

# Information sheet

## Natural Resource Management

### Ancillary activities for grazing authorities

*This sheet summarises the common types of ancillary activities undertaken by graziers on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) managed areas which supports the conduct of their grazing operation, the circumstances where such ancillary approvals are likely to be approved and the procedure to be followed when applying for approval.*

#### Background

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) managed protected areas (e.g. national parks, conservation parks and resources reserves) and State forests are important public assets and have intrinsic natural and cultural values that include conservation, biodiversity, forest products, environmental values, landscape, recreation, community or cultural significance. Grazing is an appropriate secondary use of some QPWS managed land where it is compatible with existing values and legislation.

While grazing is not consistent with national park tenure, grazing does occur on some national parks as a legacy of previous use. Grazing on QPWS managed areas can be authorised as a term lease/special lease or rolling term lease (grazing lease) under the *Land Act 1994* (Land Act), or by a stock grazing permit (SGP) under either the *Nature Conservation (Protected Area Management) Regulation* (NC(PAM)Reg) or *Forestry Act 1959* (Forestry Act). If the proposal occurs in a world heritage area a separate approval may be required.

It is common for grazing authorities to contain a requirement for a further approval for activities which potentially impact the values of the area or that require some other form of assessment, conditioning or decision making.

These are ancillary approvals and may include:

- building, replacing or removing structural improvements such as cattle yards, fencing, artificial waters and new access roads;
- undertaking land management activities, such as fire and pest management;
- changing key elements of the grazing enterprise, such as increasing or decreasing maximum approved stock numbers;
- introducing stock feed;
- using firearms;
- effecting changes to the management of the authority area, such as through subleasing and agistment of stock; and
- removing or thinning vegetation for works or maintenance.

Graziers seeking approval to undertake ancillary activities should also refer to the *Operational policy – Ancillary activities for grazing authorities*.

## **Common ancillary approvals**

### **Agistment and subleasing**

Ancillary activities that involve subleasing and agistment on QPWS managed areas will only be approved on a short-term arrangement, for periods of no longer than 12 months for agistment and 5 years for a sublease.

Subleasing and agistment for a term lease or rolling term lease under the Land Act are managed by the Department of Resources (DoR). Applicants will need to apply via DoR, who will consult QPWS&P where applicable.

### **Transfers**

SGPs under the Forestry Act may be transferred from one owner to another, provided that the new permit holder does not have a history of poor performance as a grazer, the transfer will not require new works, and the SGP is not within one year of expiry.

Transfers of SGPs on protected areas issued under the NC(PAM)Reg will not be approved.

### **Works to construct or alter improvements**

New improvements will only be approved in limited circumstances including where the improvement is relevant to the grazing enterprise and will not interfere with other users of the area. Applications to alter existing improvements or structures are required if the structure is owned by QPWS&P or is proposed to be decommissioned, or where the works will result in a significant expansion of an improvement. The *Operational policy – Ancillary activities for grazing authorities* outlines other circumstances in which works to construct or alter improvements are likely to be approved.

### **Fencing**

Ancillary approval must be obtained for all authority area, boundary and internal fencing that it is not explicitly approved in the Property Resource Management Plan (PRMP) for the grazing authority. Refer to the *Information sheet – Boundary fencing* for more information.

### **Clearing and thinning vegetation**

Any removal of vegetation beyond already cleared areas (for example, to widen, reroute or otherwise substantially alter an existing track or firebreak) requires an ancillary approval. The *Operational policy – Ancillary activities for grazing authorities* provides more details.

### **Conducting burning operations**

Ancillary approval is required for any burn operations undertaken by the grazing authority holder under their PRMP. Grazing authority holders firstly need to contact QPWS and assist in preparing a burn proposal and obtain approval from the local QPWS&P senior ranger to burn in the authority area, to ensure the prevailing seasonal and forecasted weather conditions are appropriate, and then obtain a 'Permit to Light Fire' issued by a Fire Warden under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*. On the day of the burn a 'Go to Burn' approval is issued by QPWS&P, which enables the burn to go ahead (as per the conditions in the approved burn plan).

Refer to the *Operational policy – Ancillary activities for grazing authorities* for more information on how to apply for an ancillary approval to undertake burning operations.

