

# Land Notes

## Natural Resource Management

### FENCE, TRACK AND ROAD PLACEMENT

This fact sheet provides assistance in planning and constructing new tracks, fences and firebreaks on a property.

Some benefits of pre-planned track and fence location are:

- Significantly reduced track maintenance costs
- Reduced risk of erosion by avoiding hazard areas
- Maintenance of pasture productivity through natural water flow
- Better long term access - Trouble areas such as boggy or bull dust areas can be avoided
- Less harm to stock during transport

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#### PLANNING

To plan new road, track and fence line placement, a land type map will be very useful. To roughly determine the most appropriate route you can use:

- a pastoral map with land types marked;
- a detailed land resource map of your property; or
- air photos or a satellite image of the area.

It is vital to do a site check to visually assess the lay of the land and make changes to the plan before machinery is brought in. If drainage is needed, this is the time to sort out where it needs to go!

Mark your proposed route clearly, so the grader driver knows exactly where to go.

#### PADDOCK LAYOUT

Fences are one way of controlling pasture use. Plan fence placement to obtain the mix of country you want in each paddock and to avoid erosion prone areas.

Some options you may consider when dividing land:

- fence out a large area of a particular type of pasture, such as good annual grass country;
- divide land types with similar grazing capacities, so that better country isn't grazed heavily, while harder country is lightly grazed (eg: separate annual grass country from unproductive mulga).

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## LOCATE YOUR FENCE, TRACK OR ROAD ON:

- high ground: -crests of broad gentle rises;
- ridge lines and catchment boundaries;
- stable, hard country, such as gravelly soils or spinifex plains; or
- the contour if unable to follow crests

(See Figures 1-3).

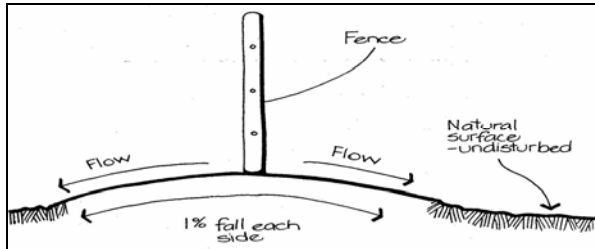


Figure 1 Suggested fence placement

## CROSS WATER COURSES:

- at right angles to the watercourse;
- where the bank is lowest;
- where there is a well-defined channel;
- on straight stretches; and
- batter down the banks so that they have gentle slopes

## PLAN AND LOCATE GATES:

- on stable, hard country;
- on higher areas or hill crests;
- at least 100-200m away from corners.

## AVOID LOCATING CLEARED LINES

- down long straight slopes;
- down steep slopes;
- in low spots, drainage areas, flood outs & swamps;
- on unstable soils eg: salty or bull dust areas;
- near eroded areas;
- along floodplains, watercourses and drainage lines (these can be identified on air photos). If these areas can't be avoided, locate cleared lines parallel to drainage, off the flood plain.

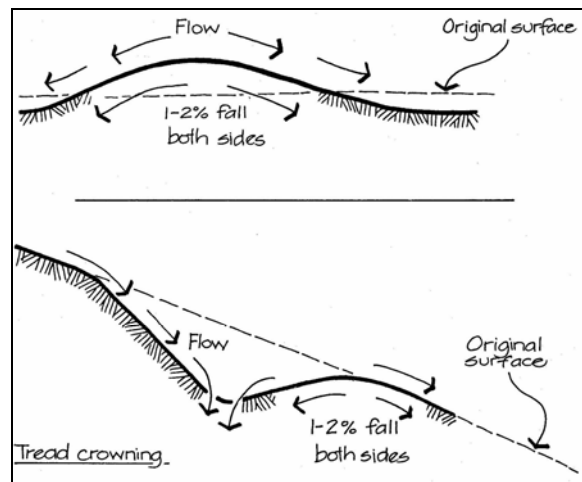


Figure 2 Suggested Track Design

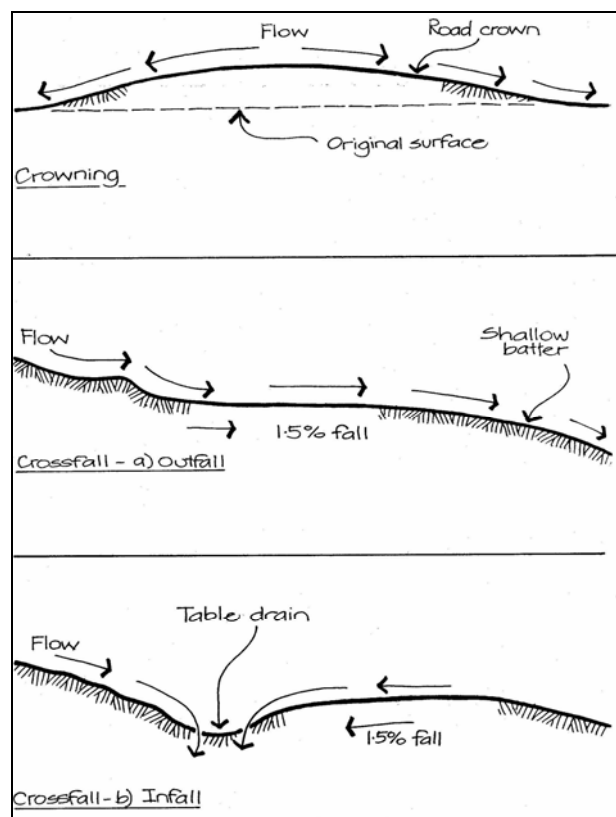


Figure 3 Suggested road design

For further information about controlling erosion in the southern region of the NT contact Advisory and Regulatory Services or visit our website

[www.lpe.nt.gov.au/advis/land/soils.htm](http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/advis/land/soils.htm)



Northern Territory Government

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