

Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act—leasehold land management

The *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007* (the Act) was proclaimed on 2 November 2007. It is the result of consultation between the Queensland Government, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and the conservation and development sectors.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is the lead agency and is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Act with other government agencies and stakeholder bodies.

What are the aims of the Act?

The Act focuses on identifying significant natural and cultural values of Cape York Peninsula and aims to:

- ensure ecologically sustainable use of land, including pastoral land in the Cape York Peninsula region
- recognise the economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations of Indigenous communities in relation to land use in the region
- recognise the contributions of the Cape York Peninsula pastoral industry to the economy and land management in the region.

How will the Act affect leaseholders?

The Act provides leaseholders with the same security of tenure they have enjoyed in the past and ensures that the pastoral industry's interests are protected.

It also provides incentives for leaseholders to apply for longer term leases (up to 75 years), subject to conditions.

Benefits for the pastoral industry

The Act contains a number of new provisions that will benefit the pastoral industry, including:

- An ability for leaseholders to access rural lease terms of up to 75 years (increased from a maximum of 50 years) if they take action to protect world heritage values. They must also enter into an Indigenous land use agreement concerning use and access rights for Traditional Owners and maintain the lease land in good condition. Leaseholders can apply for the 75-year lease as part of their normal lease renewal process, provided all the criteria have been met.
- A requirement that the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade, considers the impact on the Cape York Peninsula grazing industry of any decision to surrender a lease in the interests of ensuring that a

viable grazing industry remains part of the Cape York Peninsula future economy.

- A requirement that in implementing this legislation, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade, and Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability will consult with an advisory committee comprising all key stakeholder interests including pastoralists, Aboriginal people, conservation interests, mining interests, tourism and local government.

Further information

The following fact sheets include information relating to the Act:

- Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act—what does it mean for the Indigenous community
- Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act—vegetation management framework
- Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act—advisory committees.

For more information on the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007* visit the DERM website at <www.derm.qld.gov.au>.

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