



NORTHERN TERRITORY PASTORAL LAND CLEARING GUIDELINES

Pastoral Land Act 1992

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Acronyms	
The following acronyms are used in this document	
Acronyms	Full form
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
PER	Public Environmental Report
NPU	Non-pastoral Use
NTEPA	Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
NTPS	Northern Territory Planning Scheme
NVAP	Native Vegetation Assessment Panel

Legal obligations for clearing land held under pastoral lease tenure

The *Pastoral Land Act 1992* (Act) governs the management of pastoral land in the Northern Territory and the primary object of the Act is to provide for sustainable use of land for pastoral purposes and the economic viability of the pastoral industry. Pastoral land refers to Crown land conferred under lease arrangements for pastoral purposes and subject to a pastoral lease.

In accordance with section 38(1)(h) of the Act it is a condition of a pastoral lease that a lessee will not clear any pastoral land except in accordance with the written consent of the Pastoral Land Board (Board) or guidelines published by the Board. The Board has published these Guidelines to outline requirements for lodging an *Application to clear pastoral land*.

What constitutes clearing of native vegetation?

The following definitions established under the NT Planning Scheme (NTPS) have been adopted by the Board and as such are relevant to clearing on pastoral leases:

"native vegetation" means the terrestrial and inter-tidal flora indigenous to the Northern Territory, including grasses, shrubs and mangroves.

"clearing of native vegetation" means the removal or destruction, by any means, of **native vegetation** on an area of land, other than:

- (a) the removal or destruction of a declared weed within the meaning of the *Weeds Management Act 2001* or of a plant removed under the *Plant Health Act 2008*.
- (b) the lopping of a tree;
- (c) incidentally through the grazing of livestock;
- (d) the harvesting of **native vegetation** planted for harvest;
- (e) for a road to access the land or other land;
- (f) in the course of Aboriginal traditional use, including the gathering of food or the production of cultural artifacts;
- (g) by fire;
- (h) the removal or destruction of **native vegetation** occurring on a site previously cleared in accordance with a permit issued under the *Planning Act 1999*; or
- (i) incidentally through mowing an area previously cleared of **native vegetation**.

Exemptions specific to pastoral leases

The Board has determined that the following exemptions do not require clearing consent from the Board on pastoral leases:

- (i) making and maintaining fixed improvements necessary for pastoral purposes including buildings, roads¹, tracks, laneway and holding paddock construction (without the removal of native vegetation within these fenced areas), fences, yards, firebreaks*, airstrips and development of waters such as dams, bores, turkey nests, tanks and troughs;
- (ii) the baling of native vegetation for hay and the harvesting of seed for planting of native vegetation for pastoral purposes;
- (iii) the aerial application of herbicide for control of weeds declared under the *Weeds Management Act 2001* where surrounding native vegetation may be impacted, providing the land is returned to its original native vegetation state;
- (iv) maintaining previous clearing operations provided such clearing was subject to the written consent of the Board since 1992 and was carried out in accordance with that consent. Advice

¹ Consideration should be given to road standard requirements. Information on road standards is available in the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics document "*Performance and Design Standards for Northern Territory Government Roads*" available from <https://dipl.nt.gov.au/publications>.

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should be sought regarding clearing that was carried out prior to 1992, but in accordance with relevant legislation of the time. This may include clearing required by lease conditions;

- (v) activities undertaken that are pursuant to a “pipeline management plan in force” as defined in Regulation 2(1) of the *Energy Pipelines Regulations 2001*, for example clearing for gas pipelines and associated infrastructure; or
- (vi) activities carried out pursuant to an approved environment management plan under the *Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016*, for example clearing for hydraulic fracturing and associated infrastructure.

*Note: Section 3.2.5 of the NTPS Land Clearing Guidelines outlines exemptions relating to clearing of firebreaks on freehold land; and recommends firebreaks on pastoral land be limited to a width of 10m (consistent with Unzoned land). Consent should be sought to clear firebreaks wider than 10m.

Clearing for purpose, including intended irrigation and Non-pastoral Use

An *Application to clear pastoral land* must clearly state the purpose of the proposed clearing, including specific pasture species and/or crop types and whether the proposed land use will be irrigated or non-irrigated as this will influence how the application is assessed. Assessment processes will take into consideration land suitability for the intended use, potential salinity, erosion and sediment control and chemical requirements.

