Meat Research Corporation (MRC)

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M.792 Current & Future Resource Management Legislation & Policies affecting Northern Australian Rangelands

December 1995

Prepared by

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Sector: 140 Client: C Type: C

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study is the result of a request from the Meat Research Corporation to provide a summary of major resource management policies and legislation as they relate, or could, relate to the management of natural resources in the northern pastoral zone (or the rangelands) of Australia. For the purpose of this study, the review of legislation and policies is confined to the states of Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The study also provides a brief analysis of potential areas for industry action in relation to these policies and legislation.

1.1 Background

There are an increasing number of strategies and pieces of legislation which impact on the operation of rangelands in Australia. Legislation is almost entirely controlled by the State/Territory with the Commonwealth generally confined to influencing policy through national strategies. Treaties are largely covered under Commonwealth policies, and generally have not been legislated. World Heritage and Native Title are, however exceptions that have been legislated by the Commonwealth. While Local Government Legislation is changing and this level of government does have powers concerning environmental actions, they were considered beyond the scope of this study in relation to rangeland matters. International treaties have not been considered in this report as their intent is considered to be covered by Commonwealth strategies and policies.

1.2 Outline of this report

Part A of the report provides a brief overview of the issues and policies as they relate to rangeland legislation in the relevant State/Territory/Commonwealth legislation. Part B provides a summary of the key components of legislation. The summary has been provided in tabular form to assist readability. Core topics are:

- acquisitions
- animal pests
- fire management
- habitat area
- Landcare
- land degradation
- native title
- plant pests
- residue traceback
- stocking rate
- vegetation clearing
- water access
- world heritage

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Additionally, topics such as rural adjustment, and the Rural Partnership Program could be said to impact on rangeland management.

For each topic the relevant State/Territory legislation and appropriate Commonwealth strategy has been collated with issue, community attitude/impact and relevant Acts and Regulations cited. Given the constraints imposed on this study, those pieces of legislation identified by State/Territory industry representative groups as being most relevant to their needs were selected for detailed review.

1.3 Disclaimer

RCS Hassall Pty Ltd expressly disclaims any and all liability to any person in respect of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document. No reader should act only on the basis of anything contained in this document.

This document has been prepared for the benefit of the Meat Research Corporation and for the purpose of helping primary producers in rangeland areas, and others become acquainted with the laws affecting the operation of primary industries businesses in rangeland areas. This document is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice about a particular problem.

2. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

2.1 Commonwealth

The Commonwealth has a range of strategies which directly impact on rangelands. The major strategies are:

- National Strategy for Rangeland Management
- National Drought Strategy
- National Strategy for the Conservation of Australian Species and Ecological Communities Threatened with Extinction
- National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity
- National Greenhouse Response Strategy
- National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development
- National Weed Strategy
- National Water Quality Management Strategy

In addition to these core strategies, there are the following major programs initiated by the Commonwealth:

- Commonwealth, State and Territories Decade of Landcare Plan
- Australian Collaborative Land Evaluation Program
- National Reserves System

Two Commonwealth programs are considered important for current and future direction within Australian rangelands. The first is the National Strategy for Rangelands Management. While this strategy is still under preparation, it is intended to be the overarching strategy for guiding Commonwealth policy in rangelands. The national Landcare Program (NLP), through the Landcare program itself and the Integrated Catchment Management programs, are targeting community members to increase awareness of natural resource management issues and to involve stakeholders directly in decision making.

2.2 State/Territory Agencies and Acts

The major State/Territory agencies which have direct impact on rangelands and the relevant Acts are summarised in Table 1.

These agencies administer the portfolios with varying degrees of adherence to the Acts.

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Table 1: Summary of lead agencies and relevant acts			

3. SUMMARY OF KEY REVIEWS

Rangeland management can be influenced and directed from two perspective's. The first is the "stick" or legislative framework which, if drafted clearly, reflects the boundaries that society places on the use of the land. The second is the "carrot" where governments and community are working together to build sustainable management practices, most commonly through Landcare and, more recently, Integrated (or Total) Catchment Management. The former may be regarded as a "top-down" approach while the latter is attempting to be a "bottoms-up" approach. Community pressure is driving governments in all States/Territory to review rangeland legislation to ensure sustainability practices are embedded in all legislation.

Comprehensive reviews of legislation and/or policies which are recent and relevant are limited. Two relatively recent reviews are summarised. The first is a review of rangeland related legislation while the second is a review of government policies relating to Catchment Management planning. They are considered to provide a comprehensive summary of the key issues relating to the approaches adopted by governments to guide land management.

3.1 A Review of Land Management Legislation Relevant to Australian Rangelands

Reviews of legislation relating to rangelands are scarce with the most recent by Ledgar (1994). Readers are referred to that document for full details, however the key issues raised by Ledgar are summarised here. Ledgar has reviewed the effectiveness of rangeland legislation against 10 criteria which he suggests are the foundation stones for rangeland management from a community conservation perspective. Table 2 collates his comments.

Table 2: An assessment of rangeland legislation effectiveness Issue General Comments Ledgar's Comparison of			
Issue	Issue General Comments (within document)		
A firm commitment to tenure as the primary management tool for rangelands	 convenants must be binding to-date tenure in most states/territories has not been used effectively. Forfeiture has been the only penalty for breach rather than a sliding scale of sanctions 	 SA only state whose legislation attempts to meet this condition. NT attempts in part while QLD and WA do not 	
Crown responsibility for preventing and averting land degradation	 past history indicates a lack of commitment in all states/territories there is wide non-rural support for environmentally sensitive policies the push for Landcare and community-led solutions is seen by many as governments abdicating their role community-led solutions have not worked in the past (US) and adoption of practices too slow 	 SA Act most supportive of governments' role in assessing condition of properties - results of assessment are not subject to appeal NT & WA give qualified support. In the NT the Minister has the final say, while in WA the provisions of the Act are not carried out 	

Table 2: An assessment of rangeland legislation effectiveness				
Issue	General Comments (within document)	Ledgar's Comparison of State/Territory Legislation		
3. Expert assessment, monitoring and management using best, practicable technology	 a highly topical issue in all landuse discussions there is strong support for the concept that effective monitoring is best undertaken by the land manager 	 SA legislation undertakes expert assessment and follow-up most satisfactorily. NT relies on photo documentation at 2 year periods Qld and WA have no provisions 		
4. A commitment to the concept of sustainable management of rangelands	relating the principles of the national strategy for ESD to practical, on-ground action is difficult due to high cost and industry pressure	 SA Act good provisions but budgetary constraints NT Act - remedial actions are not binding on the Minister and landholders can appeal Qld and WA have no such provisions in their legislation 		
5. A firm commitment to the government remaining in control of land use regulation and options for use	 leasehold tenure provides a structured way for governments to maintain control over this large portion of Australia for future use options better access to finance frequently given as a rationale for increased security of tenure governments have the ability to acquire perpetual land but the costs maybe higher 	 all state/territory legislation allows for resumption of land Qld and WA legislation allow for resumption SA and NT are qualified by Ledgar as having provisions to put land holders on notice - claims the legislation is not properly administrated 		
6. Resource inventories and land capability assessment used as the basis for the development of lease conditions and renewal	 a major failing of current use of rangelands is the lack of detailed assessment of capability assessment review by the Minister and Board should be mandatory remedial programs should be mandatory for land holders principles of who, how and under what terms and conditions assessments are made needs to be included in the legislation 	 SA and WA have limited provisions. SA has good provisions for management plans NT and Qld have no provisions. NT management plans subject to appeal 		
7. Retention and reestablishment of native vegetation	 rangeland legislation needs to establish clear guidelines with respect to clearing currently there are no requirements for EIS in any state/territory 	 SA - clearing banned NT guidelines are weak Qld and WA weak 		
8. Access to land for traditional Aboriginal people	Access for Aboriginal people is important for maintenance of cultural traditions	Qld legislation has no provision for Aboriginal access		

9. Improved definition of publicuser rights	pastoral areas provide a good opportunity for the public to utilise features as an alternative to national parks	 SA good provisions, NT some restrictions Qld and WA not specifically dealt with
10. The right for third party appeals	as the majority of rangeland is held by the crown, legislation should enable third party appeal against decisions made by Minister or Board	no right of third party appeal in any state/territory legislation
Source: Ledgar (1994), A review of land management legislation relevant to Australian rangelands. In: Morton, S.R. and Price, P.C. (eds), R&D for sustainable use and management of Australia's rangelands.		

We should point out that there is considerable disagreement with Ledgar's a) assessment of the State/Territory capacities to enact the legislation to the letter of the law, and b) his highly regulated "stick" approach. A number of State/Territory agencies assert that the process of change is being enacted and Ledgar's review does not take this into account. Also, there have been changes in legislation since this document was prepared which have strengthened State/Territory capacity to respond, eg. the Queensland Land Act re tree clearing.

3.2 Enhancing the Effectiveness of Catchment Management Planning

Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation, Canberra.

A recent review of policies and programs impacting on the effectiveness of catchment management planning was undertaken by AACM International and the Centre for Water Policy Research.

Landcare generally has been heralded as raising the profile of the conservation ethic within rural Australia. Some critics suggest however that the on-the-ground results are too slow to reverse the damage of land degradation in rangelands. Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) is a more regionally focused program which attempts to ensure resource management includes consideration of impacts beyond the farm gate.

