

# Balonne Shire



## STOCK ROUTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**2012 – 2016**

Adopted 15<sup>TH</sup> February 2013

## **SUMMARY**

**Balonne Shire Stock Route Management Plan 2012-2016** has been developed to manage the stock route network in a sustainable manner for travelling stock and other purposes.

The key objectives of this Plan are:

- To maintain and improve the SRN's natural resources and travelling stock facilities for use by travelling stock and others;
- To ensure the SRN remains available for public use;
- Raise public awareness and knowledge of the network's multiple uses and values;
- Establish a long-term commitment by the community to manage the network;
- Improve partnership arrangements between the State, Local Government, industry and community groups for managing stock routes;
- Encourage the implementation a fair and equitable payment system for those benefiting from the use of the network;
- Promote the consistency of SRN management principles and policies across and between all levels of government.

This plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and will serve as a guide to all local land managers.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Balonne Shire Council's vision is: "For the people: A caring and prosperous Shire in which to live and work".

Council's mission or purpose is: "To implement community needs by providing quality leadership and delivering efficient and effective services in partnership with the community".

One of Council's major strategies is to: "Maintain Council's commitment to rural services including effective pest and rural lands management."

To help achieve this Council has developed the "***Balonne Shire Stock Route Management Plan 2012 – 2016***".

The mission of the Balonne Shire Stock Route Management Plan 2012 – 2016 is to:

**Minimise the impacts of stock on the resources, users and values of the SRN and minimise the impacts from other users of the SRN on travelling and agisted stock.**

## ABBREVIATIONS and DEFINITIONS

BSC	Balonne Shire Council
DAFF	Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Endangered	A species which has had its numbers reduced to a critical level, or its habitat has been so drastically reduced that it may be in immediate danger of extinction; likely to become extinct if threatening factors continue to operate.
Endangered Regional Ecosystem	Remnant vegetation is <10% of its pre-clearing extent across a bioregion; or 10-30% of its pre-clearing extent remains and the remnant vegetation is less than 10,000 ha.
EHP	Queensland Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection
IT	Information Technology staff employed by the Balonne Shire Council
LGNRMO	Local Government Natural Resource Management Officer within the Maranoa-Balonne
LPO	Land Protection Officer with the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Not of Concern Regional Ecosystem	Remnant vegetation is >30% of its pre-clearing extent across the bioregion; and the remnant extent is > 10,000 ha.
NR&M	Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Of Concern Regional Ecosystem	Remnant vegetation is 10-30% of its pre-clearing extent across the bioregion; or >30% of its pre-clearing extent remains and the remnant extent is <10,000 ha.
Presumed Extinct	A species that has not been sighted in the wild for period critical to its life cycle despite thorough searching.
PWG	Pest Working Group within Balonne Shire
QMDC	Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Rare	Species which have a relatively large population in a restricted range, or species with small populations spread over a wide range, which may be at risk.
Regional Ecosystem	Specific vegetation communities that are consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil in a region.
RPAC	Regional Organisation of Councils
Relevant Land	Land that is a stock route, a reserve for travelling stock or road under local government control.

Reserve for Travelling Stock	A reserve under the <i>Land Act 1994</i> that may be used for travelling stock.
Road	An area of land dedicated to public use as a road but does not <i>include</i> a <i>State-controlled road under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> .
SRN	Stock Route Network
SRS	Stock Route Supervisor employed by the Balonne Shire Council
Stock	Both large stock (camels, cattle, donkeys, horses) and small stock (deer, goats and sheep).
Stock Route	A road or route ordinarily used for travelling stock or declared under a regulation to be a stock route.
Thinning	The selective clearing of vegetation at a locality to restore it to the floristic composition and range of densities typical of the regional ecosystem surrounding that locality.
Threatened	Any species which is rare, vulnerable or endangered or an ecosystem which is of concern or endangered.
Vulnerable	A species whose population is decreasing because of threatening processes, or that has been seriously depleted and its protection is not assured; not currently endangered but likely to become so if threatening processes continue to operate
WPH&S	Work Place Health & Safety
WWF Australia	World Wide Fund for Nature Australia

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Stock Route Network (SRN) consists of routes and reserves and are pathways for the movement of stock on the hoof throughout Queensland's pastoral districts.

Stock routes are defined in the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* as a 'road or route ordinarily used for travelling stock or declared under a regulation as a stock route'. The Act defines a reserve for travelling stock as 'land that is a reserve under the *Land Title Act 1994* and may be used for travelling stock' and mainly consists of camping and water reserves. Refer to Appendix One for a map of Stock Routes within Balonne Shire.

The Queensland SRN consists of approximately 72,000 kilometres (2.6 million hectares). Stock routes within Balonne Shire cover a combined length of about 1,455 kilometres.

Stock routes and reserves are generally used for a range of economic, production and recreational purposes and can have natural resource, environmental, cultural and scientific values. Many agencies have statutory powers to undertake or approve various activities on land within the SRN such as construction of vehicle carriageways, timber harvesting, pipelines, power lines, communication structures and sand or gravel extraction. These multiple uses need to be considered within the overall management of the SRN.

The role of the State, through the Department of Natural Resources is to:

- Provide a legislative and policy framework that enables local government to undertake the day-to-day administration and management of the network and other relevant land.
- Review, when requested, local government decisions regarding travel and agistment permits.

Local Governments are allocated the responsibility of on-ground management of the SRN and their role includes:

- Assessing permit applications for travel and agistment;
- Issuing travel and agistment permits;
- Maintaining stock route facilities;
- Monitoring and managing the condition of resources on relevant land; and
- Ensuring compliance.

As part of this responsibility Balonne Shire Council is also required to produce a Stock Route Management Plan under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.

This Plan sets out Council's goals, policies, strategies and actions for the sustainable management of the SRN within the Shire.

Developed in accordance with the requirements of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* this Plan will serve as a guide to all local land managers.

## 2.0 PURPOSE

SRN management does not encompass the overall management of the road corridors where the stock routes are located; it is simply the management of impacts from and to stock that use the network.

Consequently the purpose of this plan is to improve the management of the SRN so that the impacts of (i) stock on the resources, users and values of the SRN and (ii) the impacts from other users of the SRN on travelling and agisted stock are minimised.

This Plan begins by describing the natural and cultural resources of the SRN within Balonne Shire (Section 3.0) including climate, land resources and significant areas followed by an overview of the current uses, values, pressures, hazards/risks and management of the SRN within Balonne Shire (Section 3.5).

For the purpose of this Plan management of the SRN has been divided into the following components:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Network integrity           | 6. Pest and disease management     |
| 2. Grazing management          | 7. Water agreements management     |
| 3. Significant area management | 8. Permitting travel and agistment |
| 4. Risks and safety management | 9. Compliance                      |
| 5. Infrastructure management   |                                    |

Each of these components are outlined separately in Section 5.0 and within each component the following is outlined:

- ❑ Their relevance to the SRN;
- ❑ The management goals;
- ❑ Indicators and targets for achieving the goals;
- ❑ Balonne Shire Council's policies relating to the component and stock routes;
- ❑ Issues associated with achieving the goal;
- ❑ Strategies and actions to overcome the issues.

This Plan operates as a practical extension to the visionary statements and goals set out in the draft *Queensland Stock Route Network Strategy* and the Principles for SRN Management, provided for in the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. It has also been developed in conjunction with a local community working group and will operate in conjunction with Council's Corporate and Operational Plans, other relevant State and regional plans and natural resource management legislation outlined in Appendix Two.

Implementation of the plan, including Balonne Shire Council resources, is discussed in Section 6.0 and will lead to improvements in services to stakeholders, greater accountability by Council and more efficient use of available resources.

Ultimately, this plan will play a vital role in protecting the production and conservation values of the SRN within Balonne Shire.

## **2.1 OBJECTIVES**

The key objectives of this Plan are:

- To ensure the SRN remains available for public use;
- To maintain and improve the SRN's natural resources and travelling stock facilities for use by travelling stock and others;
- Raise public awareness and knowledge of the network's multiple uses and values;
- Establish a long-term commitment by the community to manage the network;
- Improve partnership arrangements between the State, local government, industry and community groups for managing stock routes;
- Encourage the implementation of a fair and equitable payment system for those benefiting from the use of the network;
- Promote consistency of SRN management principles and policies across and between all levels of government.

## **2.2 DURATION**

This Plan will be submitted to the Minister for Natural Resources in 2012. Should the Minister judge that it satisfies the requirements of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* (Qld), Council will be advised to adopt the revised Plan early in 2013.

Upon adoption of the Plan it will be available for public inspection in both written and electronic form at the Council's office.

The Plan will remain current until 1 July 2009. Strategies and actions for 2005–06 will be reviewed for their effectiveness on or before 1 April 2006 and any shortfalls in the completion of its strategies will be amended.

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

Balonne Shire covers 31,119 square kilometres and is heavily reliant upon agricultural industries (crops and livestock). The leading primary industries in the Shire include cotton, sheep/wool, grain crops, wild game harvesting, fruit/vegetable production and beef/cattle industries and cover about 90% of the total Shire area.

The following provides a brief outline of the background material considered in developing this Plan, which has also been summarised in Table Three.

### **3.1 CLIMATE**

Balonne Shire lies within the semi arid zone. The rainfall pattern is summer dominant and is highly variable with drought and floods a feature. The median monthly rainfall is around 500 mm / year. Winter rainfall generally comprises less than 25% of annual falls.

Flooding is mainly a summer occurrence, however can occur in the cooler months, and plays an important role in the hydrological regime of the Lower Balonne River system.

Temperatures can be extremely hot in summer (mean of about 33°C) and cold in winter (mean of about 6°C). Frosts generally occur from May to September. July and August can be affected by severe frosts of below 0°C.

Approximately 65% of all rain received is lost through evaporation. This loss varies with ground cover and time of year. Evaporation loss is an important factor in maintaining soil moisture.

## **3.2 LAND RESOURCES**

Balonne Shire mostly comprises Clayey Alluvium, Texture Contrast Alluvium and Poplar Box Red Earth Alluvium with some areas of Gidgee Lands, Undulating Poplar Box Texture Contrast Soils and Hard Mulga Lands. A general description and location, associated vegetation types, major soils, suitability and major limitations of these Land Resources is outlined in Appendix Three.

Livestock production is directly linked to quality and quantity of summer pasture growth. Grasses generally complete their growth cycle by April / May. This results in the quantity and nutritive value (protein and energy levels) of the feed declining during the cooler months.

Sufficient herbage growth to maintain animal production through the cooler months will occur in years of above average winter rainfall. This has been reported as a 1 in 3 year occurrence (Eddie, 1988).

Grazing land condition along the stock route varies, however, is for the most part estimated by Council's Stock Route Supervisor, as being in reasonably good condition, with only a few small areas projected as being in fair condition, or "A" to "B" condition under the 'ABCD' scoring framework within the Stocktake program. Significant seasonal variation occurs as a result of fire, drought and floods.

Stocktake is a paddock-scale land condition monitoring and management package developed by DAFF. An explanation of the 'ABCD' scoring framework is provided in Appendix Four.

The few small areas estimated to be in fair or "B" condition was due to some weed infestation, construction of infrastructure causing slight soil degradation (eg. road works / graded roads), compaction by stock and vehicles around some watering points, thickening of woody plants or natural erosion.

### **3.3 SIGNIFICANT AREAS**

The Balonne Shire Council recognises that significant areas are contained within the SRN and range from cultural heritage sites (indigenous and historic) to areas that have significant environmental value (including riparian areas and areas of significant biodiversity). Significant areas contained within the SRN can also have additional value, for example by providing economic benefits to the Shire through recreational, tourism and education opportunities.

Resources available to the Balonne Shire Council for assessment of SRN significant areas are limited. However, within the Shire and surrounding district there are many centres and resources from which assistance, information and expertise has been drawn. Examples include officers of government departments (especially EPA, DPI&F, NR&M), staff from the St. George Information Centre and non-government organisations such as QMDC and Landcare.

The following sections provide an overview of the (i) vegetation and native fauna, (ii) wetlands and riparian zones and (iii) cultural heritage values within Balonne Shire.

#### **3.3.1 Vegetation and Native Fauna**

In recent years there has been an increasing awareness and appreciation of the biodiversity values contained within the SRN. Examples of these values within the Balonne Shire SRN include:

- The presence of extensive and viable remnants of many of the Shire's vegetation types. Some of these remnants are classified as 'endangered' or 'of concern' regional ecosystems and maybe rare or otherwise significant because they have been extensively cleared within other parts of the State or have been severely altered/modified within the surrounding landscape;
- The presence of populations of rare and/or threatened plants and animals, and other species of conservation significance, such as migratory species, species at the limits of their geographic range and declining species (eg. some woodland birds);
- The presence of vegetation corridors, which are important for the movement of numerous wildlife species;
- Seed sources for numerous plant species;
- The presence of wild flowers which can contribute to the greater appreciation of the landscape.

A summary of significant vegetation types represented within the SRN in Balonne Shire is shown in Table One. Appendix Ten provides further detail about threatened regional ecosystem types occurring in the SRN.

**Table One****Significant Vegetation Types Represented within the SRN in Balonne Shire**

<b>Vegetation Type/Regional Ecosystem</b>	<b>Reason for Significance</b>	<b>Example Locations</b>
brigalow/belah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extensively cleared in the Shire.</li><li>• Contain important food resources for several rare animals including the glossy black-cockatoo and painted honeyeater.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mitchell-St George Road</li><li>• Moonie Highway</li><li>• Carnarvon Highway</li></ul>
gidgee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extensively cleared in the Shire.</li><li>• Contains important food resources for several rare animals including the glossy black-cockatoo and painted honeyeater.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Balonne Highway</li></ul>
spinifex/heath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Uncommon vegetation type that occurs very patchily in Balonne Shire.</li><li>• Contains rare and threatened plant and animal species that are often restricted to this habitat within the Shire.</li><li>• Visually spectacular during wildflower displays.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moonie Highway</li><li>• Balonne Highway</li></ul>
native grasslands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Often extensively cultivated or modified in the surrounding landscape (ie. good quality examples exist within the SRN).</li><li>• Contain specially adapted plant and animal species.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carnarvon Highway</li></ul>

Rare and threatened plants and animals which are expected to occur within the Balonne Shire SRN are listed within Appendix Five. The preferred habitat of these species has been identified where known.

A Road Corridor Environmental Assessment (RCEA) has recently been completed by Department of Main Roads for all of southwest Queensland main roads. This assessment, which rates the relative significance of segments of the road reserve (based on factors such as type and condition of vegetation and likely presence of threatened species) provides a useful starting point for identifying areas of the stock route network within Balonne Shire that are of conservation significance. Detailed information has been compiled for the Carnarvon Highway, Castlereagh Highway, Balonne Highway, Moonie Highway, St George-Mitchell Road and Bollon-Charleville Road and much of this information is directly applicable to the SRN.

The EHP has completed a Biodiversity Planning Assessment (BPA) for the Brigalow Belt South and Mulga Lands bioregions. As Balonne Shire falls within this area of assessment, information can be drawn from the BPA to assist in the identification of significant areas (see Appendix Ten).

### **Thickening Vegetation**

Many vegetation communities in Balonne Shire, particularly those on loamy and sandy soils such as the poplar box and mulga communities have been 'invaded' by native woody colonising plants such as false sandalwood (*Eremophila mitchellii*), wilga (*Geijera parviflora*), limebush (*Citrus glauca*), turpentine (*E. sturtii*), hopbush (*Dodonaea viscosa*), Ellangowan poison bush (*Eremophila deserti*), boobialla (*Myoporum acuminatum*) and cassias (*Senna artemisioides*). These plants, commonly referred to as woody weeds, would have always been part of the 'natural' landscape, however, they have proliferated due to a combination of the reduction or absence of fires, grazing history at the site and past climatic events. In some areas, these plants now dominate the understorey and prevent the growth of ground layer vegetation (ie. palatable pasture species). This in turn, may lead to the areas being more susceptible to sheet or gully erosion. Most woody weeds are unpalatable therefore land productivity is reduced. Movement of livestock is hindered and made potentially unsafe where woody weeds are prevalent.

By the same processes listed above, the canopy species in many vegetation communities have also thickened. These particularly include mulga, poplar box and white cypress pine patches. The management of thickened vegetation may require a combination of methods to return the country to a more open state, for example, mechanical removal, chemical application or and/or use of fire. This process may be tedious and may take decades.

### **3.3.2 Wetlands and Riparian Areas**

Major riparian areas within the SRN in Balonne Shire include the Balonne, Moonie, Culgoa and Maranoa Rivers. Other watercourses are Paterson, Wallam, Mungallala, Neabul, Briarie and Teelba Creeks. The riparian fringe of these watercourses is usually vegetated by river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) often in combination with river she-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*) and western tea-tree (*Melaleuca trichostachya*). Associated with these watercourses are floodplains which support open woodlands of poplar box (*Eucalyptus populnea*), coolabah (*E. coolabah*) and black box (*E. largiflorens*).

