



Stock Route Compliance Priority Policy and Compliance Procedure

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of the BSC Stock Route Compliance Priority Policy and Procedure is to:

- a. Meet Council's obligations to manage the stock route network in the shire in accordance with the Queensland Stock Route Management Act 2002, Draft Queensland Stock Route Management Strategy 2020-2025 (SRMS), Council's Stock Route Management Plan, and Corporate Goals.
- b. Achieve stock route management and compliance in a way that is prioritised to achieve outcomes aligned to the primary, secondary, and negotiated priority stock route classifications in the SRMS, and within limited financial and staff resources
- c. Achieve compliance through a fair and measured process where users have a good understanding of their responsibilities and options.

2. PRINCIPLES

The Vision of the State's Draft Stock Route Management Strategy 2020-25 is: "The stock route network is managed for the responsible use for travelling stock while supporting the inherent natural and cultural values of the network"

The Balonne Shire Council Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 states that the Environmental Goal is 'To enhance, protect and sustain the environment, ensuring a triple bottom line approach of balancing social and economic needs with environmental goals. This includes the environmental Program Area of 'Biosecurity, pest management and stock route planning'.

3. SCOPE

The policy is relevant to all users of stock routes from landholders to drovers and the public. It relates to all offences under the Queensland Stock Route Management Act 2002.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

Balonne Shire Council is responsible for management and compliance of stock routes under the oversight of the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy, and in conjunction with related legislation and bodies such as the Department of Transport and Main Roads

5. PRIORITY POLICY

The policy provides for four descending levels of priority dependant on resources, safety, and transitioning from historic use.

Level 1 - Ongoing Compliance

1. WDEF funded fencing must be on applicant's land/boundary
2. Boundary vegetation clearance not to be beyond 3m without approvals (eg WDEF 5m)
3. Boundary vegetation cleared to be removed from stock routes (by 'practical completion' of the fence for WDEF schemes)
4. 'Substantial' encroachments on primary stock routes eg cropping, grazing, tyres, buildings
5. Unauthorised fencing for agistment
6. Drover and agistment adherence to permit conditions
7. Specific issues identified for action by DNRME eg from satellite



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Level 2 – 2020/21 Staged Compliance with new wing and (soon) grid standards

1. 2020 Programme to check all past wings (ERS) and grids (IS) and determine staged priority for bringing to the new standard:
 - a. Immediate: key areas of safety eg siting, non-frangible components, and signage
 - b. Later: permits, minor safety aspects, potential grid removal

Level 3 – 2021 Formalise agreements for facilities and utilities

1. Program to inventory and formalise water and other agreements with neighbouring landholders, or to cease informal agreements

Level 4 – 2021-2023 Historical use of stock routes

1. Develop a kit with options for landholders with unformed roads or boundary fences in stock routes, such as: permits to occupy, stopping, fencing with double unlocked gates, fence renewal on boundary, and withdrawing use
2. Develop a communications campaign on stock route compliance and options with expectations to come into compliance by a sunset date
3. Systematic identification of all unformed roads, fencing, cropping, and grazing
4. Systematic and consistent compliance process after sunset date.
5. Determination of Council level of maintenance for unformed roads.

7. LEGAL PARAMETERS

- Stock Route Management Act 2002
- Vegetation Management Act 1999
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Nature Conservation Act 1992
- Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Draft Queensland Stock Route Management Strategy 2020-2025
- Council's Stock Route Management Plan 2012-16 (currently being updated)
- BSC Corporate Plan 2018 - 2023



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Stock Route Compliance Procedure

Under the BSC Stock Route Management Plan to achieve compliance Council will generally undertake the following course of actions:

