What are TSRs in New South Wales?

NPA Conference

Sydney

What does the term “TSRs” mean?

- The term has three meanings –

1. Travelling stock routes
2. Travelling stock reserves
3. The route taken by travelling (walking) stock

Rural Lands Protection Act 1998

- **The Act only refers to “travelling stock reserves”. Section 84 defines ……**

"travelling stock reserve" means:

(a) any land reserved for a travelling stock route or camping place under the Crown Lands Act 1989, or

(b) any reserve for travelling stock, water reserve, reserve for access or crossing of water, or

(c) any stock watering place.

- In the eastern half of the State, most travelling stock reserves are isolated paddocks.
- In the western half of the State, some travelling stock reserves are linked to form a “travelling stock route”.

- **Travelling stock reserves are Crown land.**
- **They are “reserved” as travelling stock reserves under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.**
- **THEN, they can be placed under the control of a Rural Lands Protection Board under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998*.**

85 Vesting care, control and management of certain travelling stock reserves in boards

(1) The Minister administering the Crown Lands Act 1989 may, by order published in the Gazette, vest in a board the care, control and management of any travelling stock reserve to which this section applies.

(2) This section applies to a travelling stock reserve other than a stock watering place or one that comprises land within:

(a) a State forest, or

(b) the Western Division that is subject to a lease from the Crown.

(There are currently about 600,000 hectares of travelling stock reserves in the State)

There are two basic categories of travelling stock reserve in the Act

- **“Controlled” travelling stock reserves ……(These have been placed under a Board’s control)**
- **“Managed” travelling stock reserves …… (These have <u>not</u> been placed under a Board’s control)**

- Most movements of walking stock in NSW are along a public road, not along a travelling stock reserve.
- Consequently, travelling stock reserves are often used for overnight camping by travelling stock.

- Some travelling stock reserves are also used for long-term grazing.

Permits for stock on public roads or TSRs

- **101 (1) An authorised officer of a responsible board may issue a permit (a "stock permit") to any person authorising the person to do anything on or in relation to any public road or travelling stock reserve specified in the permit in respect of stock owned or in the charge of the person.**

Permits for other uses of TSRs

- 100(1) **A responsible board may issue a permit (a "reserve use permit") authorising a person or group of persons to engage in any activity in, or to occupy or make use on any day at any time of, a travelling stock reserve for the purpose of establishing and maintaining an apiary or for any other purpose.**

Authorised use of travelling stock reserves for recreational activities

97(1) **A person is authorised to use a travelling stock reserve or part of any such reserve on any day between sunrise and sunset for any recreational activity prescribed by the regulations, subject to this Act and any conditions prescribed by the regulations.**

What recreational activities are prescribed?

26(1) For the purposes of section 97 of the Act, the following are prescribed as recreational activities for which a person is authorised other than an excluded reserve:

(a) walking, running and other kinds of individual physical exercise,
(b) horse riding,
(c) picnicking,
(d) fishing,
(e) swimming,
(f) pedal cycling.

(2) Subclause (1) does not apply to use of a travelling stock reserve if the responsible board has made a closure order ……

(3) In this clause:
"excluded reserve" means a travelling stock reserve (or part of a travelling stock reserve) in the Western Division or a stock watering place.

What about Stock Watering Places?

- **134 Leases of stock watering places**
- **(1) The controlling authority of a stock watering place may, following auction, public tender or other means approved by the State Council, grant a lease of the watering place.**
- **(2) The controlling authority must not grant a lease of a stock watering place for a period (including any period for which the lease could be extended or renewed by the exercise of an option) exceeding the period prescribed by the regulations.**

Removal or destruction of timber

- 89(1) **A responsible board must not remove, fell or destroy timber from an area of more than one hectare of land within a controlled travelling stock reserve unless it has given the Forestry Commission at least 3 months' notice in writing of its intention to do so.**

- **92 Relationship to other Acts**

  Nothing in this Part authorises or permits a responsible board to take any action in respect of a controlled travelling stock reserve that is contrary to the *Native Vegetation Act 2003.*

- Native Vegetation Act
- Threatened Species Conservation Act
- Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- (Cth) Native Title Act 1993

The key points

- There are about 600,000 hectares of travelling stock reserves in NSW.
- Most are controlled by the 47 RLPBs.
- Permits are generally needed to use travelling stock reserves.
- Most stock movements are along public roads (not travelling stock reserves).
- In the past 20 years Boards have become much more cognisant of conservation issues on TSRs.

There are two reviews currently under way

- A review of travelling stock reserves generally (including financial issues)
- A fundamental review of the Rural Lands Protection Boards system
- These reviews may have a significant impact on the future of TSRs

QUESTIONS?