PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDELINE
The purpose of this guideline is to inform landowners and land managers about the information that should be considered and included in the preparation of a management plan for the grazing of domestic stock on pastoral land, in a manner and at a rate that will not cause permanent degradation of the native vegetation. This guideline applies to pastoralists who have land that is unwatered.

BACKGROUND

The Guideline is issued under the Native Vegetation Act. As the land affected is under the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act the Pastoral Board must give its approval to a Management Plan under this Guideline.

The Native Vegetation Act 1991 prevents the clearance of native vegetation other than through approval by the Native Vegetation Council (NVC) or in accordance with exemptions contained within the Native Vegetation Regulations 2003.

Under the Native Vegetation Act and regulation 5(1)(zh), clearance of native vegetation by expansion or intensification of grazing domestic stock on a Pastoral Lease may occur provided:

- the landowner has prepared a management plan that complies with this guideline;
- the management plan has been approved by the NVC and the Pastoral Board; and
- the clearance is undertaken in accordance with that management plan.

The Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 provides a form of tenure of Crown land for pastoral purposes. In administering this Act, the Pastoral Board seeks to ensure that all pastoral lands are well managed, used prudently, and that degradation of the land and its indigenous plant and animal life is prevented.

The Pastoral Board has a central role in defining industry standards for good land management practice on pastoral leases, and where appropriate, in facilitating the sustainable development of pastoral leasehold lands.

REGULATION 5(1)(zh)
Native Vegetation Regulation 5(1)(zh) “Clearance for grazing by domestic stock” provides for both maintenance of and changes to grazing regimes.

Maintenance is considered to be grazing that is consistent with the manner and rate over the preceding 10 years, and is addressed in part (i) of the regulation. Maintaining a grazing regime does not require a management plan.

The installation of new waterpoints on a pastoral lease can impact on native vegetation by changing the manner or rate of grazing in an area. This would be a change in the grazing regime and would require an approved management plan. For example, introduction of stock into previously ungrazed areas, with or without the installation of new waterpoints, is a change in grazing regime, and does require an approved management plan.

This is addressed in part (ii) of the regulation, and in the instructions contained on the following pages.
YOU WILL NEED TO DEVELOP A MANAGEMENT PLAN IN LINE WITH NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS

The following information summarises what needs to be considered when planning to change the practices used during the previous 10 years for the purpose of maintaining pasture on land where vegetation is growing.

What you need to consider

a. **Background Information**
   - Brief description of property
   - Lessee details, lease number etc.
   - Domestic livestock type (cattle/sheep)

b. **Property information relating to the proposed area**
   - Paddock plan, showing fences and existing waters (both constructed and natural);
   - Location of new area(s) to be grazed
   - Location of proposed waterpoint(s) (if applicable)
   - Location of new fencing (if applicable)

c. **Vegetation and Landscape Assessment**
   - Land system(s) and carrying capacities
   - Vegetation communities (may include past pastoral lease assessment, if recent);
   - Species, communities or sites of conservation significance

d. **Proposed management, including risk management**
   The management plan will need to demonstrate how the proposed development aligns with best-practice pastoralism and will assist in improving land condition across the entire property.

   Issues to consider include:
   - NRM Board advice
   - Placement of infrastructure
   - Timing of stocking / destocking / frequency / duration
   - Triggers for responding to external environmental conditions
   - Dry times management strategies

   - Management of potential impacts such as
     - reduction in vegetation cover
     - change in species composition
     - loss of seed stock
     - soil disturbance
     - inundation
     - erosion
   - Weed management
   - Feral animal management
   - Total grazing pressure management

e. **Check other legislation**
   Consider whether the activity might trigger the application of other legislation, as Native vegetation Council approval within this guideline is applicable only to the **Native Vegetation Act 1991**.

   Other legislation may include:
   - Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989
   - Natural Resources Management Act 2004
   - National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972
   - Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988
   - Water Resources Act 1997
   - Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)

f. **Natural Resource Management (NRM) Board consultation**
   It is recommended that applicants liaise with the relevant NRM Board staff for relevant biodiversity and landscape context information. Evidence of consultation with the relevant NRM Board should be provided, together with any concerns raised by that Board.
APPROVAL

Approval is required from both the Native Vegetation Council and the Pastoral Board of South Australia. The application should be lodged with the Native Vegetation Council (details below) which will then provide a copy to the Pastoral Board.

If approval is given, it should be noted that the approval is only for the area specified in the approval. The approved grazing regime can only occur in accordance with the approved management plan. Clearance, including by grazing, in areas outside of the area(s) approved would be a breach of the Native Vegetation Act 1991.

In receiving approval under Regulation 5(1)(zh), it should be noted that the Native Vegetation Council is approving compliance with the Native Vegetation Act 1991 and the Pastoral Board is approving compliance with the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 only and these approvals are based on compliance with all other necessary approvals. It is up to the applicant to ensure compliance with any and all other legislation.

Note: If the lodgement of the management plan is to be undertaken by a person other than the lessee, written permission and authorisation is required from the lessee(s) to be provided to the Native Vegetation Council before the Native Vegetation Council will process the application.

To read more about these and other Regulations and their application refer to A Guide to the Exemptions under the Native Vegetation Regulations 2003, which is available at www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation (‘Managing Native Vegetation’ page).

Note: When an application to change grazing regimes is received, the broad outcomes considered at a property level are the improvement in land condition and the furthering of the objectives of the plans or guidelines established by other Government agencies or NRM Boards.

USEFUL REFERENCE SITES

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
www.environment.sa.gov.au

Native Vegetation Council
www.nvc.sa.gov.au

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Plants and Animals

Natural Resources Management
www.nrm.sa.gov.au

Department of Premier and Cabinet (Aboriginal Heritage)

Commonwealth Department for Sustainability, Environment, Water, People and Conservation (for EPBC Act)

LODGING A MANAGEMENT PLAN

For information contact the Native Vegetation Management Unit, DEWNR: phone 8303 9777

The proposed Management Plan, together with supporting information, should be posted to: Native Vegetation Council, GPO Box 1047, ADELAIDE SA 5001 or emailed to: nvc@sa.gov.au or faxed to: (08) 8303 9780

There is no application fee for lodgment of this management plan nor is there a requirement for a Significant Environmental Benefit offset.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Guidelines issued in relation to the clearance or management of native vegetation are legally enforceable. They set out methodologies for dealing with vegetation that is causing problems in certain circumstances. Adhering to these guidelines will ensure that there is no breach of the Native Vegetation Act 1991.

For specific information or advice contact the Native Vegetation Management Unit on (08) 8303 9777.