

## Queensland



### Explanatory Notes for SL 2003 No. 117

#### *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*

## LAND PROTECTION (PEST AND STOCK ROUTE MANAGEMENT) REGULATION 2003

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### SHORT TITLE

*Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003*

### AUTHORISING LAW

Section 309 of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.

### POLICY OBJECTIVES

The *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003* supports the policy objectives of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* which was assented to on 24 April 2002. The purpose of the Act is to provide for:

- (a) pest management for land; and
- (b) stock route network management.

Consistent with this purpose, a major policy objective of the Act is the protection of economic, environmental and social values from the impacts of weeds and pest animals. The cost of pest animal and weed impacts to the Queensland economy has been estimated at \$600 million per year. The additional environmental and social impacts of pests would substantially increase this estimate, if they could be quantified in dollar terms.

A second major policy objective is to sustainably manage the State's stock route network for use by stock as well as protecting other uses and

values for current and future generations. The stock route network continues to be a vital asset for the grazing industry for moving stock and for emergency fodder, particularly in drought times as recently demonstrated. Stock routes and reserves also have multiple uses and values such as retention of remnant vegetation, conservation of biodiversity and cultural sites, recreational use and beekeeping.

For further information see attached Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

### **HOW POLICY OBJECTIVES WILL BE ACHIEVED**

The main features of the Regulation are the schedules that declare pest plants and pest animals for control and management throughout the State, restrict their keeping under permit for certain purposes, and prescribe fees for the travelling and agistment of stock on the stock route network. Gazettal of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003* will enable proclamation of the Act. For further information, see attached Regulatory Impact Statement.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH AUTHORISING LAW**

The proposed legislation is consistent with the authorizing law. See attached Regulatory Impact Statement.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The attached RIS contains consideration of alternative ways of achieving the policy objectives and why they were not adopted.

### **BENEFITS AND COSTS**

The attached RIS contains examination of the benefits and costs of the proposed regulation in regard to the various stakeholders.

### **FUNDAMENTAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES**

The proposed legislation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles. See attached Regulatory Impact Statement for further information.

## **CONSULTATION**

The RIS notification and proposed Regulation were advertised in the Queensland Country Life of 27 March 2003, the Courier Mail of 29 March 2003, and the Government Gazette of 28 March 2003. Twenty-seven submissions were received. Major stakeholders were supportive of the proposed Regulation, while there was criticism from certain interest groups. Only minor changes to the Regulation were considered necessary as a result of the comments received.

The declaration of Class 3 declared pest plants will be delayed until 1 November 2003 to address the concerns of the Nursery and Garden Industry of Queensland regarding stocks on hand, particularly lantanas. The declaration includes so called “sterile” lantanas which do produce viable pollen. This pollen can fertilise wild lantana plants and create further genetic diversity which adds to the difficulty of lantana control.

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## **ENDNOTES**

1. Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
2. The administering agency is the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.