AACM International suggest that Landcare and ICM require three core dimensions if they are to be effective. These are:

- the *philosophy* which refers to the belief that interactions between natural resources and with natural resources should be viewed within a holistic framework;
- the *process* refers to the flexible, adaptive, ongoing and dynamic mechanism, which coordinates the activity of many people, both in government and across the wide community;
- the *product* is often misconceived as a catchment plan (a shelf document). Rather the product of integrated resource management should be improved quality of natural resources and sustainable economic development and production based on best management practices.

AACM International (1995,3)

AACM International found that while the *philosophy* of ICM is generally recognised, there were few examples of truly integrated management of catchment resources in Australia. They contend the core reason is that the *process* - the linking of philosophy and product - is generally missing in catchment management planning activities.

The key policy issues identified are summarised in Table 3.

	Issues - Resource Manage	
Issue	Topic	Discussion
1. Integrated resource management (IRM)	Regional development	 a lack of integration with economic development confusion as to what IRM really is
	Ecologically sustainable development	 no linkage between ESD and economic development no linkage between commonwealth/state ESD initiatives and IRM current NLP programs do not link with other commonwealth/state nature conservation and environmental programs no mechanisms to demonstrate how ESD can be linked to IRM and shown to be profitable
2. Establishing accountability	Partnership agreements	future allocation of NLP funds be based on regional natural resource management plan
	Establishing reporting frameworks	 clear assessment of community costs and private benefits of NLP funds contractually based reporting
	Annual reporting	annual reports of regional boards, including: assessment of condition of natural resources results of monitoring key indicators
	Setting state priorities	 better coordination between agencies in establishing priorities required an effective natural resources coordinating council be established to integrate state and regional priorities. The council should report to the Minister or cabinet to be effective. Such an approach has been adopted under the SA Soil Conservation and Landcare Act (SA, 1989)
3. Finance	Assessment of project costs and benefits	assessment should be linked to regional development needs
	Ongoing financial arrangements Direct funding of regional plans	 a lack of confidence that ongoing commitment to a project will continue the need to establish a process for direct allocation of funds to completed regional plans to ensure implementation
4. Institutional structures and integration	Integration	far greater attention needs to be given to the procedural processes in IRM
,	Integrated resource management and Landcare	• Landcare is seen as the implementation process of ICM/TCM
	Interagency cooperation	at present there is little evidence of integration between agencies at both the policy and planning level
	Trusts Legislation	are not yet existent at the regional/catchment level perceptions vary within stakeholder groups - those with legislative backup were supportive while those without feared its use
		• the Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act (Vic, 1994) is a legislative model which skilfully integrates regional interests, community participation, resource management, priority setting and investment strategies

Table 3: Policy Issues - Resource Management		
Issue	Торіс	Discussion
5. Process	Linkages for implementing ICM	 the building of links between governments and community has created some problems and it has yet to proven what environmental benefits these linkages have produced
		While agencies favour the use of grass roots driven approaches to win support of community groups, landholders were generally unwilling to consider ICM management planning mechanisms
	Perceptions of the ICM process	 important to get the process of strategy setting correct the link between farmer practices and observable outcomes needs substantial tightening concern at the community level about political indecision or interference
	Linkage between ecological and economic processes	 little attention given to the incremental ecological and economic gains from the adoption of integrated resource management the use of market mechanisms in integrated resource management processes has not been realised
		he effectiveness of catchment management planning.
Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra.		

4. ISSUES FOR FUTURE INDUSTRY ACTION

In collating legislation likely to impact on rangelands, a number of factors became evident. Most State/Territory industry bodies had a good understanding of the pieces of legislation that were topical, but were generally less likely to have a good grasp of the detailed aspects of the legislation. Nationally, no organisation, public or industry, could readily provide details on policies or legislation as it related to rangeland management in Australia. There was minimal "easy-to-read" legislation and layman's summaries. Queensland has the most comprehensive lay summary while Western Australia has a summary of which Acts impact on rangelands but this summary lacks any interpretation. The NT has guidelines for the Pastoral Land Act, however they tend to refer everything back to the Pastoral Lands Board for ultimate interpretation.

The extent to which legislation is supported by appropriate policies and delivery programs was beyond the scope of this study. However preliminary observations, and reinforced by the two reviews in the previous chapter, would indicate that rangeland legislation is not consistent in dealing with sustainability across the States/Territory and the delivery programs show little evidence of integration at both the policy and planning level.

It is probably fair to say that range management has progressed through the development phase to a mature phase and the management policies that guide use of such land are changing accordingly. If this logic is accepted then it will follow that legislation and policies will increasingly move from a narrow production focus¹ to a more broad-based sustainability focus which increasingly will need to meet the needs of stakeholders previously considered external to the pastoral industry.

Concomitant with this trend the impacts of a broader social focus on rangeland users and their immediate stakeholders need clarification. For example, the demand from society for greater attention to preservation of biodiversity would appear to be poorly covered by legislation in most State/Territory and specific mechanisms for dealing with "poor" practices out his issues are unclear at best.

Similarly, the relationship between policy and legislation where regional impacts are/can be greater than the sum of impacts on an individual property need better integration. For example, clearing of 70% of an individual property may be acceptable but within a catchment, aggregated clearing to this level could have severe negative impacts on catchment hydrology and biodiversity.

Ledgar argues strongly for tenure as one of the key management tools, asserting that community "bottoms-up" approaches are too slow and do not, in many cases, address the fundamental issue of whether or not the land in question can in fact support range activities at all, let alone in their present format. The move for legislation to reflect the broader community concerns raised by Ledgar has been slow but in some States, notably South Australia, the legislation has the potential to enforce societal needs with greater clarity than that of most other legislation. While not part of this review, the Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act has adopted an approach whereby regional catchment plans have the opportunity to gain far greater enforcement powers than is

¹ evidenced by minimum stocking rates, expected progress in fencing range, etc.

currently the case in the rest of Australia. The Victorian model gives regional community interests a far greater say in setting the environmental resource standards than any other State/Territory².

However, devolution of change processes are occurring - largely to ICM/Landcare and other community groups. The extent to which this process may impact on national rangeland activities has yet to be fully addressed on a region by region basis.

Property Management Plans have the potential to guide virtually all actions at the ground level, however the extent to which they have become effective guides has yet to seen. It is too early to gauge the effectiveness of these same plans in providing legislators with a tool to measure the impact of legislation and policy makers/delivers with a measure of the extent and rate of adoption of sustainable land management practices. However, PMPs have the potential to be very effective tools if properly prepared and monitored.

Monitoring and evaluation of ecological change over time can be subjective, given seasonal and other impacts, however it is clear that both the legislators and policy implementators are attempting to come to grips with this issue.

Some points for consideration include:

- 1. While the legislation summarised in Part B is presented in a format which should facilitate ease of use, the enduser at this stage is unclear and the degree of detail or interpretation needed for each potential enduser group could not be assessed.
 - accordingly the benefits to industry of having clear easy to read legislation and policy need clarification
 - summary documents, in plain English, assist industry, especially producers, in understanding the likely implications of legislation
- The AACM International policy review indicated a lack of integration between ESD and onthe-ground delivery.
 - in order to co-ordinate sustainable research, the MRC should encourage both Commonwealth and state/territory administrators to develop demonstrable and practical linkages between ecologically sustainable development, integrated resource management and on-property operations.
- 3. Monitoring methods for assessing range condition varies considerably between States/Territory. If monitoring range condition is accepted as a key indicator tool for sustainability then "best practice" in range monitoring is required, regardless of State/Territory.
 - the MRC should ensure that mechanisms for evaluating range condition are as uniform as possible between the states/territory.

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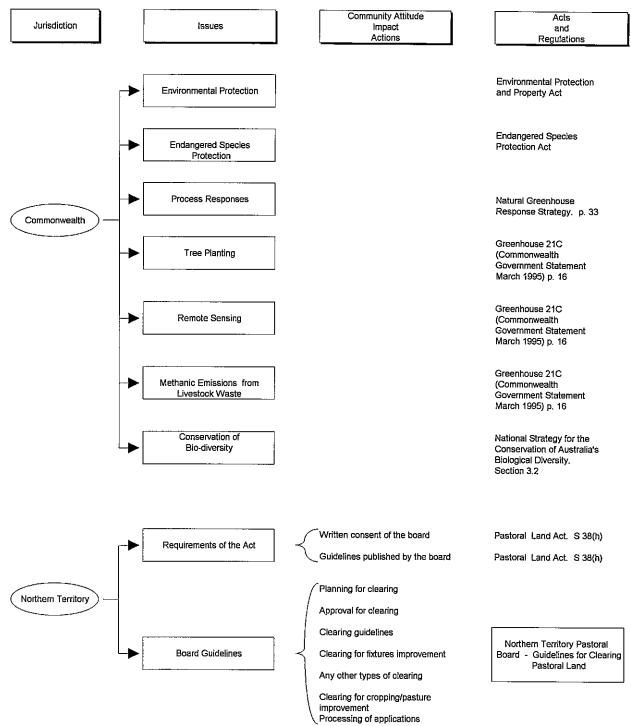
² it could be argued that the NT Pastoral Land Act gives landholders a greater say than most other State/Territory bodies in decision making however to the exclusion of environmental and other interests.