There is a variety of wetland types found within the SRN in Balonne Shire other than riparian areas. These include lagoons, swamps and gilgais, which are often small but no less significant. They typically contain plants such as sedges, rushes, nardoo, canegrass and marshworts.

Riparian areas and other wetlands provide habitat for a range of plants and animals that are adapted to and dependent upon these habitats for their survival and life cycles. Wetlands provide a valuable seasonal refuge for wetland animals, such as waterbirds, frogs, fish, turtles, molluscs (snails, mussels), crustaceans (crabs, shrimps, crayfish), insects (dragonflies, water bugs and beetles), worms and many microscopic species (plankton). Wetlands become particularly important during drought, when waterbirds may congregate to feed, and numerous other animals use them as a water source and hunting ground. Apart from their values to wildlife, wetlands have a broader role in maintaining the health of the landscape. They can help to slow the flow of water during extreme weather events, such as flooding, which reduces erosion. Some wetlands are also able to act as filters of nutrient and sediment from run-off water.

Numerous wetlands within the SRN in Balonne Shire are being assessed for future management in association with the QMDC.. Threats to and degradation of wetlands caused

as a result of uses of the SRN are also unknown. Wetland mapping undertaken by NR&M and WWF Australia provides a useful starting point to compile an inventory of wetlands within the SRN.

### **3.3.3 Cultural Heritage**

The SRN within Balonne Shire contains many examples of culturally significant sites. These include sites of European historic interest such as tracks used by early explorers, camps, old townships and settlements. Examples along the SRN include an early settlers cemetery located at Currawillinghi (about eight kilometres west of Hebel on Stock Route U630), an old ghost town located at Dareel (on the banks of the Moonie River on Stock Route P06) and the Alton township (on the Moonie Highway on Stock Route M626). Appendix Eleven provides a list of Heritage listed places within Balonne Shire obtained from the DEHP / Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. A comprehensive list of historical sites within the shire is continuously being reviewed and consolidated by staff at the St. George Information Centre, however this was unavailable at the time of writing this plan.

Sites of significance to Aboriginal people also exist within the SRN. They include sites with evidence of occupation such as stone scatters, scarred trees and rock wells. Stock routes may also contain other resources that are of significance to Aboriginal people, including bush tucker and medicinal plants. Examples along the SRN within Balonne Shire include the Rock Wells located 39 kilometres east of St. George on the Moonie Highway on Stock Route U632. These wells are currently fenced for conservation purposes.

The Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit within the Department of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy was contacted to obtain a list of documented Aboriginal cultural heritage sites occurring on all Stock Routes and public lands within Balonne Shire during the preparation of the 2005-2009 Plan. However, no information was made available for the purposes of preparation of that plan. As many more sites may be present than have actually been recorded it is more relevant to identify an on-going process to continually identify and encourage the appropriate management of culturally significant sites within the Stock Route Network.

Generally the location, current condition and threats to cultural heritage within the SRN are poorly documented. Documentation of the location, current condition and threats to cultural heritage within the SRN will require detailed consultations with traditional owner groups and local historians.

## **3.4 Fire**

Fire plays an important role in rejuvenating native vegetation communities and can play a role in woody weed control (see Section 3.3.1). In recent times, fire has rarely been used as a management tool within the Balonne Shire SRN. This may be partly because the use of fire relies on a substantial body of fuel being available, which can be difficult if stock are moved through these areas frequently and when seasons are poor.

Fire is a useful tool to stimulate fire-adapted vegetation types such as spinifex country and some eucalypt woodland types. Many of the plants within these communities are well-adapted to fire and rely on it to ensure that the community rejuvenates. These communities may eventually senesce in areas that remain long unburnt. If left too long, the density of 'undesirable' trees and shrubs will increase to the extent that spinifex and associated heath plants will be choked out and opportunities to burn will be lost. Areas where this process has



already occurred include the Balonne Highway between Bollon and St George where spinifex has almost disappeared from some areas.

Care should be taken with the use of fire in some vegetation types which are fire sensitive. These include brigalow/belah, gidgee and cypress pine communities. Brigalow/belah and gidgee communities have high conservation values which can easily be degraded by the inappropriate use of fire. Dense shrubby areas can be favoured as habitat by some wildlife, such as small birds and some reptiles, hence a plan may need to be developed that examines which infestations are worthwhile burning, and those that are worth retaining for conservation purposes.

Advice from locals, rural fire service and departmental staff (such as QPWS) should be sought before burning is implemented. Training/accreditation for staff, firebreaks and equipment will be necessary. Fires that are lit at inappropriate times can have damaging effects, such as scalding the soil, sacrificing valuable feed (woody and pasture) and attracting large numbers of kangaroos. Small patch burns are likely to be 'flogged' by domestic stock as well as native animals, unless they are given time to regenerate. In some areas, 'cool' fires that retain some patchy ground cover such as a percentage of logs and leaf litter will benefit small animals living in the area. Hotter fires may be required in other areas to kill woody plants. Achieving these desired outcomes requires skill and years of practice – the art of firing country is often developed after learning from many mistakes.

### 3.5 STOCK ROUTES

Stock routes are classified as primary, secondary, minor or inactive routes based on their level of use by travelling stock. The classifications have been derived from statistics obtained from the issue of Stock Route Permits between 1988 and 1997 (Table Two). Within Balonne Shire there are 1,455 kilometres of stock routes. Appendix One provides a map of Stock Routes within Balonne Shire.

**Table Two**

**Classification of Stock Routes**

Classification	Cattle Equivalents Per 5 year period (6 sheep = 1 cow)
Primary	> 9000 head
Secondary	3000 –9000 head
Minor	< 3000 head
Inactive	Local & unrecorded movements

The SRN in Balonne Shire is used for moving stock from properties within and outside the Shire to

- other pastoral properties;
- feedlots;
- backgrounding properties;
- markets (such as the Roma Bungil Saleyards)

in both Queensland and New South Wales.

The SRN has played a significant role in times of drought, fire and flood providing relief fodder and access to secure, well-watered facilities.

### **Inactive Stock Routes**

There are five stock routes covering 305 kilometres in Balonne Shire classed as inactive (last stock recorded on these routes were in 1995). These are all unfenced and are generally inactive because of the relatively few watering points located along these routes. Because these routes are unfenced neighbouring landholders often have access to, and use, these areas for grazing and watering purposes.

### **Town Commons**

There are six Town Commons within Balonne Shire located at St. George, Bollon, Hebel, Dirranbandi, Mungindi and Thallon. For local laws associated with these areas refer to *Balonne Shire Council Local Law No. 17 (Parks and Reserves) 2001* and *Balonne Shire Council Subordinate Local Law No. 17 (Parks and Reserves) 2001*. Only one of these Town Commons (Dirranbandi) is situated on the Stock Route Network. Drovers are responsible for not boxing cattle and horses depastured on the town common when moving their stock through the area.

### **Watering Facilities and Agreements**

Watering facilities on the SRN within the Balonne Shire consist of artesian and sub-artesian bores, excavated tanks and natural waterholes. Extensive upgrading of these facilities is ongoing. An inventory of these facilities is provided in Appendix Seven.

## **3.5.1 Values and Use**

The values and use of the SRN are listed in Table Three.

### **Transport and Movement of Vehicles, Stock and People**

The SRN provides a corridor for the movement of stock by hoof to markets and other pastoral leases / grazing paddocks. In many instances stock routes are also public roads, allowing for the movement of vehicles and machinery.

Local property owners within Balonne Shire use the SRN to move stock by hoof from one property to another (where the properties are not adjoining and are owned or operated by the same business). In many instances this usually takes less than a day and under this circumstance a permit is not required - S133 of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.

Local committees use the SRN to walk cattle to and from campdraft grounds for use in campdraft and other horse / cattle sporting competitions and events.

### **Grazing and Habitat / Natural Resource**

Pasture on the SRN provides food (nutrients) for travelling and agisted stock and provides a valuable fodder reserve in the event of drought and other adverse conditions. Adjoining landholders also benefit from the grazing potential of stock routes in areas where the SRN is not fenced.

The SRN provides a valuable resource (shelter and food) and corridor for the movement of native animals within the landscape (refer to Section 3.3 for further detail).

### **Cultural Heritage**

The SRN contains many examples of culturally significant sites (refer to Section 3.3.3) and is used by traditional owner groups, historians, tourists and the general public to study and carry out cultural heritage related activities.

### **Recreation and Education**

Recreational values and uses within the SRN include fishing, swimming and boating (including access points to the River), camping by local and travelling public, bush walking, bird watching and horse riding.

Stock routes are also often used for education activities and research due to their often high environmental, cultural and biodiversity values (outlined in more detail in Section 3.3) as compared to landscapes which in some instances has been modified for additional uses (eg. cropping).

## **3.5.2 Pressures**

Pressures on stock and values of the SRN are listed in Table Three.

### **Grazing Pressure and Competition**

Competition for feed, grazing rights and consequent grazing pressure on the SRN exists between landholders wanting to agist or use the area (especially in adverse climate conditions such as drought), travelling stock (including those seeking to feed stock as opposed to those relocating stock) and wildlife. Grazing pressure is also an issue in areas where the stock route is not fenced and grazing pressure from stock cannot be adequately controlled by the managing authority.

### **Management**

In some instances there is a disparity between people holding a 'permit to occupy' and their understanding as to who has the responsibility of managing pests and maintaining the land in reasonable condition. This uncertainty, or lack of responsibility and ownership, places increased pressure on the values of the SRN.

### **Resourcing**

Lack of resourcing for fencing, watering facilities, holding yards and pest management control activities places increased pressure on the SRN and the safe movement of stock.

### **Infrastructure**

Watering points along the SRN within Balonne Shire mostly consist of natural waterholes that do not require constructed facilities. Only in extreme climate conditions (ie. droughts) has one of the watering points become boggy and hazardous, particularly for weak stock. Watering facilities currently on flowing bores and being capped as funding becomes available to help retain and improve ground water quantity.

### **Pests**

Some pest plants and animals can be hazardous to stock, human health, degrade natural ecosystems and reduce biodiversity placing increased pressure on the values of the SRN.

### **Vegetation Thickening**

Thickening of vegetation in some areas is reducing the grazing potential of the SRN for travelling and agisted stock.

Thickening of vegetation in these areas also restricts the movement of stock along the SRN and often forces stock onto roadways, which in turn can cause conflicts between and extra hazards for motorists and stock owners / drovers.

### **Knowledge and Use**

The lack of knowledge of cultural heritage and biodiversity values of the SRN can place increased pressures on these resources. For example, it is difficult to project cultural sites if their identity and location is unknown.

The lack of knowledge of the identity, biology and impacts of pest plants by a range of user groups can inadvertently cause their spread and impact on the SRN and stock using the network.

## **3.5.3 Hazards and Risks**

Hazards and risks associated with stock and values of the SRN are listed in Table Three.

### **Road Safety**

Road safety is a fundamental concern on stock routes as stock often exist on the same land as roadways used by the travelling public.

### **Pests and Disease**

The spread of disease and pests is a risk associated with the many uses of the stock route, especially due to distances in which some users travel within and outside the SRN.

### **Infrastructure**

Windmills are hazardous to unauthorised users and are a high risk area for maintenance personnel.

Watering facilities and associated infrastructure can be a hazard to users of the SRN. For example, many of the stock watering facilities within Balonne Shire are natural waterholes. Submerged obstacles can be hazardous for recreational uses including swimming, boating and fishing. In dry periods natural waterholes and excavated tanks can become boggy.

### **Fire**

Campers and other users of the SRN may increase risk of fire. Inappropriate fire management may also cause loss of infrastructure, habitat and diversity.

**Table Three**  
**Overview of the SRN within Balonne Shire including its Uses, Values and Pressures**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Balonne Shire Council</b></p> <p><b>Population:</b> 5,400</p> <p><b>Main land uses:</b>  The leading primary industries in the Shire include cotton, sheep/wool, grain crops, wild game harvesting, fruit/vegetable production and beef/cattle industries.</p> <p><b>Land types, soils and vegetation:</b> Refer to Section 2.3.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SRN Inventory</b></p> <p><b>Total distance of routes</b></p> <table> <tr><td>Total</td><td>1,455 km</td></tr> <tr><td>Primary</td><td>205 km</td></tr> <tr><td>Secondary</td><td>435 km</td></tr> <tr><td>Minor</td><td>510 km</td></tr> <tr><td>Inactive</td><td>305 km</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Total No. of water facilities</b></p> <table> <tr><td>Total</td><td>82</td></tr> <tr><td>Artesian flowing bores</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Sub artesian bore</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Dams</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>Equipped Dam</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Piped from River to tank &amp; trough</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Natural waterholes</td><td>42</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Condition of water facilities</b>  All current water facilities are considered to be in fair to good condition (refer to the infrastructure condition report in Appendix Seven).</p>	Total	1,455 km	Primary	205 km	Secondary	435 km	Minor	510 km	Inactive	305 km	Total	82	Artesian flowing bores	20	Sub artesian bore	2	Dams	16	Equipped Dam	1	Piped from River to tank & trough	1	Natural waterholes	42
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Piped from River to tank & trough	1																								
Natural waterholes	42																								
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Use of the SRN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelling stock (droving) – usage is outlined in Appendix Four.</li> <li>• Agistment (short term)</li> <li>• Uncontrolled grazing (on unfenced areas of the SRN)</li> <li>• Fishing</li> <li>• Camping (local and travelling public)</li> <li>• Pony club (horse riding)</li> <li>• Cattle are walked to and from campdraft grounds along the stock route by Campdraft Committee/s</li> <li>• Historical</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Biodiversity and environmental significance (eg. habitat)</li> <li>• Educational activities (schools and community groups)</li> <li>• Recreational activities (boating, bird watching, swimming, bush walking)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Management of the SRN</b></p> <p>Balonne Shire employs one full time Officer (SRS) who is authorised to control pests on land under its control and manage the stock route. This Officer spends about 50% of their time on pest plant and animal management and about 50% on stock route management.</p> <p>Other assets Balonne Shire has to help with the management of the SRN are outlined in Section 6.1.</p> <p>Balonne Shire also has a Land Protection Committee consisting of the Mayor, three Councillors, CEO and SRS. The role of this committee is to advise on issues pertaining to, and management of, the SRN. Recommendations from this Committee are presented to a full Council meeting for ratification or otherwise.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Values on the SRN</b></p> <p>Pastoral (Grazing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel (stock / vehicles)</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural Heritage</li> <li>• Recreational</li> <li>• Educational</li> <li>• Amenity</li> </ul> <p><b>Pressures on stock using the SRN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to water during droughts</li> <li>• Pest plants and animals</li> <li>• Vehicles and infrastructure</li> <li>• Vegetation thickening</li> </ul> <p><b>Hazards and Risks such as infrastructure, road and fire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Safety</li> <li>• Fire</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• Pests &amp; Disease</li> <li>• See the infrastructure condition report - Appendix Four.</li> </ul>																								
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pressures on the Values of the SRN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grazing pressure</li> <li>• Competition for pasture between landholders, travelling stock and wildlife</li> <li>• Pest plants and animals</li> <li>• Droughts</li> <li>• Ensuring road safety where both vehicles and stock use the same parcel of land</li> <li>• Lack of resourcing for the construction and maintenance of necessary infrastructure</li> <li>• Responsibility for weed eradication, security of tenure and competition for pasture in areas under a 'permit to occupy'</li> </ul>																									

## 4.0 PREPARATION OF THE PLAN

The *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* sets out the principles of SRN management (Table Four). Council supports and has incorporated these principles into this Plan.

**Table Four**

### Principles of Stock Route Management

Principle	Description
<b>Public awareness</b>	Public awareness and knowledge of the network's multiple uses, environmental values and cultural values must be raised to increase the capacity and willingness of individuals to protect the network.
<b>Commitment</b>	Effective management of the stock route network requires a long-term commitment by the community to management of the network.
<b>Consultation and partnership</b>	Consultation and partnership arrangements between local communities, industry groups, State government agencies and local governments must be established to achieve a collaborative approach to stock route network management.
<b>Management</b>	The stock route network is to be managed— a. to ensure it remains available for public use; and b. to maintain and improve the network's natural resources and travelling stock facilities for use by travelling stock and for other purposes.
<b>Payment for use</b>	A person who benefits from using the network must pay a reasonable amount for its use.
<b>Planning</b>	Stock route network management must be consistent at local, regional and State levels to ensure resources for managing the network are used to target management priorities.
<b>Monitoring and evaluation</b>	Regular monitoring and evaluation of the network's natural resources and travelling stock facilities is necessary to improve stock route network management practices.

