

Cattle tick

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Management of the biosecurity risk

Cattle Tick is a significant endemic disease animal health issue in the Australian cattle industry costing an estimated \$160 million annually.. Losses occur due to direct production impacts and via the spread of tick fever, a major cause of death and illness in northern Australian cattle herds. Cattle ticks are endemic in northern Australia and if not subjected to regulatory action, would spread through much of eastern NSW and cost the NSW cattle industry an estimated \$30 million annually.

The purpose of the NSW Cattle Tick Program is to prevent entry of cattle tick and detect and eradicate cattle tick infestations in NSW.

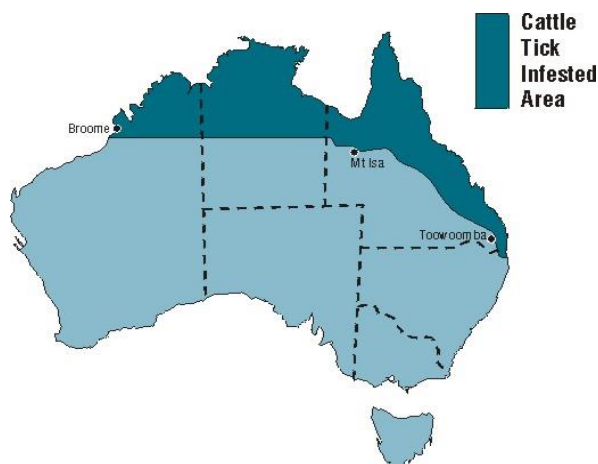
The benefits of the Program to the NSW livestock industries are:

- the biosecurity risks posed by cattle tick are being actively managed through a shared responsibility between the NSW livestock industries and the NSW government
- people can purchase livestock with confidence that they are free from cattle tick.

Movement restrictions on livestock entering NSW reduce the chance that cattle tick from endemic areas can enter NSW. Cattle Tick is notifiable in NSW under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) and infestations are eradicated wherever they are detected. Properties where cattle tick is detected are regulated until eradication of the parasite is complete.

Cattle Tick (*Rhipicephalus [boophilus] microplus or australis*) is a one host tick meaning all three feeding stages (larvae, nymphs, adult) remain on the one host till they drop off and lay eggs. The parasitic phase of the life cycle is around three weeks and the non-parasitic environmental phase can be up to nine months but depends heavily on environmental conditions.

Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory have both cattle tick infested and free areas while all of NSW is a cattle tick free area.



Information on the location of cattle tick infested zones and livestock movement conditions in regard to cattle tick can be found on jurisdiction websites. See:

- <http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=dc39d0aad4a64c30acc438f8c5dc4e9&extent=133.3416,-29.6449,161.7303,-10.9572>
- <https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/animal-health-and-diseases/cattle-tick-control>
- <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/conditions-entry-stock-relation-tick-western-australia>

Scope

The Act promotes biosecurity as a shared responsibility between government, industry and communities. This procedure is a State Priority for NSW and should be read in conjunction with the 'Endemic Pests and Diseases of Animal policy'. The procedure applies to the NSW Department of Primary Industry (DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) in their role as authorised officers under the Act.

Biosecurity legislation summary

Cattle tick is listed as a pest which requires notification in Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (the Regulation). The listing requires people to notify any suspect or known cases of cattle tick to Local Land Services (www.lls.nsw.gov.au) or the NSW Department of Primary Industries within 1 working day of first suspecting or becoming aware of cattle tick in any animal species. Cattle tick is subject to two Mandatory Measures under Section 14 of the Regulation:

- a person must not import into the State any of the following animals from Queensland, the Northern Territory or Western Australia: cattle, camelids, equines, deer, goats or sheep unless they comply with the requirements in the Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017.
- Any person (e.g. stock owner or manager, agent, veterinarian, veterinary laboratory, saleyard managers and stock transporter etc.) who deals with potential cattle tick carriers and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with cattle tick has a general biosecurity duty to take measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk as far as is reasonably practicable.

Potential ways to discharge this 'biosecurity duty' will include:

- regularly monitoring animals for signs of infestation
- notification of suspected infestation
- maintaining stock proof fences to prevent stock straying
- being cautious when introducing cattle tick carriers from high risk areas to their farm
- using inspections and quarantine on arrival of cattle tick carriers to minimise the risk of introducing cattle tick
- inspecting cattle tick carriers that stray onto their property to assess the risk that they may be carrying cattle tick
- presenting all stock in an infested herd for inspection and treatment by an authorised officer
- making and maintaining records of stock movements.

