



## COUNCIL POLICY

<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	<b>AGISTMENT POLICY</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>	<b>003</b>
<b>INFOXPRT REF:</b>	<b>61638</b>
<b>DATE OF ADOPTION:</b>	<b>16 May 2013</b>
<b>TIME PERIOD OF REVIEW</b>	<b>3 Year</b>
<b>DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:</b>	<b>21 April 2023</b>

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## PURPOSE

To establish criteria for the number of cattle allowed for agistment on the Richmond Shire Reserves and Town Commons.

## RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

*Land Act 1994*

## CONDITIONS:

1. All persons wishing to agist stock on commons or reserves under the control of the Richmond Shire Council must satisfy each of the following conditions:
  - (a) Applicant must be a current permanent resident of the Shire.
  - (b) Applicant must NOT own property any more than 249 hectares of grazing land within or outside the Richmond Shire.
  - (c) Applicant must be a bona fide owner of the stock to be agisted.
  - (d) Applicant must hold a registered brand in applicant's name.
  - (e) Applicant must be over eighteen (18) years of age.
  - (f) All cattle must be ear-tagged at owner's cost. These tags need to be individually numbered and carry the endorsement Richmond Shire Council. Tags will be supplied by Council at owner's expense. ***NLIS for appropriate PICs are available from the Rural Lands Officer/Shire Office.***

- (g) All cattle must have an NLIS tag in their ear prior to being put on a Council Common or Reserve. A list of the NLIS tag numbers must be provided to Council with the application to agist.
- (h) Horses permitted to the Commons prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 can remain until their removal under a grandfathered arrangement. No new horses will be permitted on the Commons or Reserves.

## **POLICY**

### **Numbers**

- The number of cattle must not exceed the maximum stocking rate per Reserve/Common as follows:

#### **TOWN COMMON**

Maximum Stocking Rate 500  
4,927 Ha (12,170 acres)  
**100/household**

#### **MAXWELTON**

Maximum Stocking Rate 200  
1,830 Ha (4,520 acres)  
**40/household**

#### **CAPE HORN**

Maximum Stocking Rate 200  
1035 Ha or 2557 acres  
**40/household**

#### **TWENTY MILE**

Maximum Stocking Rate 700  
5,271 Ha (13,024 acres)  
**100/household**

**An aggregate number from all Commons and Reserves not to exceed 150 head per household.**

- Total head of livestock may be reduced to an acceptable number determined by Council during poor seasons when there is insufficient fodder / water. The number of livestock per household will be reduced proportionately. Stock owners will retain original numbers as per applicants. A credit note will be issued for any Council enforced reduction in numbers.

### **Fees**

- Agistment charges as fixed by Council are payable quarterly in advance in March, June, September, and December. Accounts will be issued prior to the expiry of the previously paid agistment. Accounts will be issued based on the numbers held not the actual number of cattle.
- Fourteen (14) days' notice in writing must be given to Council if the number held is surrender due to any reason. A credit note or refund will be issued for the remaining period.
- No fees shall be charged for pasturing the progeny of any cattle in respect of which a permit has been granted if such progeny be under the age of three (3) months.

- Agistment fees and regulations are subject to review from time to time. A letter will be sent to the Stock owners if fees are changed.
- Failure to pay agistment fees can result in the impoundment of livestock which Council can auction to recoup outstanding debts. Please refer to Council's Debt Collection Policy.

### **Musters**

- Council reserves the right to muster, or arrange the muster, of the whole of the stock running on the common or reserve at any time for any purpose and may put such stock in any yard or yards and draft and otherwise manage such stock as deemed necessary.
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- The Rural Lands Officer will communicate with all Stock owners to organise a date so a representative can attendee. Once a date is confirmed, then a confirmation email will be sent.
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- Council will organise a helicopter for muster as required and will provide muster numbers to the contractor for billing for use of helicopter.
- Musters will occur on a minimum per year, this will depend on weather and condition:
  1. Town Common and 20 Mile, twice a year
  2. Maxwelton and Cape Horn, once a year
- Anyone that places cattle on the Commons or Reserves illegally will be invoiced if their cattle found exceeds 20% of the total mustered. This invoice will date back to the last muster.
- For Maxwelton and Cape Horn Reserves only, no person shall pasture or cause, permit or allow to pasture any bull unless with the express permission of the Council.
- Town Common and Twenty Mile Reserve will allow the pasture of a bull.
- The Council may in its discretion grant or refuse any application to pasture stock on any reserve or common. This may include being listed on Council's bad debtors list, previous non-compliance or being at capacity on Commons and Reserves.
- All livestock is to be treated prior to being put on a reserve or common. Treatments may include but not limited to ticks and HGP. Council recommends following the Department of Agricultural and Fisheries preferences. The Stock owner will be provided to provide proof of any dipping/spraying.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

This Policy will commence from the Approval Date (see Section 6). This Policy replaces all other Agistment Policies of Richmond Shire Council (whether written or not).

This Policy will be made available to all corporate staff on Council's network and website. A copy will also be provided to each Stock owner. Council reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this Policy from time to time. This Policy will typically be reviewed when a review has been deemed appropriate by organisational processes (e.g., audit recommendations), or when legislative requirements change.

## **APPROVAL**

Reviewed and Adopted at the Council Meeting held on 15 March 2022.