- 4. The regional impacts of changed management practices are unclear to both landholder and the wider community.
 - there needs to be clear and consistent guidelines that ensure that community and landholder costs and benefits are assessed both prior to project commencement and during the life of the project.
 - traditional tools such as cost-benefit analysis are frequently inadequate.
- 5. There is a need to evaluate alternative mechanisms for ensuring the adoption of sustainable land management practices. Current mechanisms rely heavily on research and extension with regulation generally considered a mechanism of last resort, while scales of penalties or incentives are virtually non-existent. In particular, more effort at both the policy and legislative levels should be directed to:
 - innovative tax incentives/concessions for sustainable practices.
 - improved tenure arrangements which minimise damage due to speculation in land.
- 6. The potential impacts (positive and negative) of PMPs in developing a consistent approach to improving adoption of sustainable range use is worthy of further investigation. In particular, the investigations should consider:
 - the extent to which landholders are using PMPs;
 - potential impacts from PMPs having a status similar to building or other development plans;
 - the degree to which practical monitoring and evaluation guidelines can be built into PMPs in a cost-effective manner.
- 7. Increasing areas of land in public ownership is of increasing concern with regard to issues such as:
 - management of native animals (increased grazing pressure) on adjacent pastoral leases.
 - fire management (considered one of the most cost-effective rangeland management tools)

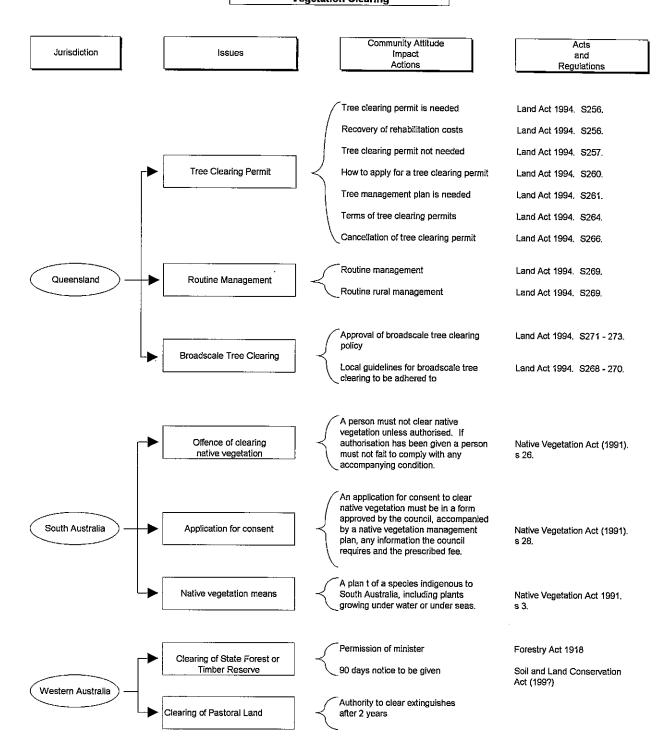
Overall management of public lands needs to ensure the interests of local landholders with respect to plant and animal "pests" are treated in an equitable way.

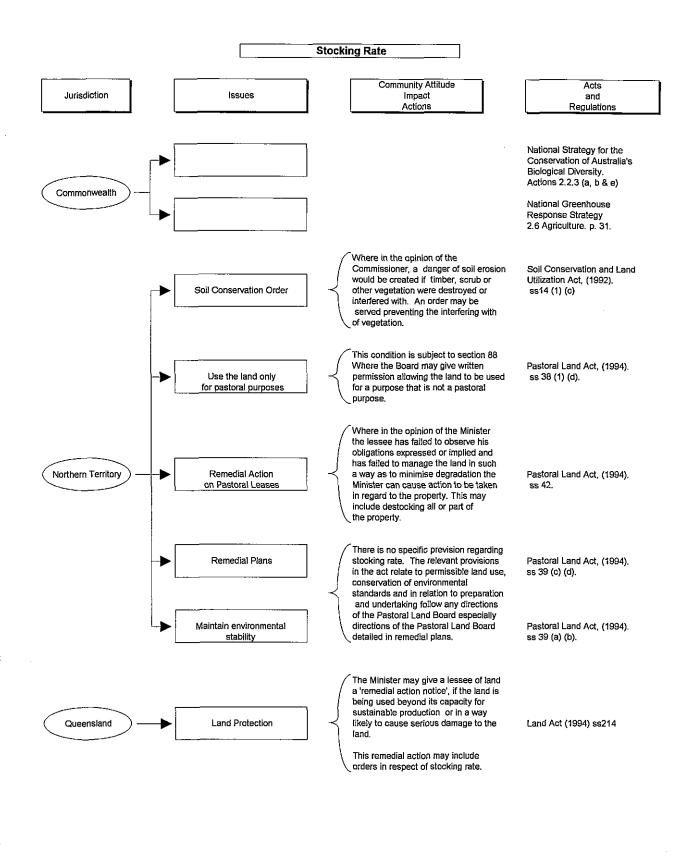
PART B
Summary of Major Acts

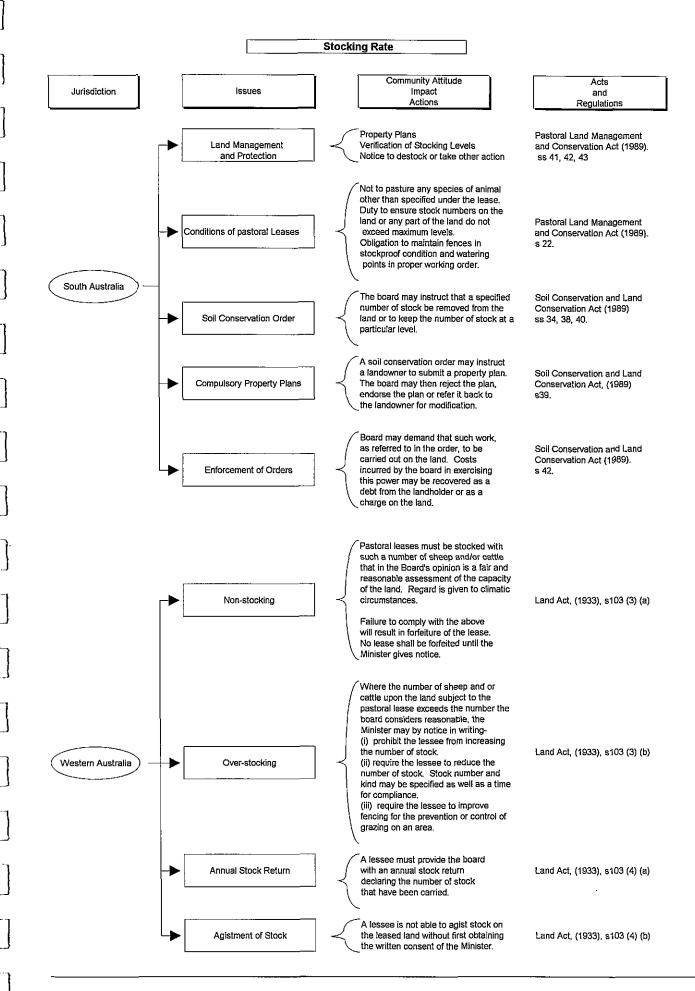
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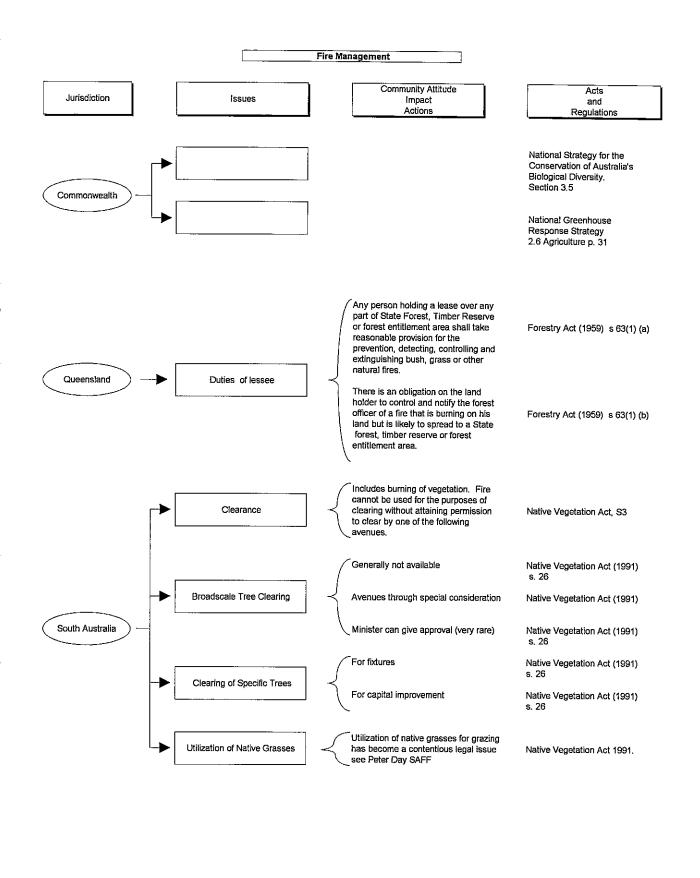


