

Public Access to Pastoral Lands in SA

Facts and Responsibilities

Facts:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS ONE OF THE FEW STATES WHERE PUBLIC ACCESS TO PASTORAL LANDS HAS BEEN MAINTAINED.

This fundamental principle of public access is provided for in the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989.

This Act requires that the public has a system of access through pastoral lands which is in balance with the interests of the pastoral industry and those of the public in enjoying the unique outback environment.

THE FUTURE OF THIS ACCESS LIES IN YOUR HANDS!

Pastoral Lands - what are they?

Pastoral lands are those areas of the State outside of the incorporated (council) districts which have been classified as suitable for grazing stock. Broadly they are the area north of Goyder's rainfall line (see map) and comprise about 80% of the State. About half of this area is subject to a form of tenure known as Pastoral Leases. These leases give the lessee the right to graze sheep or cattle.

They are **not** vacant lands. They are home to the families who live and work there.

Responsibilities:

The public does **not** have open access to these lands. Public access to these lands is governed by Sections 45 and 48 of the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 which provide for two types of access (a) **Public Access Routes** and (b) **Access by Consent of the Leaseholder**. This Act places a number of obligations upon persons intending to traverse pastoral leases. Apart from these legal obligations, travellers should remain aware that the families living on these leases have a right and need to carry on their pastoral business as unhindered as possible and to enjoy a reasonable measure of privacy. While traversing these lands, these key issues should form part of your code of conduct:

- Gates: always leave as found
- Rubbish: take out what you bring in
- Roads and Tracks: do not travel on immediately after rain - wait until dry
- Watering Points: do not camp within 500 metres of, interfere with or use soaps in bores, tanks, troughs or windmills.

Legislation (The Act)

PASTORAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT 1989

Right to travel across and camp on pastoral land (S. 48)

(a) **Public Access Routes (PAR):**

These are public routes that cross pastoral land to an area of public interest (eg. historical sites). Permission is not required but note that PARs can be closed for various reasons (eg. stock movement or weather). Camping is permitted anywhere within 50 metres of the track on most routes.

(b) **Access by Consent of Leaseholder:**

To travel across or camp on a pastoral lease you must first obtain the consent of the lessee. This applies to travel by motor vehicle, horse or camel. If consent is given, you must not camp within one kilometre of any house or station building nor within 500 metres of any stock watering point, and in any area for a period exceeding two weeks.

The lessee may refuse consent for reasons of public safety, stock management, environmental rehabilitation or any other good and sufficient reason. In these circumstances you can apply to the Minister who may give his consent to your proposal.

What Intending Travellers Should Do:

1. Obtain an RAA Outback map (free if you are an RAA member). If you intend to remain entirely on the roads shown, you will be travelling within the Public Road network and therefore will not need to obtain consent to traverse any pastoral leases. You may however need to purchase an appropriate Parks Pass if your journey includes any National Parks and Wildlife SA reserves or an appropriate permit if you intend to traverse any Aboriginal Lands.

2. If you intend venturing off the above Public Road network, refer to the map below for a broad indication of whether your intended journey will include a pastoral lease. If so, follow the procedure below to apply for the necessary consent:

(i) Establish the name(s) of the lease(s) for which consent will be required by purchasing a full size version of the map below from the following outlets:

- Mapland
- The Environment Shop
- The Map Shop

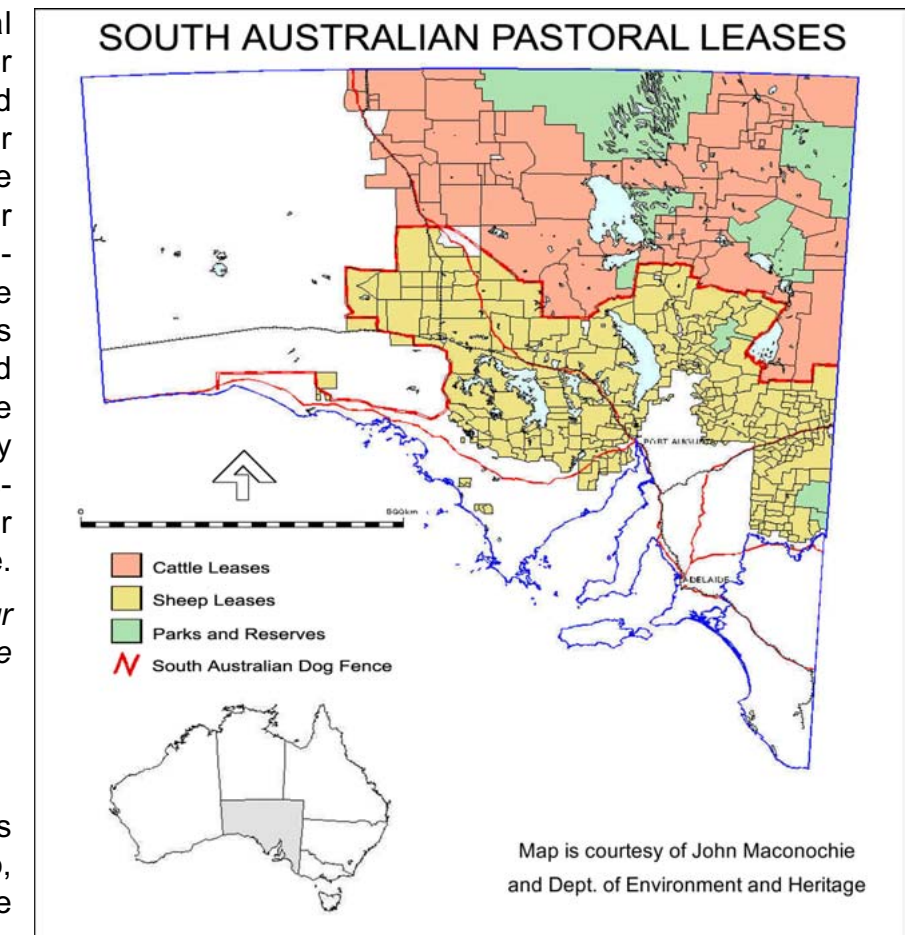
(ii) Obtain a Pastoral Leases List from **Outback SA**, Level 6, 101 Grenfell St., ADELAIDE SA 5000, or telephone 1 800 678 447 and select the contact details for those pastoral leases for which consent will be required. *Club Members note that your Trips Coordinator will probably have this list available.*

(iii) Contact the relevant pastoral lessee(s) by telephone or letter well in advance of your proposed trip. Be prepared to give clear details of your intended route, the date(s) involved and whether camping is also intended. If consent is granted take careful note of any instructions or conditions attached to that consent and make sure you abide by them. Be aware however that consent may *not* be granted because of pastoral management issues or other local conditions at that time.

You may need to reschedule your trip for another more appropriate period .

Walkers Note:

If you intend purely to walk across the lease and camp while doing so, you only need to advise the lessee of your intention.



Printed courtesy of Drafting Contractors of SA

Prepared by the Natural Resources Advisory Unit:
South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
• in cooperation with the South Australian Farmer's Federation •
• endorsed by the Pastoral Board •
PO Box 178 ENFIELD PLAZA SA 5085
E-mail: saafwdc@saafwdc.asn.au
Fair Access For All



February 2002