Where the clearing is for a Non-pastoral Use (NPU) such as forestry, horticulture, agriculture, aquaculture or tourism then a concurrent *Application for Non-pastoral Use* will need to be lodged so that it can be assessed by the Board in accordance with section 85 of the Act. Where a proposed NPU requires the clearing of native vegetation, the Board will not be able to determine an *Application for Non-pastoral Use* until a *Pastoral land clearing permit* has been approved.

Similarly a *Water extraction licence application* may be lodged concurrently with an *Application to clear pastoral land* if the intention is to irrigate all or part of the proposed clearing area. A *Water extraction licence application* should be lodged with the Water Resources Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) who administer the *Water Act 1992*.

The Board will not be able to determine an *Application to clear pastoral land* (or an *Application for Non-Pastoral Use*) for purposes requiring irrigation unless a *Water extraction licence* has been granted. Where a *Water extraction licence application* is lodged after a *Pastoral land clearing permit* has been granted, the assessment process will take into account whether or not any corresponding *Application to clear pastoral land* was assessed and deemed suitable for irrigated purposes, irrespective of whether or not the clearing has already occurred.

Proposed changes in land use, including whether or not the proposed clearing area will be irrigated, may require submission of an *Application to vary a pastoral land clearing permit* or a new *Application to clear pastoral land*. This requirement must be confirmed prior to a change of use by contacting the Land Development Coordination Branch, Rangelands Division, DENR via email PastoralAssessment.DENR@nt.gov.au or telephone (08) 8999 4454.

Lodging an application

All applicants are encouraged to contact the Land Development Coordination Branch for advice prior to drafting an application. Pre-lodgment consultation will assist to ensure an application contains all necessary information to enable assessment and avoid delays during the formal assessment process.

The application assessment process may take up to, or longer than, six months; depending on the size and complexity of applications, required technical assessment, and necessary legislative and administrative processes. Once the assessment process is complete, the application will be referred to the Board for consideration and determination. The formal assessment process will commence from the first day of public exhibition.

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All applications must be on the specified form and must be accompanied by the corresponding spatial data (e.g. shapefiles defining the spatial extent of the proposed clearing and associated land types).

It is recommended that all maps are produced using an appropriate mapping software program (e.g. ArcGIS, Google Maps, NR Maps) and that associated spatial data is provided with the application at the time of lodgment. Maps should be produced using an appropriate projection and datum (i.e. GDA94) and coordinates of the proposed clearing vertices (corners) should be labelled if spatial data cannot be provided. Coordinates can be determined in the field using a GPS or via desktop using the mapping program, but the method used should be stated.

For advice about lodging an application please contact the Land Development Coordination Branch via email PastoralAssessment.DENR@nt.gov.au or telephone (08) 8999 4454.

Failure to complete an application in its entirety, or to provide adequate spatial data or additional information (if required), may result in an application not being accepted for assessment, being deferred pending provision of the required information, or being rejected.

Applications may be submitted by persons other than the landowner (e.g. a consultant or station manager); however all applications must be accompanied by a completed *Owner/s authorisation form*.

Where a natural person or persons owns a pastoral lease, either individually or jointly, the name or names on the form should correlate with the name of the registered pastoral lessee(s).

Where a pastoral lease is held by a company the *Owner/s authorisation form* should be accompanied by sufficient evidence in support of their authorisation to make the application on behalf of the body corporate pastoral lessee. This may include, but is not limited to, ASIC extracts evidencing the person is a director of the company, or resolutions and delegations of the board of the company authorising the person to make the application, or evidence of a current power of attorney. An application will not be considered if it cannot be verified that it is authorised by the registered body corporate pastoral lessee.

The *Application to clear pastoral land* and the *Owner/s authorisation form* electronic templates can be downloaded from:

<https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/pastoral-land/apply-to-clear-pastoral-land>

Applications are to be submitted via email to: PastoralAssessment.DENR@nt.gov.au

Fee payment

Payment should not be made until you have received formal confirmation from the Land Development Coordination Branch that the application is satisfactory for submission. Once you have received this written confirmation, an application fee is required to be paid before the application will be formally accepted and publically advertised. The fee is calculated at 495 Revenue Units (as at 1 July 2019, 1 unit = \$1.21). This may change at commencement of each financial year. The Land Development Coordination Branch will advise the fee amount on advising the application is satisfactory for submission.

