

Managing Travelling Stock Reserves through drought

August 2018

When Local Land Services Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) have reached a condition where further stock grazing is likely to significantly damage the soils and vegetation, grazing may need to be reduced or stopped. The following outlines the factors that affect the decision and approval process.

Accessing Travelling Stock Reserves in drought

The procedure applies only to walking stock permits and short term grazing permits. Roadside grazing permits are approved by Local Government and is not within scope of this procedure. Longer term leases such as five year long term grazing permits and Stock Water Places leases are outside the scope of this procedure and managed under other arrangements. This procedure does not apply in a declared emergency event where TSRs may be used as refuge areas for livestock. This procedure applies to district, sub regional and regional scale decisions. It may not apply to isolated reserves or groups of reserves where specific local management decisions are more effectively applied.

Legislation and Guidelines

Stock use permit issuance is legislated under Section 78 of *Local Land Services Act 2013*. Under this Section LLS 'may' issue a permit. LLS would not issue a permit where a logical reason exists. Damage to vegetation and soils is an adequate reason in this case, and this rationale underpins regional and sub regional scale 'Destination Only or TSR Closure' actions. The procedure is applied when Local Government Areas (LGA) are approaching the defined critical groundcover condition thresholds. Soils below these critical groundcover thresholds for the relevant LGA are at high risk of significant soil and vegetation degradation.

Additionally, LLS may consider other factors in the decision such as feed utilisation levels and water availability.

Want to know more?

Visit the website www.lls.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 795 299.

Definitions

- Destination Only – Stock owners are required to nominate a destination where stock will directly walk too and be removed from the TSR network. Monthly grazing permits may still be placed where ground cover levels allow.
- TSR Closure – No short term or walking stock permits can be issued where the TSR is closed.
- Short term permit – Grazing permit less than three months (90 days)
- Long term grazing permit – Grazing permit longer than 90 days, normally five years.



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