

R3 – Pastoral vehicle permit

Under Section 137B of the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*, the Registrar may grant or renew a pastoral vehicle permit.

A permit issued under this section of the Act will enable an unregistered vehicle to be used, for **work purposes**, on public roads within a specified property or when necessary on roads connecting parts of the same property.

The permit does not extend for operations on other properties under the same ownership, except where properties are adjoining and operated as one unit by the same legal entity.

There is also provision under the Act, to endorse the permit allowing permitted vehicles to use roads outside the specified property, for “Fire Management Operations” as defined in Section 137B (11)(b).

Such operations are to be conducted on a volunteer or non-commercial type operation and could include:

- a) assisting in the control of a bushfire, or protecting of property, or the life of any person from existing or imminent danger, arising from a bushfire outside the boundaries of the property specified in the permit;
- b) construction of firebreaks by slashing, burning, rolling, chemical spraying, mowing or scarifying;
- c) burning off operations;
- d) fire patrol and mop up operations following a fire.

Permit duration and fees

A permit is valid for a period of 12 months and is renewable.

A permit fee and MAC (Third Party Insurance) will apply.

For further information on fees, please contact your nearest MVR office.

Vehicle safety and inspections

All pastoral permit vehicles must meet the minimum safety requirements as approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. It is the responsibility of both the owner and driver, to ensure that any vehicle used on public roads, meets the necessary safety and other standards and operates only within the limits of the permit [Section 137B (12) & (13)].

Generally a vehicle operating under a Pastoral Permit will have little to no road-use operation and are generally a plant type vehicle (such as a tractor). As such, the owner may be eligible to undertake a self-assessment vehicle inspection.

The Registrar reserves the right to require the owner of a vehicle to undertake and pass a standard roadworthy inspection by an appointed Authorised Inspector if the proposed vehicle operation indicates any road use other than simply crossing a road that passes through the pastoral property.

Transfer of a pastoral permit

Section 137B provides that where a permitted vehicle becomes unserviceable or otherwise redundant, the permit may be transferred to a replacement vehicle.

For a transfer to become effective:

- the Registrar must be notified, and
- payment must be made of a prescribed transfer fee.

Permit and transfer application forms are available from MVR offices and Police outstations. An application may not be accepted unless the applicant completes **ALL** relevant sections of the form.

Approved Safety Standards and Operational Restrictions Safety Standards

Under the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*, a pastoral permit vehicle when operating on a public street or in a public place is required to comply with a minimum safety standard approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

The attached Schedules “A” to “D” specify the minimum standard required for each vehicle type. The Registrar reserves the right to set any conditions in relation to the minimum standards, including the requirement for the vehicle to undertake and pass a standard roadworthy inspection by an Authorised Inspector of the Registrar’s choosing.

It is the responsibility of both owner and driver, to ensure that any permitted vehicle used on public roads or public places meets the specified standard at all times.

Operational restrictions

Pastoral permit vehicles are prohibited from travelling on public streets or public places within:

- a) the municipality of Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine or Tennant Creek; or
- b) the town boundaries of Batchelor, Jabiru or Nhulunbuy;

as advised in the NT Government Gazette G7 of 18 February 1987 unless specifically approved to do so by conditions set down in the permit.

Additionally, pastoral permit vehicles (other than “slow moving vehicles” as defined below) may not be driven upon, other than to cross the streets specified in Schedule “E”, unless they comply with the requirements of Schedule 4 of the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*, i.e. registration safety standard.

Definition of “**slow moving vehicle**” - A vehicle designed and constructed principally for agricultural and primary production purposes, which is not intended for continuous use on a public street and is incapable of attaining or maintaining a speed of 40 km/h. Such vehicles may include road construction equipment, tractors, farm implements, cranes, forklifts, self-propelled lawn mowers, tractor mounted cranes and slashers.

Approved minimum standards – section 137B(6) Motor Vehicle Act 1949

Schedule A

Standard – Passenger Cars and Derivatives and Trucks

Standards required are essentially those specified in the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*, including *Schedule 4 – Vehicle requirements*. Key features include:

Steering	No obvious wear or excess free play in any component.
Brakes	Operating on all wheels with no more than 50% pedal movement. No hydraulic fluid leaks permitted. All adjustments and wear shall be within manufacturer's limits. No oil or grease on linings.
Springs & Suspension	Minimum of 50% of original bump stop gap remaining, no broken spring leaves.
Tyres	Remaining tread depth to be at least 1.5 mm on face of tread (1/16 inch - full width).
Lighting	<p>For 24 hours use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two [2] headlights (high and low beams), • one [1] tail light one [1] brake light (centre or right hand side), • two [2] reflectors (red) at rear - one on each side indicators both front and rear. <p>For daylight use only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One [1] stop light, • two [2] reflectors (red) at rear - one on each side indicators both front and rear.
Body	Chassis and structural panels are to be free from cracks and signs of advanced rust. Surface rust if left unattended will become advanced rust which is generally seen as an eruption of oxidised metal either on bare metal or under the paint.
Occupant Safety	<p>Seats to be securely mounted to the vehicle.</p> <p>A minimum of lap type seat belts for each seat in open type vehicles which in 'normal use' would be required to have seat belts fitted.</p> <p>Enclosed vehicles should have original type and number of seat belts fitted.</p> <p>For vehicles which have had doors removed, a device to prevent occupant falling out must be fitted, e.g. a safety device or bar mounted across the opening at approximate waist height to an average size person.</p> <p>Interior free of sharp fittings.</p>
Mirrors	One [1] rear view mirror mounted either centrally or on right hand side, depending on vehicle type.
Exhaust	Fitted with a silencer (muffler) and extending beyond the rear most passenger space.
Fuel tanks	Not to be fitted within occupant space (except where an original fitment).