All payments are to be made via the Receiver of Territory Monies (RTM). The RTM will be able to provide details regarding payment options i.e. via EFT, cheque or credit card. Applicants will need to provide RTM with expenditure codes, and to advise what payment is for – for example:

Matter - "Station Name – pastoral land clearing application"

Expenditure Code - 504D2D101 131132

The RTM can be contacted via telephone (08) 8999 1606 or email RTMDarwin@nt.gov.au

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Should an invoice be required, contact the Board's Executive Officer via telephone (08) 8999 4667 or email pastorallandboard@nt.gov.au.

Public exhibition

Applications will be advertised in the newspaper circulating in the area of the Territory where the pastoral lease is located, meaning all applications will at least be advertised in the Northern Territory News, to advise the public of their right to view the application and to make a submission to Board. All public submissions received will be considered by the Board when determining an application.

A copy of the application and all supporting documentation will be available for public inspection for a period of four (4) weeks on the Northern Territory Government's website <https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/pastoral-land/current-applications-and-approvals-for-pastoral-land-clearing>.

Applicants will receive copies of any public submissions lodged and in some cases, may be asked to provide additional information. Applicants will have the opportunity to address any objections or comments in writing before the application is referred to the Board for consideration.

The date that an application is advertised is considered to be the 'date of lodgment' with respect to the assessment process (refer below).

Assessment process

As part of the assessment process, applications will be referred to relevant Government departments and service authorities for comment and technical assessment. All comments received and technical assessment findings are provided to the applicant in accordance with natural justice. Applicants are encouraged to provide a written response addressing any issues raised.

The application, comments, technical assessment and applicant response/s (if any) are then reviewed by the Native Vegetation Assessment Panel (NVAP) prior to the application being referred to the Board for consideration and determination.

From July 2019, the Board resolved to incorporate NVAP into the pastoral land clearing assessment process for consistency with the long-established assessment process for clearing of native vegetation on freehold Unzoned land (subject to the *Planning Act 1999*).

Members of NVAP are appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of DENR and are drawn from senior positions within DENR and the Department of Primary Industry and Resources relevant to management of the Territory's natural resources.

Inclusion of NVAP provides for additional scrutiny and consistency in assessment against the NTPS Land Clearing Guidelines and a copy of the Panel's meeting minutes and recommendation is provided to applicants and the Board. Applicants will be invited to appear before the Board to present their application. Please refer to the flowchart on page 12 entitled; Pastoral Land Clearing application process – *Pastoral Land Act 1992*.

Matters to be taken into account by the Board

In determining a clearing application, the Board will take the following matters into consideration:

- a) Any matters the Minister may have directed the Board to consider;
- b) Whether the application demonstrates consideration of the NT Planning Scheme Land Clearing Guidelines;
- c) The application, any submissions made by the applicant and any supporting additional information in respect of the proposed clearing and development;
- d) Any public submissions made;

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- e) Any comments and reports from relevant Government departments and service authorities;
- f) Presence of threatened wildlife as declared under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*;
- g) Presence of sensitive or significant vegetation communities such as rainforest, vine thicket, closed forest or riparian vegetation;
- h) Presence of essential habitats, within the meaning of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*;
- i) Impact of the clearing on regional biodiversity;
- j) Whether the clearing is necessary for the intended use;
- k) Whether there is sufficient and allocated water for the intended use;
- l) Whether the soils are suitable for the intended use;
- m) Whether the slope is suitable for the intended use;
- n) Presence of permanent and seasonal water features (as defined by the NTPS Land Clearing Guidelines);
- o) Retention of native vegetation adjacent to waterways, wetlands and rainforests;
- p) Retention of native vegetation buffers along property boundaries;
- q) Retention of native vegetation corridors between remnant native vegetation;
- r) Timeframe for clearing (development plan);
- s) Any environmental issues under the *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, which may require referral to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority;
- t) Presence of declared heritage places or archaeological sites within the meaning of the *Heritage Act 2011*;
- u) Presence of any sacred sites within the meaning of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* and the risk that the proposed work will impact such sites; and
- v) Whether a Non-pastoral Use permit is required for the intended use and a valid permit has been issued or applied for.

Delegation by the Board

In accordance with section 24 of the Act, the Board may delegate its power under the Act to consent to clear pastoral land. The Board has, by resolution at its Out of Session Meeting No. 5/2020, determined that the Chief Executive Officer of DENR or the Executive Director, Rangelands Division, DENR may determine an *Application to clear pastoral land* that does not exceed 50 hectares in size, this includes applications to vary a *Pastoral land clearing permit*.

