



Town Commons Agistment Policy

1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy establishes criteria for the number of livestock (cattle and horses) agisted and regulatory requirements for the agistment on the Balonne Shire Council (BSC) Town Commons.

2. PRINCIPLES

To provide the regulatory requirements for the agistment of Balonne Shire rural land and Town Commons and the process to secure tenure over agistment land owned or managed by Balonne Shire Council.

To ensure openness, transparency, effective competition, value for money, ethical behaviour and fair dealing in the tendering and management of agistment of the Balonne Shire Town Commons.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all BSC Town Commons.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

1. All persons wishing to agist stock on commons or reserves under the control of the Balonne Shire Council must satisfy each of the following conditions:
 - (a) Applicant must be a current permanent resident of the Shire.
 - (b) Applicant must NOT have the right to use or occupy any more than 249 hectares of grazing land within or without the Balonne 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. Such tags to be individually numbered and carry the endorsement BSC. Tags will be supplied by Council at owners' expense. NLIS for appropriate PICs are available from the Rural Lands Officer/Shire Office for cattle born on the common.
 - (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) If you own or keep any of the following animals in Queensland, you must be registered as a Biosecurity Entity:
 - 1 or more:
 - ❖ Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer; or



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- (i) You must have a registered Biosecurity Entity even if you don't own the land where you keep your animals, for example, if:
 - ❖ Alpacas, llamas, or other animals from the Camelidae family; or
 - ❖ Horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, zebras or other animals from the Equidae family
 - (j) The only time that the Council's Biosecurity Entity number is utilised is where livestock are kept temporarily. Holding facilities include:
 - ❖ You are a lessee
 - ❖ Your animals are agisted on someone else's land
 - ❖ You keep beehives on someone else's land
 - ❖ Showgrounds or sporting grounds
 - ❖ Local government pound yards (excluding Town Commons)
 - ❖ Saleyards
 - ❖ Abattoirs or slaughterhouses
 - ❖ Stock routes.
2. The maximum number of horses/cattle to be agisted by anyone (1) household (principal place of residence) is assessed upon application by a Pasture Assessment and Officer discretion.

5. BIOSECURITY ENTITY REGISTRATION

Biosecurity Entity Registration and the Property Identification Code (PIC) system work together to improve biosecurity. A PIC relates to the land where the animals are kept; and the Biosecurity Entity is the person, people or organisation responsible for the day-to-day keeping and care of the animals. The entity is not always the property owner associated with the PIC (e.g., the owner of the animals may be an agistee or lease a property).

If you own or keep certain animals in Queensland you are required to have a Biosecurity Entity Number. To register for the first time you need to apply for registration at the following address online, [Account Registration - Biosecurity Entity Registration Portal \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](https://daf.qld.gov.au) as a Biosecurity Entity. Or if you are registered and need to check your registration is current go to the following link, [Sign in - Biosecurity Entity Registration Portal \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](https://daf.qld.gov.au). Once approval is given you will be notified of your Registered Biosecurity Entity (RBE) Number.

6. NATIONAL LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NLIS)

It also allows access to the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). NLIS provides permanent identification and traceability of cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats. There are specific NLIS requirements when moving different types of livestock in Queensland. All cattle, sheep, pigs and goats must be fitted with an approved NLIS device when moving between properties identified with different a PIC. All movements must be reported to the NLIS database within 48 hours of livestock being moved.

NLIS devices are permanent devices that must not be removed once fitted and will remain for the lifetime of that animal. If a device is lost, the animal must be retagged with an approved NLIS device prior to moving off the property.



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5. DEFINITIONS

Agistment Permit:	A permit granted by Council to a permittee in accordance with this policy.
Application for Agistment:	An application for agistment provided by Council (pending a full Pasture Assessment and current stock on common)
Council	Means Balonne Shire Council
Council land	Means Council owned or controlled land made available for the purposes of agistment under this policy.
Livestock	Means cattle, sheep, goats or horses.
The CEO	Balonne Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer

6. POLICY

1. The number of horses/cattle agisted must not exceed the maximum stocking rate per reserve/common as assessed by Council Officers through a Pasture Assessment and current climatic conditions.
2. Total head of livestock will be reduced to an acceptable number determined by Council during poor seasons when there is insufficient fodder / water. Number of livestock per household will be reduced proportionately.
3. The owner of the livestock prior to placing stock on the Town Commons are to provide a list of NLIS tag numbers for registration onto the PIC.
4. Agistment charges are fixed by Council are payable in advance. Agistment charges and the Application Fee are to be paid upon Application for Agistment.
5. Any person who has paid adjustment fees in accordance with this Policy and who has sold, disposed of or removed any stock, or whose stock have died in respect of which fees have been paid, shall immediately notify Council of such fact.
6. Agistment Back Charges will apply if at a muster, cattle which have been credited as missing from a previous muster, appear in a current muster, then a back charge applies from muster date to muster date, up to a maximum of 12 months.
7. No fees shall be charged for pasturing the progeny of any horses or cattle in respect of which a permit has been granted if such progeny are under the age of three (3) months.
8. Agistment fees and regulations are subject to review from at any time by Council.
9. 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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10. No person shall pasture or cause, permit or allow to be pastured any entire horse or bull over the age of 6 months on any common or reserve of the Council.
11. The Council may in its discretion grant or refuse any application to pasture stock on any reserve or common.
12. All livestock is to be cleared of ticks prior to being put on a reserve or common. Proof of dipping/spraying is required.
13. Any person desirous of mustering stock pasturing on any common or reserve must give not less than seven (7) days notice. Such notice shall state the hour and date he/she desires to conduct such muster. Consent of the Chief Executive Officer/other delegate must first be obtained.
14. Notice in writing must be given to the Chief Executive Officer/other delegate at least seven (7) days prior to the removal of any livestock. Such notice must state time and number of livestock to be removed. Failure to give notice will result in Agistment being charged up to the date that advice of livestock removal is given.

7. LEGAL PARAMETERS

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Local Government Regulation 2012*
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
- *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*
- *Land Act 1994*
- *Stock Route Management Act 2002*
- *Property Law Act 1994*

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- *Stock Route Management Act 2002*
- *Balonne Shire Council Biosecurity Plan 2019-2024*