



COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY TITLE:	AGISTMENT POLICY
POLICY NUMBER:	003
INFOXPRT REF:	61638
DATE OF ADOPTION:	16 May 2013
TIME PERIOD OF REVIEW	3 Year
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	21 May 2019

PURPOSE

To establish criteria for the number of livestock (cattle and horses) agisted 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 have the right to use or occupy any more than 249 hectares of grazing land within or without 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. Such tags to be individually numbered and carry the endorsement R.S.C.. Tags will be supplied by Council at owners 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.

2. The maximum number of horses/cattle to be agisted by any one (1) household (principal place of residence) is 100 head for Town Common, 40 head for Maxwellton, 60 head for Cape Horn, and 120 head for 20 Mile, with aggregate number from all commons and reserves not to exceed 150 head per household.

POLICY

- The number of horses/cattle agisted 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
60/household

TWENTY MILE

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

- 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.
- Agistment charges as fixed by Council are payable quarterly in advance. Accounts will be issued prior to the expiry of the previously paid agistment.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 be under the age of three (3) months.
- Agistment fees and regulations are subject to review from time to time.
- 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.
- No person shall pasture or cause, permit or allow to be pastured any entire horse or rig or bull on any common or reserve unless with the express permission of the Council.

- The Council may in its discretion grant or refuse any application to pasture stock on any reserve or common.
- All livestock is to be cleared of ticks prior to being put on a reserve or common. Proof of dipping/spraying is required.
- 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.
- 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.

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 intranet site/network, and to all outdoor staff at the Depot and via their supervisor/coordinator. 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 24 May 2016.