## 4.1 WORKING GROUP

Balonne Shire established a working group to advise Council on the development of the Pest Management Plan. Stakeholders involved and their responsibilities in this process are outlined in Table Five.

**Table Five**

Stakeholders	Representative	Responsibility
Queensland Department of Natural Resources & Mines	Mr Graham Hardwick Senior Lands Protection Officer Roma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alignment of <i>Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan</i> with State management strategies, policies and guidelines.</li> <li>Provide local knowledge.</li> </ul>
Environment and Heritage Protection	Mr Andy Coward Ranger in Charge Un-staffed Parks & Southwest Pest Management Coordinator National Parks & Wildlife Service Roma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alignment of <i>Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan</i> with State management strategies, policies and guidelines.</li> <li>Provide Local Knowledge.</li> </ul>

SWNRM	Ms Amy Steer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide expert knowledge.</li> </ul>
QMDC	Ms Pippa Bagshaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment with Murray Darling Catchment plans.</li> </ul>
DTMR	District Engineer (TBA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide knowledge and integration with road construction/maintenance and machine movement.</li> </ul>
CSG Industry	Jamie Gorrie, Advisor Land Management, SANTOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide knowledge and integration with CSG plant and equipment movement.</li> </ul>
Landcare / Catchment Groups	Mr Ian Tutt Landcare Coordinator Warroo/Balonne Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment of <i>Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan</i> with regional natural resource management plan objectives and outcomes.</li> </ul>
BSC Wild Dog Advisory Committee	Mr Jeff Betts Mr Bill Winks Mr Adam Pardbury Mr Rod Avery Mr Peter Gaunt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide local knowledge.</li> </ul>
Balonne Shire Council	Mr Karl Hempstead Stock Routes Supervisor Balonne Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Local Knowledge.</li> <li>• Identify Balonne Shire Council direction and available resources.</li> </ul>
Balonne Shire Council	Cr. Rod Avery Cr. Robbie Paul Cr. Ian Winks CEO – Scott Norman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Local Knowledge.</li> <li>• Identify Balonne Shire Council direction and available resources.</li> </ul>

## **4.2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

During the development of the initial Plan, many key organizations and the Balonne Shire community were invited to comment on the draft during the consultation process. Where reasonable, these organizations have been advised of the update to the Plan. The key organizations include:



**Agricultural Industry:**

- Agforce
- St George Cotton Growers' Association
- Dirranbandi Cotton Growers' Association
- Drovers

**Service Industry:**

- Ergon
- Queensland Rail
- Telstra

**Traditional Owner Groups**

- South Queensland Traditional Owners Natural Resource & Cultural Heritage Management Association
- Kamilaroi Lands Trust

**Government Departments:**

- Environmental Protection Agency (Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service)
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- Department of Local Government and Planning
- Local Government Association of Queensland
- Department of Main Roads

**Pest Management Groups:**

- Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board
- Australian Plague Locust Commission
- Land Protection Council

**Neighbouring Shires:**

- Paroo Shire Council
- Maranoa Regional Council
- Western Downs Regional Council
- Goondiwindi Regional Council
- Moree Plains Shire Council
- Walgett Shire Council
- Brewarrina Shire Council

**Natural Resource Management Groups:**

- Warroo / Balonne Landcare Group
- Dirranbandi Landcare Group
- Nindigully Landcare Group
- Maranoa-Balonne Catchment Management Association
- Queensland Murray Darling Committee
- Bindle Best Practice Group
- Border Rivers Catchment Management Association

## **5.0 STOCK ROUTE NETWORK MANAGEMENT COMPONENTS**

For the purpose of this Plan management of the SRN has been divided into the following components:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Network integrity           | 6. Pest and disease management     |
| 2. Grazing management          | 7. Water agreements management     |
| 3. Significant area management | 8. Permitting travel and agistment |
| 4. Risks and safety management | 9. Compliance                      |
| 5. Infrastructure management   |                                    |

Each of these components are outlined separately below.

Resources to manage the SRN are limited. Consequently high priority actions will be implemented first. Other actions will be implemented as resources become available.

## **5.1 NETWORK INTEGRITY**

### **5.1.1 Relevance for the SRN Network**

Council has a general duty of care to protect the values (Section 3.4.1) of, and manage, the SRN to maintain its capacity to act as a corridor for the movement of stock by hoof and in doing so minimise the impacts from, and to, stock that use the network.

This requires identifying pressures impacting on these values (Section 3.4.2) and implementing appropriate action to maintain and improve the integrity of the SRN. This is achieved through sharing information, adequate resourcing and working cooperatively with other user groups / managers of land within the SRN within and adjacent to the Shire.

To maintain the integrity of the SRN it is also important that management is consistent at local, regional and State levels. Council recognises and supports the draft *Queensland Stock Route Network Strategy* by ensuring both this Strategy and the *Balonne Shire Stock Route Management Plan 2012-2016* are consistent and complementary along with other documents listed in Appendix Two.

#### **Principles**

Network integrity will contribute to the “consultation and partnership”, “management” and “planning” legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

### **5.1.2 Goal**

**That the SRN’s integrity as a State corridor is maintained and enhanced so that unimpeded travel can occur through Balonne and adjoining Shires.**

### 5.1.3 Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Targets
Number of significant differences between Balonne Shire Council and adjoining Shire Council's stock route management approaches which impede smooth travel between Shires.	Zero
Number of complaints received regarding impediments to travel on the SRN within Balonne Shire.	Zero
Percentage of actions within the <i>Balonne Shire Stock Route Management Plan 2012 – 2016</i> implemented.	100%

### 5.1.4 Policies

#### Partnership

- Acknowledge the Memorandum of Understanding between the LGAQ and NR&M.
- Engage with adjoining Shire Councils to develop a partnership approach whereby priority issues for management that cross local government area boundaries will be agreed upon, and to develop in partnership where possible consistent management approaches to these issues.

#### Rationalisation

- Retain all current stock routes for their multi-use values.
- Periodically review routes and reserves to determine if additional stock routes are required and/or if the current stock routes should be re-classified.

#### Removal of Impediments

- Encourage users and managers of the SRN to notify Council of the types and location of impediments to travelling stock on the network and where appropriate order removal of such impediments through working with landholder groups, issuing notices to landholders (if required), and incorporating tasks into Council staff work plans.

### 5.1.5 Issues

For Council to meet the goals and targets set for network integrity and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with the network integrity policies the following issues need to be addressed:

- Current resourcing is insufficient to effectively manage the SRN.
- Communication (with neighbouring Shire Councils, within Council and with users of the SRN).
- Drovers and users being unaware of the inconsistency between neighbouring Shire Councils (eg. stock numbers, type of stock, closure of the SRN).
- Rationalisation of stock routes in conjunction with neighbours.
- Allowing travelling stock continual access to the SRN.

### 5.1.6 Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Adequately resource activities and actions required to ensure the integrity of the SRN	Review the current role of the SRS in line with labour resources required to effectively manage the SRN within Balonne Shire.	BSC	High	Annual
	Identify and develop partnerships with other organizations / groups to help manage the SRN network.	BSC	Medium	On-going
	Identify additional funding sources.	BSC	Medium	On-going
Ensure SRN users and adjoining Shires are aware of rules and policies associated with its use within Balonne Shire.	In conjunction with Shire Councils responsible for managing the SRN within Queensland develop an extension package, which outlines the policies and rules associated with using the SRN within each Shire, and distribute this to drovers, travelling stock owners, Councils and others.	NR&M	High	Ongoing
	Participate in regional meetings to improve the consistency of policies and actions associated with managing the SRN between Shires (meetings to be organised by the LPO and LGNRMO).	SRS BSC LPO	High	On-going
Rationalise the SRN	Retain all current stock routes for their multi-use values.	BSC	Medium	On-going
	Review the classifications of Stock Routes within Balonne and neighbouring Shires, identify inconsistencies and, in conjunction with neighbouring Shires and where needed, apply to the State to alter their classifications to ensure consistency.	BSC	Low	As required.
Ensure permits to occupy and lease agreements for lands associated with the SRN are consistent with goals of the <i>Balonne Shire Stock Route Management Plan 2012 - 2016</i>	Review the conditions of State NR&M and local Council policies and agreements associated with permits to occupy and leasing land on the SRN and amend as appropriate to maintain or improve the integrity of the SRN (consider shorter lease terms, monitoring and compliance requirements and penalties).	NR&M BSC	High	Ongoing

## Network Integrity Strategies and Actions con't...

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Ensure permits to occupy and lease agreements for lands associated with the SRN are consistent with goals of the <i>Balonne Shire Stock Route Management Plan 2012 – 2016</i> con't...	With other Shire Councils negotiate for the development of management agreements between landowners using unfenced inactive stock routes and NR&M and recommend appropriate policies to be included in the agreements to maintain the integrity of the SRN.	BSC	High	On-going
	Seek endorsement from NR&M and neighbouring Councils to not re-issue permits to occupy on primary routes.	NR&M BSC	High	On-going
Remove impediments along the SRN	Continue to identify and actively encourage users of the SRN to report impediments to travelling stock. Organise the removal of impediments, as appropriate.	SRS	High	On-going
Provide travelling stock continual access to primary, secondary and minor stock routes.	Work with neighbouring Shire Councils to ensure travelling stock have continual access to primary, secondary and minor stock routes, except in extreme adverse conditions (eg. flood, very severe droughts).	SRS	High	On-going

## 5.2 Grazing Management

### 5.2.1 Relevance for the SRN Network

Stakeholders have a responsibility to sustainably manage natural resources within the SRN to ensure it remains productive and available for public use into the future. This includes (i) maintaining and improving pasture availability and land condition in general and (ii) maintaining and improving biodiversity (refer to Section 5.3 – Significant Area Management).

To help achieve this Council aims to adopt best management practices and principles and encourage self-improvement through participating in relevant training and educational activities, which is consistent with the draft *State Stock Route Management Strategy*.

#### Principles

Grazing management will contribute to the “management” and “monitoring and evaluation” legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

### 5.2.2 Goal

**To minimise the grazing impacts of travelling and agisted stock on the land condition of the SRN within Balonne Shire, and to ensure that the grazing resources are available for future use.**

## Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Targets
Percentage of land on SRN in Balonne Shire in "A" or "B" condition	90%
Percentage of land on SRN in Balonne Shire in "C" condition	8%
Percentage of land on SRN in Balonne Shire in "D" condition	<2%
Number of mobs entering Balonne Shire for which the SRS was not aware of at least seven working days before their arrival.	0%
A fire management plan for the stock route developed.	1 plan

### 5.2.4 Policies

#### Land and Pasture Management

- Apply current best practice management for all land types.
- Aim for all land on the SRN to be in "A" or "B" condition under the Stocktake program (Appendix Five).
- Use best practice management to improve land determined to be in "B", "C" or "D" condition under the Stocktake program.
- Council will consult with DAFF (or other relevant agencies) to formulate appropriate residual pasture levels for the SRN to aid with decisions over travel and agistment permit applications.
- Areas determined to have more pasture than is required for travelling stock (following appropriate monitoring) will be managed in this order of priority: short-term agistment (where there is interest) and burning where appropriate (taking into account environmental, biodiversity and safety risks).
- Land conditions to be taken into account when making decisions regarding stock and other land management issues, including considering carrying capacities of land to make decisions regarding travel, agistment (under permit) or agistment/occupation under a permit to occupy.
- Only consider agistment on the SRN when the pasture available exceeds the "reasonable" needs of travelling stock, where the "reasonable" needs are determined using current usage figures.
- Priority for applications will be considered in order of timing of applications / or in the case of travelling stock a written intent to apply (first in first served).

#### Maintain an adequate Supply for Travelling Stock

- Manage and conserve pasture on the stock route network within Balonne Shire to ensure, as far as practical, an adequate supply of pasture for travelling stock through:
  - Restricting the number of agistment cattle allowed on the SRN;
  - Negotiating with owners to remove stray stock, or where necessary, seize stray stock.

#### Agistment of Stock on Reserves and Stock Routes

- Policies relating to agistment of stock on reserves and stock routes are provided in Appendix Eight.

#### Travelling Stock

- Standard conditions and policies for travelling stock on reserves and stock routes are provided in Appendix Nine.

### 5.2.5 Issues

For Council to meet the goals and targets set for grazing management and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with the grazing management policies the following issues need to be addressed:

- Degradation of land during agistment and/or permits to occupy may be caused by high grazing pressure.
- Thickening of woody plants reducing grazing potential (particularly mulga, poplar box and pine)
- Under grazing can cause degradation of some grazing ecosystems.
- Management of pasture during droughts, including determining whether to permit stock to travel through the SRN by hoof during dry periods.
- When to allow supplement feeding and conditions associated with supplement feeding on the SRN.
- Capacity of Council to technically (with scientific rigour) monitor land / pasture condition and determine carrying capacity, is limited.
- Identifying signs of land degradation (such as salinity) and improving skills in best practice management.
- Drovers / travelling stock owners are unaware of the pasture condition of the SRN ahead of them and Council's policy on travelling stock within the SRN (eg. mob sizes).
- Councils are unaware of intended direction of travelling stock, mob size, and type moving through other Shires within the SRN, making it difficult to forward plan and allocate pasture resources.

### 5.2.6 Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Continually improve Council's staff grazing land management skills	SRS and Councillors attend a "Stock take" training program provided by the DAFF, where NR&M is to organise and provide the training.	SRS	High	Biannually
	SRS and other Council staff complete the salinity basics course (indicator signs of salinity) provided by Landcare.	SRS EHO BSC LPO	Medium	Biannually
	SRS and other Council staff undertake relevant grazing land and fire management workshops incorporating best practice.	SRS EHO BSC LPO	Medium	On-going
Set residual pasture levels	Consult with DAFF (or other relevant agencies) to set residual pasture levels.	SRS LPO	High	Biannually

## Grazing Strategies and Actions Con't...

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Improve the land and pasture condition of the SRN with the aim of maintaining good pasture growth and feed for travelling stock.	Keep abreast of and adopt best management practices, as appropriate, through subscribing to relevant magazines and attending relevant workshops.	SRS	High	On-going
	Implement the <i>Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan 2005 - 2009</i> .	BSC	High	On-going
	Develop a fire management plan for the SRN within Balonne Shire in consultation with neighbouring landholders, EPA, traditional owners, Emergency Services and natural resource groups.	BSC	Medium	201407
	Encourage pastures within the SRN to seed at least every second or third year (this can be implemented on a rotational basis).	SRS	High	On-going
	Drovers to split or stagger travelling stock into maximum mob sizes of 1000 (adult cattle or equivalent), unless the applicant can demonstrate to Council's satisfaction that issues regarding traffic safety, water availability and fodder availability can be satisfactorily dealt with, to ensure pastures and water facilities are not stretched beyond their capacity to protect the integrity of the SRN.	BSC	Medium	2006
	Identify areas being degraded due to under-grazing, determine their grazing potential and, where applicable, publicly tender for agistment applications for these areas.	BSC SRS LPO	Low	2008
	Construct holding yards and watering facilities in areas that will impose minimal impact on the integrity and condition of the SRN.	SRS	High	On-going
	Investigate management options for erosion issues near L61.BLM1203:Wagaily and report back to Council.	SRS	High	2005



## Grazing Strategies and Actions Con't....

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Supplement feeding does not adversely impact on the condition of the SRN.	Develop and implement policy on the Permit conditions to denote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No supplement feeding is to occur on the SRN except in exceptional circumstances and where approved by the Balonne Shire Council Rural Lands Committee.</li> <li>Supplement feeding is the responsibility of the stock owner / drover and that the integrity of the stock route is not to be comprised through supplement feeding.</li> <li>A weed hygiene declaration is to be provided for all supplement feed used on the SRN and only feed free of declared pests and diseases can be used within the SRN.</li> </ul>	BSC SRS	High	2005
Improve Communication	In conjunction with other Shire Councils within the State encourage NR&M to coordinate and implement a state policy which denotes "When drovers or stock owners first apply for a travelling permit within Queensland or New South Wales they also (i) provide details of the direction and routes they intend to travel upon to reach their final destination (using a standard "intent to travel" form to be designed by NR&M) and then (ii) notify all Councils responsible for SRN in which they intend to travel. (Information on "intent to travel" form to include mob size and type, current location and contact person (including contact details) and a clause which states that the owner / drover is to notify Councils within a reasonable time period if their "intent to travel" changes.	NR&M Drover/ Owner of stock SRS	High	2005
	When drovers or stock owners are first issued with a travelling permit within Queensland provide them with a list of conditions imposed by all Councils responsible for managing SRN's within the State (list to be compiled by NR&M and provided to Councils for distribution).	NR&M SRS	High	On-going
Determine and monitor appropriate carrying capacities	Undertake Stocktake training and then, as appropriate, use the principles of Stocktake to identify areas within the SRN in which condition needs to be improved and implement management actions to improve condition.	SRS	High	On-going

## 5.3 SIGNIFICANT AREA MANAGEMENT

### 5.3.1 Relevance for SRN management

Though the primary purpose of the SRN is to facilitate the movement of livestock, stock routes may also contain features of environmental, cultural or historic value. Sites that contain important examples of these values are deemed to be significant areas. Due to the potential for uses of the SRN to impact upon these areas of significance there is a requirement for stock routes to be managed in a way that is sustainable so as to not compromise the integrity of these values.