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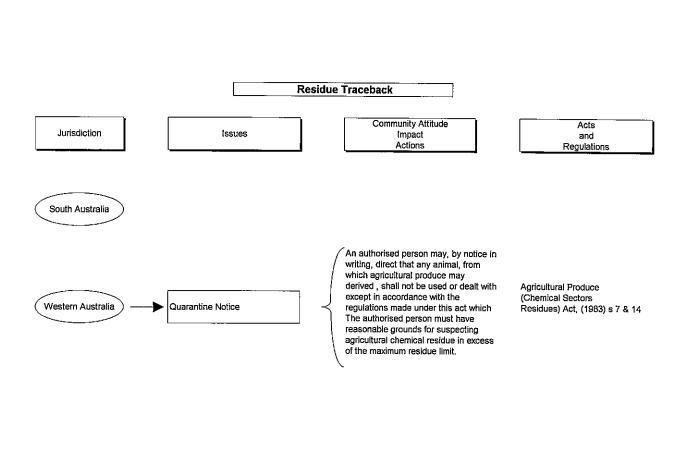


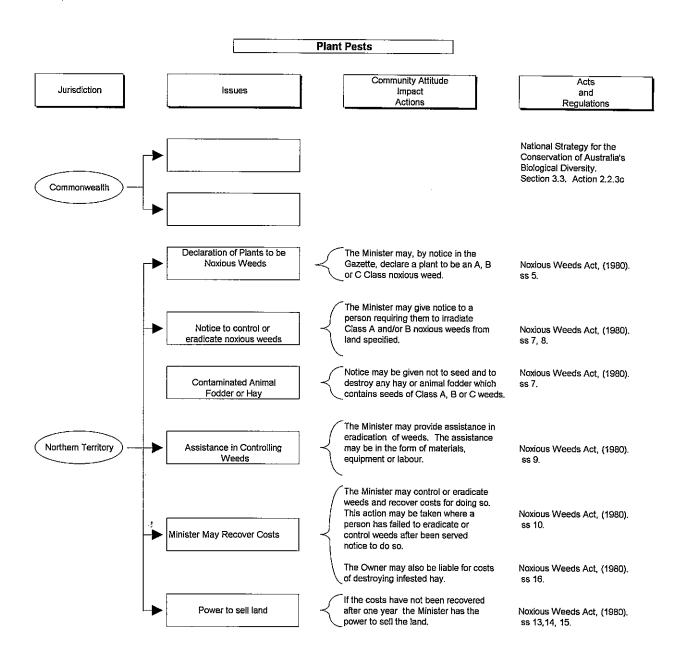


Fire Management Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Issues Impact and Actions Regulations The Minister may, by notice published in the Gazette, declare times within the year during which it is unlawful to set fire to the bush. This may be varied or revoked by the If the Board considers burning should be carried out on any land it may Bush Fires Act, (1954) s17 Prohibited Burning Times suspend the operation of the above. The board may authorise the times when and conditions under which the fire may be lit. Any person who sets fire to bush during a prohibited burning time is guilty of an offence that carries a penalty of a \$2,000 fine or 6 months imprisonment. The Board may, by notice in the Gazette, declare the times of the year during which it is unlawful to set fire to Bush Fires Act, (1954) s18 (2) the bush within the zone mentioned. These can be in addition to the times specified by the Minister. Western Australia Restricted Burning Times A permit can be obtained authorising the burning of bush in the declared Bush Fires Act, (1954) s18 (6) time. The permit has to be in writing and from an authorised person. This permit may authorise the owner of land to burn the bush on the road or Bush Fires Act, (1954) s18 (9) reserve adjoining that land Where a bush fire is burning on any land at any time during the restricted burning time or the prohibited burning Bush Fires Act, (1954) s28 Obligation to Extinguish time the occupier shall, at his own expense, take all possible measures to extinguish the fire. This applies whether he has lit the fire or not, There is an obligation of an owner or occupier to clear bush and other inflammable material to a distance of at least 3 metres from a dividing fence. If you have not maintained a 3 metre buffer and fire destroys or damages Bush Fires Act, (1954) s48 Damage to Dividing Fence the dividing fence and your neighbour has carried out this obligation you are liable to repair. If in default you are obliged to repair or re-erect the damaged fence within one month at your own cost.

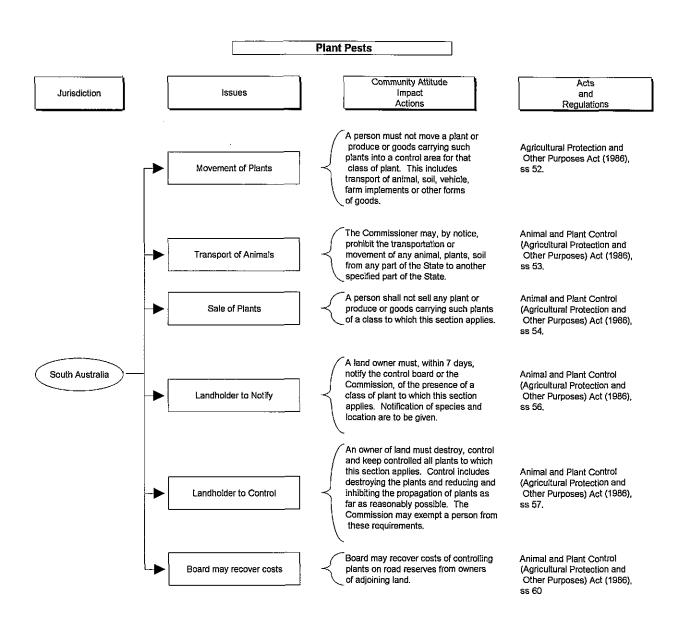
Residue Traceback Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Issues Impact Actions Regulations National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity. Section 3.4 Commonwealth The Minister can declare land by notice in the Gazette to be a quarantine area if the Minister considers there to be a Stock Diseases Act, (1988). presence or an expected presence of a ss12 - 16 Quarantine and prescribed disease. Protected Areas A person shall not drive or move stock into, out of or within a quarantine area If the Minister has reasonable cause to believe that a prescribed disease exists in an area outside the Territory he/she may prohibit or impose conditions on the entry of stock or a Stock Diseases Act , (1988). ss23 - 27 Importation of Stock and product obtained from stock. Stock Products into the NT Notice is to be given and interstate Northern Territory health certificate obtained before stock are imported into the Territory. The Chief Inspector may declare a vessel, holding, wharf or place to be a Stock Diseases Act , (1988). Declaration of Restricted restricted area if the Inspector believes ss22 the place is a source of infection or The Chief Inspector may, by notice in the Gazette, restrict the use or Stock Diseases Act , (1988) Restriction of use of treatment of stock of a substance or a ss. 41 (A) specified substances particular class of substance.

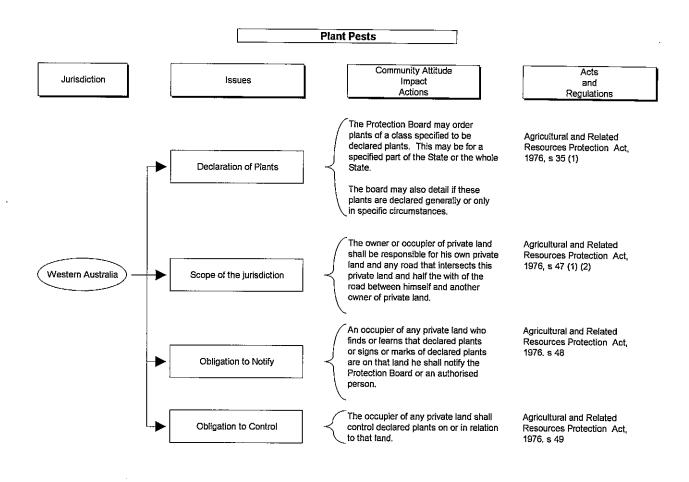
Residue Traceback Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Issues Impact and Actions Regulations Land, a building or structure on land, or matter in or on land, that in the opinion of the director is affected by a Contaminated Land Act Contaminated Land hazardous substance so that it is, or (1991) s 4 a definition causes other land, water or air to be, a hazard to human health or the environment. Means a substance that because of its quality, concentration, acute or chronic toxic effects, carcinogenicity, teratogenicity, mutagenicity, corrosiveness, flammability or chemical, Contaminated Land Act Hazardous substance physical or infectious characteristics, (1991) s 4 may pose a hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, disposed of or otherwise managed. A person must not cause land to Queensland Prohibition of land become contaminated land. Contaminated Land Act contamination (1991) s 13 A person must not dispose of contaminated soil or a hazardous Contaminated Land Act Sites for disposal of substance other than at a place (1991) s 14 (c) dangerous substances approved by a director An owner or occupier of land who causes or permits land contamination, Contaminated Land Act or causes or permits likely land (1991) s 17 (2) contamination must notify the director within 30 days of becoming Notification of aware of it. contamination An owner or occupier of land who becomes aware that the land is, or is Contaminated Land Act likely to be, contaminated must notify (1991) s 17 (3) the Director within 30 days. Director may by written notice direct Notice to remediate persons to take remediation measures Contaminated Land Act contaminated land as specified in the notice. (1991) s 20 The Director may classify land as a Classification of sites possible site, a probable sits, a Contaminated Land Act confirmed site, a restricted site, a (1991) s 23 former site or a released site and the prescribed particulars in relation to the land shall be recorded in the Contaminated Land Registrar. A contaminated Site Registrar is to be Contaminated sites register maintained in the department. Contaminated Land Act (1991) s 24

