

Land, Water, Habitat People - Guidelines

Version 17.0

Grazing	A grazing strategy	A grazing plan to prevent overgrazing and promote continuous improvement in productivity.
	Measurement system	Grass cover maintenance objectives and measurement.
	Drought strategies	A plan to be pro-active and ready for drought so that early action can be taken to avoid long term damage.
Land	Soil structure	Awareness that it is critical to plant growth, water efficiency and erosion control. Minimum tillage practice, organic matter retention etc should be part of the plan.
	Focus on native species	Plant counts. An awareness of what exists and encouragement of the development of desired species.
	Degraded areas	Regeneration strategies to return to previous state.
	Identification of unique plant species	Locking up areas or tighter control on grazing specific areas to allow regeneration of unique plant species.
	Tree cover	Erosion protection, adequate shade for livestock, habitat for birds and other animal species reliant on trees for breeding and protection
	Unique areas and historic sites	Identification and acknowledgement of unique areas and historic sites. A plan to protect these and to protect them from degradation through farming and grazing activities.
Water	Riparian vegetation	Fencing of river and creek banks to prevent erosion as a result of livestock drinking points. Maintenance of or replanting of vegetation.
	Water efficiency	Water storage, monitoring of water storage, water transfer efficiency (evaporation loss), livestock watering points.
	Water quality	Ensuring that good quality water is available to livestock.
	Control of surface erosion points	Awareness of and action to prevent/repair erosion by surface water movement.

Wildlife	Species natural to the area Endangered species	Identification of species natural to the area and catering for their survival. Special care for any endangered species that have habitat on this farm.
Predators	Identification of animal species	Magnitude of problem. Control plan/method
Flora	Endangered species	Identification of any endangered species Plan for protection usually in conjunction with an appropriate state or state authority.
People	Employees Contractors	Wages and salaries in accordance with or above state or federal awards. Facilities for employees who live on the farm - adequate housing in good condition and with appropriate services (electricity, water sewerage) Occupational Health and Safety requirements in accordance with state and federal awards. Accommodation and facilities for shearing teams in good condition and with appropriate services.

References:

Because of the variability in size, enterprise mix, topography, climate and other regional conditions, there is no single approach applicable to land and water management across all merino farms in Australia.

For environmental management, *NewMerino*® benchmarks its system against recognised Standards, Codes of Practice as well as State and Federal laws. These include:

- Environmental Acts
- Protection and Planning Acts
- Natural Resource Management Acts
- Water Resource Acts
- State Water Catchment Authorities

In addition there are many resources and training organisations available to help farmers develop and implement their strategies.

- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- EnviroGraze (Vanguard Business Services), Holistic Management Trainers, (Alan Savory principles), Australian Land Management Group,
- Land Care Australia, Soils for Life