*The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* also establishes a duty of care for all land users, regardless of tenures, to ensure their activities on the land do not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. See Appendix Twelve for further information of the Duty of Care Guidelines.

#### **Principles:**

Significant area management will contribute to the “management” and “monitoring and evaluation” legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

### 5.3.2 Goal

**To minimise the impacts of travelling stock and/or agisted stock, on areas of significance on the SRN within Balonne Shire.**

### 5.3.3 Indicators and Targets

Significant area management indicators	Targets
Inventory of significant areas: their location, extent and condition.  Ongoing surveillance of incidents causing degradation and their causes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant areas within the SRN identified.</li><li>• The number and extent of significant areas does not decrease and their condition does not decline due to travel and agistment of stock.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Zero incidents caused by stock.</li><li>○ Zero incidents caused by new engineering or other works associated with travelling and agisted stock.</li></ul></li></ul>

### 5.3.4 Policies

Council recognises that significant areas are contained within the SRN. They range from cultural heritage sites (indigenous and historic) to areas that contain significant environmental value (including riparian areas and areas of significant biodiversity). Significant areas contained within the SRN may also have additional value, for example by providing economic benefits to the Shire through recreational, tourism and education opportunities.

### **Riparian area management policy**

- Riparian areas will be managed to minimise impact from travelling and agisted stock within the SRN.
- Develop partnerships with other groups to undertake condition assessments of riparian areas used for water / access points and crossings by travelling, agisted stock and in areas for which a 'permit to occupy' has been issued.
- Off stream watering points to be established in areas where the riparian zone is in fair, poor or very poor conditions (Refer to Appendix Seven).
- Riparian areas in fair to poor condition (as a result of stock using the site) will be rehabilitated.
- Investigate alternative funding sources to provide artificial waters where riparian areas are being degraded through use by travelling stock.

### **Biodiversity management policy**

- High conservation value areas to be identified (through encouragement of relevant interest groups) and protected within the SRN.
- Partnerships to be established to continually monitor the condition (including impact of current uses) of high conservation value areas. Where adverse impacts are identified, alternative management options to be developed in conjunction with relevant interest groups and considered for implementation by Council.
- All information pertaining to the identification and management of high conservation values to be made available to the public.

### **Cultural heritage policy**

- Refer to the Local Government Association of Queensland's "*Embracing Cultural Diversity – Action Guide to Community Relations in Queensland Local Government*" and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guidelines – Stock Route Network (produced by NR&M's Stock Route Management Unit and included in Appendix Twelve) when making decisions about cultural heritage management on the Stock Route Network.
- Relevant interest groups be encouraged to identify significant areas within the SRN and rate the potential impact on these areas by travelling and agisted stock.
- The potential impact on highly significant areas by travelling and agisted stock is minimised.
- Relevant interest groups be encouraged to develop management plans for highly significant areas on the SRN and that these plans be considered by Council.
- Management principles / actions developed for significant areas, and approved by Council, become a condition of the permit for travelling and agisted stock.
- All information pertaining to the identification and management of significant areas to be made available to the public.

### **5.3.5 Issues**

For Balonne Shire Council to meet the goals and targets set for significant area management, and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with the significant area management policies the following issues need to be addressed and overcome:

- Obtaining information regarding the location and appropriate management of significant areas;
- Lack of knowledge and understanding of significant areas;

- Council does not have the capability and resources (financial and labour) to identify and monitor the condition of significant areas and to develop management plans for these areas;
- Restricting stock access to areas on primary and secondary routes for conservation will create some controversy;
- Establishing consistency across Shires;
- Lack of resources to manage pest invasion of significant areas;
- Conflicting management opinions by user groups of significant areas on the SRN.

### 5.3.6 Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Compile an inventory of significant areas	<p>Investigate potential of partnerships with other groups to determine the location, extent and condition of significant areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact EHP regarding locations of significant plants, animals, ecosystems and corridors</li> <li>- Examine information contained within the EHP's Biodiversity Planning Assessment (BPA)</li> <li>- Contact DMR Environmental Officer (Roma &amp; Warwick offices) regarding information contained within the Road Corridor Environmental Assessment that may be applicable to the Balonne Shire SRN</li> <li>- Evaluate NRM wetlands mapping</li> <li>- Contact traditional owners regarding location of cultural sites of significance</li> <li>- Engage the assistance of EHP, NRM, QMDC, naturalist groups, students and volunteers to document and compile values and significant areas within the SRN</li> <li>- Compile photographs, a register and maps of significant sites</li> </ul>	<p>BSC</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant</li> <li>• Local history organizations</li> <li>• Traditional Owner Groups</li> <li>• NRM</li> <li>• EPA</li> <li>• QMDC</li> </ul>	High	2014
Design and implement appropriate management options for significant areas	Investigate groups which may voluntarily determine needs for protection of highly significant areas (including wetlands), engage these groups where appropriate and investigate and engage appropriate partners to implement management options approved by Councils.	BSC	High	2015
Continue to monitor the condition of significant areas	Determine on-going monitoring needs of significant areas (including water quality and quantity) and investigate groups which may voluntarily take on this task.	BSC	High	2016

## Significant Area Strategies and Actions Con't...

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Increase capacity within Council to consider significant areas within management plans.	Provide training to Stock Route Supervisor and other relevant Council staff and Councillors on significant area identification and management.	EHP LGAQ QMDC NRM	Medium	2013
Raise awareness of significant values contained within the SRN	Erect signage at the location of significant sites/areas, as appropriate.	BSC	Low	As required
	Notify the public and users of the network about specific actions that may be undertaken for significant area conservation through Council's web site.	BSC	Medium	As required

## 5.4 RISKS AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT

### 5.4.1 Relevance for SRN Network

"Risk" is the potential impacts another use or user may have on travelling or agisted stock; while a "safety issue" deals with the impacts travelling or agisted stock may have on other uses or users.

Human and stock safety is a fundamental component of managing any land or resources. Road safety is a fundamental concern when assessing stock route agistment permits.

#### Principles

Risks and safety management will contribute to the "public awareness", "commitment", "management", "planning" and "monitoring and evaluation" legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

### 5.4.2 Goal

**The SRN in Balonne Shire is a safe environment for the people and stock permitted to use it, and that the use of the SRN does not cause harm to other people and equipment that may use the road corridor for other purposes.**

### 5.4.3 Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Targets
Number of possible hazards	0
Number of reported incidents	0

### 5.4.4 Policies

#### **Risk and Safety Management Policies**

- Conduct annual risk and safety issue audits within the SRN (including stock route facilities).
- Council to undertake an annual review of the risk and safety audit and prioritise actions to for inclusion in Council's annual work schedule.
- Users of the SRN (including stock owners, drovers, adjoining landholders, recreational and educational users) be encouraged to adhere to conditions of their permit and report any hazards along the SRN.
- Provide a mechanism for receiving information from the general public regarding risks and safety issues on the network.
- Water facility infrastructure (eg. windmill and tanks) to be fenced.
- Appropriate notification to be given, fire breaks constructed and relevant permits obtained for any prescribed burns.
- Fuel levels along the SRN kept at a reasonable level to avoid hot fires causing increased damage.

### 5.4.5 Issues

For Council to meet the goals and targets set for risk and safety management and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with risk and safety management policies the following issues need to be addressed:

- Users of the SRN are unaware of who has right of way and other "rules" dealing with the use of stock routes.
- Lack of skills and understanding for the benefits and management of fire.
- Conflict between users regarding the use of fire.
- Windmills can be a work place health & safety hazard.
- Pest management (baiting and spraying herbicides and insecticides).
- Occasional slight congestion along the SRN around the township of St. George (this route is usually only used one to three times per year).
- Some natural waterholes can become hazardous when large mobs are mismanaged and are all forced on the water at one time for a drink – causing trampling and cattle bogging.

## 5.4.6 Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Identify physical hazards to stock, or by stock, along the SRN	Undertake an annual risk and safety audit of all stock route facilities and report findings to Council for prioritisation of actions and inclusion in Annual Works Plan funding application.	SRS	High	On-going
	Encourage drovers to advise the Stock Routes Supervisor of any hazards they identify on the SRN.	SRS	High	On-going
Minimise and monitor potential hazards.	Consider applying a permit condition for drovers to stagger mobs when watering and travelling stock within Balonne Shire.	BSC	High	On-going
	Implement the <i>Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan 2005 - 2009</i> .	BSC	High	On-going
	Continue to monitor and reduce fire hazards, where practical.	SRS	Medium	On-going
	Continue to monitor the SRN around the township of St. George for potential risks resulting from small width of stock route and consider developing a policy for drovers to split or stagger mobs when travelling through this section.	SRS BSC	High	On-going
Implement permit conditions	Encourage drovers to adhere to stock route signage and other conditions as set out in the 'Stock Route Travel Permit Information Notice' and conditions of the travel or agistment permit.	SRS	High	On-going
Infrastructure to meet safety regulations	Continue to review and update minimum standards for SRN infrastructure to meet safety regulations.	NR&M	High	Ongoing
Work place Health and Safety	Increase knowledge and understanding of WPH&S requirements associated with managing the SRN by attending seminars presented by the WPH&S officer.	SRS	High	As required.

## 5.5 INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

### 5.5.1 Relevance for SRN Network

To enable stock to move through the network they need regular access to water. Regular watering points (and associated infrastructure) within the SRN are the most efficient method of providing this resource and helps to maintain the integrity of the SRN for travelling and agisted stock.

#### Principles

Infrastructure management will contribute to the “management” and “planning” legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

### 5.5.2 Goal

**Travelling stock can access well-maintained water supplies at regular intervals (minimum of 10 km apart) along primary and secondary routes of the SRN within Balonne Shire.**

### 5.5.3 Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Targets
Facilities are maintained in good to fair condition on the primary, secondary and minor stock routes.	100%
The maximum distance between watering points on primary and secondary routes is 10km.	100%

### 5.5.4 Policies

- Condition of stock route facilities to be audited on an annual basis.
- Facility maintenance and construction needs to be annually prioritised by Council, with priorities included in Councils annual works program.
- Establish an “ideal” infrastructure requirement list for the SRN within the Shire, complete with costs.
- Council will apply to State for capital works funding for identified annual construction and maintenance priorities.
- Encourage the State to negotiate with the landholder party in a water agreement, for the landholder to maintain facilities on minor and inactive routes in exchange for waiving water agreements fees.
- Watering points within the SRN within Balonne Shire are at the most 10km apart along primary and secondary routes.
- Any new infrastructure should meet approved building standards.
- Replace all old galvanised piping with poly pipe as facilities are upgraded.



- Watering points are to be checked by the SRS at least two weeks prior to travelling stock arriving.
- Windmills to be serviced at least every twelve months.
- Accurate records for all watering facilities to be maintained by Council including location, infrastructure, upgrades / maintenance required and undertaken.

### 5.5.5 Issues

For Council to meet the goals and targets set for infrastructure management and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with the infrastructure management policies the following issues need to be addressed:

- Insufficient funding / resourcing for constructing required infrastructure and the repairs and maintenance of infrastructure on the SRN.
- Lack of minimum standards for SRN infrastructure (eg. fencing, windmills, dams, troughing, piping).
- Parties uncertain about who is responsible for maintenance & upgrades where water agreements are in place.
- Costs associated with piping bore drains.

### 5.5.6 Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Action	By Who	Priority	By When
Maintain and improve current water facilities				
	Continue to fill in the "Stock Route Maintenance Activity Sheet" and use this sheet to report to Council.	SRS	High	On-going
	Continue to review and prioritise infrastructure needs on the SRN.	SRS	High	Yearly
	Service the two windmills on the SRN at least every 12 months.	BSC	High	Yearly
	Compile an "ideal" infrastructure list for the SRN within Balonne Shire, including costs.	BSC NR&M	High	Ongoing
Increase funding for infrastructure on the SRN (new and repairs / maintenance)	Investigate alternative funding sources to build and maintain relevant infrastructure on the SRN.	BSC	Medium	On-going

## Infrastructure Management Strategies and Actions Con't...

Strategy	Action	By Who	Priority	By When
Encourage landholders to become responsible for the maintenance of facilities under a water agreement for which they are a party.	Develop a permit condition whereby the landholder is required to consult with Local Government and/or NR&M on major improvements / maintenance to be undertaken at facilities subject to a water agreement.	NR&M	Medium	Ongoing

## 5.6 PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

### 5.6.1 Relevance for SRN

Spreading disease and declared pests within the SRN can have far-reaching impacts, including degrading the quality of the networks itself, as well as encouraging the spread of pests and diseases throughout neighbouring land, Shires and waterways.

Spreading a declared pest includes both the spread from infested areas to non-infested areas and increasing the infestation of that pest in an area where it already exists.

Pest management is the responsibility of landholders when the SRN is under Permit to Occupy or fenced into the landholder's country. Pest Management is Council's responsibility when the SRN is fenced out of the landholder's county and is not under Permit to Occupy.

This plan should be implemented in conjunction with the *Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan 2012 - 2016* which identifies resources and actions required to minimise the spread and impact of pests within Balonne Shire.

#### Principles

Pest and Disease management will contribute to the "commitment", "consultation and partnership", "management" and "planning" legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

### 5.6.2 Goal

**Minimise the spread and introduction of pests and disease by stock (and associated vehicles) using the SRN and minimise the impacts that pests may have to stock using the SRN.**

### 5.6.3 Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Targets
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Extent of pest plant species present on the stock Route	Continual reduction
Number of stock poisonings suspected to be from pest plants on the SRN.	0
Number of stock losses on the SRN suspected to be from pest animals.	0
Number of disease reports or findings suspected to have originated from stock using the SRN	0

#### 5.6.4 Policies

- Owners to provide a vendor declaration and weed hygiene declaration for stock, vehicles and equipment used in association with agisting or travelling stock on the SRN.
- Stock must be out of contact with declared pest plants for at least seven (7) days to ensure all reproductive material of the plant has cleared before entering the Shire. Owners of stock would be responsible for feeding and watering stock for any quarantine period.
- Conduct regular inspections of stock using the SRN.
- Selective herbicides are to be used in Riparian areas and other areas of significance to minimise the loss of high conservation values within the SRN.
- Refer to the *Balonne Shire Pest management Plan 2005-2009*.
- Refer to Appendix Eight and Nine for Balonne Shire Council's Policy on agistment and travel of Stock on Reserves and Stock Routes.
- Balonne Shire Council recognises that the NLIS will be implemented from 1 July 2005 and that Council has a role to play in the implementation and ongoing administration of the NLIS in terms of the SRN. Local Government responsibilities in relation to the NLIS and the SRN are:
  - 1 (a) Where stock with no NLIS device fitted are found to be straying on to part of the Stock Route Network – local governments will be responsible for assigning NLIS devices and notifying the NLIS database of the details of the NLIS device.
  - 1 (b) Where stock with a NLIS device fitted are found to be straying on to part of the Stock Route Network – local governments will be responsible for notifying the NLIS database of the details of the NLIS device.

The roles and responsibilities of Local Government in relation to NLIS are further explained in Appendix Thirteen.

### 5.6.5 Issues

For Council to meet the goals and targets set for pest and disease management and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with the pest and disease management policies the following issues need to be addressed:

- Lack of use of vendor declarations and weed hygiene declarations for stock using the SRN and associated vehicles, equipment and feed.
- Lack of a weed seed spread policy.
- Conflict with baiting the SRN for wild dog and feral pig control.
- Lack of landholder understanding of the impacts and their responsibility to the management of pests and diseases, especially in areas issued with a 'permit to occupy' or in unfenced areas of the SRN.
- Insufficient resourcing and mapping of pests.
- Users and managers unable to identify weeds.
- Users of the SRN, other than those travelling or agisting stock, spreading pests and disease.
- Spraying chemicals in riparian areas to control pest plants.

