

## Ownership of Pastoral Leases

Pastoral leases are held by families, pastoral companies, Aboriginal groups, mining companies and conservation groups. Many stations have been run by the same family for generations.

Pastoral leases are bought and sold on the open market and there is an annual turnover of about 5% of leases. The average price paid for a station is around \$1 million.

Pastoral lease rents are reassessed every five years, and are based on the potential carrying capacity of the lease, in addition to market and environmental factors.

There are regular scheduled inspections of all pastoral leases. The Pastoral Lands Board considers each inspection report and takes action to deal with any issues highlighted in these reports.

All pastoral leases expire on 30 June 2015 with the current lease terms ranging from 21 years to 50 years. Most leases have been offered renewal for the same length of time as their current term.

*The presence of a viable pastoral industry ensures the continuation of communities in remote areas through the provision of people, culture, employment and infrastructure.*



## The Pastoral Lands Board of Western Australia

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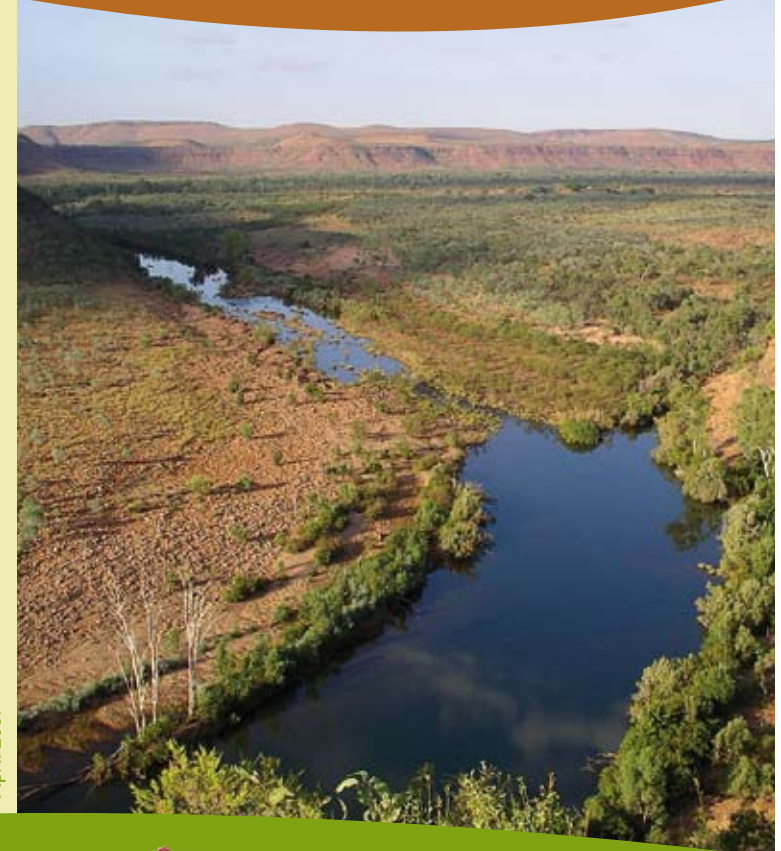
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Department for Planning and Infrastructure  
Government of Western Australia

## The Pastoral Lands Board of Western Australia

Ensuring ecologically sustainable use of pastoral lands



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Department for Planning and Infrastructure  
Government of Western Australia



[www.dpi.wa.gov.au/pastoral](http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au/pastoral)

# Managed in a sustainable way, Crown land under pastoral lease benefits the community.

The State's pastoral stations are the very large sheep and cattle properties that are steeped in Australian history. Stations are businesses that operate on Crown land, which is leased to pastoralists as a 'pastoral lease'. Pastoralists manage the natural vegetation on the lease to breed and run their stock in a sustainable manner.

There are currently 520 pastoral leases covering nearly 90 million hectares or 36% of the State's area. Sometimes a station may consist of more than one pastoral lease. The average size of a pastoral station is 185,000 hectares, with the largest being over 500,000 hectares.

Pastoral production is estimated at around \$240 million, comprising \$180 million in cattle sales, \$34 million in wool production, \$14 million in sheep sales and \$12 million in goat sales.



## The Pastoral Lands Board

The Pastoral Lands Board is established under the *Land Administration Act 1997* and has the overarching responsibility of ensuring that pastoral leases are managed on an ecologically sustainable basis. The Board consists of a Chairman, three members from the pastoral industry, one member with expertise in conservation, one Aboriginal member and the Directors General of each of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure and the Department of Agriculture and Food.

The Board is supported by six staff from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, who administer the State's pastoral leases. The staff also provide technical advice on rangeland use and pastoral land management to the Minister, other sections of DPI, other agencies, key stakeholders and the general public.

## Western Australia's Pastoral Industry

The State's pastoral leases are located in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison, Goldfields and Nullarbor regions of the State. Pastoral leases are used for grazing of livestock on native vegetation, because the rainfall in these areas is too low and erratic for agricultural cropping or improved pastures.

The Kimberley, Pilbara and northern Gascoyne are predominantly cattle producing areas focused on live export. The southern rangelands remain predominantly wool producing, however increasingly there is a focus on production of cattle, sheep meat and goats.

