

Changes to the *Stock Route Management Act 2002*

Background

The *Stock Route Management Act 2002* (the Act) was amended to implement the outcomes of extensive consultation on stock route reforms undertaken since 2018. The amendments will result in improved cost recovery for local government and streamline their administration of the stock route network. The amendments took effect as part of the *Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022*.

The remake of the expiring Stock Route Management Regulation 2003 (Regulation) is progressing and key amendments will be communicated once the Regulation commences.

The following amendments commenced on 28 February 2023.

Key changes

Local governments to retain 100% of stock route revenue

Local governments will keep 100% of the revenue collected from application and permit fees, fines, and water facility agreements. Previously, 50% of collected funds needed to be returned to the department. The 100% retained funds must continue to be used for the administration, maintenance, or improvement of the stock route network.

Stock route management plans

Stock route management plans prepared by local governments (under Chapter 3, Part 3 of the Act) will now last longer (5 years) to align with the life of the State Stock Route Management Strategy (the Strategy).

A local government that is required to prepare a stock route management plan

- will have up to 12 months to prepare its plan after the Strategy is published
- no longer needs to establish a working group to prepare the plan or submit a draft plan to the Minister for consideration
- must consult relevant state agencies and adopt its plan under processes that have been formalised for consistency
- must publish a draft plan on its website for public comment and consider submissions before the plan is finalised
- must ensure its adopted plan is consistent with the principles of stock route network management and the Strategy.

Transitional provisions allow the current Strategy and existing adopted plans to continue.

Note: when the remake Regulation commences, the following councils will no longer be required to prepare a Stock Route Management Plan (though they may still choose to do so): Bulloo Shire Council, Charters Towers Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Mt Isa City Council and Quilpie Shire Council.

Stock route mapping

The process of declaring stock routes by regulation, has been replaced by the Chief Executive certifying and publishing a digital online map of stock routes under new section 97A of the Act. This means that

- the stock route map can be updated administratively whenever necessary
- the current stock route map continues until it is replaced by the first certified and published map
- an online record of previously certified/published maps will be kept for public access.

The process to amend stock routes is being developed and will be communicated separately.

Notifications

Under broadened notification provisions, local governments may now publish notices on their website or in a suitable local media channel, e.g. for notifications associated with stock route network management plans, agistment permits or seizing stock.

Further information

For more information about stock routes, visit the website at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/access/stock-routes>

Stock Route Management Act 2002 and *Stock Route Management Regulation 2003*
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/browse/inforce>

If you have questions or require further information about these changes, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) to contact your nearest business centre.