Environmental considerations

The *Environmental Assessment Act 1982* (EAA) aims to ensure that matters affecting the environment are fully examined and taken into account. Applicants are reminded to avoid and/or minimise potential environmental impacts associated with clearing of native vegetation. The following guidance indicates when the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) may have an interest in potential impacts:

- *NT EPA Environmental Factors and Objectives*
https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/546791/guideline_environmental_factors_objectives.pdf
- *Guideline - Referring a Proposal to the NT EPA*
https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/570872/guideline_referring_proposal_to_nt_epa.pdf

The Guideline listed above is intended to assist applicants in determining when an *Application to*

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clear pastoral land may require referral and assessment under the EAA. As the consent authority, the Board can also utilise the Guidelines in determining whether an application will require referral and assessment under the EAA. The Board may refer any application to the NT EPA for assessment based on size, scale and potential ecological impacts of the proposed clearing, at any time.

If full assessment is required, the scale and complexity of a proposed development and the significance of potential impacts will determine if assessment is at the level of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Public Environmental Report (PER). The pastoral lessee is responsible for preparing an EIS or PER.

Sacred Sites

The *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (Sacred Sites Act) is administered to effect a practical balance between the need to preserve and enhance Aboriginal cultural tradition and the aspirations of the Aboriginal and all other peoples of the Territory for their economic, cultural and social advancement.

The Sacred Sites Act establishes a procedure for the protection and registration of sacred sites, providing for entry onto sacred sites and the conditions to which such entry is subject, establishing a procedure for the avoidance of sacred sites in the development and use of land.

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) administers the Sacred Sites Act and maintains records of all sacred sites that it has identified in the Northern Territory.

Registered sacred sites are sites that Aboriginal custodians have asked the Authority to register. They have been comprehensively documented and evaluated by the Authority, including information on their locations and boundaries (see s27 of the Sacred Sites Act).

Recorded sacred sites are sites that have been made known to the Authority from a variety of sources. In many cases these sites have not been comprehensively documented and evaluated and they have not gone through the formal registration process.

An Abstract of the Authority's Records (an Abstract) shows both registered and recorded sites. An Abstract can be purchased from AAPA. An Abstract of Records is not a definitive way of knowing if there are sacred sites in a given area. In providing an Abstract, the Authority has not spoken with custodians about the area and has not provided a 'go-ahead'. An Abstract is merely a snapshot of the Authority's register at a moment in time. There is a risk that a sacred site previously unknown to the Authority may be identified after the commencement of works, leaving no option but to cease works or possibly breach the offence provisions of the Sacred Sites Act. An Abstract will not provide a pastoral lessee with a defence against prosecution in the event a sacred site is damaged or interfered with.

A pastoral lessee proposing to clear native vegetation may apply to AAPA for an Authority Certificate to cover their proposed activities. Certificates are based on consultations with custodians and provide clear instructions on what can and cannot be done in and around sacred sites.

Unlike an Abstract, an Authority Certificate provides a defence against prosecution in relation to the works or uses covered by the Certificate, provided the applicant complies with any conditions imposed to protect sacred sites.

Authority Certificates are the only mechanism available for a pastoral lessee and custodians to be certain that sacred sites will be protected.

Any documentation from AAPA that is submitted with an *Application to clear pastoral land* should be accompanied the Authority's written consent to use the documentation for the purpose of the application.

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Application determination

Pastoral lessees will receive written notification of the decision by the Board which will be accompanied by a statement of reasons for the determination.

If the application is approved a *Pastoral land clearing permit* will be issued, including any conditions applying to the consent. A clearing plan showing the areas of “permitted clearing” will also be included and will form part of the permit. Failure to comply with all permit conditions may result in the permit being suspended or revoked by the Board.

If an application is refused, the notice of refusal will include a statement of reasons for the determination.

Rights of appeal

Pursuant to section 119 of the Act, a right of appeal to the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (the Tribunal) exists under Part 9 of the Act. An appeal under section 119 against a decision of the Board, must be made within 28 days of the service of the notice, on payment of a prescribed fee. The 28 days does not commence until applicants have received the formal Notice of Consent and the Permit.

There is no right of appeal by a third party under section 119 of the Act in respect of this consent.