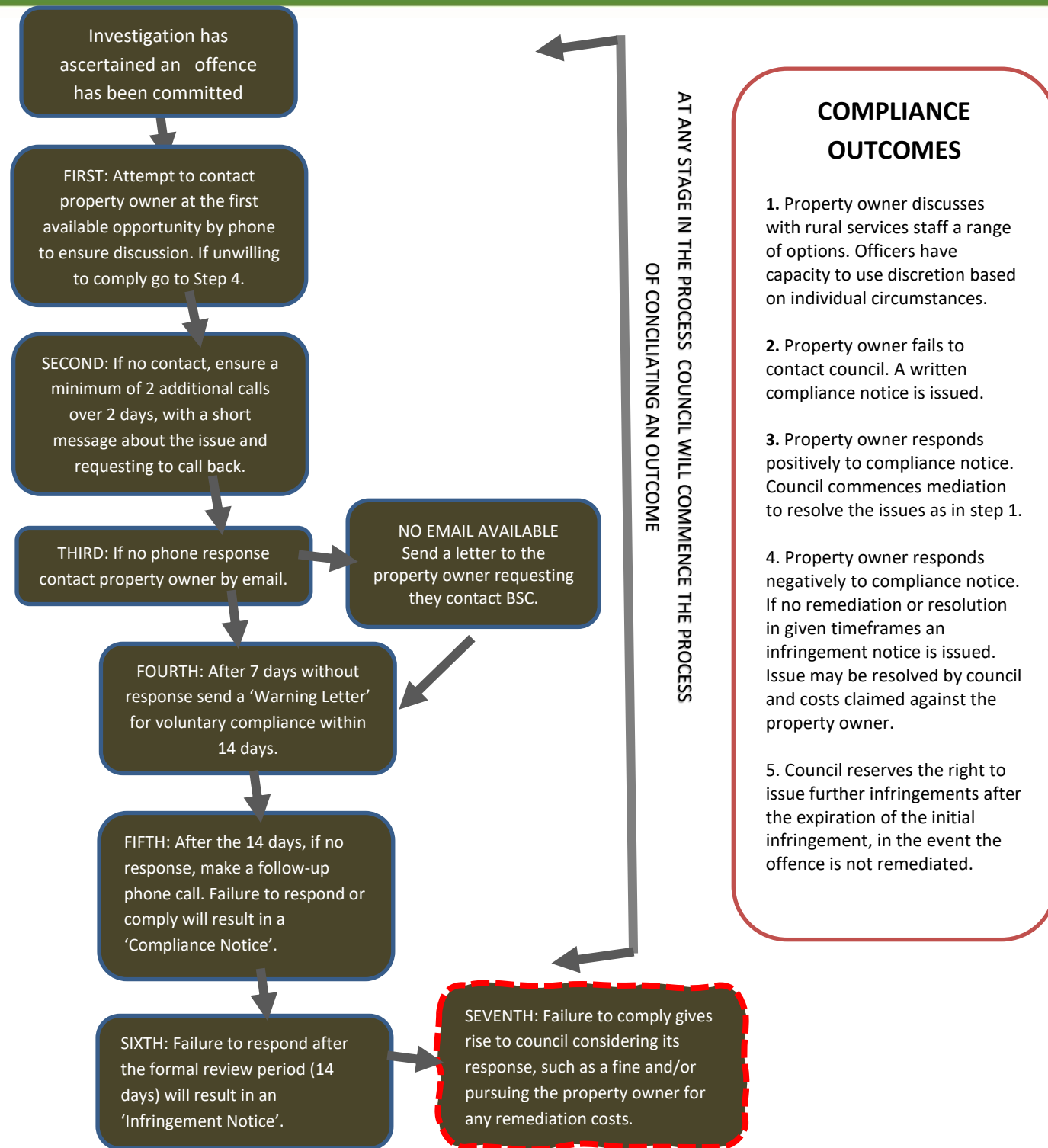
1. Clarify with the offender their obligations under the Act and negotiate with the offender for them to undertake necessary action set out in the Act.
2. Provide a verbal warning.
3. Provide a written warning.
4. Depending on the severity of the breach of compliance undertake appropriate actions (including legal action) to enforce compliance

The full process Council will take is outlined in the compliance flow chart attached.

The process is designed to ensure a consistent, fair, and staged approach to obtaining compliance from stock route neighbours and users.



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BE POSITIVE
 Respond in a professional tone, do not argue or insult

BE TRANSPARENT
 Provide name and work location, detail reason for the call

BE TIMELY
 Respond in a reasonable period of time, particularly if returning the property owner's phone call

BE HELPFUL
 Conciliate a compliance outcome and ensure follow-up