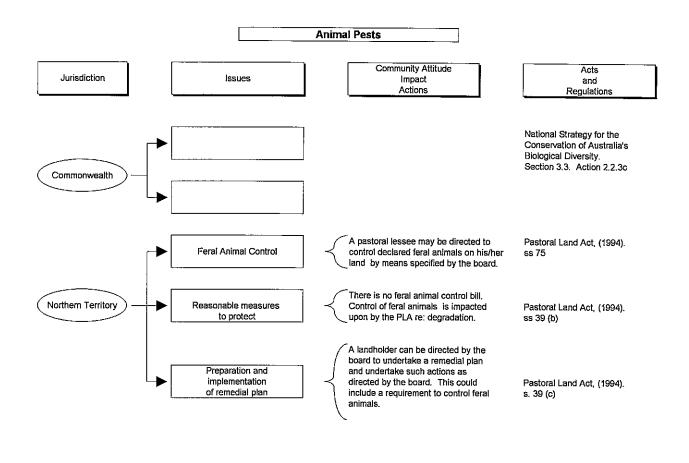




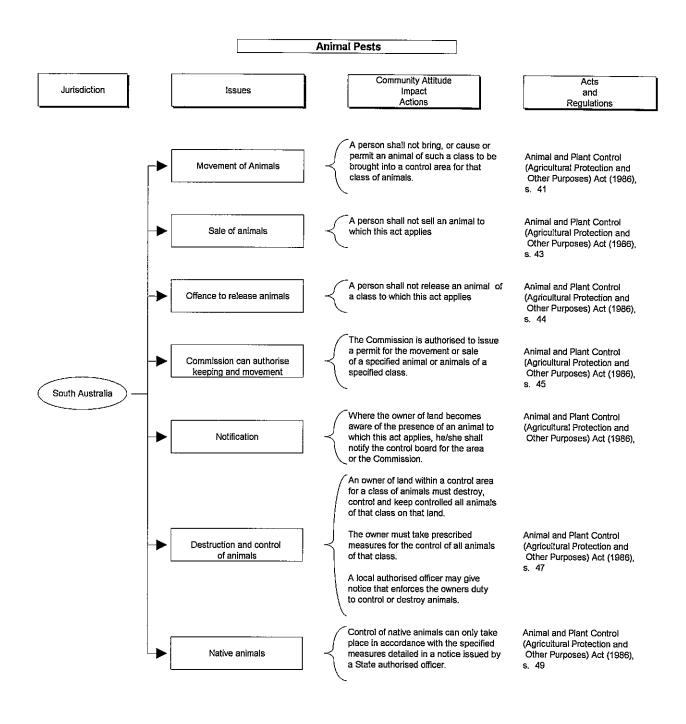
Plant Pests Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Issues Impact and Actions Regulations The occupier of any private land who Rural Lands Protection Act Occupiers of private land to fails to control declared plants on that (1985) ss 80 control declared plants land commits an offence under this act. The Local Authority or authorised person can serve a notice in writing on Rural Lands Protection Act Notice to owner and the occupier of land to control (1985) ss 81 occupier to control declared plants. The notice may declared plants specify a completion date and a method to be used to control the plants. A person who fails to comply with the directions given under the notice or the Rural Lands Protection Act Failure to comply with completion date commits an offence (1985) ss 82 direction under this act. Where neither the owner or the occupier has complied with the notice to control declared plants the Authority or Executive Director can give authorisation to any person to Local Authority may carry enter the land and carry out the Rural Lands Protection Act out work and recover costs notice. (1985) ss 83 The Authority can then recover costs against the owner and/or occupier. Queensland An owner or occupier shall have full power to do all that is necessary to Rural Lands Protection Act Power of Owners control declared plants on land and to (1985) ss 84 and Occupiers comply with a direction contained in a notice served on him. A person shall not bring into the State any plants of the category P1. Nor shall Rural Lands Protection Act they bring any packet, parcel, packing (1985) ss 89 - 91 material, seed, soil or vegetable Prevention of introduction matter relating to such plants. Ministers permission is required to keep and spread of declared plants declared plants and persons are not to sell declared plants. The Minister can declare a plant to be Rural Lands Protection Act and Extraordinary Noxious Plant. Occupiers of land are to destroy (1985) ss 104 extraordinary noxious plants, failure to destroy all such plants on that land is an offence under this act. If notice is given to destroy extraordinary noxious plants and the Rural Lands Protection Act owner or occupier fails to carry out the (1985) ss 106 - 108 direction the Executive Director may carry out the work and recover costs Extraordinary Noxious Plants Successors in title are bound by a Rural Lands Protection Act notice issued to destroy extraordinary (1985) ss 110 noxious plants. The Minister can declare land to be infected by extraordinary noxious Rural Lands Protection Act plants. Persons are not to remove, or permit or allows to be removed, any (1985) ss 112 - 114 earth, soil, sand, stone, gravel plant or other material what so ever from that

