pastoral-lease-tenure-forms](https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/landscape-sa/pastoral-leases-in-south-australia/pastoral-lease-tenure-forms)
- [cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Pastoral-Board-Guideline-Change-of-Pastoral-Land-Use-16-September-2024.pdf](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Pastoral-Board-Guideline-Change-of-Pastoral-Land-Use-16-September-2024.pdf)
- [cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Change-of-Pastoral-Land-Use-Application-Form-16-September-2024.pdf](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Change-of-Pastoral-Land-Use-Application-Form-16-September-2024.pdf)
- [tourism.sa.gov.au/support/atdw/getting-started](https://tourism.sa.gov.au/support/atdw/getting-started)
- [cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Seasonal-stock-max-application-form-2024-v2.pdf](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Seasonal-stock-max-application-form-2024-v2.pdf)
- [cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Pastoral-board-guideline-stock-proof-boundary-fencing\\_2024-05-17-060454\\_afxu.pdf](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Pastoral-board-guideline-stock-proof-boundary-fencing_2024-05-17-060454_afxu.pdf)
- [cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Boundary-Fencing-on-Pastoral-Leases-Case-Study.pdf](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Boundary-Fencing-on-Pastoral-Leases-Case-Study.pdf)
- [environment.sa.gov.au/topics/landscape-sa/pastoral-leases-in-south-australia/par-sa](https://environment.sa.gov.au/topics/landscape-sa/pastoral-leases-in-south-australia/par-sa)
- [dit.sa.gov.au/outbackroads/outback\\_road\\_warnings/special\\_notices](https://dit.sa.gov.au/outbackroads/outback_road_warnings/special_notices)
- [landscape.sa.gov.au/](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/)
- [pir.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/231924/animal\\_and\\_plant\\_declaration\\_list.pdf](https://pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/231924/animal_and_plant_declaration_list.pdf)
- [environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/legislation-administration](https://environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/legislation-administration)
- [environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/native-vegetation-council](https://environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/native-vegetation-council)
- [environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation](https://environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation)
- [agd.sa.gov.au/aboriginal-affairs-and-reconciliation](https://agd.sa.gov.au/aboriginal-affairs-and-reconciliation)
- [oric.gov.au/](https://oric.gov.au/)
- [nntt.gov.au/ILUAs/Pages/default.aspx](https://nntt.gov.au/ILUAs/Pages/default.aspx)
- [pir.sa.gov.au/legislative\\_reform/biosecurity\\_bill#:~:text=Under%20the%20Biosecurity%20Bill%2C%20every,stock%20separate%20from%20healthy%20stock.](https://pir.sa.gov.au/legislative_reform/biosecurity_bill#:~:text=Under%20the%20Biosecurity%20Bill%2C%20every,stock%20separate%20from%20healthy%20stock.)
- [cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Get-up-to-date-with-waterpoint-approvals-on-SAs-pastoral-land-October-2024.pdf](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Get-up-to-date-with-waterpoint-approvals-on-SAs-pastoral-land-October-2024.pdf)
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- [cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/pets-livestock/](https://cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/pets-livestock/)
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- [agd.sa.gov.au/services-support/JP-witnesses/authorised-witnesses](https://agd.sa.gov.au/services-support/JP-witnesses/authorised-witnesses)
- [environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/clearing](https://environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/clearing)
- [environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/clearing/infrastructure-construct-or-expand](https://environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/clearing/infrastructure-construct-or-expand)
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- [cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Landholder-factsheet\\_July-2022.pdf](https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/Landholder-factsheet_July-2022.pdf)
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- [environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-permits/permit-types/manage-control-destroy-native-animals](https://environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-permits/permit-types/manage-control-destroy-native-animals)
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- [landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/contact-us](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/contact-us)
- [landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/contact-us](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/contact-us)
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- [nntt.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/Our-offices.aspx](https://nntt.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/Our-offices.aspx)
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- [ruralbusinesssupport.org.au/](https://ruralbusinesssupport.org.au/)
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- [lifeline.org.au/?gad\\_s](https://lifeline.org.au/?gad_s)
- [flyingdoctor.org.au/about-the-rfds/our-bases/](https://flyingdoctor.org.au/about-the-rfds/our-bases/)
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