



Pastoral Policy

The PGA Pastoral Committee exists to safeguard the viability of all pastoral businesses by advocating for secure tenure, equitable resource access, and practical regulatory outcomes that support sustainable land management across WA's rangelands.

PGA Position Statement: Securing the Future of WA's Pastoral Industry

The Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA (PGA) is the peak voice of Western Australia's pastoralists and graziers who manage the vast pastoral leases in the rangelands of our State. Our members are the custodians of some of Australia's most significant environmental and economic assets, producing high-quality food and fibre while managing complex landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and deep cultural histories.

The PGA holds that a strong, sustainable, and profitable pastoral industry is essential for the economic health of regional WA, the social fabric of rural communities, and the responsible environmental stewardship of much of the state's rural land.

To achieve this, the PGA advocates for policy settings based on the following core principles:

1. **Security of Tenure:** A pastoral lease must be a bankable asset. The PGA calls for a statutory right of renewal for compliant leaseholders, at the option of the leaseholder. Without this long-term security, investment in infrastructure, diversification, and land improvement is stifled, and the future of all pastoral stations remains uncertain.
2. **Certainty and Practicality in Regulation:** Pastoral businesses are already subject to significant market and seasonal volatility. They cannot be expected to absorb open-ended regulatory risk. The PGA expects that all legislation—whether relating to heritage, water, or native title—be practical, clear, and co-designed with the people who live and work on the land. The costs and delays associated with complex approval processes threaten the viability of routine farm operations.
3. **Recognition as Land Managers:** Pastoralists are not merely users of the land; they are its long-term managers and, in most instances, they live on the land with their families and employees. Government must recognise the critical role pastoralists play in biosecurity, pest control, fire management, environmental and cultural conservation. Policy should support and resource landholders in this role, not obstruct them with impractical regulations.

Pastoralists & Graziers Association of Western Australia (Inc)

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4. **Fair Access to Resources:** The PGA asserts the right of pastoral lessees to fair and equitable access to the natural resources of their leases, including water. Development opportunities—from irrigated agriculture to carbon farming—must be accessible to all pastoral enterprises, not just large corporate interests. Water allocation and land-use planning decisions must be based on sound science and should not arbitrarily lock away productive capacity.

The PGA is committed to working with our members and all stakeholders and all levels of government to build a policy environment that supports the growth, sustainability, and prosperity of Western Australia's pastoral industry.

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