

What we heard - August 2025

Remaking the Border Fence Maintenance Regulation

Summary

This report summarises the feedback received during public consultation about the proposed Border Fence Maintenance Regulation 2025 (BFM Regulation) and associated Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

It outlines our consultation approach including the consultation activities that were undertaken and provides an overview of the feedback we received. It also documents a range of issues that were raised by stakeholders which were out scope for this consultation.

How we consulted

Public consultation of the proposed BFM Regulation and supporting RIS commenced on 10 June 2025 and closed on 7 July 2025 (28 days).

Crown Lands undertook an **Inform and Consult** approach to engagement which:

- notified stakeholders and the community of the proposed activity (**Inform**)
- invited stakeholders and the community to provide feedback on the proposed BFM Regulation and RIS (**Consult**).

This approach was in accordance with requirements in the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989* and the Premier's Department Regional Communities Consultation Guide.

Key engagement and consultation activities

To ensure stakeholders and the community were well informed and provided the opportunity to have their say, the consultation was promoted through a variety of channels including:

- notification on the Crown Lands website from 10 June 2025 to 7 July 2025
- a notice in *The Daily Telegraph* and the NSW Government Gazette
- an advertisement on the 2WEB radio station, played two times a day through the consultation period

- notification on NSW Government Have Your Say website
- letters sent to interested and impacted stakeholders, including the (approximately) 1400 BFM rate payers, NSW Farmers Association and the Pastoralists' Association of the West Darling.

Feedback was invited by email, mail and through online submissions.

We monitored community interest and adjusted our engagement to make sure people could clearly see and understand the proposal and consultation process.

What we heard

Most respondents supported the remake option. Of the 45 submissions received, 32 expressed support for the border fence and remaking the BFM Regulation without amendments.

The following table provides an overview of submissions received.

Summary of support received for each option

Option	Number of respondents in support
Repeal option	1 respondent supported BFM Regulation lapsing
Remake option	34 respondents supported remaking the BFM Regulation without amendment
Preferred option not clearly stated	10 respondents did not clearly articulate what option they supported

Summary of stakeholders who provided feedback

Stakeholder group	Sub-categories	Preferred option
Community members	NA	Remake option - 30 Repeal option - 1 Unclear - 10
Peak bodies	Border Fence Maintenance Board	Remake option
	NSW Farmers Western Division Council	Remake option
Government agencies	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Remake option

Stakeholder group	Sub-categories	Preferred option
	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services	Remake option

Summary of submissions received and methods

Method	Number of respondents
Online submissions	43
Email submissions	2
Postal submissions	0

Other issues raised

Key issue	Description	Frequency
Extend levy to National Parks and Wildlife Services	There was interest in extending the levy for the BFM to NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).	5 respondents raised this issue including NSW Farmers Western Division Council
Extend levy to Central division of NSW	Suggestion to extend the levy for the BFM to farms in the Central division of NSW. The Central division of NSW includes areas such as Moree, Dubbo, Forbes, Wagga and Hay.	1 respondent raised this issue
Fence extension	Bid for the border fence to be extended. Respondents suggested the extension of the border fence is necessary to improve effectiveness.	8 respondents raised this issue
Amend levy calculation to carrying capacity	Suggestion to amend the levy so that it is based on livestock carrying capacity instead of the total acreage of a property.	1 respondent raised this issue
Collaboration with South Australian Government	Suggestion for NSW Government to work with the South Australian Government to maintain both sides of the border fence.	1 respondent raised this issue
Capped rate during floods and drought	Suggestion to cap the levy at \$100 during periods of floods and droughts.	1 respondent raised this issue

Key issue	Description	Frequency
Amend levy calculation based on proximity to border fence	Suggestion for properties near the border fence pay a premium levy and properties that are located over 100kms from the border fence to pay a reduced levy.	1 respondent raised this issue