

# EP.01 Depasturage Policy

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	V4	22-Dec-16	Quilpie common permit limit set at 8 cows
	V5	13-Apr-18	Reviewed – no changes

CEO            Chief Executive Officer  
MCCS         Manager Corporate & Community Services  
MES            Manager Engineering Services  
MFS            Manager Financial Services

## 1 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to provide a framework for the operation and management of stock being depastured on town common reserves.

## 2 SCOPE

This policy governs the depasturage and movement of horses and cattle on the Quilpie, Eromanga and Adavale Reserves.

## 3 STATEMENT

Only residents who have resided in the town for a period of three (3) continuous months may apply for a permit to depasture stock on a town reserve. The permit will only remain valid for the period that the permit holder continues to reside in the town.

A permit to depasture stock on a town reserve will not be granted to a person who is residing in a household which already contains a person who holds a permit to depasture stock.

All horses and cattle for which depasturage is sought must be:

- The bona-fide property of the applicant;
- In the case of cattle – be clearly branded with a brand registered in the applicant’s name and ear tagged with the owner’s name and/or brand clearly visible;
- In the case of horses – be clearly branded and the brand recorded on the application form.

Stallions and rigs are not permitted.

Bulls shall be stud stock of a naturally quiet nature.

Council shall determine the maximum number of horses and cattle that may be depastured by each household from time to time.

The maximum stocking rates are:

- Cattle (Quilpie) 8 (plus progeny up to the age of 12 months)
- Cattle (Eromanga and Adavale) 10 (plus progeny up to the age of 12 months)
- Horses 3

Up to a maximum of:

- Quilpie Common 200 cows and their progeny;
- Eromanga Common 50 cows and their progeny; and
- Adavale Common 80 cows and their progeny.

If a permit is not used (nil stock) for a period of two years or more the permit shall be cancelled.

When and if the abovementioned lands suffer from overgrazing, drought or any condition prejudicial to the continued well-being of the animals depastured thereon, Council acting on its own appraisal shall issue de-stocking notices to all permit holders to reduce numbers to a level determined acceptable by Council.

Horses and cattle shall not be placed on the abovementioned lands without the permission of Council or before a permit in the prescribed form has been approved.

In the case of cattle, each animal shall be ear tagged with an official tag by an authorised Council Officer prior to being put on the Reserve. The ear tags to be numbered Quilpie Shire Council ear tags.

NLIS tags are to be inserted at time of branding and before sale or removal of any cattle off the town commons.

Each animal shall have the official ear tag (not the NLIS tag) removed by an authorised Officer when they are removed from a Reserve to another property. Council tags will not be removed when stock are sold.

All bull calves are to be castrated.

An annual fee will be charged to all permit holders in accordance with Council’s fees and charges schedule.

Horse and cattle owners wishing to muster on the abovementioned lands for any reason what-so-ever must have the permission of Council beforehand.

Applications for a permit and fees for depasturage will not be accepted once a Council sponsored muster has commenced and non-acceptance will continue until such time as the muster is finalised.

Cattle and horses shall become eligible for a permit upon reaching the age of twelve (12) months. The Rural Lands Officer or a representative appointed by the Chief Executive Officer will be the sole judge in this instance and their determination of the ages will be final.

All pound fees together with depasturage fees shall be payable in respect to horses and cattle seized on the abovementioned lands.

Permits authorised and signed by the Chief Executive Officer will be the only recognised form of authority to depasture horses and cattle on the abovementioned lands.

It is an express condition of the permit that all stock being mustered must be mustered to the railway trucking yards in Quilpie and the rodeo yards in Eromanga or another suitable place to be determined by Council.

By notice in writing, Council reserves the right to refuse an application for a permit or cancel any current permit.

Musters shall be at the discretion of Council taking into consideration the prevailing weather and stock conditions and the adherence by horse and cattle owners to the conditions contained in the permit.

All stock owners must assist with musters and or branding. Stock owners not actively participating will be charged a mustering fee which will be set by Council each year in Council’s fees and charges schedule. The Rural Lands Officer shall keep a record of owners participating in musters and/or branding. Fees owing will be charged as required. Failure to pay the fee where charged shall result in all stock being removed from the common and sold and the depasturage permit being cancelled.

Failure to observe all conditions contained in the permit shall result in immediate cancellation of any approval previously granted.

No stock are permitted within the town fence unless specifically authorised by Council.

## 4 DEFINITIONS

Nil

## 5 RELATED POLICIES | LEGISLATION | OTHER DOCUMENTS

Nil

IX #	Details