

# Northern Territory Maximum Holdings

## APPLICATION TO EXCEED MAXIMUM HOLDINGS

Under section 34 of the *Pastoral Land Act*, a person or complex corporate structure cannot hold more than 13 000km<sup>2</sup> of pastoral land in the Northern Territory unless the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources forms an opinion that it is in the interest of the Northern Territory to do so.

A written application to the Minister is required for maximum holdings assessment. Applications are processed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and should be addressed as follows:

Minister for Environment and Natural Resources  
c/- Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Pastoral Lease Administration Branch  
PO Box 496  
PALMERSTON NT 0831

Applications may be posted or emailed to [rangelands@nt.gov.au](mailto:rangelands@nt.gov.au)

This document is to be used as a guide to assist you in preparing your application.

In making a decision in accordance with the policy 'Maximum Holdings Provisions under the *Pastoral Land Act* (Section 34)', the Minister may take into consideration the information provided against the following criteria which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

### **1. Commitment to invest in the Northern Territory**

This criteria can be demonstrated in a number of ways including, for example, by:

- i. Strategies to diversify the pastoral estate to explore and invest in non-pastoral opportunities and unlock the potential of the land within the parameters of the *Pastoral Land Act* and *Native Title Act*.
- ii. Identified benefits (such as employment, new industry and services) for the region arising from the applicant's investment.
- iii. Demonstrated commitment to the Northern Territory by supporting the local community such as local landcare groups, weed committees, bushfire brigades, local race and camp draft meetings.

### **2. Commitment and capacity to develop the pastoral estate**

This criteria can be demonstrated in a number of ways including, for example, by:

- i. Having plans to develop the lease such as fencing, or water infrastructure etc if further development as required.
- ii. Demonstrating financial capacity to improve and develop the pastoral property to ensure the sustainable use of the properties.
- iv. Providing evidence of the financial viability of the business, including ability to withstand hardship such as drought, if requested.

### **3. Capability to manage land condition/caring for the land**

This criteria can be demonstrated in a number of ways including, for example, by:

- i. Having demonstrated experience in, or systems to ensure best practise land management (taking into account the Northern Territory's climatic conditions).
- ii. Having strategies to ensure environmentally sustainable practices, for example:
  - moderating stocking numbers as seasons dictate;
  - environmental management plans, including plans to manage soil erosion and noxious weed problems; and
  - ongoing monitoring and assessment of the condition of the pastoral land and to ensure the ongoing environmental sustainability of property.
- iii. Where applicable, past performance in complying with directions made under the *Pastoral Land Act*.

### **4. Commitment to Community and Aboriginal access requirements**

This criteria can be demonstrated in a number of ways including, for example, by:

- i. Strategies to support local Aboriginal communities (e.g. by wherever possible purchasing goods and supplies through those communities at a local station level).
- ii. Provision of Aboriginal employment and professional training opportunities.
- iii. Demonstrated understanding of, and where applicable past performance in meeting, obligations under legislation including in relation to:
  - a. providing Aboriginal community living areas when identified and complying with legislative requirements in this regard;
  - b. providing reasonable access for the public across pastoral land to waters and places of public interest; and
  - c. recognising the rights of Aboriginal people to follow traditional pursuits on pastoral land under the *Native Title Act*.

The Minister will consider and form an opinion about whether or not the exceedance of maximum holdings may result in overall outcomes that are not in the Northern Territory's interests.

These considerations will include whether or not the exceedance of maximum holdings will:

- i. Undermine, damage or otherwise negatively affect the pastoral industry through the concentration of control of pastoral land in a region or in the Northern Territory overall; and/or
- ii. Contribute to or cause reputational or sovereign risk to the Northern Territory.

Decision making criteria have been established in reference to the Objects of the *Pastoral Land Act*, specifically those objects that relate to economic development of the pastoral industry; improving land management and condition or maintaining good land management or condition; and native title holder and community access. Assessment of Northern Territory interest will also be assessed against broader economic outcomes for the Northern Territory.

Should you require further information please contact the Pastoral Lease Administration and Board Branch, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on (08) 8999 4474 or email [rangelands@nt.gov.au](mailto:rangelands@nt.gov.au)