### **Domestic animals and non-native plants**

Ancillary approvals are required to introduce domestic animals unless they are necessary for the management of stock, such as dogs and horses. Ancillary approvals for non-grazing related domestic animals and non-native plants will only be given if the authority holder has a permanent dwelling on the authority area (noting that the construction of houses or dwellings is not supported).

Ancillary approvals for the introduction of non-native plants or plant material into State forests and timber reserves will only be granted in limited circumstances. Refer to the *Operational policy – Ancillary activities for grazing authorities* for more information. Non-native plants or plant material cannot be introduced to protected areas for grazing purposes under any circumstances.

Authority holders may be required to eradicate any non-native animal or plant inadvertently introduced to the authority area by their activities.

### **Removal, alteration or use of existing QPWS&P assets**

Ancillary approvals are required for the removal, alteration or use of an existing QPWS&P asset that is not specifically provided for in the PRMP.

### **Pest management**

Ancillary approval must be sought for any pest control methods, including those undertaken to fulfil the authority holder's General Biosecurity Obligation (as per the *Biosecurity Act 2014*) that are not provided for in the PRMP. Refer to the *Operational policy – Ancillary activities for grazing authorities* and *Operational policy – Management of pests on QPWS managed land* for more information.

### **Use of firearms**

A grazing authority does not authorise the use of firearms. This authorisation must be obtained by a separate process prior to the use of firearms for any purpose. QPWS&P may authorise the use of firearms by grazing authority holders for the humane destruction of sick or injured livestock and/or for the control of pest animals. An authorisation to use firearms can only be granted to a specified individual, and a separate approval is required for each person who seeks to use firearms as part of the grazing operation. Refer to the *Operational policy – Ancillary activities for grazing authorities* for more information.

### **How to apply**

Written approvals and authorities can be applied for using the Application form – Grazing ancillary activities on the DES website at [www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au) (search 'grazing ancillary activities'). Applications can be submitted to QPWS&P via email.

The following information may be required:

- the name of the QPWS managed area with relevant lot on plan details;
- an A4 administrative plan, or survey plan, or digital spatial data showing the location of the proposed activity;
- details of the proposed ancillary activity, including how cultural heritage duty of care will be managed; and
- a letter of support from the primary permit holder (for agistment/subleasing or transfers only).

### **Application procedure**

For ancillary approvals under any grazing authority issued over a QPWS managed area:

- (a) It is recommended that the applicant seek pre-lodgement advice from QPWS&P regarding the proposed ancillary activity.
- (b) Where ancillary approval is required, an application must be submitted using the *Application form – Grazing ancillary activities* and be submitted to the relevant QPWS office. The exception to this is proposals for subleasing of a grazing term or rolling term lease, for which an application is submitted to DoR. DoR will direct applicants for all other ancillary activities in relation to term or rolling term leases to QPWS&P.

- (c) An assessing officer is assigned and reviews the application to ensure it is complete and contains all information required to allow proper assessment. The assessing officer may contact the applicant (or DoR, in the case of subleasing applications) if additional information is required.
- (d) A site inspection may be undertaken by QPWS&P for any ancillary activities with a defined spatial component, such as clearing or construction of infrastructure, in order to confirm the findings of the assessment or to investigate whether the impacts of a particular ancillary activity can be mitigated or avoided.
- (e) The applicant will be notified of the outcome of the assessment in writing. *Where an application is approved*, the applicant will receive a written approval or authority that includes all relevant terms and conditions as appropriate for the activity. The written approval takes effect from the date that it is issued. *If the application is refused*, the applicant will receive a written notice that includes the specific reason(s) for refusal.
- (f) If the ancillary approval is for new infrastructure or clearing, QPWS&P may conduct a site inspection following notification from the grazing authority holder that works are completed.

## **Reference materials**

*Application form – Grazing ancillary activities*

*Operational Policy – Ancillary activities for grazing authorities*

## **Legislation**

*Biosecurity Act 2014*

*Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*

*Forestry Act 1959*

*Land Act 1994*

*Nature Conservation Act 1992*

**Human Rights Act 2019 compatibility**

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the [Human Rights Act 2019](#), the department has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights. When acting or making a decision under this information sheet, officers must comply with that obligation (refer to [Comply with Human Rights Act](#)).

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**Approved By**

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Signature

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Date

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