The Notice of Consent, as well as the statement of reasons for the determination, are also provided to parties that made submissions during the public exhibition period, for the purposes of public transparency.

Public availability of permits

If a *Pastoral land clearing permit* is granted it will be made publically available. Copies of permits are published on the NTG website and permitted clearing areas are displayed online in NR Maps as follows:

- <https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/pastoral-land/current-applications-and-approvals-for-pastoral-land-clearing>
- <https://nrmaps.nt.gov.au/nrmaps.html>

Terms and period of permit

In recognition of on-going changes to legislation, Government policy, environmental and ecological dynamics (including changes in species’ conservation status), science and technology advancement and public expectations, the term of a *Pastoral land clearing permit* is limited to a maximum of 10 years as follows:

- **Perpetual Pastoral Lease:** Up to 10 years from the date of permit issue, depending on the proposed staging of works and scale of the development.
- **Term Pastoral Lease:** 10 years from the date of permit issue or until expiry of the lease.

Applications to vary a pastoral land clearing permit

A *Pastoral land clearing permit* is a legal document. If lessees either cannot comply with a permit or wish to vary specific aspects of a permit they must seek approval from the Board to do so. Alterations without consent are not permitted and signify a compliance matter.

An *Application to vary a pastoral land clearing permit* should be submitted when changes to any of the following aspects of the permit are proposed:

- Term of Permit - i.e. extension of the Commencement Period and/or Expiry Date

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- Permit Condition/s
- Clearing Plan – i.e. the spatial extent of the permitted clearing area
- Establishment Plan – i.e. the method and timing of works as prescribed by the permit
- Staging Plan – i.e. the clearing schedule as prescribed by the permit
- Land use within the permitted clearing area – e.g. a change from non-irrigated pasture to irrigated cropping.

Notably, variation of one aspect may have implications for other aspects (e.g. if applying to vary the Term of Permit, it may also be necessary to vary the Establishment and / or Staging Plan). Furthermore variation to the Clearing Plan can only be sought in relation to parts of the permitted clearing area that have not yet been cleared.

The variation application template is available online: <https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing/pastoral-land/apply-to-clear-pastoral-land>

An application seeking an extension for the Term of Permit will be considered by the Board providing the application is received two years prior to the permit Expiry Date.

As a condition of all pastoral land clearing permits, it is a requirement Permit Holders must Substantially Commence the Clearing Activities (as defined on the permit) within the Commencement Period (also defined on the permit).

An application seeking to extend the Commencement Period will be considered by the Board providing the application is received one year before the end of the Commencement Period.

Any parts of the permitted clearing area which are not cleared by the permit Expiry Date will be voided (and will require submission of a new application). Any / all parts of the permitted clearing area that are cleared in accordance with the conditions of the permit and before the permit Expiry Date will remain valid in perpetuity – refer Exemption (iv).

Permits can also be suspended or revoked by the Board or at the request of the Permit Holder.

Delegation by the Board for applications to vary

In accordance with section 24 of the Act, the Board may delegate its power under the Act to consent to clear pastoral land. The Board has, by resolution at its Out of Session Meeting No. 5/2020 meeting, determined that the Chief Executive Officer of DENR or the Executive Director, Rangelands Division, DENR may determine applications to clear native vegetation that do not exceed 50 hectares in size, this includes applications to vary a *Pastoral land clearing permit*.

Other relevant legislation

NT legislation

- *Aboriginal Land Act 1978;*
- *Bushfires Management Act 2016;*
- *Crown Lands Act 1992;*
- *Energy Pipelines Act 1981 and Regulations;*
- *Environmental Assessment Act 1982 (EAA);*
- *Fisheries Act 1988;*
- *Heritage Act 2011;*
- *Mining Management Act 2001;*
- *Mineral Titles Act 2010;*
- *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989;*
- *Petroleum Act 1984 and Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016;*

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- *Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act 1969;*
- *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*
- *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998;*
- *Water Act 1992; and*
- *Weeds Management Act 2001.*

Commonwealth legislation

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (relative to application of herbicide)*

