



17th February, 2017

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Cnr Perkins and Dickson St
Po Box 14
Jundah, Qld 4736

P (07) 4658 6900

F (07) 4658 6137

E shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Barcoo Shire Council (BSC) Submission to Stock Route Inquiry

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a late submission to the Queensland Governments Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. Listed below are BSC preferred options;

- The modern cattle transport industry should be the first point of movement, rather than the use of public stock routes.
- Permits to travel drought affected stock on stock routes could / should be issued on need relating to the public's interests rather than the interests of the stock owner. I.e. breeders only and in times of extreme drought.
- This could be done on a case by case basis by a panel of like-minded people who asses each application on its merit.
- State Govt. in consultation with local Governments to re-assess all Primary routes and downgrade to Secondary status where applicable.
- State Govt. to eradicate all Weeds of National Significance (where economically and practically possible) within the unused and secondary route network.
- To undertake a trial project in one Shire (Barcoo Shire) to identify all unused stock routes and associated camping and water reserves. Undertake a process to consult with the Council and local land owners on the need for road reserves (minimum/maximum width) to each property (this would also facilitate another major issues concerning local government of "roads off alignment"). The balance of the unused and vacant land to be sold to adjacent land owners at the unimproved valuation and amalgamated into the property valuation for rating purposes. This will remove the need for Council to charge a separate fee for the use of unused stock routes and reserves.
- State Govt. to retain ownership of the Primary route the including water and other infrastructure.
- Revenue raised to fence the Primary route, upgrade water infrastructure, control all Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), identify and fence cultural heritage sites, identify and provide access to natural resource features to enhance tourism/recreation.

- Fence maintenance remains the responsibility of adjoining landholder.
- Local Govt. to take over control and management of the Primary route network in harmony with adjoining Councils to set fees, maintain adequate pasture reserves for travelling stock and issue Permits to graze if necessary to reduce fire hazard.
- Management to also include; controlling WoNS, assessing pasture and land condition, issuing permits, collecting fees, maintaining water infrastructure.
- Quarantining stock from areas infected with WoNS for a period (1 week) in secure and monitored areas (either on property or in an area of public land) to enable seed matter to pass the gut before entering the public stock route.
- State Govt. to deliver and action any necessary enforcement notices for non-compliance.