

Biosecurity Act 2014

Proposed cattle tick management in Queensland

It is proposed that from 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 and the remainder as a tick infested zone. The location of the tick line is yet to be confirmed.

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 cattle 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 free zone. However, the 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 a cattle tick infestation will have an obligation to take all reasonable actions to stop cattle tick spreading. Property owners must practice good biosecurity regardless of their location and tick status.

Crossing the tick line

Movement requirements for livestock crossing the tick line under the new framework will provide a balance between protecting the free zone from the introduction of cattle tick and management of the movement of livestock that pose a low risk of spreading ticks.

High risk livestock (cattle, buffalo/bison and deer)

High risk livestock will be those species that are suitable hosts for cattle ticks and pose a significant risk to spreading viable cattle tick. High risk livestock include cattle, buffalo/bison and deer.

A biosecurity certificate issued by an accredited certifier will be required to accompany high risk livestock moving from a property in the infested zone into the free zone. The biosecurity certificate provides the assurance that the Livestock are free of cattle tick and have met the regulatory requirements for movement.

Low risk livestock (horses, camels, goats, sheep, llamas, vicunas, guanacos and alpacas)

Low risk livestock will be those species that can be hosts for cattle ticks but pose a low risk of spreading viable cattle tick. Low risk livestock include horses, camels, goats, sheep, llamas, vicunas, guanacos and alpacas.

A biosecurity certificate will not be required to move low risk livestock into the free zone, however the owner of the livestock must meet the regulatory requirements to move these livestock across the tick line. Owners



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moving low risk livestock into the free zone must declare on their movement record that they have met the requirements to move livestock across the tick line and that their livestock are tick free.

Queensland Biosecurity Manual

The Queensland Biosecurity Manual will provide detailed information on activities that should be undertaken to reduce the biosecurity threats most likely to impact Queensland. The Queensland Biosecurity Manual will outline procedures that must be followed to meet certain requirements under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, including for cattle tick.

The Queensland Biosecurity Manual will describe the standards used by accredited certifiers and owners of low risk livestock to declare their livestock are cattle tick free and that the risk minimisation requirements to move the livestock across the tick line have been met.

From 1 July 2016 the Queensland Biosecurity Manual will be available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Accredited certifiers

Accredited certifiers will be trained persons who have been authorised by the Queensland Government to certify the cattle tick status of livestock crossing the tick line. Accredited certifiers will be able to perform inspections and issue biosecurity certificates allowing livestock to be moved from the tick infested zone to the tick free zone. Accredited certifiers may perform inspections and issue biosecurity certificates at any location. This will allow livestock to be certified at their place of origin and then moved direct to their destination.

The accredited certifier system will expand on the third party provider system with the addition of extra control mechanisms to ensure the system is auditable and accredited certifiers are accountable. Accredited certifiers will need to complete appropriate training and have the necessary expertise and experience to be appointed. Accredited certifiers will be granted accreditation by the Chief Executive and undergo annual audits. Accreditation may be cancelled at any time if their service is deemed to not meet the necessary requirements.

Cattle tick infestations in the tick free zone

Properties that are infested with cattle tick in the tick free zone will be subject to movement controls and will be required to undertake a cattle tick eradication program.

Restricted places

Properties in the tick free zone that are infested with cattle tick will be placed on the restricted places register. Properties designated as restricted places will be subject to the same movement requirements as properties in the infested zone.

To move high risk livestock from a restricted place to the free zone, an accredited certifier will be able to issue a certificate stating that the requirements as stated in the Queensland Biosecurity Manual have been met. The costs associated with the service provided by accredited certifiers will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Removal from the restricted place register

To be removed from the restricted places register, a property owner will have to



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provide evidence to Biosecurity Queensland to demonstrate they have eradicated cattle tick from the place. This may include a detailed program of actions outlining the actions that have been taken (e.g. chemical treatment, destocking) to eradicate cattle tick from the property. An accredited certifier may provide a report stating they have inspected livestock on the property and are confident the eradication program has been successful. The costs associated with the service provided by accredited certifiers will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Additional validation may be undertaken by Biosecurity Queensland before a property is removed from the restricted place register.

Guidelines for eradicating cattle tick will be available from your local biosecurity officer or by calling Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Cattle tick surveillance program

Queensland Government biosecurity officers will conduct surveillance for cattle ticks in the cattle tick free zone. The surveillance program will provide an understanding of where cattle ticks may be in the tick free zone and identify key risk areas. The surveillance program will be targeted to high risk areas along the tick line and in properties surrounding tick outbreaks in the free zone. The surveillance program will monitor the effectiveness of cattle tick eradication programs on infested properties in the cattle tick free zone.

The cattle tick surveillance program will not provide property inspections for market access or proof of freedom. These services will be provided by accredited certifiers.

More information

For more information about cattle tick management in Queensland visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

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