

Northern Territory Maximum Holdings

APPLICATION TO EXCEED MAXIMUM HOLDINGS

Under section 34 of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, a person or complex corporate structure cannot hold more than 13 000km² of pastoral land in the Northern Territory unless the Minister for Environment (the Minister) 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 can be emailed to rangelands@nt.gov.au or posted to:

Minister for Environment
c/- Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
Pastoral Lease Administration
PO Box 496
PALMERSTON NT 0831

Assessment criteria

The Minister will consider an application and form an opinion on whether the exceedance of maximum holdings may result in outcomes that are in the Northern Territory's interests.

These considerations will include whether the exceedance of maximum holdings will:

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

Assessment and decision making criteria have been established from the Objects of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, specifically those objects that relate to the 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.

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

Commitment to invest in the Northern Territory

Examples to demonstrate against this criteria include but are not limited to:

- 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 1992* and *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.
- Identified benefits (such as employment, new industry and services) for the region arising from the applicant's investment.
- 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.

Commitment and capacity to develop the pastoral estate

Examples to demonstrate against this criteria include but are not limited to:

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

Capability to manage land condition/caring for the land

Examples to demonstrate against this criteria include but are not limited to:

- Demonstrated experience in or systems to ensure best practice land management (taking into account the Northern Territory's climatic conditions).
- 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 problem
 - ongoing monitoring and assessment of the condition of the pastoral land and to ensure the ongoing environmental sustainability of the lease.

Where applicable, past performance in complying with directions made under the *Pastoral Land Act 1992* may be considered.

Commitment to Community and Aboriginal access requirements

Examples to demonstrate against this criteria include but are not limited to:

- Strategies to support local Aboriginal communities (e.g. by wherever possible purchasing goods and supplies through those communities at a local station level).
- Provision of Aboriginal employment and professional training opportunities.
- Demonstrated understanding of, and where applicable, past performance in meeting obligations under legislation including:
 - providing Aboriginal community living areas when identified and complying with legislative requirements in this regard
 - providing reasonable access for the public across pastoral land to waters and places of public interest
 - recognising the rights of Aboriginal people to follow traditional pursuits on pastoral land under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.

Contact us

Please contact Pastoral Lease Administration, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, on (08) 8999 4624 or email rangelands@nt.gov.au if you require further information.