### 5.6.6 Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Minimise the spread of pest plants and animals and disease	Carry out treatment, monitoring and mapping in accordance with <i>Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan 2005-2009</i> .	BSC	High	On-going
	When travelling stock enter Balonne Shire remind them of their "duty of care" to not spread weeds / seed and that if they are found to have been the cause of an infestation they are responsible for cleaning the area to its original state – a policy which is also outlined in the permitting system for travelling and agisted stock and a legislative requirement.	BSC	High	Ongoing
	Implement 'best practice' when using chemical to minimise the spread of pest plants and avoid using chemical which may detrimentally affect significant areas (eg. rare and threatened plants).	SRS	High	On-going

## Pest and Disease Management Strategies and Actions con't...

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Minimise the spread of pest plants and animals and disease con't...	Determine the need for holding facilities / containment areas for stock to empty out and drop seeds at entry points into the Balonne Shire.	BSC	Medium	Ongoing
	In conjunction with user groups and neighbouring Shire Councils consider the development of a baiting policy for Stock Routes. Within this policy consider known locations of pigs / wild dogs, the use and implications of permanent baiting stations, providing baiting locations to drovers, minimum time period to remove baits before travelling stock arrive, relevant signage, notification to neighbours, identified user groups and the general public, risk and safety issues, resources required.	BSC	Low	Ongoing
Increase the awareness of pest animals and plants within the Shire	When issuing travel or agistment permit provide the Stock Owner and Drover with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a list of pests found in the Shire (including photos &amp; affect the pest can have on stock) and ask the Owner / Drover to notify Council of any sightings.</li> <li>the location of any known areas of high and medium priority weed infestations as per the <i>Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan 2005 - 2009</i>.</li> </ul>	SRS	High	On-going
	Continue to notify drovers of the potential risks from spray drift (particularly endosulfan) within relevant areas of the SRN.	SRS	High	On-going

## 5.7 WATER AGREEMENTS MANAGEMENT

### 5.7.1 Relevance for SRN Network

Subject to water facility agreements a local government must maintain in good condition the travelling stock facilities on the SRN in its area (S.162 of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*). This is often time consuming and costly.

#### Principles

Water agreements management will contribute to the “consultation and partnership”, “management” and “payment for use” legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

## 5.7.2 Goal

**To derive an income from, and reduce construction, maintenance, and monitoring costs by using, water agreements, while ensuring that the water needs of travelling stock are met and that water resources of other people with rights to the water are not negatively impacted upon.**

## 5.7.3 Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Targets
Locations and times where water runs out at a water facility which is under a water agreement, when there was a demand for water by stock travel.	0
Number of water agreements	As necessary

## 5.7.4 Policies

- Council to keep a register of water facility agreements entered into by the NR&M and landholders within the Shire.
- Water agreements are only to be negotiated where there is sufficient quantity for the use by travelling stock mob numbers within Balonne Shire. Negotiating water agreement policy (parties to involve, templates to use, considering maintenance standards and responsibilities etc) is outlined in s.163 of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.
- Water agreements to be for a maximum period of four years.
- Failure to comply with any of the 'responsibility' conditions may result in cancellation of the existing Permit or Council refusal to renew the Permit.
- Encourage monitoring of water quality and quantity.

## 5.7.5 Issues

For Council to meet the goals and targets set for water agreements management and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with the water agreements management policies the following issues need to be addressed:

- Current pricing of water is too cheap.
- Distribution of fees – all money raised to go back to local government for expenses incurred in managing all watering facilities on the SRN.
- Current agreements need upgrading.
- No clear agreement on who is currently responsible for the maintenance and the associated costs.
- Local government does not have the capacity to determine the water resource limitations.

## 5.7.6 Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Water pricing to reflect the current market pricing structure.	Negotiate a market pricing structure for water agreements (based on current town or irrigation metered supply pricing) and increase fees in line with the CPI.	RPAC LQAG NR&M	High	Ongoing
Revenue from water agreements to be given to Council.	In conjunction with other Shire Councils negotiate for fees collected from water facilities to go directly to Councils to assist with water facility costs.	RPAC LQAG NR&M	High	Ongoing
Review existing agreements (including maintenance and monitoring responsibilities)	Review, negotiate and establish new water agreements for taking water from facilities, ensuring all relevant parties sign the agreement and a clause exists stating the agreement is only for four years from the date of signing and is subject to review after that time.	SRS NR&M	High	Ongoing
Continue to keep a register of all agreements.	Keep a file of all water agreements made within the SRN within Balonne Shire.	BSC	Medium	On-going

## 5.8 PERMITTING TRAVEL AND AGISTMENT

### 5.8.1 Relevance for SRN Network

Local Government has the responsibility of controlling and maintaining stock routes and reserves for travelling stock, including issuing of permits for the movement and grazing of stock on the SRN and Local Government roads. Where stock routes are also State-controlled roads, Local Governments must only grant a permit that contains those conditions recommended by the Department of Main Roads.

The conditions of permits need to ensure the integrity of the SRN is maintained. Relevant actions also need to be implemented to ensure compliance (Section 5.9).

#### Principles

Permitting travel and agistment will contribute to the “commitment”, “consultation and partnership”, “management”, “payment for use” and “planning” legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

## 5.8.2 Goal

**The conditions of permits to travel and/or agist stock on the SRN ensure the sustainability, and where appropriate the improvement, of resources within the SRN in Balonne Shire to ensure it remains productive and available for public use into the future and that the process for assessing, issuing and reviewing permits is efficient.**

## 5.8.3 Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Targets
No. of complaints about the permits to travel and/or agist stock and associated conditions.	<2 / year
Number of travel permits issued and the total lengths travelled.	N/A
Number of agistment permits issued, total agistment days and total number of cattle agisted.	N/A
Refer to Grazing Management Indicators (Section 5.2).	
Refer to Significant Area Indicators (Section 5.3).	

## 5.8.4 Policies

A person must not drive stock on foot on land that is a stock route, a reserve for travelling stock or road under Balonne Shire Council's control within Balonne Shire unless Council has issued a "stock route travel permit" for the stock movement except if the stock travel on foot;

- for not more than one (1) day; and
- in clear daylight hours; and
- for animal husbandry or property management purposes, and
- between parcels of land that have common ownership or are worked as a single unit.

Section 134 and 116 (2) of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* lists who can apply for a permit.

Balonne Shire adopts the following policy on application forms.

### Application Form Policy

- The application forms are designed to ensure that, in most instances, Balonne Shire has sufficient information to make an appropriate decision.

### Approving Permits Policy

- Travelling Stock Permits to be approved by Council's Stock Route Supervisor and Agistment Permits to be approved by Council.
- For an application to be granted it must satisfy requirements set out in Chapter 3, Part 4 and Part 5 of the *Act* and specifically S.118.



- Requirements or assessment criteria (derived from other policy, strategies or management plans associated with the management of the SRN to reflect the principles of best practice management and the intent of the legislation) will be considered when assessing applications.
- Applications will be assessed within 5 working days of its receipt.
- Policies for Stock Route Agistment Permits and Stock Route Travel Permits are listed in Appendix Eight and Appendix Nine respectively. These policies form criteria upon which applications will be assessed and are to be part of the conditions associated with the relevant permit.
- Council will develop policies on conditions to be included within “permit to occupy” applications.

#### **Permit Allocation Policy**

- Stock Route Travel and Agistment permits will be assessed and allocated on a first in first served basis.

#### **Permit Monitoring Policy**

- Balonne Shire Council can appoint nominated persons to muster stock on relevant land within the Shire to monitor compliance with a stock route travel or agistment permit (S.155 under the *Land Protection (Pests and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*).

### **5.8.5 Issues**

For Council to meet the goals and targets set for permitting travel and agistment and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with the permitting and travel agistment policies the following issues need to be addressed:

- Existing travel and agistment fees do not adequately cover the maintenance costs, provide for a return on investment or provide a fund for future refurbishment.
- There is an inconsistency of policies across the State (including mob sizes which often depends on the facilities available and the size of the route/s within each Shire).
- Local ratepayers want to be given priority to agist on the SRN.
- People wish to secure travel / agistment permits in advance. Difficulties arise with managing this (including determining how far in advance can permits reasonably be issued, budgeting for any long term feed commitments and competition between agisted and travelling stock).
- Where agistment is identified as an appropriate land management tool the current process to make agistment available (involving advertising and a ballot) is costly and time consuming.
- Considerable resources (cost and time) are used to issue permits under the current system (the old permitting system was more efficient).
- Uncertainty over responsibility for removal of deceased animals and who pays (noting it is an offence for a drover to leave behind dead animals).
- The current permit system needs more flexibility in the time frame (for example, in some circumstances longer term agistment is required as a management tool, such as to reduce fuel supplies around a gas well).
- Coordination of multi-Shire permits.
- Owner / drover awareness of obligations (eg. insurance).

- Few grazing land management conditions are included with 'permits to occupy'.
- Other Shire Councils are not giving enough notice of their intention to close a stock route to travelling stock owner/drovers and neighbouring Shires.

## 5.9 COMPLIANCE

### 5.9.1 Relevance for SRN Network

The function of Local Governments includes (s.183):

- Manage the part of the SRN in its area in accordance with the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and the principles of stock route network management; and
- Control the movement of travelling stock on the part of the stock route network in its areas.
- Ensure declared pests are managed within its area in accordance with the *Act* and the principles of pest management

The *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* outlines offences associated with the SRN. Council, through their authorised person, undertakes to impose (as much as possible) conditions set out in the *Act* and by Council to sustain the SRN integrity and its capacity to act as a corridor for the movement of stock by hoof.

#### Principles

Compliance will contribute to the “commitment”, “consultation and partnership”, “management” and “planning” legislative principles outlined in Section 4.0.

### 5.9.2 Goal

**SRN users are aware and have a good understanding of their responsibilities and to follow-up on compliance issues in accordance with *Act*.**

### 5.9.3 Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Targets
No. of Compliance issues raised	50% reduction
Number of written notices / warning issued	Unlimited
Number of prosecutions carried out	0 - 5

### 5.9.4 Policies

- Raise SRN users' awareness of the purpose of the SRN and their obligations under the *Act*.

- Allow travelling stock to use the SRN (s.182) under conditions imposed by the *Act* and Council.
- To achieve compliance Council will generally undertake the following course of actions listed below in the following order:
  - Clarify with the offender their obligations under the *Act* and negotiate with the offender for them to undertake necessary action, sanctioned by an Authorised Person appointed by Balonne Shire Council, to ensure they do not further contravene conditions associated with the use of the SRN as set out in the *Act* along with additional conditions imposed by Balonne Shire Council.
  - Provide a verbal warning.
  - Provide a written warning.
  - Depending on the severity of the breach of compliance undertake appropriate actions (including legal action) to enforce compliance action in any given situation associated with managing the SRN under the *Act*.
- Implement compliance where a user of the SRN is:
  - Contravening a condition of a stock route agreement or travel permit (S.173).
  - Grazing stock on the SRN without a stock route agreement or travel permit or permission given under another Act (S.174).
  - Damaging a travelling stock facility on the SRN (S.175)
  - Wasting water from a water facility on the SRN or polluting water in a water facility on the SRN (S. 176)
  - Taking water from a water facility on the SRN other than under a water facility agreement or a permit (S. 177)
  - Camping within 300m of a water facility on the SRN (S. 178)
  - Obstructing the movement of travelling stock on the SRN (S. 179)
  - Burning or removing pasture on the SRN without consent from Balonne Shire Council (S.180).
  - Placing things on the stock route if the thing is likely to harm stock travelling on the network (S181).
  - Entering the SRN in the Shire without the owner or person in charge of travelling stock providing at least hours notice to the Local Government of the intended entry (S. 182).
  - Owner's stock are interfering with the travelling stock's travel through, or other permitted use, of the SRN (S182).

### 5.9.5 Issues

For Council to meet the goals and targets set for compliance and to be able to manage the SRN in accordance with the risk and safety management policies the following issues need to be addressed:

- Lack of knowledge of the legislation, and their obligations under the *Act*, by users and managers of the SRN.
- It is difficult to undertake compliance in a small community because enforcement personnel live and socialise within the Shire.
- Knowledge, understanding and acceptance of who is responsible for compliance (nobody wants the job).
- Lack of resources required to implement compliance actions.
- Lack of enforcement / compliance training for Authorised Persons and Council staff and Councillors.

- Neighbouring Shires developing and implementing different conditions and rules associated with managing the SRN (causes confusion and uncertainty for SRN users).
- Undertaking a consistent approach to implementing compliance actions across all users.
- Non-redeemed cost to Council associated with removing deceased stock.

### 5.9.6 Strategies and Actions

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Ensure SRN users, managers and adjoining Shires are aware of rules and policies associated with the use of the SRN within Balonne Shire.	Refer to Network Integrity – Section 5.1.6.			
	Communicate successful compliance actions to other Shire Councils and users of the SRN to discourage further offences.	BSC	Medium	On-going

### Compliance Strategies and Actions con't...

Strategy	Action	Who	Priority	When
Develop enforcement partnerships with NR&M and adjoining Shire Councils.	Through a regional working group involving neighbouring Shires, NR&M and EPA identify, negotiate and implement agreed options for carrying out enforcement (eg. neighbouring Shire Councils carry out enforcement for each other, shared resourcing for a compliance officer).	Maranoa-Balonne Local Government Reference Group	High	Ongoing
Improve the capacity of Council to deal with compliance issues.	Authorised person/s and other relevant Council staff and Councillors to undertake compliance training, where NR&M is to provide the training.	NR&M SRS Council staff Councillors	High	Ongoing
Increase resources for undertaking compliance actions.	Negotiate with the NR&M and State government for increased resourcing for compliance actions.	BSC RPAC	Medium	Ongoing
Rationalise compliance actions	In partnerships with other Shire Councils and the LQAG negotiate with NR&M to give authorised persons the power to use / issue penalty notices (PINS) for minor offences under the <i>Act</i> , to minimize costs.	BSC RPAC LQAG NR&M	High	Ongoing
Recover costs associated with managing impacts caused by users of the SRN.	Develop a policy on fees and charges for works undertaken as part of the role of managing stock routes (including removing dead stock) and include a list of the fees and charges within the conditions of the permit.	BSC	High	Ongoing

## 6.0 IMPLEMENTATION

### 6.1 COUNCIL RESOURCES

Council employs one full time Officer, who is authorised to:

- Control pests on land under its control; and
- Administer and enforce the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, by monitoring pest infestations within the Shire.

This Officer spends about 50% of their time on pest plant and animal management and about 50% on stock route management.

Other resources Council has to help control animal and plant pests within the Shire include:

Vehicle:	1 x 4x4 vehicle
Major Equipment:	1 x 4x4 motor bike with spraying attachment
	1 Large broom spray unit mounted on a trailer
	1 Hand held spray unit
	1 Quick Spray Unit
	1 Hand Held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit
	Baiting Equipment (includes 1080 trailer, mixer etc)
	Mapping Software
Operational Funds:	Refer Annual Financial Plan
Operational Funds:	Refer Annual Financial Plan

### 6.2 COUNCIL COMMITMENT

Council is committed to maintaining the integrity of the SRN and will do its utmost to implement this Plan within available resources.

## 7.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### 7.1 Performance Indicators

Performance indicators have been included with each of the management components in this Plan. These indicators will be monitored prior to the annual review period of the plan, and the achievement of targets will be assessed.

### 7.2 Review

The Balonne Shire Council Stock Route Management Plan will be continually reviewed in conjunction with the Pest Management Plan and in accordance with the relevant legislation and best practice.

## References:

1. Eddie, M. (ed). 1988. ***Ranges to Rivers. An overview of natural resources in the Maranoa—Balonne.*** Maranoa-Balonne Catchment Management Association Inc, Roma, Queensland.
2. DPI&F. 2004. ***Stocktake. Balancing supply and demand.*** The State of Queensland, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.



## APPENDIX ONE

### Map of Stock Routes within Balonne Shire

## APPENDIX TWO

### Documents Significant to the Balonne Shire Stock Route Management Plan 2012 – 2016

Scale	Natural Resource Management	Pest Management	Pest Species
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality</li> <li>National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biodiversity</li> <li>National Guidelines and Principles for Rangeland Management</li> <li>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Weeds Strategy</li> <li>Managing Vertebrate Pests – Principles and Strategies</li> <li>Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Feral Livestock Animals Destruction or Capture, Handling and Marketing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies for Weeds of National Significance (particularly Parthenium and Parkinsonia)</li> <li>National Pest Animal Species Threat Abatement Plans</li> </ul>
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queensland Biodiversity, Conservation and Natural Resource Management Statement.</li> <li>Nature Conservation Act 1992</li> <li>Water Act 2001</li> <li>Environmental Protection Act 1994 (eg. control of Dingoes)</li> <li>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</li> <li>Land Title Act 1994</li> <li>Vegetation Management Act 1999</li> <li>Forestry Act 1959</li> <li>Animal Care and Protection Act 2001</li> <li>Queensland Heritage Act 1992 (eg. managing pests in areas of cultural heritage)</li> <li>Soil Conservation Act 1986 (eg. using non-invasive species to minimise soil loss)</li> <li>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994 (eg. using pesticides appropriately)</li> <li>State Stock Route Management Strategy</li> <li>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queensland Weeds Strategy</li> <li>Queensland Pest Animal Strategy</li> <li>Control of Exotic Pest Fishes Strategy</li> <li>State Stock Route Management Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queensland Locust Management Strategy</li> <li>Queensland Mouse Management Strategy</li> <li>Queensland Parthenium Strategy</li> <li>Queensland Wild Dog Management Strategy</li> <li>Queensland Rabbit Management Strategy</li> </ul>

## Appendix Two con't.....

Scale	Natural Resource Management	Pest Management	Pest Species
Regional and Catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Natural Resource Management Plan (Queensland Murray-Darling)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEC Parthenium Strategy for Southern Queensland.</li> </ul>
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balonne Shire Council Stock Route Management Plan 2012-2016</li> <li>Balonne Shire Council Corporate Plan 2009/2013</li> <li>Balonne Shire Council Operational Plan 2009-2013</li> <li>Council of the Shire of Balonne Planning Scheme</li> <li>Balonne Shire Council Local Law No. 13 (Control of Pests)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balonne Shire Pest Management Plan</li> </ul>	
Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-catchment plans</li> <li>Individual Property Plans</li> <li>Environmental Management Systems (EMS's)</li> <li>QPWS Park Plans</li> </ul>		

## APPENDIX THREE

### Land Resource Areas of Balonne Shire

Extracted from: Eddie, M. (ed). 1988. *Ranges to Rivers. An overview of natural resources in the Maranoa-Balonne catchment.*  
Maranoa-Balonne Catchment Management Association Inc, Roma, Australia.