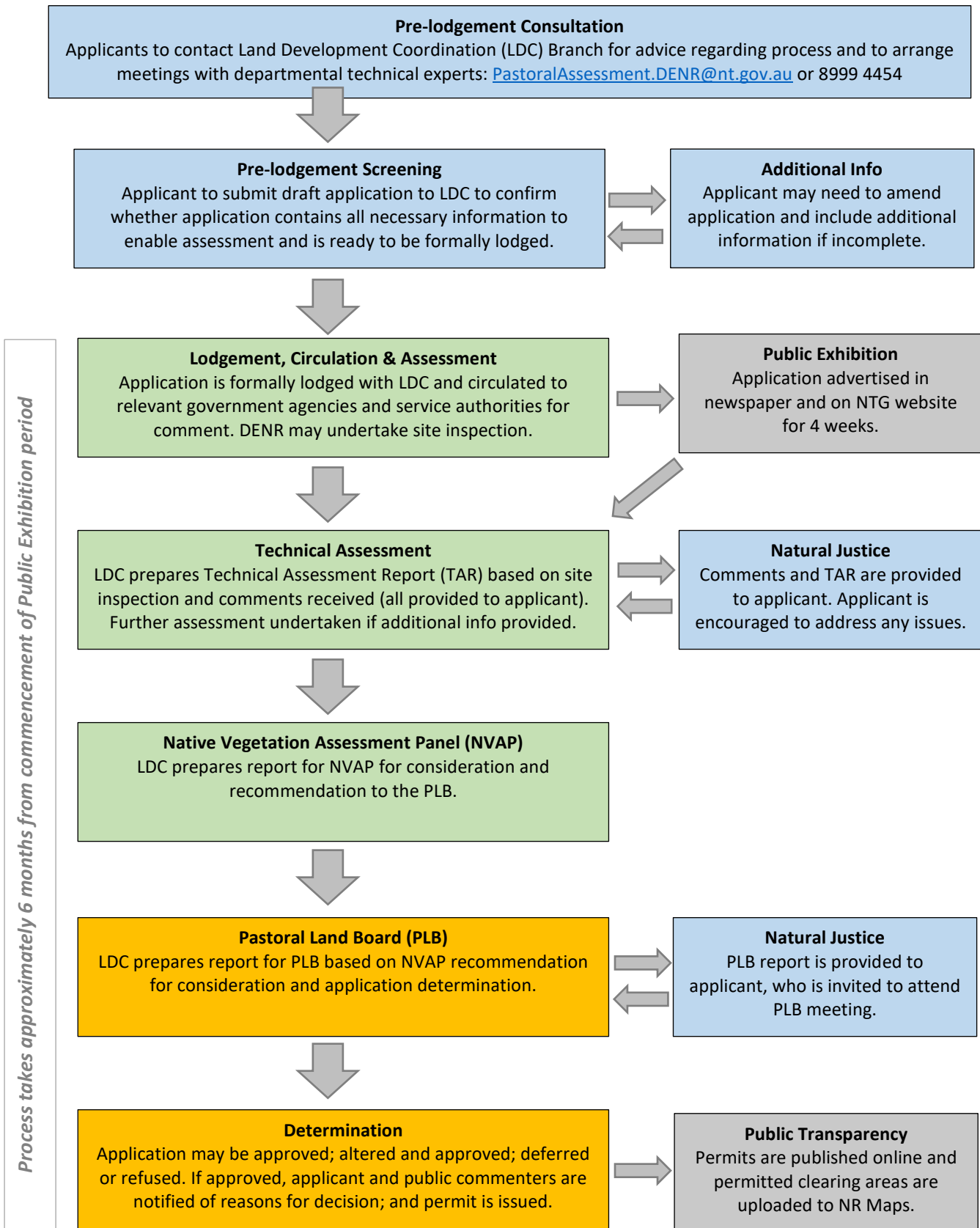
Contact details for further information

Pastoral Land Board	(08) 8999 4667	PastoralLandBoard@nt.gov.au
Land Development Coordination Branch, DENR	(08) 8999 4454	PastoralAssessment.DENR@nt.gov.au
Rangelands Division, DENR	(08) 8999 4478	Rangelands.DENR@nt.gov.au
Water Resources Division	(08) 8999 4455 (Darwin) (08) 8973 8831 (Katherine) (08) 8951 9215 (Alice Springs)	water.licensing@nt.gov.au
Flora and Fauna Division, DENR (threatened species)	(08) 8995 5000	Rangelands.DENR@nt.gov.au
NT Environment Protection Authority	(08) 8924 4218	eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au
AAPA	(08) 8999 4365	enquiries.aapa@nt.gov.au
RTM	(08) 8999 1606	RTMDarwin@nt.gov.au