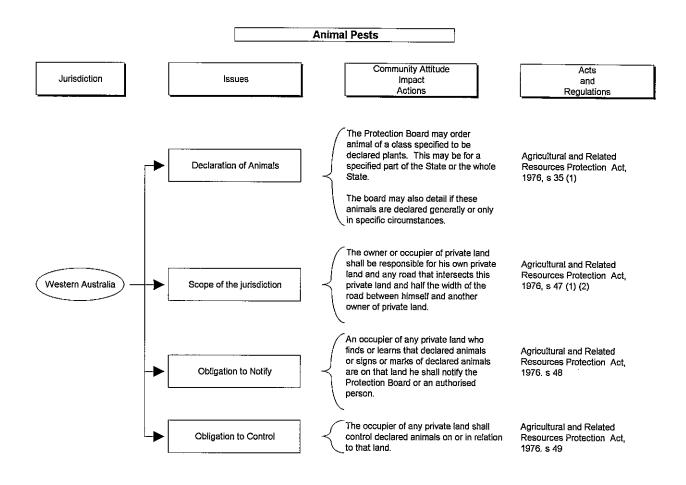


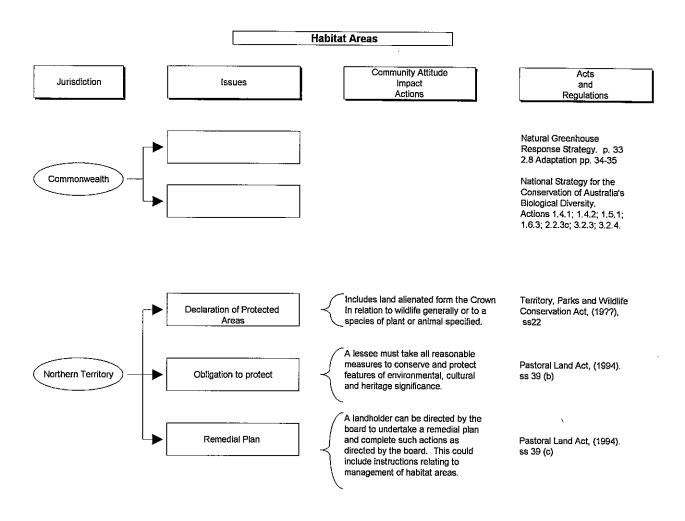


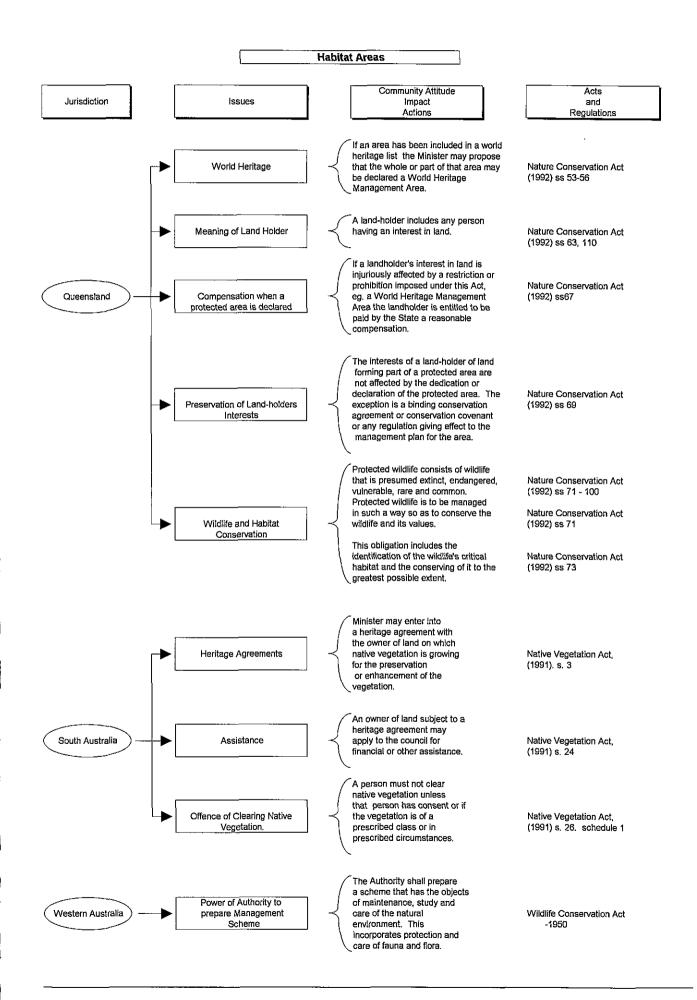


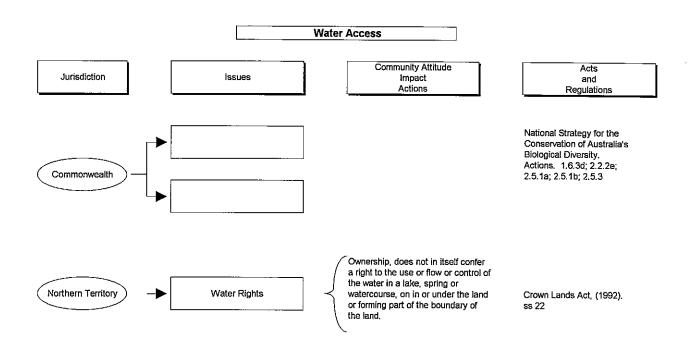
Animal Pests Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Issues Impact and Regulations Actions Rural Lands Protection Act The occupier of any private land who (1985) ss 80 fails to control declared animals on Occupiers of private land to that land commits an offence under control declared animals this act. The Local Authority or authorised Rural Lands Protection Act person can serve a notice in writing on Notice to owner and (1985) ss 81 the occupier of land to control occupier to control declared animals. The notice may declared plants specify a completion date and a method to be used to control the A person who fails to comply with the directions given under the notice or the completion date commits an offence Rural Lands Protection Act Failure to comply with (1985) ss 82 under this act. direction Where neither the owner or the occupier has complied with the notice to control declared animals the Authority or Executive Director can give authorisation to any person to enter the land and carry out the Rural Lands Protection Act Local Authority may carry (1985) ss 83 out work and recover costs The Authority can then recover costs against the owner and/or occupier. Queensland An owner occupier shall have full Rural Lands Protection Act power to do all that is necessary to Power of Owners control declared animals on land and to (1985) ss 84 comply with a direction contained in a and Occupiers notice served on him. Rural Lands Protection Act Power to detain and An authorised person may seize and deal with contaminated detain any animal which could be (1985) ss 92 carrying a declared plant. animals or things An authorised person may seize and destroy a declared animal or in writing Destruction of declared require the owner to destroy forthwith Rural Lands Protection Act animals the declared animal, (1985) ss 99