Land Resource Area	General Description / Location	Vegetation	Major Soils	Suitability	Major Limitations
Recent Alluvial Clay Plains	Alluvial floodplains and channels along the rivers and major creeks	Open tussock grassland to open woodland with Coolibah dominant	Deep to very deep dark, grey and brown cracking clays	Suitable for grain and fodder cropping except where flood frequency is high	Erosive flooding, inundation, coarse surface structure, narrow workability range
Texture Contrast Alluvium	Slightly elevated flat plains and levees, generally adjacent to recent alluvial clay plains and along creeks	Dominantly Poplar Box woodland, also Silver-leaved Ironbark, Cypress Pine and shrub species	Moderately deep to deep red, yellow or brown texture contrast soils with sandy loam top soils	Not suitable for continuous cropping but suitable for improved pasture	Poor surface structure, hardsetting, occasional flooding moderate available soil water, low fertility
Poplar Box Red Earth Alluvium	Flat plains on sandy alluvium extensive, mostly occurring in western sections of Balonne Shire	Predominately Poplar Box woodland with some Silver-leaved Ironbark and Mulga	Deep, massive red earths with sandy loam top soils becoming clayey with depth, some texture contrast soils	Suitable for short term winter cropping with rotation under pasture	Wind and water erosion, limited plan available water, poor surface structure, hardsetting, fertility and structural decline
Gidgee Plains	Flat to gently undulating plains, small pockets in south-west areas of Balonne Shire, slopes less than 3%, weak Gilgai	Gidgee, Brigalow and Sandalwood woodland	Deep to very deep brown and grey cracking clays, some red and yellow texture contrast soils	Not suitable for continuous cropping but suitable for improved pastures	Sodicity, moderate plant available water, structural decline, low fertility, water, erosion

### Appendix Three con't...

Land Resource Area	General Description / Location	Vegetation	Major Soils	Suitability	Major Limitations
Undulating Poplar Box Texture Contrast Plains	Flat to gently undulating plains on sandstone and sandy alluvium, scattered to the east and south of Dirranbandi, slopes less than 3%	Dominantly shrubby woodland of Poplar Box woodland with bull oak and sandalwood, also some Silver-leaved Ironbark and Narrow-leaved Ironbark	Moderately deep to deep red and brown texture contrast soils with a thin sandy or loamy surface, some deep sandy red earths	Unsuitable for cropping except for the red brown earths, suitable for improved pastures	Wind and water erosion, low plant available water, low fertility, structural problems, hardsetting.
Hard Mulga Lands	Gently undulating to undulating plains on deeply weathered sedimentary rocks and sandy alluvium occurring mainly in the Northeast part of Balonne Shire, slopes 1-3%, some 6%	Predominantly mulga woodland with emergent eucalypts including poplar box and Silver-leaved Ironbark	Shallow to moderately deep loamy red earths and some red brown earths with large amounts of ironstone and siliceous gravels	Suitable for native vegetation and pasture only	Poor surface structure, stoniness, low plant available water, low fertility

**APPENDIX FOUR**

**Travelling Stock Usage of Stock Routes within Balonne Shire**

## APPENDIX FIVE

### STOCKTAKE

Extracted from: DPI&F (2004). *Stocktake. Balancing supply and demand*.  
The State of Queensland, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

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Stocktake is a paddock-scale land condition monitoring and management package that has been developed by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries to provide grazing land managers with a practical, systematic way to assess land condition and long-term carrying capacity, and to calculate short-term forage budgets.

Within Stocktake grazing land condition can be split into 4 broad categories based on an evaluation of coverage of perennial (3P) grasses\*, soil condition, woodland condition and weed infestation. Ground cover is an indicator of what might happen to future soil condition.

**Good or “A” condition has the following features:**

- Good coverage of perennial grasses dominated by those species considered to be 3P grasses for that land type; little bare ground (<30%) in most cases.
- Few weeds and no significant infestations.
- Good soil condition: no erosion, good surface condition.
- No sign, or early signs, of woodland thickening.

**Fair or “B” condition has a least one or more of the following features:**

- Some decline of 3P grasses; increase in other species (less favoured grasses, weeds) and/or bare ground (>30% but 60%) in most cases.
- Some decline in soil condition; some signs of previous erosion and/or current susceptibility to erosion is a concern.
- Some thickening in density of woody plants.

**Poor or “C” condition has one or more of the following features, otherwise similar to B condition:**

- General decline in 3P grasses; large amounts of less favoured species and/or bare ground (<60%) in most cases.
- Obvious signs of past erosion and/or susceptibility currently high.
- General thickening in density of woody plants.

**Very Poor or “D” condition has one or more the following features:**

- General lack of perennial grasses or forbs.
- Severe erosion or scalding, resulting in hostile environment for plant growth.
- Thickets or woody plants cover most the area.

\* 3P grasses – grasses considered to be palatable, perennial and profitable for grazing purposes.

## APPENDIX SIX

### Rare and Threatened Plants and Animals Known or Likely to Occur within the Balonne Shire SRN

**Key to Status:** R = rare; V = vulnerable; NCA = Nature Conservation Act 1992; EPBC = Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS (NCA)	STATUS (EPBC)	PREFERRED HABITAT
<b>Birds</b>				
Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	R	not listed	wetlands
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	R	not listed	wetlands
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	R	not listed	mosaic of woodland & grassland
Grey Falcon	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	R	not listed	open woodland, grassland, riparian frontages
Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	V	V	wetlands
Squatter Pigeon	<i>Geophaps scripta scripta</i>	V	V	open woodlands close to water
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	V	not listed	communities containing casuarinas (eg. belah, bullock, thready-bark she-oak)
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i>	V	not listed	open woodland & grassland
Black-chinned Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	R	not listed	woodlands
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	R	not listed	woodlands & regrowth containing mistletoe
<b>Mammals</b>				
Kultarr	<i>Antechinomys laniger</i>	R	not listed	mulga & poplar box on red soils; stony areas
Little Pied Bat	<i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	R	not listed	woodlands with tree hollows
Greater Long-eared Bat	<i>Nyctophilus timorensis</i>	V	V	woodlands with tree hollows
<b>Reptiles</b>				
Yakka Skink	<i>Egernia rugosa</i>	V	V	woodlands & spinifex particularly on red and loamy soils
Common Death Adder	<i>Acanthophis antarcticus</i>	R	not listed	brigalow/belah
Grey Snake	<i>Hemiaspis damelii</i>	E	not listed	riparian & floodplain woodlands
Woma Python	<i>Aspidites ramsayi</i>	R	not listed	woodlands & spinifex particularly on red and sandy soils
<b>Frogs</b>				
Rough Collared Frog	<i>Cyclorana verrucosa</i>	R	not listed	wetlands
<b>Fish</b>				
Murray Cod	<i>Maccullochella peelii peelii</i>	not listed	V	watercourses
<b>Butterflies</b>				
Imperial Blue Butterfly	<i>Jalmenus evagoras eubelus</i>	V	not listed	mature brigalow communities



## Appendix Six con't...

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS (NCA)	STATUS (EPBC)	PREFERRED HABITAT & KNOWN LOCATIONS
Plants				
Clustered flannel-flower	<i>Actinotus paddisonii</i>	R	not listed	red sandy soils (S55, M632)
A waterplant	<i>Aponogeton queenslandicus</i>	R	not listed	wetlands/gilgais
Pale beauty-heads	<i>Calocephalus sonderi</i>	R	not listed	Unknown (M632, M626)
A sedge	<i>Cyperus clarus</i>	R	not listed	wetlands
A spike-rush	<i>Eleocharis blakeana</i>	R	not listed	Wetlands (S641)
No common name	<i>Gonocarpus urceolatus</i>	R	not listed	Unknown (M632)
A pea	<i>Tephrosia baueri</i>	R	not listed	Unknown (P05WR)
Mulga heath-myrtle, Jelly Bush, Gooey Bush	<i>Thryptomene hexandra</i>	R	not listed	mulga communities
No common name	<i>Vallisneria nana</i>	R	not listed	unknown
A daisy	<i>Vittadinia decora</i>	R	not listed	unknown

## APPENDIX SEVEN

### Inventory of Water Facilities on the SRN within Balonne Shire

Route	Facility ID	Name	Local Name	Description	Other Comments
S054	D0001	Charlton BWA	West Drain	flowing bore drain	
S054	D0002	Charlton BWA	East Drain	flowing bore drain	
S054	D0003	W/H Plains BWA	West Drain	flowing bore drain	
S054	D0004	W/H Plains BWA	East Drain	flowing bore drain	
S055	D0006	Mona BWA	Loop Mid Drain	flowing bore drain	
S055	D0008	Mona BWA	East Drain	flowing bore drain	
S055	D0009	Chippeway BWA		flowing bore drain	Going to be capped
S055	D0010	Maroungle BWA	West Drain	flowing bore drain	
S055	D0011	Maroungle BWA	East Drain	flowing bore drain	
P005	D0012	Myall Plains BWA		flowing bore drain	
S062	D0013	Mona BWA		flowing bore drain	
S062	D0014	Mona Private	Northwest Drain	flowing bore drain	
S062	D0016	Mona Private	Southeast Drain	flowing bore drain	
S062	D0019	Bullindgie Private	South Drain	flowing bore drain	
S062	D0021	Ingie BWA	South Drain	flowing bore drain	
S062	D0022	Yamburgan Private		flowing bore drain	
S062	D0023	Dunwinnie Private	West Drain	flowing bore drain	
S062	D0026	Dunwinnie		flowing bore drain	
S062	D0028	Bullawarrie Private	Drain	flowing bore drain	
S716	D0029	Cashmere1		flowing bore drain	
S716	D0030	Cashmere2		flowing bore drain	
S054	N0001	Paterson CK		natural waterhole	
S054	N0002	Mungalalla CK		natural waterhole	
S054	N0003	Wallum CK		natural waterhole	
S055	N0004	Balonne R		natural waterhole	
P005	N0005	Balonne R		natural waterhole	
P005	N0007	Balonne R	Mia Bend	natural waterhole	
P005	N0009	Balonne R	Union Camp HY	natural waterhole	
P005	N0010	Balonne R		natural waterhole	
P005	N0011	Balonne R		natural waterhole	
P005	N0012	Moonie R		natural waterhole	
P005	N0013	Moonie R	Nindigully HY	natural waterhole	
P006	N0014	Moonie R		natural waterhole	
P006	N0015	Moonie R		natural waterhole	
P006	N0016	Moonie R	HY	natural waterhole	
P006	N0017	Moonie R		natural waterhole	
P006	N0018	Moonie R	Thallon	natural waterhole	
P006	N0019	Moonie R		natural waterhole	
P006	N0020	Moonie R		natural waterhole	
P006	N0021	Moonie R		natural waterhole	
P006	N0022	Moonie R		natural waterhole	
P006	N0023	Moonie R	Dareel	natural waterhole	
P006	N0024	Little Weir R		natural waterhole	
P006	N0025	McIntyre R		natural waterhole	

## Appendix Seven con't...

Route	Facility ID	Name	Local Name	Description	Other Comments
S062	N0026	Culgoa R		natural waterhole	
S062	N0027	Balonne Minor R	Dirranbandi	natural waterhole	
S063	N0028	Kooroon		natural waterhole	
M626	N0029	Alton East		natural waterhole	
S055	W0166	65 MILE		SR water facility	From a capped bore & piped to tank and troughs
S055	W0254	7 MILE		SR water facility	Dam
S055	W0351	Boolba		SR water facility	Dam
U619	W0363	Cypress		SR water facility	Dam
S055	W0545	Mona	6 Mile Reserve	SR water facility	From a capped bore & piped to tank and troughs
S062	W0546	Keebrah		SR water facility	Dam
S062	W0547	Diamond		SR water facility	Dam
S055	W1965	Boomerang		SR water facility	Dam
S055	W2071	Pipers	Crescent Vale	SR water facility	Dam
U632	W2151	Bull Holes		SR water facility	Dam
S062	W2159	Noondoo	Culbokie	SR water facility	Dam
S055	W2521	Mulga View		SR water facility	Sub-artesian bore with windmill, tank and troughs
P005	W2558	Burgurrah	Strathbogie	SR water facility	Piped from Dam to tank and troughs
P005	W2592	Boombah 1		SR water facility	Dam
P005	W2628	Boombah 2		SR water facility	Dam
P005	W2629	Boombah 4		SR water facility	Dam
P005	W2642	Bindle		SR water facility	Piped from River to tank and troughs
P005	W2691	Thuraggi		SR water facility	Dam
S716	W2730	Clear Water		SR water facility	Dam
S716	W2731	Galonga		SR water facility	Dam
S716	W2732	Horse CK		SR water facility	Dam
S716	W2733	The Glear		SR water facility	Dam
S716	W2734	Waigally		SR water facility	Dam
S062	W2832	Bullawarrie		SR water facility	From a capped bore & piped to tank and troughs
S062	W2843	Glencoe		SR water facility	From a capped bore & piped to tank and troughs
S055	W2844	Clonard		SR water facility	From a capped bore & piped to tank and troughs
S055	W2846	Mourilyan		SR water facility	From a capped bore & piped to tank and troughs
P005	W2836	Bandy Andy		Proposed/Under construction	Source bore to be capped and two tanks & troughs installed. Proposed for the Great Artesian Basin Bore Replacement Scheme.
P005	W2839	Balagna		Proposed/Under construction	Source bore to be capped and two tanks & troughs installed. Proposed for the Great Artesian Basin Bore Replacement Scheme.

## Appendix Seven con't...

Route	Facility ID	Name	Local Name	Description	Other Comments
S062	W2842	Buffel Park		Proposed/Under construction	Source bore to be capped and two tanks & troughs installed. Proposed for the Great Artesian Basin Bore Replacement Scheme.
S062	W2845	Ingie		Proposed/Under construction	Source bore to be capped and two tanks & troughs installed. Proposed for the Great Artesian Basin Bore Replacement Scheme.
S055	W2849	Chippeway		Proposed/Under construction	Source bore to be capped and two tanks & troughs installed. Proposed for the Great Artesian Basin Bore Replacement Scheme.
S055	W2850	Wondit		Proposed/Under construction	Source bore to be capped and two tanks & troughs installed. Proposed for the Great Artesian Basin Bore Replacement Scheme.
S055	W2857	Mundalee		Proposed/Under construction	Source bore to be capped and two tanks & troughs installed. Proposed for the Great Artesian Basin Bore Replacement Scheme.

## APPENDIX EIGHT

### **Balonne Shire Council's Policy on Agistment of Stock within Reserves and Stock Routes**

These policies are in addition to those within the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and shall be part of the conditions of an agistment permit.