For further advice and additional contact details, refer to the **NTPS Land Clearing Guidelines**:
https://nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/236815/land-clearing-guidelines-2019.pdf

Information is also provided on following **NTG website**:
<https://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing>

Flowchart: Pastoral land clearing application process – *Pastoral Land Act 1992*



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Document control

The following table records the history of any significant changes made to this document. The version number of the document is incremented as follows:

- By 1.0 for significant changes
- By 0.1 for changes made for clarity and reading ease only

Change history		
Version	Date Approved	Change Details
8	23 April 2020	<p>New introductory passage describing legal obligations for clearing land held under pastoral lease;</p> <p>Removal of section describing where formal consent of the Board is required;</p> <p>Amendments to Exemption (i) to clarify that clearing within laneways and holding paddocks does require approval of the Board (however construction of their required infrastructure such as fencing does not);</p> <p>Amendments to Exemption (iii) to clarify that the exemption only applies to weeds declared under the <i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i>. Clearing of other plants associated with woody thickening will require approval from the Board;</p> <p>Addition of new section; Clearing for purpose, including intended irrigation and on-pastoral use;</p> <p>Addition of new section; Sacred Sites;</p> <p>Revision of existing section pertaining to lodging an application;</p> <p>Addition of new section; Fee payment;</p> <p>Revision of section pertaining to public exhibition changing exhibition duration from 2 to 4 weeks;</p> <p>Additional of new section; Assessment process;</p> <p>Amendments to 'Matters to be taken into account by Board' including reference to sufficient allocated water and definitions in the NTPS Land Clearing Guidelines for water features;</p> <p>Addition of two new sub-sections advising of newly delegated powers that apply to clearing applications, including variations, of less than 50 hectares in size.</p> <p>Revision of existing section pertaining to environmental assessment;</p> <p>Addition of new section; Application determination;</p> <p>Addition of new section; Rights of appeal;</p> <p>Addition of new section; Public availability of permits;</p> <p>Addition of new section; Terms and period of permit</p> <p>Addition of new section; Applications to vary a pastoral land clearing permit;</p> <p>Incorporation of flow chart; Pastoral land clearing application process;</p> <p>Additional relevant NT legislation listed;</p> <p>New contacts provided for the Water Resources Division of DENR; and</p> <p>Addition of reference to the <i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994</i>.</p>
7	February 2019	<p>Insert exemptions for clearing activities undertaken pursuant to a "pipeline management plan in force" as defined in the <i>Energy Pipelines Regulations 2001</i> or an approved environment management plan under the <i>Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016</i>.</p> <p>Amendments to environmental considerations regarding reference to the NT EPA;</p> <p>Additions to relevant legislation;</p> <p>Recognised changes to the <i>Interpretation Act 1978</i>, in that references to pieces of legislation (including subordinate legislation) include the year;</p> <p>Addition to the use of water and allocation; and</p> <p>Minor sentence structure amendments.</p>
6	Dec 2018	<p>Insert exemptions for clearing activities relating to infrastructure development for gas pipelines or onshore shale gas developments and minor formatting amendments</p>
5	Sept 2017	<p>Insert Exemption for aerial weed application, clarification when Board may refer applications to the NTEPA, insert specified permit period, web link for NTEPA guidelines for clearing pastoral land, minor amendments to formatting and correction of misspelt legislation</p>
4	Oct 2016	<p>Date removed from Title, Table of Contents updated to remove "Introduction" heading, Footnote references added, Amendments to application lodgment and public notification process, Changes to the NT Environment Protection Authority considerations, Update to contact information, Minor formatting amendments</p>
3	2015	<p>Logo updated, "Introduction" text removed, Requirements for Content of application removed, Descriptive amount of application fee removed</p>
2		<p>Use of Version 2 omitted</p>
1.2	Dec 2012	<p>Minor Formatting amendments, "Introduction" text amended, Area of clearing requiring public notification removed, Minor amendments to reflect Department name change, Environmental Impact Assessment of vegetation clearing removed</p>
1.1	Feb 2012	<p>Chairman's forward noting that until Native Vegetation Management legislation is introduced, applications for clearing to continue to be lodged</p>
1.0	Mar 2010	<p>NT Pastoral Land Clearing Guidelines 2010 implemented, (NT Planning Scheme Land Clearing Guidelines introduced, native vegetation definition adopted)</p>