



land series

Stock route water facility agreement fees

What are stock route water facility agreements?

Stock route water facility agreements are essentially contracts for accessing from, or supplying water to, a stock route network water facility.

When do fees apply?

Water agreement fees apply to all stock route water facility agreements and are calculated by the local government.

Fees apply when water is supplied:

- for domestic use
- for a community purpose
- to a landholder to water private stock
- to the stock route network
- for watering travelling stock at a landholder's water facility.

How are the fees calculated?

Fees for stock watering purposes are calculated using the area watered method. The method does not apply to the calculation of community or domestic use water agreement fees unless the landholder is also taking a supply for stock.

Where landholders are accessing the stock route facility to supply water for community or domestic purposes, a flat annual fee of \$350 is payable.

If a landholder is taking water for stock and domestic purposes, the stock portion of the fee will be calculated according to the area watered method and added to the \$350 flat fee charged for the domestic supply.

What is the area watered method?

The area watered method applies the following equation:

Annual fee = benefited area x indexed rate

The benefited area is the radial area surrounding a water point, which represents the relative benefit a landholder is getting from accessing the stock route water facility.

The indexed rate for the predominant stock type is linked to the average value per hectare, which is ascertained by dividing the unimproved property valuation by the total area of the property.

Can fees be reduced or waived?

Landholders may be able to reduce their fees or have them waived under circumstances such as temporary loss, diminished supply or for undertaking maintenance.

Temporary loss of water or diminished supply

The local government may waive the landholder's annual fee where the water supply is unavailable for a period of four weeks or more. This will apply where water is unavailable due to:

- permanent loss of supply
- temporary cessation due to climatic effects
- loss in the capacity of the stock route facility to supply water to both the stock route network and the landholder's facility.

Where the water agreement fee is waived in these circumstances, it is only waived for the period when the water was unavailable.

Maintenance of a stock route facility performed by landholder

If the stock route facility is located on a minor or inactive stock route, the landholder may, with the local government's agreement, reduce their fee by sharing or undertaking the maintenance of the facility.

The reduction will be determined as a percentage of the annual fee, based on the category of maintenance relevant to that landholder.



Maintenance is categorised as either routine or major. Examples of routine maintenance include:

- cleaning troughs
- oiling windmills and other equipment
- replacing faulty fittings and patching leaks
- making minor repairs to fencing.

Examples of major maintenance may include:

- pulling bores
- desilting dams or tanks
- replacing equipment such as pumps, piping, troughs and fencing
- repairing windmills or other pumping equipment.

The amount reduced will be based on the maintenance needs of the stock route facility. For example, high maintenance facilities may attract a greater reduction than low maintenance facilities.

Where the landholder is performing all of the facility's maintenance and replacing equipment when required, the maintenance percentage will be 100 per cent and the landholder will not be required to pay an annual fee.

Are the fees likely to change?

Water agreement fees will be adjusted annually in line with the consumer price index (CPI).

More information?

For further information on stock route water facility agreements and fees visit the NRW website <www.nrw.qld.gov.au> or email <wateragreement@nrw.qld.gov.au>.

Alternatively, you can contact your relevant local government.