

FACT SHEET

Protections in place for stock to safely access watering points

December 2016

Providing safe and adequate access to watering points is an important part of effectively managing stock, particularly in the summer heat.

What is a stock watering point?

For the purposes of this fact sheet a stock watering point is defined as:

A fixed location or structure (whether man made, or enhanced by excavation) from which stock access water.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- *Troughs that are supplied by some form of infrastructure such as bore, pipe, overland flow, or tank*
- *Dams or ground tanks*
- *Bore drains*
- *Defined access points to rivers, lakes or other natural water sources*

Tanks and pipes that supply water to an access point but are not able to be accessed by stock are not stock watering points.

What protections exist so that stock can safely access water within the Lightning Ridge Mineral Claims District?

There are a number of protections in place within legislation (*Mining Act 1992*) to ensure that stock can safely access water within the Lightning Ridge Mineral Claims District including:

- A provision which states that a landholder entitled to use the land for stock watering is entitled to free and uninterrupted access, for those purposes, to the water in any stream, lagoon or swamp on or adjacent to the land (s212).
- Compensation for loss including loss caused, or likely to be caused, by destruction or loss of, or injury to, disturbance of or interference with stock (s262).
- Access management plans can include conditions that relate to preserving the safety of stock and avoiding interference with land management practices.
- A 200 metre buffer zone around a stock watering place is included in the conditions of title for opal prospecting licences.
- The Mining Regulation 2016 also provides grounds for objections 200 metres within a stock watering place for opal prospecting areas (clause 49 1(c)).

Working collaboratively

The Division of Resources & Energy encourages landholders and opal miners to adopt a collaborative approach in developing protocols and practices within Access Management Plans to address issues relating to stock watering points.

For further assistance regarding the management of access to stock watering points in areas with active opal prospecting licences and mineral claims please contact the Lightning Ridge office of the Division of Resources & Energy.

More information

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