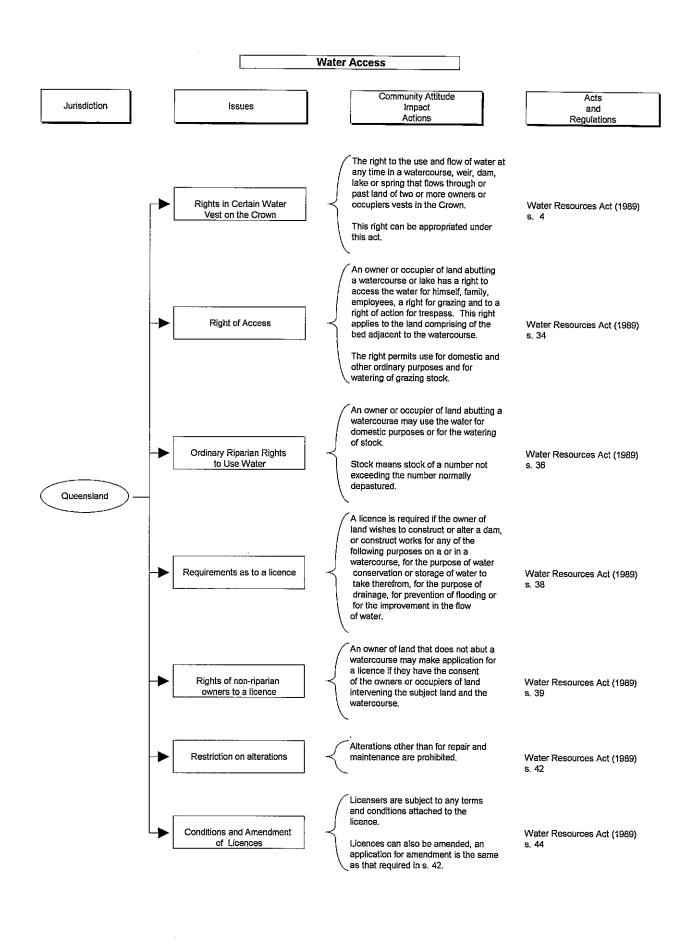


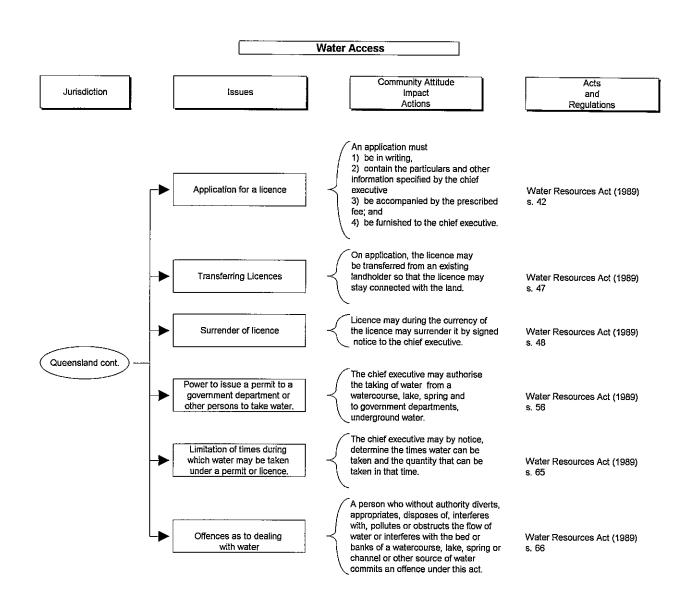


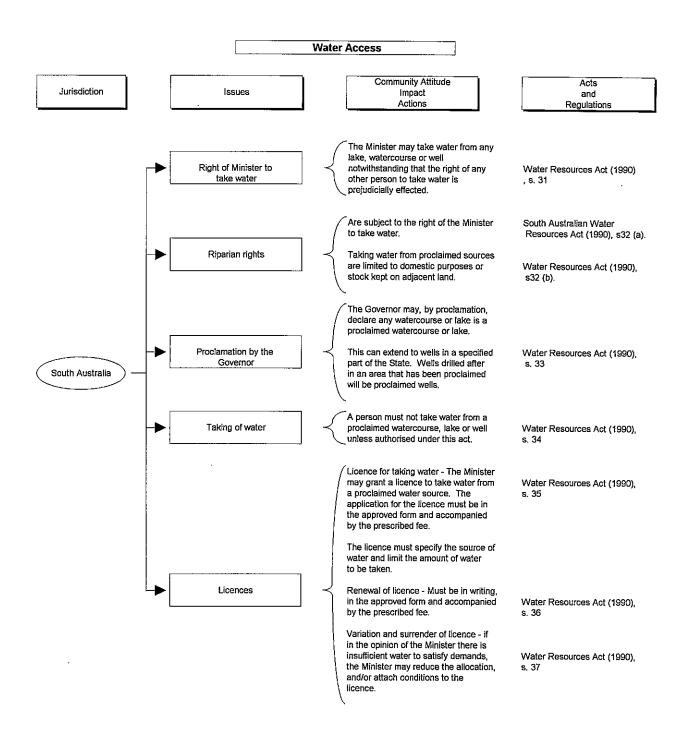






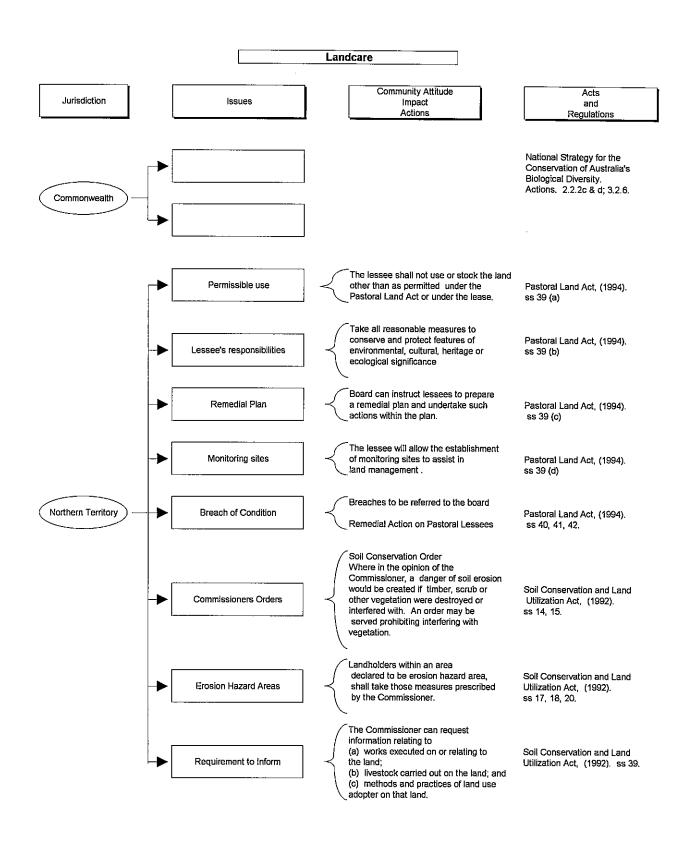


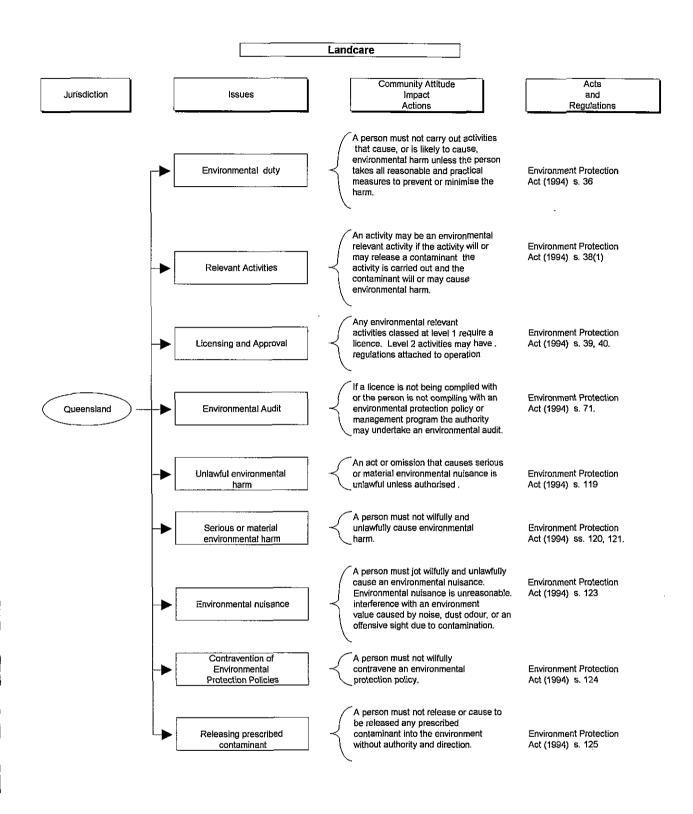


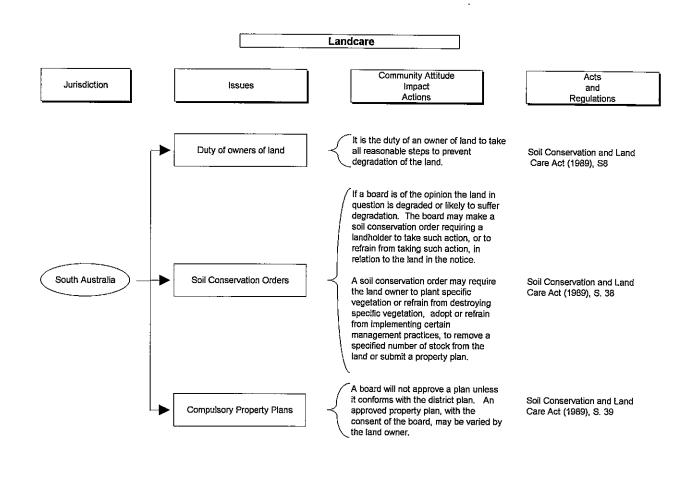


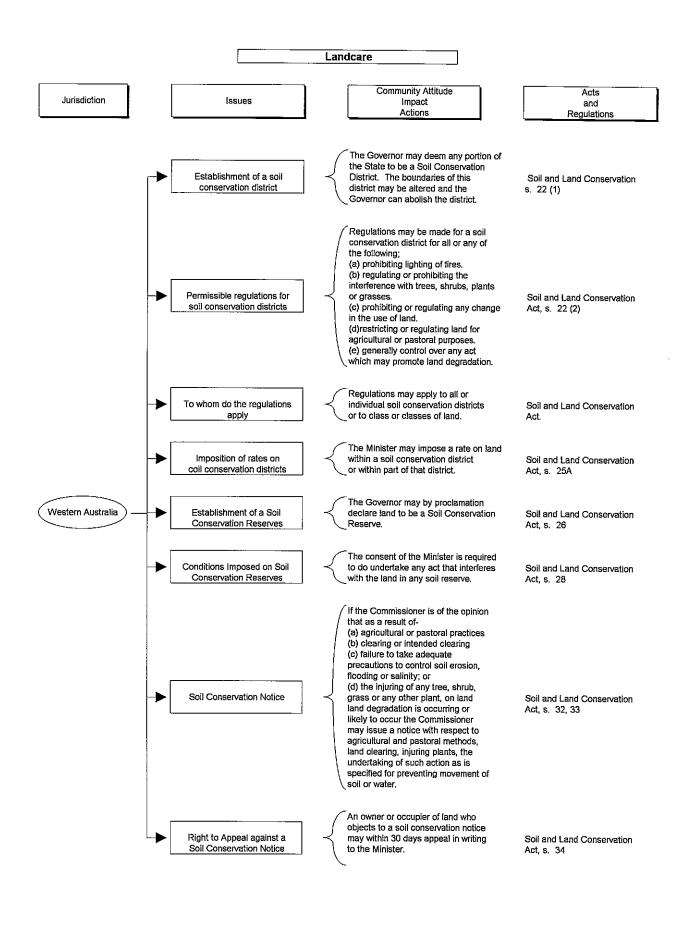
Water Access Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Issues Impact and Actions Regulations The right to the use and flow and to the control of the water at any time in any Natural waters vest in Crown Rights in Water and Irrigation water-course, lake, lagoon, swamp, marsh or spring shall vest in the Crown Act, (1914), s 8 until it is appropriated. This applies to all water except that which is wholly on land that has been granted by the Crown and belonging Certain Surface Water to the owner or occupier of the land. Rights in Water and Irrigation - a definition This includes lakes, lagoons, swamps Act, (1914), s 6 marshes and water flowing from any spring. The owner or occupier of any land alienated from the Crown, through which a water-course runs shall have a right to take water in that watercourse. Riparian Rights Rights in Water and Irrigation (Certain Surface Water) The taking of water is restricted to Act, (1914), s 9 that water used for domestic purposes or the watering of cattle or other stock. Any person may take water for domestic use and for watering cattle Western Australia Other Rights to water or other stock from any water-course, Rights in Water and Irrigation (Certain Surface Water) vested in the Crown, to which there is Act, (1914), s 10 access by a public road or reserve. A person who diverts or takes water Other diversions to from a water course or permits this to be licensed Rights in Water and Irrigation be done except pursuant to a licence (Certain Surface Water) issued for that purpose commits a Act, (1914), s 11 If the owner or occupier of land has permanently diverted or at intervals every year exclusively taken and used water from the water course for the purpose of domestic use or the Riparian Special Licences watering of cattle or stock than the Rights in Water and Irrigation (Certain Surface Water) owner or occupier of land may apply to Act, (1914), s 12 the authority for a special licence authorising the continuation of such a diversion for a period of ten years. The authority may grant to any owner or occupier of land a licence, subject to any terms, limitations and conditions Rights in Water and Irrigation as may be specified. The licence may Act, (1914), s 13 (1) allow the owner to take, use or dispose of water from any water course, lake, lagoon or marsh. Licences (Certain Surface Water) The authority may, during the occurrence of the licence, in writing give Rights in Water and Irrigation notice to the licence of a change for Act, (1914), s 13 (3) the period the licence has effect or vary the terms in relation to the

