



## What is the Winton Wetlands Grazing Policy?

This grazing policy will deliver a strategic move from one-size-fits-all grazing leases that were designed to deliver catchment management outcomes to an individually tailored series of grazing permits designed to deliver fire management and other ecological benefits to the Winton Wetlands, side by side with economic benefits to the permit holders.

The policy recognises and respects the benefits of grazing and the historic and traditional use of the site for primary production. It also recognises the changed focus of the Winton Wetlands from primarily water storage to ecological restoration, tourism, and local amenity.

## What's the difference between the Grazing Licence and the Grazing Permit?

The Grazing Permit is an updated agreement between the Winton Wetlands and graziers that includes new valuations, fees and an individual permit grazing strategy for each specific land parcel.

The change from the Grazing Licence to Grazing Permit creates a tailored and flexible agreement between the Winton Wetlands and Graziers. The Permit period is a longer Permit tenure than the Grazing Licence with the twelve (12) month period being extended to a three (3) year Grazing Permit for ongoing licence areas.

Covenants and conditions are no longer one-size-fits-all and general and specific conditions will assist to reduce the spread of introduced pasture species, in particular Phalaris into the Reserve, encourage environmental outcomes in degraded areas of the Reserve and to continue to manage biomass in accordance with the annual Fire Management Plans.

## What if my Permit area is affected by easements?

Winton Wetlands is engaged in discussions with utilities with regard to leases over their assets, eg GM-W regarding easement licensing over the GM-W Diverter Pipeline.

GM-W have indicated that any damage to Diverter Pipeline infrastructure caused by grazing will be the sole responsibility of the owner of the stock deemed to have caused the damage.

During these discussions, grazing areas affected by the GM-W Diverter Pipeline will be re-aligned to exclude stock and mitigate the risk of damage and liability for Permit Holders. Winton Wetlands will pro-actively seek individual solutions to those affected in a fair and reasonable way.

## Can I make an objection to the Permit offer that I have received?

Yes, however any objections or queries must be submitted to the Winton Wetlands in writing no later than 30 days from the date of the letter of offer for the Grazing Permit. Winton Wetlands will work to resolve any matters within a further 30 day period from receipt of your query or objection.



## What is the process for breaches of a Grazing Permit?

Alleged breaches of a Grazing Permit will be investigated, and substantiated breaches and will have consequences for the Permit Holder.

In the first instance, the Permit Holder will be instructed to remedy any situation that places them in breach of the Grazing Permit within 7 days via a verbal First Warning.

In the second instance, the Permit Holder will be instructed to remedy any situation that places them in breach of the Grazing Permit within 7 days via a written Second and Final Warning.

In the third instance, the Permit Holder will be instructed to remedy any situation that places them in breach of the Grazing Permit within 48 hours and will receive a Notice of Intent under Section 4.3 cancel their Permit in 30 days, and a request to show cause within 7 days as to why their Permit should not be cancelled.

If the Permit holder fails to respond, or does not show reasonable cause for retaining their Grazing Permit, the CEO will recommend its cancellation to Winton Wetlands Committee of Management for consideration based on the circumstances outlined above. If the Committee accepts this recommendation, the Permit Holder will receive a Notice of Permit Cancellation in 30 days.



## What's the difference between a Temporary Grazing Permit and a Grazing Permit?

A Temporary Grazing Permit falls under the same conditions and covenants as the Grazing Permit with the exception being the Term of the Permit. Temporary Grazing Permits will be for a Term of 12 months or shorter where negotiated with the Temporary Permit Holder.

## Will temporary grazing areas become available? How will I be notified?

Yes. From time to time, Winton Wetlands may have land parcels within the Reserve available for the temporary grazing of livestock.

Any interested graziers are encouraged to complete the Expression of Interest Grazing Form. Upon receipt of Expression of Interest forms, details therein will be added to a register. The Register will be used to notify interested persons of any parcels of land that become available for temporary grazing. Winton Wetlands may also advertise this process through local print media and on its website ([www.wintonwetlands.org.au](http://www.wintonwetlands.org.au)).

Copies of the Expression of Interest Grazing Form can also be requested by contacting the Winton Wetlands office via telephone or via email to [info@wintonwetlands.org](mailto:info@wintonwetlands.org).

## What is the process used for the identification of new grazing areas by the Winton Wetlands?

Potential parcels of land may be identified with respect to the outcomes of the Winton Wetlands Grazing Strategy which includes Fire Management activities, management of a buffer zone around the wetlands, regeneration activities and weed management.

Through Reserve monitoring, possible parcels that are not under grazing may be noted by the Wetlands Ranger. Further to this, Winton Wetlands may receive a suggestion regarding possible parcels of land from member/s of the community.

The Wetlands Ranger, or if necessary, an independent expert, will assess the area and may make a recommendation to the CEO who will determine whether to progress to the Expression of Interest process for a temporary grazing permit.

## How will temporary Grazing Permits be decided and issued?

Winton Wetlands has established a Grazing Permit Allocation and Review Panel which will review all applications received during the application process. The Expression of Interest Register will be consulted by this Panel.

Where two or more prospective graziers are interested in a particular land parcel, the following Allocation Criteria will apply (as relevant) and will be used to rate the relative suitability of Permit applicants:

- a. **Grazing Performance** under previous WWCoM Grazing Permits or other grazing experience, especially ecological management of the land parcel to the specifications of Winton Wetlands Committee of Management – **weighting 40%**
- b. **Adjacency** of freehold to the land parcel in question – **weighting 30%**
- c. Agreement to adhere to **timelines and financial obligations** and adequate financial capacity to manage the permit effectively – **weighting 30%**

Following the Panels review of interested parties, the Panel will make a recommendation to WWCoM for the preferred applicant to be issued with the Grazing Permit and the Committee will decide. Where two or more graziers are rated at the same level, one will be selected by ballot with a name drawn out of a hat.

## What if my personal details in the Permit are not correct?

If there are any details contained within the Grazing Permit offered are not correct, you should notify the Winton Wetlands immediately by contacting (03) 5762 1192 or via email to [info@wintonwetlands.org](mailto:info@wintonwetlands.org).

It is important that your personal details are kept up to date. To assist Winton Wetlands with maintaining accurate records, please notify us when any of your details change.

