

STOCK MANAGEMENT PLAN (EXAMPLE)

INTRODUCTION

This Stock Management Plan is provided in support of an application in relation to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] to:

- Keep 4 sheep and 2 goats for private use
- Provide agistment for 1 alpaca

The property has historically run sheep and cattle. The property was purchased with 4 existing covered yards on site.

This plan incorporates the requirements and recommendation in the following publications:

- Shire of Murray “Keeping of Livestock in Rural Residential Areas”
- Dept of Agriculture – Stocking Rate Guidelines for Rural Small Holdings

1. SITE PLAN

The attached site plan indicates all pasture paddocks, day yards, shelters and other general farming infrastructure.

Paddock/Yard Sizes:

Paddock Name	Soil Type	Dryland (sqm)	Irrigated (sqm)
P1	P1a		2563
P2	P1a		546
P3	B2	1089	

An existing bore is located at the front of the property. This provides drinking water for the livestock & irrigation water.

2. SPECIFIC CRITERIA

The Number & Type of Stock

Application is made for 4 x 50kg Ewes, 2 x 30kg Goats and 1 x 60kg Alpaca

Soil Type & Stocking Rate

The property has two soil types identified.

The northern end is classified as P1a or Land Unit SR4 “Pale sand flats”. The recommended dry stocking rate is 6 DSE/ha and the irrigated stocking rate is 20 DSE/ha.

The southern end is classified as B2 or Land Unit SR3 "Rapidly drained pale sands". The recommended dry stocking rate is 2 DSE/ha and the irrigated stocking rate is 10 DSE/ha.

The recommended maximum number of stock is therefore:

P1a irrigated 0.25ha @ 20 DSE = 5
+ P1a irrigated 0.05ha @ 20 DSE = 1
+ B2 dryland 0.1ha @ 2 DSE = 0.2
= 6.2 DSE or 4 sheep, 2 goats and 1 alpaca

Stocking Practices

All yards have a covered shelter with a crushed limestone base topped with a thick, absorbent layer of sawdust which stock have access to throughout the day to provide shade, and throughout the night.

All stocking will have hay and pellets available during the day and night.

Pastures will be grazed to maintain 100% ground cover at all times and to maintain a minimum pasture height of 5cm. Excessively tall pasture will be slashed to maintain palatability and encourage more leaf growth for more even grazing.

Stock will be rotated around the yards/paddocks to maximise pasture cover and minimise soil erosion.

Protection of Trees

Trees in yard areas will be protected from stock damage by placing galvanised wire tree guards around their trunks.

Water availability & Use and Irrigation

An existing bore is located on the property. A water licence for the bore is attached.

Paddock stock watering will be via water troughs fitted with float valves.

All main paddock areas are under irrigation and in the pasture establishment phase, (approx one third of the one hectare available for pasture) will be irrigated.

Inundation and Flood Management

Should the property become inundated or flooded due to extreme weather events, all livestock will be moved to a dry location for 24 hours per day until water has receded and/or paddocks are dried out. Should this be for more than a few days, then alternative spelling will be sourced to ensure both animal welfare and pasture management criteria can be met.

Livestock will not be grazed on wet paddocks to ensure that pasture ground cover is maintained and soil structure is not damaged.

Weed Control

An initial assessment of the Property indicated:

Very low level infestation of Dock, Flat Weed & Cape Weed

Eradication & control will be achieved by a mixture of chemical spray (selective broadleaf weed herbicide), "spot" treatment and/or hand pulling techniques.

Fire Management

Grass in "resting" paddocks/yards and dryland areas will be kept short to minimize fire hazard.

Firebreaks will be maintained on all boundaries. Livestock will be allowed access to firebreaks as a day time grazing option when paddocks are unavailable for grazing to help keep firebreaks clear during the lead up to summer.