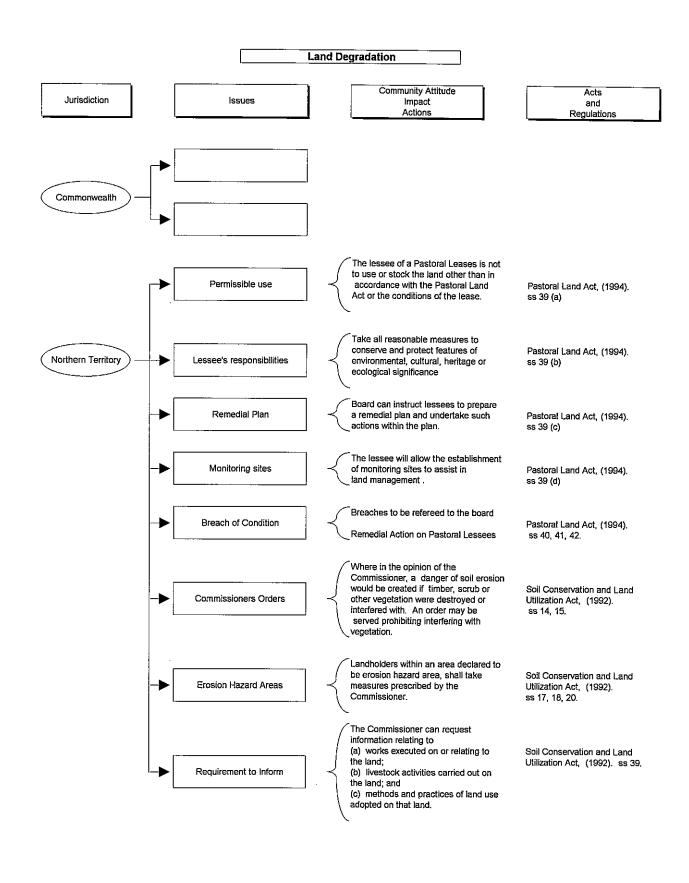
Water Access Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Impact Actions Issues and Regulations The owner or occupier of land adjacent to any water-course shall have access to the portion of the bed to which the Adjacent land owners land is adjacent even though this land rights remains the property of the Crown. Rights in Water and Irrigation (Certain Surface Water) Act, (1914), s 16 The owner or occupier is able to sue any person trespassing on that land. A person shall not obstruct, destroy or interfere with any water-course, race or drain flowing through or over the Rights in Water and Irrigation Interference Prohibited This also applies to interference with (Certain Surface Water) Act, (1914), s 17 water beds or banks of any water-course. Any person who causes or permits any sludge, mud, earth, gravel or other Obstruction of Flow matter likely to obstruct the flow into Rights in Water and Irrigation (Certain Surface Water) a water-course is guilty of an offence. Act, (1914), s 18 Other surface water applies to all surface water that falls outside of the scope of Certain Surface Waters Other Surface Waters This is surface water that is not wholly Rights in Water and Irrigation a definition Western Australia within the boundary of the owner or Act, (1914), s 20 the occupier of the land. cont. The owner or occupier has a right to take water for ordinary and domestic use and for the watering of cattle or Rights in Water and Irrigation Riparian Rights other stock. This right exists provided the water is not thereby sensibly (Other Surface Water) Act, (1914), s 20 diminished for any other purpose. These rights are the same as those for Certain Surface Waters with the clarification that the right only Other Rights to Water exists provided the water-course is not Rights in Water and Irrigation (Other Surface Water) Act, (1914), s 21 thereby sensibly diminished for any other purpose. The right to the use and flow of any underground source shall, until Rights in Water and Irrigation Underground water appropriated under this act vest in the Crown. Act, (1914), s 26 Before commencing, constructing, enlarging, deepening, altering or Artesian Wells to be drawing water from any artesian well Rights in Water and Irrigation Licensed must obtain a licence for that purpose. Act, (1914), s 26A This applies only to certain areas as Non-artesian wells to be Rights in Water and Irrigation Proclaimed by the Governor Act, (1914), s 26B Licensed

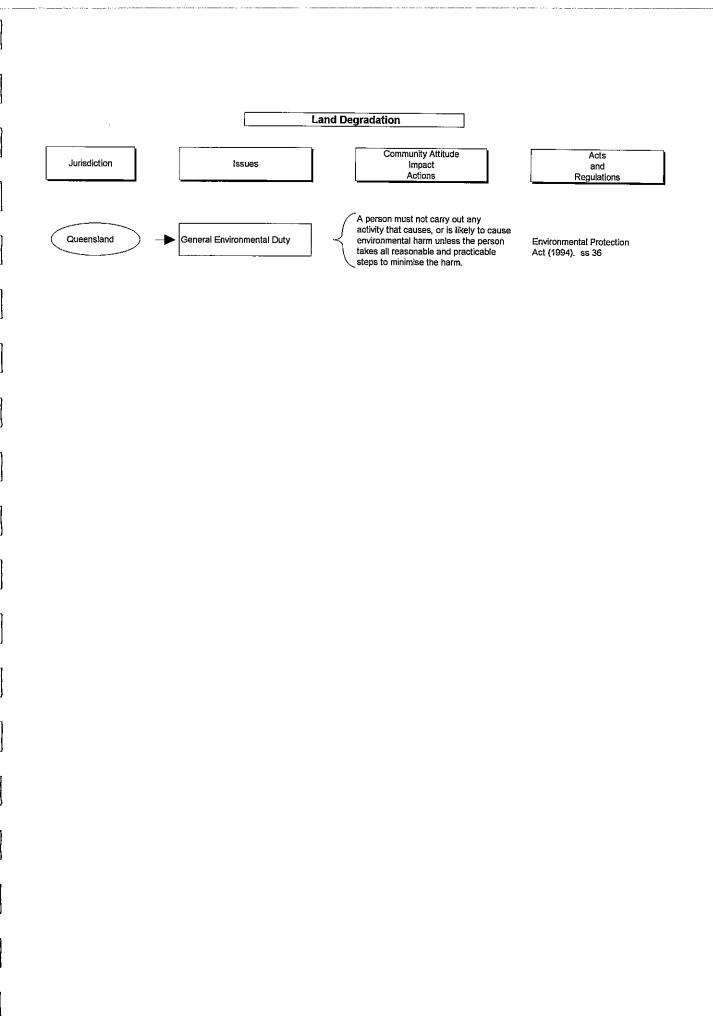


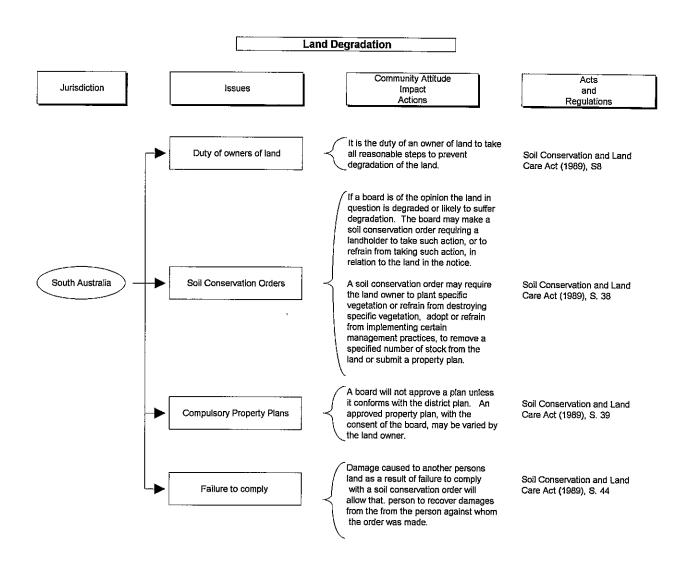












Land Degradation Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Issues Impact and Actions Regulations The Governor may deem any portion of the State to be a Soil Conservation Land Conservation Act, Establishment of a soil District. The boundaries of this s. 22 (1) conservation district distinct may be altered and the Governor can abolish the district. Regulations may be made for a soil conservation for all or any of the following: (a) prohibiting lighting of fires. (b) regulating or prohibiting the interference with trees, shrubs, plants Western Australian Soil and Permissible regulations for or grasses. Land Conservation Act, soil conservation districts (c) prohibiting or regulating any change s. 22 (2) in the use of land. (d)restricting or regulating land for agricultural or pastoral purposes (e) generally control over any act which may promote land degradation. Regulations may apply to all or Western Australian Soil and To whom do the regulations individual soil conservation districts Land Conservation Act, apply or to any class or classes of land. s. 22 (3) Western Australia The Minister may impose a rate on land Western Australian Soil and Imposition of rates on within a soil conservation district or Land Conservation Act, soil conservation districts within part of that district. s. 25A The Governor may by proclamation Western Australian Soil and Establishment of a Soil declare land to be a soil conservation Land Conservation Act, Conservation Reserves Reserve. s. 26 The consent of the Minister is required Western Australian Soil and Conditions Imposed on Soil to do undertake any act that interferes Land Conservation Act, Conservation Reserves with the land in any soil reserve. If the Commissioner is of the opinion that as a result of-(a) agricultural or pastoral practices; (b) clearing or intended clearing; (c) failure to take adequate precautions to control soil erosion, flooding or salinity; or (d) the injuring of any tree, shrub, grass Western Australian Soil and Soil Conservation Notice or any other plant on land, land Land Conservation Act, degradation is occurring or is likely to ss. 32, 33 occur the Commissioner may issue a notice with respect to agricultural and pastoral methods, land clearing, methods, land clearing, injuring plants, the undertaking of such action is specified for preventing movement of soil or water. An owner or occupier of land who objects to a soil conservation notice may Western Australian Soil and Right to Appeal against a within 30 days appeal in writing to the Land Conservation Act, Soil Conservation Notice ss. 34

Native Title Community Attitude Acts Jurisdiction Issues Impact and Actions Regulations Descendants of indigenous people who can be identified as a members of an Who can claim native title indigenous group that enjoys Native Title Act (1993) traditional authority among those Native title has been extinguished Where could native where an interest in land is wholly Native Title Act (1993) inconsistent with native title. title continue to exist Native title has been extinguished on privately held freehold land. Native title has also been extinguished on Could native title exist some categories of leasehold tenure Native Title Act (1993) on agricultural land including pastoral and agricultural ss. 229, 15. leases. Commonwealth Where statutory reservations of native interest already exist, they will continue, but cannot be extended. What happens when a Where no statutory reservation of Native Title Act (1993) pastoral lease expires native interest exists they will not exist on renewal of a lease. Compensation to Aboriginals is not the Compensation to responsibility of landholders but is the Native Title Act (1993) Aboriginals responsibility of the Crown. Where there is no statutory right of access, or where the lease has not granted access over an extended Where a pastoralist has allowed voluntary access to period there will be no legal Native Title Act (1993) obligation to grant access to aboriginal a property in the past people.

