

Biosecurity Act 2014

New biosecurity laws for Queensland: livestock

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) will come into effect on 1 July 2016.

The Act will improve Queensland's biosecurity preparedness and response capabilities. Under the Act, we will be better placed to focus on the biosecurity risks that impact our economy, our agricultural and tourism industries, our environment and our lifestyle.

All individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk will have a legal responsibility for managing them.

The general biosecurity obligation for livestock

As a livestock producer you will need to take an active role in managing biosecurity risks under your control. You will not be expected to know about all biosecurity risks, but you will be expected to know about those associated with your day-to-day work and your hobbies.

The general biosecurity obligation means you will need to ensure your activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.

You will need to:

- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk;
- minimise the likelihood of the risk causing a biosecurity event and limit the consequences of such an event; and
- prevent or minimise the adverse effects the risk could have and refrain from doing anything that might exacerbate the adverse effects.

A biosecurity risk exists when you deal with any pest, disease or contaminant, or with something that could carry one of these. This includes moving or keeping a pest, disease or contaminant, or animals, plants, soil and equipment that could carry a pest, disease or contaminant.

A biosecurity event is caused by a pest, disease or contaminant that is, or is likely to become, a significant problem for your industry, human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment.

Where a specific and significant threat exists, regulations or other measures may be introduced to specify how the general biosecurity obligation is to be met.

You're planning to sell cattle at the local saleyards. When you muster your cattle you notice that several of them are in poor condition and have a nasal discharge. You aren't too sure what it is. It is not a reasonable action to take those animals to a saleyard where a possible disease could spread to other animals. A practical action could be to call a veterinarian to obtain a professional opinion on what could be wrong with those animals before moving them.

Registration requirements if you keep animals

Under the Act the property identification code (PIC) system will continue. This system provides important information for traceability purposes in case of a disease outbreak or contamination.

If you keep designated animals you will be required to register with Biosecurity Queensland. Designated animals are cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, members of the camel family; members of the equine family, designated birds, and bees.

You must register if you keep:

- one or more cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, camels (e.g. alpacas, llamas) or equines (e.g. horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, zebras)
- 100 or more designated birds
- one or more bee hives.

When you register, a PIC will be issued for the property where the animals are kept.

Under the Act, if you keep designated animals you are a registrable biosecurity entity. The registrable biosecurity entity is generally the owner of the animals because the owner usually



Biosecurity Act 2014

has the responsibility for the care and control of the animals.

If you are the registrable biosecurity entity but do not own the land where the animals are kept, you will need to be authorised by the land owner to gain access to the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declarations (LPA NVD/waybills).

Registration period

Registration will be valid for three years from the date of registration. If, after that three year period you are still keeping designated animals, you will need to renew your registration.

If you do not renew your registration prior to expiry, your PIC(s) may be cancelled.

If you are already registered and have been allocated a PIC before 1 July 2016, you will automatically be registered as a biosecurity entity on 1 July 2016. Your registration will be valid until 1 July 2019.

Please contact us to review your details and provide a current email address so we can contact you about your registration if needed. You can either contact your local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regional office or our Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23 to review your details.

How to register

From 1 July 2016, you can obtain an application form to register as a biosecurity entity and receive a PIC by:

- Visiting www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au
- Contacting your local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regional office for an application form. To find your nearest office visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au
- Calling the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23.

Movement records

Under the Act, the requirement to record animal movements has been expanded. This will help ensure a robust traceability system is in place.

From 1 July 2016, every time a designated animal moves from a property, a movement record must be created by the registrable biosecurity entity. An exemption applies for those movements to a neighbouring property within 20km for ordinary stock management purposes.

The new legislation recognises the need for more flexible methods of recording animal movements. It allows for a range of methods (including electronic records) to be used as a valid record as long as it captures the following details:

- where the animal/s are being moved from
- where the animal/s are being moved to and the name of the person receiving the animal/s
- a description of the animal/s including species, breed and any distinguishing feature sufficient to identify the animal/s
- the date of movement
- the person completing the record

Industry quality assurance programs may still require you to complete their nominated forms (e.g. NVD/waybills, Pigpass) as these capture the required information, they will be valid movement records in Queensland.

The movement record must be in the possession of the drover of the stock if you are moving cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, alpacas or llamas or if you are moving horses across the tick line.

Cattle tick management

As of 1 July 2016 a new risk-based cattle tick management framework for Queensland will commence. The new framework will provide greater flexibility for producers managing cattle tick on their property and facilitate reduced travel times and costs for industry.

Under the proposed framework, part of Queensland will be declared as a tick free zone



Biosecurity Act 2014

and the remainder as a tick-infested zone. All producers will continue to have an obligation to report the presence of cattle tick and tick fever in the free zone. Infested properties in the free zone will have to ensure their livestock are tick free before they are moved and undertake a program to eradicate ticks from their property.

To ensure that the tick free zone remains tick free, regulatory control will be applied on high risk activities, such as moving livestock from the infested zone onto properties in the tick free zone. However, the proposed new framework provides more flexibility for low risk activities such as moving horses across the tick line and livestock to feedlots and abattoirs.

Property owners that have cattle tick infestations have an obligation to take all reasonable actions to stop cattle tick spreading, whether the property is in the cattle tick free zone or in the cattle tick infested zone. Property owners must practice good biosecurity regardless of their location and tick status.

More information about moving cattle across the tick line is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

More information

To find out more about your responsibilities visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

Published on 13 May 2016

