

PASTORAL LANDS BOARD

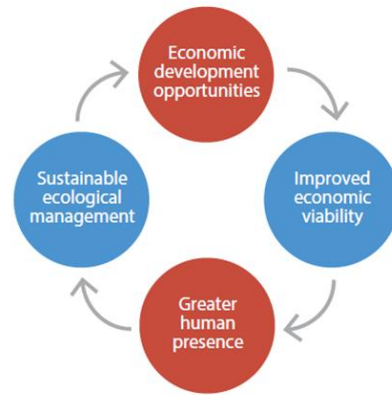
STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT 2024-2027

Strategic Vision

A sustainable pastoral estate supporting prosperity for all people in regional Western Australia.

The Pastoral Lands Board (Board) believes that economic development and ecological management of pastoral lands are interdependent.

Achieving this balance requires an environment where Government works cooperatively with pastoral lessees to enhance productivity, financial viability and improved land management outcomes.



The Pastoral Lands Board

The Board has joint responsibility with the Minister for Lands for administering Western Australia's pastoral leases in accordance with the *Land Administration Act 1997*. The Board's functions include advising the Minister for Lands in relation to pastoral land policy and ensuring that pastoral leases are managed on an ecologically sustainable basis.



Industry Snapshot

- The pastoral industry is one of Western Australia's oldest industries and continues to make a significant contribution to regional economic activity.
- Western Australia's pastoral estate covers approximately 34% of the State's landmass, or around 856,000 square kilometers, which is larger than the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Italy combined.
- There are 431 pastoral stations consisting of 489 pastoral leases. The average station measures approximately 199,000 hectares.
- The pastoral estate is diverse, with a wide variation of climatic conditions and vegetation types ranging from monsoonal savannah and grasslands in the Northern Rangelands through to the hot arid interior and the cooler grasslands of the Southern Rangelands.
- Pastoral leases are predominantly used for growing cattle and sheep for meat and wool. Many pastoralists have diversified into other activities, including horticulture, aquaculture, carbon capture and tourism. Currently beef production accounts for the bulk of pastoral production.
- There are more than 1 million head of cattle on the pastoral estate, approximately 55% in the Kimberley, 20% in the Pilbara and 25% in the Southern Rangelands. Currently there are approximately 130,000 head of sheep and 33,000 head of goats, all in the Southern Rangelands.

Membership of the Pastoral Lands Board

Six of the eight Board members are appointed by the Minister for Lands, being the chairperson, three current or former pastoral lessees, an expert in the field of flora, fauna or land conservation management, and an Aboriginal person with pastoral experience. The Directors General of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), are members of the Board by virtue of their office.

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The following objectives, outputs and activities are required to assist the Board to achieve its vision.



An ecologically sustainable pastoral industry

What we will achieve: The Boards Good Pastoral Land Management guidelines are well understood and widely used

How we will do it: We will support industry-driven initiatives which create better land management outcomes

What we will achieve: Pastoralists understand and are compliant with the requirements of their pastoral lease

How we will do it: We will partner with DPLH to ensure pastoralists have access to up-to-date information about their rights and responsibilities as a pastoral lessee.

We will partner with DPIRD and DPLH to ensure that engagement with pastoralists regarding the ecological condition of their lease(s) is constructive and leads to improved land management outcomes

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Prosperous pastoral enterprises

What we will achieve: We will recognise and respect the important contribution Aboriginal people have made to the pastoral industry and their ongoing connection to the pastoral estate

How we will do it: We will ensure Board planning and policy documentation recognises the importance of preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage on the pastoral estate

We will ensure Aboriginal pastoralists are involved in policy development related to the pastoral estate

What we will achieve: An efficient approvals process for diversified economic activities on pastoral land

How we will do it: We will work with government agencies involved in the pastoral estate and facilitate the reduction of administrative barriers to diversified economic activities

What we will achieve: Sustainable land and stock management practices are universally used within the pastoral industry

How we will do it: We will ensure that contemporary land and stock management practices are promoted through Board policies and in interactions with pastoral lease holders

Where the rights and responsibilities of pastoralists are unclear, we will work with other government agencies to provide the clarity required

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Contemporary policies recognising the diverse uses and geography of the pastoral estate

What we will achieve: The Boards policy suite and the Pastoral Purposes Framework provide timely and helpful guidance to the pastoral industry

How we will do it:

We will continue to engage with the pastoral industry when developing new policies and reviewing existing policies to ensure they meet the requirements of government and industry

We will work with government and industry to develop and implement a robust land condition monitoring system and land condition standards

We will keep Board policies and the Pastoral Purposes Framework under constant review to ensure they reflect contemporary industry standards and practises

We will work with industry peak bodies to strengthen the public's positive perception of the pastoral industry

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How we will do it:

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Engage with the pastoral industry to help it prepare for the benefit from future industry-wide change

What we will achieve: A pastoral industry which understands future threats and opportunities and moves proactively to prepare for their impact.

These include but are not limited to challenges associated with climate change, changing consumer preferences toward ethical food production, increased societal awareness of the importance to Aboriginal cultural heritage, rising concerns regarding animal welfare and increasing concern for the ecological health of the pastoral estate

How we will do it: We will work to understand future threats and opportunities to pastoralism and engage with industry on strategies to assist it to prepare for these changes

We will ensure that Board planning, and policy and planning documentation reflects changes arising from industry threats and opportunities