	To be securely mounted and to have metal piping except that a flexible hose may be fitted between chassis and engine to allow for relative movement. No leaks.
--	---

Schedule B

Standard – Motorcycles

Safety Helmets	An approved motor cycle safety helmet conforming to Australian Standard AS1698 must be worn at all times, while operating the vehicle on public streets.
Tyres	Minimum 1.5 mm tread depth on full face of remaining tread width.
Brakes	Must be operative on both front and rear wheels with not more than 50% control movement.
Steering	No obvious wear or excess free play in headstand bearings.
Exhaust	Must be fitted with a correctly secured silencer (muffler).
Lighting	<p>For 24 hour use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headlight (high and low beam) • Tail light • Brake light • Red reflector (rear). <p>For daylight use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop light • Red reflectors (rear).
Footrests	Footrests must be fitted.

Schedule C

Standards – Tractors and Self Propelled Plant including All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

Tyres	Minimum of 1.5 mm depth of tread on surface contact area of steering tyres. Carcass of all tyres to be in sound condition - cuts not to penetrate to tube, etc.
Brakes	<p>Where originally fitted, shall be in operating condition.</p> <p>No hydraulic fluid leaks permitted.</p> <p>All adjustments are wear shall be within manufactures limits</p> <p>All linings and friction surfaces of “dry” brake assemblies (as opposed to oil immersed brake assemblies) shall be free of oil grease, etc.</p>

Lighting	<p>For 24 hours use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headlights (Front work lights will be acceptable as head lights). • One [1] tail light • One [1] brake light • Two [2] red reflector (rear one on each side). • Vehicles with enclosed cabins, indicators front and rear. <p>For daylight use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop lights • Red reflectors (rear) • Vehicles with enclosed cabins, indicators front and rear. <p>Note: All lighting must be conspicuously mounted and clean.</p>
Oil/Fuel Leaks	Oil or fuel leaks which can be observed, during inspection of the vehicle, to deposit oil or fuel onto the ground are not permitted.

Additional operating requirements – All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's)

An approved motorcycle safety helmet conforming to Australian Standards must be worn at all times, while operating the vehicle on public streets. A rotating amber flashing light visible from all directions from a distance of at least 200 metres in fine daylight conditions must be operating while the vehicle is in use in public places or on public streets.

The ATV is not to travel in hours of darkness (sunset to sunrise) or in conditions of poor visibility.

The operator must hold a current “C” or appropriate “R” class of driver’s licence.

Schedule D

Standards – Hauled Implements (trailers, etc.)

Each trailer or hauled implement shall be of such design and mechanical condition that it will follow the path of the towing vehicle without deviation – i.e. does not swing or deviate more than 100 mm from a straight line when travelling and does not continually oscillate from side to side.

Width	<p>Vehicles, trailers and implements more than 2.5 metres in width, may not be moved on a public road or highway during the hours of darkness. An over width permit is required for daytime movement. These permits, issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, may be obtained on application to Vehicle Standards Section, Motor Vehicle Registry and are valid for the period of the pastoral vehicle permit.</p> <p>Trailers and hauled implements 2.5 metres or less in width, which are intended for use in the hours of darkness must be fitted with –</p>
--------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two [2] red reflectors, one mounted on each side of the rear of the trailer or implement, as near as practical to the outer extremities; • one [1] tail light (red) mounted either centrally, or to the right of centre, facing to the rear of the vehicle.
--	--

Schedule E

Public street or portions of public street prohibited for use by pastoral vehicles not complying with normal registration standards

Arnhem Highway	Between Stuart Highway and Lambells Lagoon
Cox Peninsula Road	Between Stuart Highway and Berry Springs turn off
Howard Springs Road	Between Stuart Highway and Howard Springs Reserve
Katherine Gorge Road	Between Katherine and Katherine Gorge - Nitmiluk
Stuart Highway	Between Darwin and Adelaide River
	Between Katherine Rural College and Tindal turn off
	Between Barkly Highway and Tennant Creek Meatworks
	Between Tanami Road and Alice Springs Cattle Yards to turn off
Victoria Highway	Between Stuart Highway and King River

Further information

Find more information at [Pastoral vehicle permit | NT.GOV.AU¹](https://nt.gov.au/pastoral-vehicle-permit)

Email your completed form to MVR@nt.gov.au

¹ <https://nt.gov.au/driving/rego/getting-an-nt-registration/primary-producer-discount-and-pastoral-vehicle-permits/pastoral-vehicle-permit>