

PASTORAL LANDS BOARD

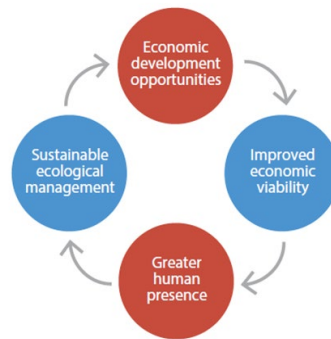
STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT 2024-2027

Strategic Vision

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

The Pastoral Lands Board (PLB) 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 PLB has joint responsibility with the Minister for Lands for administering Western Australia's pastoral leases in accordance with the *Land Administration Act 1997*. The PLB'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 PLB 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 PLB by virtue of their office.



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



1. Ecologically sustainable pastoral lands

What we will achieve:

- The PLB's Good Pastoral Land Management Guidelines, and Land Condition Standards, are widely used and provide pastoral lease holders with clear expectations and practical guidance for achieving sustainable land management and land condition outcomes.

How we will do it:

- Work with DPLH to review published Land Management Guidelines.
- Contribute to the development of statewide Land Condition Standards by working with DPIRD and DPLH.
- Work with industry to explore mechanisms which recognise demonstrated good land management and continuous improvement, including the potential development of a voluntary industry-led accreditation system.

Measure:

- Land Condition Standards and Land Management Guidelines are endorsed by the PLB and published for pastoral lease holder use on the PLB Webpage.

What we will achieve:

- Pastoral lease holders understand and are compliant with the requirements of their pastoral lease.

How we will do it:

- Partner with DPLH to ensure pastoral lease holders have access to up-to-date information about their rights and responsibilities as a pastoral lessee.
- Work with DPLH and DPIRD to ensure that engagement with pastoral lease holders regarding the ecological condition of their lease(s) is constructive and leads to improved land management outcomes.

Measure:

- Pastoral lease rights and obligations are applied consistently and in accordance with regulatory requirements, supported by accessible, trusted and up-to-date information published on the PLB's Webpage, and reinforced through constructive engagement with government.

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2. Prosperous pastoral enterprises

What we will achieve:

- Foster diversified economic activities on pastoral land through efficient PLB approval processes.

How we will do it:

- We will work with government agencies and facilitate the reduction of administrative barriers to diversified economic activities.

Measure:

- Maintain, expand and publish the PLB Pastoral Purposes Framework to provide guidance to pastoral lessees on diversified activities.
- Continue working with DPLH, DPIRD and other government agencies to streamline the application process for diversification permits.

What we will achieve:

- Provide consistent, transparent and evidence-based advice to the Minister for Lands to support decisions for pastoral lease renewals.

How we will do it:

- Apply a consistent approach to assessing pastoral leases, drawing on assessments of land condition, lessee compliance history and long-term capability.
- We will work collaboratively with DPLH, DPIRD and relevant agencies to ensure decisions are informed by robust, up-to-date data and shared expertise.

Measure:

- Ensure advice to the Minister for Lands on pastoral lease renewal is consistent, transparent and evidence-based and in accordance with the PLB's Pastoral Lease Renewal Policy and the PLB's Viability and Sustainability of Pastoral Leases Policy.

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3. Contemporary policies recognising the diverse uses and geography of pastoral lands

What we will achieve:

- The PLB's policy suite and guidelines provide timely and helpful guidance to the pastoral industry.

How we will do it:

- We will keep PLB policies and guidelines under constant review to ensure they reflect contemporary industry standards and practises.
- 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.

Measure:

- PLB policies and guidelines are developed and reviewed in accordance with PLB strategic priorities.

What we will achieve:

- We will respectfully acknowledge the important contribution Aboriginal people have made to the pastoral industry and their ongoing connection to pastoral lands.

How we will do it:

- Ensure PLB planning and policy documentation recognises the importance of preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage on pastoral land.
- Facilitate the involvement of relevant Aboriginal interests in policy development related to pastoral land.

Measure:

- Extent to which the contribution and ongoing connection of Aboriginal people to pastoral lands is acknowledge, respected and reflected in PLB policy, decision-making and engagement processes.

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4. Engage with the pastoral industry to help it prepare for future change

What we will achieve:

- Ensure pastoral lease holders are informed of changing external conditions which may impact on their ability to meet their statutory requirements.

How we will do it:

- Work collaboratively with industry to identify emerging opportunities and risks and support the pastoral sector to confidently adapt to future change.
- Ensure PLB policy and planning documentation remains forward-looking and responsive.
- Work with industry peak bodies to strengthen the public's positive perception of the pastoral industry.
- Collaborate with government agencies and industry to identify and communicate factors that impact pastoral lease holders.

Measure:

- Published guidance materials on the PLB Webpage and presentations/workshops/discussions with pastoral lessees and their peak bodies on emerging issues

What we will achieve:

- Increased participation of emerging pastoralists in industry engagement and governance processes.

How we will do it:

- Create opportunities for engagement through targeted forums and structured initiatives that connect the PLB with emerging pastoral leaders.
- Support capability development through initiatives such as deputy or observer roles, providing practical exposure to governance and decision-making.

Measure:

- Extent to which emerging pastoralists are actively participating in and benefiting from PLB governance and engagement processes.