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Minister for Primary Industries
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Review of Bovine Johne's Disease

The NSW Government will conduct a review of the Bovine Johne's Disease program to identify the next steps and determine whether BJD zones in NSW can be removed, Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald announced today.

The Minister has appointed Alex McDonald to chair the review, who is the BJD Spokesperson for the Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association and a member of the National BJD Reference Group.

"The aim of this review is to maintain or increase market access for our primary producers and minimise regulation," Minister Macdonald said.

"Stockowners now have greater individual responsibility to make sure they don't bring the disease onto their farm, following regulations the NSW Government introduced in March last year.

"The review will examine the impact of risk-based trading, which was introduced for the dairy industry last year, as well as the expected impact on trade if the BJD zones are removed from our State.

"The NSW Government will continue to work with producers to minimise contamination of farms and farm products, protect non-infected herds, and minimise the social and economic impact of BJD."

Bovine Johne's disease can cause wasting, chronic diarrhoea and decreased production and results in premature death. It affects cattle, goats, deer and alpaca.

The review will address:

- Impacts of removing BJD zones in NSW, especially the impact on interstate trade.
 - If further changes are required to the BJD policy, possible alternative approaches and impact of new technologies.
 - The impact of regulatory changes introduced last year on producers, export and interstate trade, rangers, veterinarians, agents and DPI staff.
 - Effectiveness of regulations, compliance, changes to the level of BJD surveillance.
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- Changes in incidence of BJD in each industry sector.
- Risk of spread of BJD from the dairy to beef industry as determined by audit of movements from IN dairy herds using the NLIS database and other methods.
- Consistency with National BJD Strategic Plan and the National Johne's Disease Program Standard Definitions and Rules for Cattle.

"I would encourage any landholders, producers or individuals from industry to have their say and make a submission to this review," Mr Macdonald said.

"We are keen to get some feedback on this process and make sure we get the future management details right for producers in NSW."

Submissions to the review need to be made by 26th October, 2009.

The Terms of Reference for the review are available on the website of Industry and Investment NSW – www.industry.nsw.gov.au
