



Last chance to speak up on cattle lay pregnancy testing

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AgForce is urging Queensland cattle producers to have their say on the need for increased access to reliable and affordable pregnancy testing services before a State Government consultation process closes next week.

AgForce Cattle President Will Wilson said outdated regulations and a lack of vets in remote areas were increasing costs and reducing margins for live exporters and cattle breeding operations reliant on pregnancy testing services.

“High fertility rates are crucial to the success of all breeding businesses, and pregnancy testing is a key herd management tool that helps producers boost their productivity and profitability,” he said.

“For too long Queensland cattle producers have been at a competitive disadvantage to producers in other parts of Australia where lay pregnancy testers are legally operating and have done for years.

“That’s why it’s so vital we have our say and make the most of the opportunity the Queensland Government has provided.”

Producers can provide comment by completing a ten-minute survey anonymously at

<http://bit.ly/cattlepregnancytesting>, by emailing bioseclegislation@daf.qld.gov.au or by mailing to GPO Box 46, Brisbane, 4001 before 14 December 2018.

Mr Wilson said vets already operated in a market alongside an underground of laypersons providing pregnancy testing, and there was no evidence this had reduced their business.

“We have been and will continue to work with the Australian Vet Association, the Cattle Vet Association and the RSPCA to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare are achieved,” he said.

“Our aim is to provide a training and accreditation program which will elevate the existing often skilled underground to the professional standing they deserve.

“That’s why we support option three in the survey – to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 and require an industry owned training and accreditation program.”

Media Contact: Will Wilson 0408 757 448