1. The maximum numbers of stock permitted to be agisted at any one time are as follows:
  - ❑ Cows and Calves – 50 head; or
  - ❑ Wethers/Ewes and Lambs – 500 head
  - The above maximum numbers of stock are subject to change from time to time by Council resolution.
  - Cattle must be T.B. and Brucellosis clear.
  - For the purpose of this Clause, “calves” shall mean unweaned cattle under six (6) months old.
2. Approval from the Balonne Shire Council Rural Lands Protection Committee to be obtained prior to agistment.
3. The permitted Stock shall be placed on a Stock Route or Reserve approved of by Council or as directed by Council's Stock Routes Supervisor, and confined to the area stipulated in the Permit.
4. Stock to be put in hand three times a week.
5. The maximum numbers prescribed in Clause 2 shall apply to a property not to any one owner. For example, if a property is owned by several persons, the maximum number permitted is 50 cows and calves, or 500 wethers/ewes and lambs per property not per person.
6. The application possesses adequate Public Risk Policy of Insurance (of not less than \$10 million) and that the owner of the permitted stock shall indemnify the Council against any claim whatsoever for loss or damage resulting from the travel of such stock on Roads, Reserves and Stock Routes under the control of the Council.
7. No bulls or rams to be agisted, unless the applicant can demonstrate to Council's satisfaction that issues regarding traffic safety, adequacy of fencing and others deemed applicable to the particular permit application can be satisfactorily dealt with.
8. Sufficient pasture will be available to satisfy the needs of travelling stock.
9. Sufficient water will be available for the duration of the agistment and, if a travelling stock facility is to be used, that there will be sufficient water to cater to the needs of travelling stock and any party to a water agreement.
10. The land is not subject to a lease, licence or permit granted under the Land Act 1994 or an authority granted under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.
11. The stock will not introduce a declared pest into an area where that pest does not already exist, or spread a declared pest.
12. The use of the land for agistment will not degrade the land.
13. The stock will not compromise road safety.

14. The stock are not affected by a notifiable or prescribed disease (vermin infested or diseased stock will not be permitted to be agisted).
15. Where the agistment is to occur within a State-controlled road corridor, the Department of Main Roads has provided its consent.
16. Council reserves the right to require removal of stock or to make temporary variations to its agistment policy should weather conditions, water supply or other circumstances of the time so warrant.
17. Appropriate signage to be erected as per the relevant Stock Route Permit Information Notice.
18. Any clearing of grass and shrubs required for the erection of temporary holding yards be kept to an absolute minimum for the required works and clearing not be conducted unless appropriate authorisation has been received under the *Land Act 1994*, *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, *Vegetation Management Regulation 2000 (VMR)*, *Integrated Planning Act 1997* and *Forestry Act 1959*.
19. The person in charge of agisted stock must:
  - Immediately produce a permit, or a copy of it, to an authorised person for inspection if requested.
  - Remove any bogged, dying, infected, injured or dead stock from the stock route network in a prompt and reasonable manner at the expense of the owner.
  - Keep stock under control at all times.
  - If directed by a person authorised by the issuing entity, must increase the number of persons supervising the stock, so as to minimise the risk to the travelling public or property.
  - Not leave the stock unattended within the SRN.
  - The permit holder indemnifies and agrees to keep the State of Queensland, Crown Instrumentalities, local government and other statutory bodies indemnified against all actions, suits, proceedings, claims, demands, costs, losses, damages and expenses arising out of or in any way connected to or resulting from the issuing entity granting this permit to the permittee including all such actions, suits, proceedings, claims, demands, costs, losses, damages and expenses arising out of or in any way connected to or resulting from a breach of any conditions of the permit.
  - Must ensure the stock are contained within a temporary or permanent holding that is adequate to prevent stock from escaping and that this holding is at least 10 metres from the edge of any bitumen road.
20. Failure to comply with any of the above conditions may result in cancellation of the existing Permit or Council refusal to renew the Permit.

## APPENDIX NINE

### **Balonne Shire Council's Policy on Travelling Stock within Reserves and Stock Routes**

These policies are in addition to those within the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and shall be part of the conditions of a travelling stock permit.

1. Stock must move at a rate of not less than ten (10) kilometres per day.
2. Drovers to split or stagger travelling stock into maximum mob sizes of 1000 (adult cattle or equivalent) along the SRN to ensure the tail get a feed, the lead do not trample feed into the ground and water facilities are not stretched beyond their capacity to protect the integrity of the SRN.
3. The condition of the stock is sufficient to travel at the rate prescribed without risk to the animal's welfare.
4. Sufficient pasture and water is available for the number of stock to be travelled along the route identified.
5. The stock will not introduce a declared pest into an area where that pest does not already exist, or spread a declared pest.
6. The stock are not affected by a notifiable or prescribed disease.
7. The stock will not compromise road safety.
8. If the permit is issued for travel within another local government area that the written consent of that authority has been obtained.
9. The use of the resource is equitable.
10. The application possesses adequate Public Risk Policy of Insurance (of not less than \$10 million) and that the owner of the permitted stock shall indemnify the Council against any claim whatsoever for loss or damage resulting from the travel of such stock on Roads, Reserves and stock Routes under the control of the Council.
11. Where the travel is to occur within a State-controlled road corridor, the Department of Main Roads has consented to the travel.
12. Any clearing of grass and shrubs required for the erection of temporary holding yards be kept to an absolute minimum for the required works and clearing not be conducted unless appropriate authorisation has been received under the *Land Act 1994*, *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, *Vegetation Management Regulation 2000 (VMR)*, *Integrated Planning Act 1997* and *Forestry Act 1959*.
13. The permit holder indemnifies and agrees to keep the State of Queensland, Crown Instrumentalities, local government and other statutory bodies indemnified against all actions, suits, proceedings, claims, demands, costs, losses, damages and expenses arising out of or in any way connected to or resulting from the issuing entity granting this permit to the permittee including all such actions, suits, proceedings, claims, demands, costs, losses, damages and expenses arising out of or in any way connected to or resulting from a breach of any conditions.
14. Appropriate signage to be erected as per the Stock Route Travel Permit Information Notice.
15. The person in charge of travelling stock must:
  - Immediately produce a permit, or a copy of it, to an authorised person for inspection if requested.
  - If it is intended to walk or drove stock on a reserve for travelling stock or part of the SRN that is fenced in with private lands, give at least 48 hours notice to the owner of the private lands or reserve for travelling stock
  - Remove any bogged, dying, infected, injured or dead stock from the stock route network in a prompt and reasonable manner at the expense of the owner.
  - Keep stock under control at all times.
  - Not walk stock during the period between sunset and the following sunrise.
  - As far as practical, ensure that the stock are kept in a cohesive mob and that they do not disperse along an unreasonable length.

- If directed by a person authorised by the issuing entity, must increase the number of persons supervising the stock, so as to minimise the risk to the travelling public or property.
- Ensure stock are camped as far a practicable away from any public roadway in the vicinity.
- Ensure stock are contained within a temporary or permanent holding that is adequate to prevent stock from escaping between sunset and the following sunrise.
- Not leave the stock unattended within the SRN.
- Ensure that, so far as it is reasonably practical to do so, the public roadway is kept free of stock.
- Where stock are being moved across a roadway, ensure that the delay time for any vehicle is minimised.
- Erect temporary warning signs as described in the Information Notice that accompanies a permit.
- Must not camp within 300 metres of a stock watering facility without a reasonable excuse
- Must ensure that the stock are not camped or held across any gateway, ramp, grid and vehicular track or within two (2) metres of any boundary fence on any stock route, road or reserve for travelling stock.

14. Failure to comply with any of the above conditions may result in cancellation of the existing Permit or Council refusal to renew the Permit.



## APPENDIX TEN

### SIGNIFICANT AREAS

#### THREATENED REGIONAL ECOSYSTEMS OCCURRING WITHIN THE BALONNE SHIRE STOCK ROUTE NETWORK

##### **Explanatory Notes:**

Regional ecosystems (RE's) are specific vegetation communities that are consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil in a region. The status of an RE can be classified as either that gazetted under the *Vegetation Management Act (VMA) 1999* (an assessment of the pre-clearing and remnant extent of the RE) or its biodiversity status as applied by the Environmental Protection Agency (an assessment of the condition of remnant vegetation in addition to the pre-clearing and remnant extent of an RE). The following criteria apply to the threatened categories for RE status.

##### **Endangered**

Listed under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* if:

- remnant vegetation is <10% of its pre-clearing extent across the bioregion; or
- 10-30% of its pre-clearing extent remains and the remnant vegetation is less than 10,000 ha.

Listed by the EPA under biodiversity status if:

- <10% of its pre-clearing extent remains unaffected by severe degradation and/or biodiversity loss; or
- 10-30% of its pre-clearing extent remains unaffected by severe degradation and/or biodiversity loss and the remnant vegetation is <10, 000 ha; or
- it is a rare regional ecosystem subject to a threatening process

##### **Of Concern**

Listed under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* if:

- remnant vegetation is 10-30% of its pre-clearing extent across the bioregion; or
- >30% of its pre-clearing extent remains and the remnant vegetation is less than 10,000 ha.

Listed by the DEHP under biodiversity status if:

- 10-30% of its pre-clearing extent remains unaffected by moderate degradation and/or biodiversity loss

RE	Description	Biodiversity Status	VMA Status	Stock Route No.
11.3.2	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland on alluvial plains. Texture contrast and deep clay soils.	Of concern	Of concern	M632, M716, M826, PO5BA, PO5WR, P06, S55, S68,
11.3.3	<i>Eucalyptus coolabah</i> woodland on alluvial plains.	Of concern	Of concern	M623, M630, PO5BA, P06, S55
11.3.15	<i>Eucalyptus coolabah</i> , <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> open woodland - woodland on alluvial plains.	Of concern	Of concern	M623, M624, S62
11.3.17	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland with shrubby <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> on alluvial plains.	Endangered	Of concern	M623, M624, M632, PO5BA, PO5WR, S62
11.3.20	Forb/grassland with scattered <i>Atalaya hemiglaucula</i> , <i>Flindersia maculosa</i> , <i>Acacia</i> spp. on alluvial plains.	Of concern	Not of concern	M623, M624
11.3.21	<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i> and/or <i>Astrebla</i> spp. grassland on alluvial plains. Cracking clay soils.	Endangered	Endangered	S54
11.3.25	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> or <i>E. camaldulensis</i> , <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> fringing woodland on alluvial plains.	Of concern	Not of concern	M623, M632, M826 PO5BA, PO5WR, P06
11.3.27	Freshwater wetlands.	Of concern	Not of concern	M623
11.3.28	<i>Casuarina cristata</i> +/- <i>Eucalyptus coolabah</i> open woodland on alluvial plains.	Of concern	Of concern	M623, M624, M716, PO5BA, PO5WG1, P06, S55
11.4.3	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> shrubby open forest on Cainozoic clay plains.	Endangered	Endangered	M632, M799, M826, PO5WG1, PO6, S68, S641
11.4.7	Open forest of <i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> with <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> and/or <i>Casuarina cristata</i> on Cainozoic clay plains.	Endangered	Endangered	M632, M799, M826, PO5WR, PO6, S68, S641
11.4.12	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> woodland on eroding edge of Cainozoic clay plains.	Of concern	Of concern	M632
11.5.6	<i>Triodia</i> spp. grassland on Cainozoic sand plains/remnant surfaces.	Of concern	Of concern	M632
11.5.13	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> +/- <i>Acacia aneura</i> +/- <i>E. melanophloia</i> woodland on Cainozoic sand plains/remnant surfaces.	Of concern	Of concern	M624, M632, M799, M826, PO5WG1, PO6, S62, S68
6.3.3	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> +/- <i>E. coolabah</i> +/- <i>E. populnea</i> , <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> woodland on alluvium	Of concern	Not of concern	M716, S54
6.3.8	<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> +/- <i>Acacia cambagei</i> woodland on alluvium	Of concern	Of concern	M620, M630
6.4.1	<i>Acacia cambagei</i> + <i>Casuarina cristata</i> open forest on clay plains	Endangered	Endangered	M620, M630
6.4.2	<i>Casuarina cristata</i> + <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> open forest on clay plains	Endangered	Endangered	M570, M623, M716, S55, S62
6.4.3	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> , <i>Casuarina cristata</i> or <i>Acacia harpophylla</i> +/- <i>Geijera parviflora</i> woodland on clay plains	Endangered	Of concern	M570, M620, M716, S54, S55, S62

RE	Description	Biodiversity Status	VMA Status	Stock Route No.
6.5.1	<i>Acacia aneura</i> , <i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> , <i>E. melanophloia</i> open forest on undulating lowlands	Of concern	Not of concern	M632, M716
6.5.3	<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> , <i>Acacia aneura</i> +/- <i>Eremophila mitchellii</i> woodland	Of concern	Not of concern	M570, M620, M623, M630, PO5WR, S54, S55, S62
6.5.5	<i>Eucalyptus intertexta</i> +/- <i>E. populnea</i> +/- <i>Acacia aneura</i> +/- <i>Callitris glaucophylla</i> woodland on Quaternary sediments	Of concern	Of concern	M630, S55, S62

**Regional Ecosystem MAP TO BE INSERTED HERE**

## **BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ASSESSMENTS**

Biodiversity planning assessment (BPA) is the implementation of the biodiversity assessment and mapping methodology that results in a map and database information product maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The digital coverage results from a process of information collation, integration, analysis, interpretation, spatial data development and mapping.

Biodiversity assessment and mapping methodology has been prepared to provide a consistent approach for assessing biodiversity values at the landscape scale in Queensland using vegetation mapping data generated or approved by the Queensland Herbarium as a fundamental basis.

The methodology has application for identifying areas with various levels of significance for biodiversity reasons. These include threatened ecosystems or taxa or large tracts of habitat in good condition and buffers to wetlands or other types of habitat important for the maintenance of biodiversity or ecological processes.

The biodiversity significant criteria used were as follows:

- Diagnostic criteria (habitat for EVR taxa; ecosystem value at three scales – state, regional, local; tract size, relative size of regional ecosystem at three scales – state, regional, local; condition; ecosystem diversity and context and connection – relationship to water, endangered ecosystems and physical connection between contiguous remnant units); and
- Other essential criteria (essential and general habitat for priority taxa; special biodiversity values; corridors and threatening processes (condition))

Queensland is divided into 13 bioregions based on broad landscape patterns that reflect the major underlying geology, climate patterns and broad groupings of plants and animals. Balonne Shire is situated within both the Mulga Lands and Brigalow Belt South bioregions. Biodiversity planning assessments for the Mulga Lands and Brigalow Belt South containing Balonne Shire are shown in the map attached.

## **FURTHER EXPLANATORY NOTES:**

### **State Significance**

Areas assessed as being significant for biodiversity at the bioregional or state scales. They also include areas assessed by other studies/processes as being significant at national or international scales.

### **Regional Significance**

Areas assessed as being significant for biodiversity at the sub-regional scale. These areas have lower significance for biodiversity than areas assessed as being of state significance.

### **Local Significance and/or other values**

Areas assessed as not being significant for biodiversity at state or regional scales. Local values are of significance at the local government scale.

BIODIVERSITY PLANNING ASSESSMENT MAP TO BE INCLUDED HERE.

## APPENDIX ELEVEN

### **Queensland Heritage Register Search Results for Heritage Listed Places within Balonne Shire**

Information extracted from the Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency /  
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service website:  
<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/heritage/index>

Name	Street Name	Town	Significance	Description
Bullamon Homestead	Moonie River	Thallon	Important in illustrating the pattern of Queensland history, being closely associated with the establishment of pastoralism in the Moonie River district in the mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century.	The site extends about 150 metres along the east bank of the Moonie River and encompasses a residence, associated buildings and foundations, and an extensive garden.
Cameron's 1 Ton Survey Post	Barwon River	Mungindi	Was erected in about 1882 on the bank of the Barwon River and marks the official survey of the border between what were then the separate colonies of New South Wales and Queensland.	A timber post 2.7 high and roughly square in section and is shaped into a pyramid at the top.
The Anchorage	Wagoo Road	St. George	Demonstrates the development of the St. George district in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century.	A two-storied timber house built in 1903. The residence's front façade looks across the road to the Balonne River.

## APPENDIX TWELVE

### Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guidelines – Stock Route Network

Produced by the Department of Natural Resources & Mines

#### SUMMARY OF ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT PROCESS

Under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (s 23(1)), a person carrying out an activity has a duty of care to take all reasonable and practical measures not to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Act lists seven matters that the Courts are required to take into consideration when deciding if a person has fulfilled their duty of care in protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage.

- 1) The nature of the activity and the likelihood of it causing harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- 2) The nature of the Aboriginal cultural heritage likely to be harmed by the activity.
- 3) The extent to which the person consulted with Aboriginal parties about carrying out the activity and the results of the consultation.
- 4) Whether the person carried out a study or survey of any type of the area affected by the activity to find out the location and extent of the Aboriginal cultural heritage and the extent of the study or survey.
- 5) Whether the person searched the database and register for information about the area affected by the activity.
- 6) The extent to which the person complied with cultural heritage duty of care guidelines.
- 7) The nature and extent of past uses in the area affected by the activity.

The extent that these seven matters will need to be considered by local governments when conducting stock route activities is dependant on the nature of the activity and the nature and extent of past uses. Further, the duty of care guidelines categorise activities into five broad types based on their potential impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage. The table below is intended as a guide for local governments when making decisions about Aboriginal cultural heritage management on the Stock Route Network.



