



## **Managing livestock on TSRs**

### **Article courtesy of Central West LHPA**

As seasonal conditions continue to dry off, maintaining adequate feed for livestock is a growing concern. Many landholders and livestock owners are making use of or considering using the 'long paddock' to keep livestock in reasonable condition.

Landholders wishing to use Travelling Stock Routes or Reserves (TSRs) for grazing purposes are required to obtain a permit from an LHPA Ranger. These permits are for a set period of time and contain strict conditions about being in attendance with livestock at all times. Illegal grazing on TSRs may result in heavy fines being issued, or in the event of an accident the owner of the stock being held responsible for damages.

A permit means that the owner of the stock is indemnified in the event of a roadside accident as 'stock have right of way' when covered by a current permit. Stock found to be illegally grazing, or unattended on any TSR will receive an immediate infringement.

LHPA rangers will be conducting random inspections of TSRs over the coming months to crackdown on illegal uses. Landholders are encouraged to report any suspicious or illegal activities on TSRs to their local LHPA. This will ensure these lands are available for those who genuinely require them.

The LHPA District Veterinarians have been busy testing rams for Ovine Brucellosis. This is an important annual health check for your rams, but also a great opportunity to get the latest local livestock health information first hand while the vet is on your farm! You don't necessarily have to suspect a reproductive problem in your flock to request a visit. Brucellosis is caused by bacteria which affect the male reproductive tract, causing the testicles to become lumpy and reducing the fertility of the ram. We recommend buying rams from Brucellosis accredited studs and checking your flock rams annually.

The LHPA in conjunction with the CMA and local landholders recently conducted a very successful aerial pig shoot which eradicated 1750 pigs in the Quambone-Coonamble area. A proportion of these pigs had samples taken for disease testing, and these showed that 100% of the pigs tested had been exposed to Leptospirosis. This indicates that this bacteria is actively circulating within the feral pig population in the area. 'Lepto' as it is commonly referred to, is shed in pig urine and survives well in damp environments. If pregnant cows come into contact with the bacteria in the environment, they will abort their calf. Similarly, if calves contact the bacteria they can become ill and even die. Humans can also contract Lepto, and it causes debilitating flu like symptoms. We recommend wearing protective clothing when handling feral pigs or their waste products, and a vaccination program for cattle herds in areas where pigs are prevalent. For more information about a vaccination program tailored for your cattle herd, contact your local LHPA District Vet or your private vet.