Requirements of Legislation	Category of Activity	Examples of Stock Route Activities	<u>Stock Route Network Management Actions</u>
Nature of Activity & Likelihood of it Causing Harm to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage  <b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</b> section 23(2)(a)	<b>Category 1</b>  <b>Activities involving No Surface Disturbance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of a windmill</li> <li>• Pulling a bore</li> <li>• Cleaning tanks and troughs</li> <li>• Inspection of stock route facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where an activity involves no Surface Disturbance of an area it is generally unlikely that the activity will harm Aboriginal cultural heritage and the activity will comply with the duty of care guidelines.</li> <li>• In these circumstances, it is reasonable and practicable for the activity to proceed without further cultural heritage assessment.</li> </ul>
	<b>Category 2</b>  <b>Activities causing No Additional Surface Disturbance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelling stock</li> <li>• Grazing stock</li> <li>• Burning pasture in natural grasslands or previously cleared areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where an activity causes No Additional Surface Disturbance of an area it is generally unlikely that the activity will harm Aboriginal cultural heritage or could cause additional harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage to that which has already occurred, and the activity will comply with the duty of care guidelines.</li> <li>• In these circumstances, subject to certain measures set out below, it is reasonable and practicable for the activity to proceed without further cultural heritage assessment.</li> <li>• <b>Excavating, relocating, removing or harming Aboriginal cultural heritage:</b> If at any time during the activity it is necessary to excavate, relocate, remove or harm a Cultural Heritage Find the activity should cease immediately. Contact NR&amp;M's Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit (3238 3839) who will assist in identifying and contacting the Aboriginal Party for the area for the purposes of seeking their advice and agreement as to how best this may be managed to avoid or minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage.</li> <li>• <b>Reaching Agreement:</b> It is advisable that the terms of any agreement you reach with the Aboriginal Party for the area be recorded and documented in the event of future disputes.</li> <li>• <b>Failure to Reach Agreement:</b> Where agreement cannot be reached with the Aboriginal Party for the area, you continue to have a duty of care obligation under the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> (s23) and must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage</li> </ul>

			including, where necessary, through the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan under Part 7 of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> .
	<b>Category 3</b>  <b>Developed Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grading an existing access track along a stock route</li> <li>• Replacement of a pipeline within the same location as the existing pipeline</li> <li>• Replacement of a pipeline within an existing bore drain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where an activity is proposed in a Developed Area it is generally unlikely that the activity will harm Aboriginal cultural heritage and the activity will comply with the duty of care guidelines.</li> <li>• In these circumstances, subject to certain measures set out below, it is reasonable and practicable for the activity to proceed without further cultural heritage assessment.</li> <li>• <b>Excavating, relocating, removing or harming Aboriginal cultural heritage:</b> If at any time during the activity it is necessary to excavate, relocate, remove or harm a Cultural Heritage Find the activity should cease immediately. Contact NR&amp;M's Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit (3238 3839) who will assist in identifying and contacting the Aboriginal Party for the area for the purposes of seeking their advice and agreement as to how best this may be managed to avoid or minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage.</li> <li>• <b>Reaching Agreement:</b> It is advisable that the terms of any agreement you reach with the Aboriginal Party for the area be recorded and documented in the event of future disputes.</li> <li>• <b>Failure to Reach Agreement:</b> Where agreement cannot be reached with the Aboriginal Party for the area, you continue to have a duty of care obligation under the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> (s23) and must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage including, where necessary, through the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan under Part 7 of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>.</li> <li>• <b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Database:</b> An activity under Category 3 or Category 4 that will excavate, relocate, remove or harm Aboriginal cultural heritage entered on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register or the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Database should not proceed without the agreement of the</li> </ul>

			Aboriginal Party for the area or a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.
<p>Nature &amp; Extent of Past Uses in the Area Affected by the Activity</p> <p><b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</b> section 23(2)(g)</p>	<p><b>Category 4</b></p> <p><b>Areas previously subject to Significant Ground Disturbance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desilting a turkey nest</li> <li>• Desilting a dam where the silt will remain within disturbed areas</li> <li>• Clearing previously cleared areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where an activity is proposed in an area, which has previously been subject to Significant Ground Disturbance it is generally unlikely that the activity will harm Aboriginal cultural heritage and the activity will comply with the duty of care guidelines.</li> <li>• In these circumstances, subject to certain measures set out below, it is reasonable and practicable for the activity to proceed without further cultural heritage assessment.</li> <li>• In some cases, despite an area having been previously subject to Significant Ground Disturbance, certain features of the area may have residual cultural heritage significance. These features are set out in paragraph 6 of the duty of care guidelines and are summarised below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ceremonial places, scarred or carved trees, burials, rock art, fish traps and weirs, occupation sites, quarries and artefact scatters, grinding grooves, contact sites and wells.</li> <li>○ Landscape features that may also have cultural heritage significance include: rock outcrops; caves; foreshores and coastal dunes; sand hills; areas of biogeographical significance, such as natural wetlands; permanent and semi-permanent waterholes, natural springs; particular types of native vegetation; and some hill and mound formations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The views of the Aboriginal Party for an area are key in helping assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of these kinds of features.</li> <li>• Appropriately qualified persons such as anthropologists, archaeologists and historians can also provide valuable assistance.</li> <li>• It is important to be informed about any cultural heritage significance that may attach to these features and extra care must be taken prior to proceeding with any activity that may cause additional surface disturbance to the feature, or the area immediately surrounding the feature that is inconsistent with the pre-existing Significant Ground</li> </ul>

		<p>Disturbance. In these circumstances, it is necessary to notify the Aboriginal Party and seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advice as to whether the feature constitutes Aboriginal cultural heritage; and</li> <li>○ If it does, agreement as to how best the activity may be managed to avoid or minimise harm to any Aboriginal cultural heritage.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Excavating, relocating, removing or harming Aboriginal cultural heritage:</b> If at any time during the activity it is necessary to excavate, relocate, remove or harm a Cultural Heritage Find the activity should cease immediately. Contact NR&amp;M's Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit (3238 3839) who will assist in identifying and contacting the Aboriginal Party for the area for the purposes of seeking their advice and agreement as to how best this may be managed to avoid or minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage.</li> <li>● <b>Reaching Agreement:</b> It is advisable that the terms of any agreement you reach with the Aboriginal Party for the area be recorded and documented in the event of future disputes.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Reach Agreement:</b> Where agreement cannot be reached with the Aboriginal Party for the area, you continue to have a duty of care obligation under the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> (s23) and must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage including, where necessary, through the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan under Part 7 of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Category 5</b></p> <p><b>Activities causing Additional Surface Disturbance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Construction of new stock route facilities</li> <li>● Replacing facility components (tanks, troughing, piping etc) in a different location to the existing component</li> <li>● Desilting of a dam where the silt is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A Category 5 activity is any activity, or activity in an area, that does not fall within Category 1, 2, 3 or 4.</li> <li>● Where an activity is proposed under Category 5 there is generally a high risk that it could harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. In these circumstances, the activity should not proceed without cultural heritage assessment. Cultural heritage assessment should involve consideration of the matters a Court may consider under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003. These matters are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The nature of the activity and the likelihood of it causing harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage.</li> <li>ii) The nature of the Aboriginal cultural heritage likely to be harmed by the activity.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		likely to flow away from previously disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii) The extent to which the person consulted with Aboriginal parties about carrying out the activity and the results of the consultation.</li> <li>iv) Whether the person carried out a study or survey of any type of the area affected by the activity to find out the location and extent of the Aboriginal cultural heritage and the extent of the study or survey.</li> <li>v) Whether the person searched the database and register for information about the area affected by the activity.</li> <li>vi) The extent to which the person complied with cultural heritage duty of care guidelines.</li> <li>vii) The nature and extent of past uses in the area affected by the activity.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Particular care must be taken where it is proposed to undertake activities causing additional surface disturbance to the features likely to have cultural heritage significance, set out in paragraph 6 of the duty of care guidelines and summarised below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ceremonial places, scarred or carved trees, burials, rock art, fish traps and weirs, occupation sites, quarries and artefact scatters, grinding grooves, contact sites and wells.</li> <li>○ Landscape features that may also have cultural heritage significance include: rock outcrops; caves; foreshores and coastal dunes; sand hills; areas of biogeographical significance, such as natural wetlands; permanent and semi-permanent waterholes, natural springs; particular types of native vegetation; and some hill and mound formations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The views of the Aboriginal Party for an area are key in helping assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of these kinds of features.</li> <li>• Appropriately qualified persons such as anthropologists, archaeologists and historians can also provide valuable assistance.</li> <li>• It is important to be informed about any cultural heritage significance that may attach to these features and extra care must be taken prior to proceeding with any activity that may cause additional surface disturbance to the feature, or the area immediately surrounding the feature that is inconsistent with the pre-existing Significant Ground Disturbance. In these circumstances, it is necessary to notify the Aboriginal Party and</li> </ul>
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		<p>seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advice as to whether the feature constitutes Aboriginal cultural heritage; and</li> <li>○ If it does, agreement as to how best the activity may be managed to avoid or minimise harm to any Aboriginal cultural heritage.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Excavating, relocating, removing or harming Aboriginal cultural heritage:</b> If at any time during the activity it is necessary to excavate, relocate, remove or harm a Cultural Heritage Find the activity should cease immediately. Contact NR&amp;M's Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit (3238 3839) who will assist in identifying and contacting the Aboriginal Party for the area for the purposes of seeking their advice and agreement as to how best this may be managed to avoid or minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage.</li> <li>● <b>Reaching Agreement:</b> It is advisable that the terms of any agreement you reach with the Aboriginal Party for the area be recorded and documented in the event of future disputes.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Reach Agreement:</b> Where agreement cannot be reached with the Aboriginal Party for the area, you continue to have a duty of care obligation under the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> (s23) and must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage including, where necessary, through the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan under Part 7 of the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>.</li> </ul>
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## APPENDIX THIRTEEN

### **National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) & Local Government Management of the Stock Route Network.**

Information contained in this document describes the responsibilities of local government in relation to the implementation of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) associated with their management of the stock route network (SRN).

In summary, local government responsibilities in relation to the NLIS and the Stock Route Network are:

1. Obtaining PICs for **relevant land** and pound yards prior to 1 July 2005 (DPI&F will be requesting local governments to do this via a letter in the near future).
2. (a) Where stock **with no** NLIS device fitted are seized for straying on the stock route network – local governments will be responsible for assigning NLIS devices and notifying the NLIS database of the details of the NLIS device.  
  
(b) Where stock **with a** NLIS device fitted are seized for straying the stock route network – local governments will be responsible for notifying the NLIS database of the details of the NLIS device.

In addition, local government have an ongoing responsibility to liaise with DPI&F Stock Inspectors to stay abreast of emerging issues.

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) will commence in Queensland from 1 July 2005.

Under the NLIS, from 1 July 2005, all cattle must be identified with an approved NLIS device (ear tag or rumen bolus) prior to movement from the property of origin (unless they meet the approved pathways). Each NLIS device will have a Property Identification Code (PIC) recorded against it. This will allow stock to be traced back to their property of origin for disease and contamination management.

#### ***Types of Devices***

Stock born on the property of origin, that have never left their property of birth, must be identified with a 'breeder device' – a white ear tag. Stock brought on to a property, or those animals that have left their property of birth at any point in their life, must be identified with a 'post-breeder NLIS device' – an orange ear tag.

Stock are not required to be identified with an NLIS device until they are consigned to a holding with a different PIC (property identification code) to that on which they currently reside.

When these animals reach their point of destination it will be the responsibility (and legislative obligation) of the receiver of the stock to ensure the NLIS devices are read and the information sent to the NLIS database within 48 hours of their receipt.

### ***Role of Local Government***

Local governments' role in the administration of the NLIS in terms of stock route activities is limited.

Local governments will shortly be requested by DPI&F to identify areas in their Shire that will need a PIC allocated to them. NR&M's Stock Route Management Unit have discussed this issue with DPI&F's Biosecurity Unit and recommend local governments request DPI&F to issue a PIC for **relevant land** in their local government area, pound yards and town commons. All stock route PICs will be in the format QABC8000 where BC is a two character Shire code allocated by DPI&F.

It will not be the responsibility of local governments to notify the NLIS database of stock movements associated with agistment or travel on relevant land. Local government will however, have responsibility to notify the NLIS database of the movements of stock seized for straying on the stock route network.

Notifying the NLIS database involves forwarding information in an electronic format of the individual numbers of the stock, the PIC they are currently on, the PIC they are moving on to, the date of movement and the waybill number the animals are travelling on. This can be done by a designated third party (i.e. agents etc). This is also the responsibility of the owner or person in charge.

**It is important to note that "relevant land" is defined under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and includes all declared stock routes; reserves for travelling stock; roads under local government control; and unallocated State land adjoining any of the former – that is, any land a local government can issue a stock route travel or agistment permit over.**

### ***Travel on Relevant Land***

After 1 July 2005, stock travelling on relevant land should have their NLIS devices read before leaving the property of origin and read again when they reach their final destination. For stock on stock routes at 1 July, no requirements to identify will accrue until they reach a final destination.

It is not the responsibility of local governments to identify or read animals that enter the shire for grazing and travel along a stock route. The person in control of the stock will have to notify the NLIS database when a new PIC is entered (such as another local government area).

Any calves/lambs born on relevant land will not require identifying and will receive a post-breeder NLIS device once they reach a destination whether it be a property or a saleyard. They will not need to be identified with an NLIS device from the local government responsible for that part of the stock route on which the animals were born.



### ***Agistment on Relevant Land***

After 1 July 2005, stock agisting on relevant land will need to have their NLIS devices read before leaving the property of origin and read again when they return to their property of origin. The person in control of the stock has the responsibility of notifying the NLIS database of the movement between PIC's.

In those situations where agistment on relevant land is during daylight hours, that is the stock return to the property of origin between sunset and sunrise, there will be no obligation to notify the NLIS of this type of movement.

Any calves/lambs born on relevant land during the period of agistment will not require identifying but must be fitted with a post-breeder NLIS device once they return to the mother's property of origin. This is the responsibility of the person in control of the stock.

Stock on agistment on relevant land at 1 July 2005, will need to be identified with a 'post-breeder NLIS device' – an orange ear tag prior to their return to the property. Again, this will be the responsibility of the person in control of the stock.

### ***Straying Stock – Stock Route Network***

In order to utilise the NLIS to assist with identification of seized stock found straying on the stock route network, local government pounds should be registered with their own PIC and local governments should also open a producer account with the NLIS database. This will enable pound keepers to record the movements of cattle to and from the pound.

Local governments are also advised to keep on hand a number of post-breeder NLIS devices for stock that are impounded.

For example, if a beast was found to be straying on the stock route network without an approved NLIS device and the animal is impounded by the local government it is the responsibility of the local government to ensure that the animal is fitted with a post breeder device (orange tag) prior to it's release from the pound.

It will also be the responsibility of the local government to read the device(s), where present, of animals impounded and advise the NLIS database of details including the device number, PIC of the pound, PIC of origin (if known) and destination (when the animal is released), date of movement and NVD/waybill number that the animal is being transported on.

In order to clarify ownership and carry out trace backs in the NLIS database, pound keepers will need to liaise with local stock inspectors or the state database administrator. Basic levels of access to a producer account in the database will not allow complex searching to be conducted.

Should a local government not have a specific pound yard or set of holding yards used to impound stock, an 'emergency' NLIS device with a generic PIC recorded against it would need to be fitted to the stray animal. These devices can be obtained from your local DPI&F stock inspector.

### ***Town Commons***

Town commons may form part of the stock route network in some local government areas. If this is the case, a different PIC should be sought from the DPI&F for the town common to that issued to the stock route network that travels through it. This will allow rapid tracing through the NLIS database of cattle that have travelled on the stock route as opposed to cattle permanently resident on the town common. Most town commons have been previously identified with PIC's in order to allow the use of tail tags. In many cases there will be no reason to change the current arrangements and PIC allocated to the common.

The control of use of NLIS devices on cattle on commons can be handled in the same way as for tail tags. Local governments can decide whether or not they wish to obtain order forms from DPI&F stock inspectors, purchase the devices and resell to owners of stock grazing on commons or alternatively, allow owners to obtain their own order forms directly from DPI&F. Cattle on commons will be eligible for both breeder and post breeder devices depending on whether or not they were born on the common.

Where cattle are moved directly to and from town commons to other properties, there will be an obligation on the responsible person to record the movement in the NLIS database. This will require a producer account to be opened with the national database in the name of the owner of the holding. Stock owners may then seek a third party authorisation from the local authority to operate on the account.

### ***Permits to Occupy etc.***

Any areas of relevant land grazed under a Permit to Occupy, Special Lease or other form of tenure may have two PICs – one for the relevant land and one for the property they are part of. For the purposes of disease trace back, this is satisfactory provided the cattle are identified only with devices related to the PIC of the property.