See the [Primefact 79 Cattle ticks](#) or more information on how to reduce the risk of spread of cattle tick.

The collection, use and disclosure of information in accordance with this procedure, including any internal or external discussion or distribution of information, must be in compliance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* or be exempted by the operation of section 387 of the Act.

Section 387 (2) of the Act provides authority for the disclosure of information about a person, without the consent of the person: to a public sector agency or to any other person, but only if the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose of exercising a biosecurity risk function.

Work health and safety

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI and LLS) as a person conducting a business or Undertaking and workers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Safe Work Method Statements that support activities included in this procedure must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this procedure.

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Cattle Tick procedure

1. Roles and responsibilities

1.1 Animal owners and managers

- notify any suspicion of cattle tick infestation or tick fever suspicion to an authorised officer in NSW DPI or LLS
- comply with movement requirements for stock moving between different cattle tick zones
- comply with request for information from authorised officer on livestock movements and land they have use of for grazing
- comply with any regulatory instruments
- take appropriate preventative actions to keep cattle tick out of their herds.

1.2 Agents and saleyards staff

- notify any suspicion of cattle tick infestation or tick fever suspicion to an authorised officer in NSW DPI or LLS
- not sell any animals from the pen where there is suspicion of cattle tick infestation.

1.3 Private veterinarians

- notify any suspicion of cattle tick infestation or tick fever suspicion to an authorised officer in NSW DPI or LLS
- submit samples for cattle tick and tick fever exclusion.

1.4 Authorised officers NSW DPI

- follow the procedure for [Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals](#)
- issue regulatory instruments to minimise the risk of spread of cattle tick infestations and to assist in ensuring infestations are eradicated
- provide information and advice to animal owners and managers on cattle tick identification, cattle tick eradication programs and on any regulatory instruments used in cattle tick management
- undertake cattle tick inspections, treatments and certification where required
- undertake audits of livestock events such as camp drafts, shows, sales, gymkhanas etc. to monitor compliance with cattle tick carrier movement requirements.

1.5 Authorised officers LLS

- follow the Procedure for [Reporting Notifiable Pests and Diseases of Animals](#)
- issue regulatory instruments to minimise the risk of spread of cattle tick infestations and to assist in ensuring infestations are eradicated.
- provide information and advice to animal owners and managers on cattle tick identification, cattle tick eradication programs and on any regulatory instruments used in cattle tick management.
- undertake certification of land, stock or product for cattle tick where required.

1.6 Cattle Tick Program staff

- maintain records of cattle tick program activity as required
- operate and monitor border camera surveillance system
- monitor movements of cattle tick hosts entering NSW by reviewing movements documents and border cam records to identify potential movements that may breach entry requirements
- investigate livestock movements that may have breached entry requirements
- undertake regular sampling of dips under NSW DPI control as required
- send dip samples for laboratory testing from NSW DPI controlled dips monthly and private dips as submitted and report results back to submitters

- using results from dip sampling under DPI control undertake rectification of dip baths to required active levels as required
- maintain adequate supplies of chemicals and equipment for program operations
- conduct inspections of cattle tick hosts consigned to abattoirs and saleyards from cattle tick infected zones
- organise the printing and supply on request and payment of books of serially numbered self-carboned pages containing the Form Racehorse Declaration and Waybill for Thoroughbred horses to approved Qld and NSW racing venues
- provide phone/email advice to owners or managers of animals such as deer or exhibited and non-domestic animals re meeting cattle tick requirements when entering NSW.

1.7 NSW DPI and LLS managers

- support training of field staff in developing and maintaining skills in cattle tick identification and epidemiology
- ensure suspect investigations are recorded in property-based disease records.

1.8 Manager SR&QB

- ensure eradication programs are undertaken as prescribed
- undertake risk assessments
- arrange for resistance testing of ticks as required
- produce property investigation summary reports for complex infestations
- develop and review NSW DPI programs to ensure compliance with entry requirements for cattle tick hosts entering NSW.

1.9 Leader (Cattle Tick Operations)

- provide oversight of cattle tick program operations.
- monitor expenditure on cattle tick program
- ensure WHS issues are managed adequately by program
- organise staff training
- manage human and physical resources according to NSW DPI policies.

1.10 Cattle tick program technical coordinator

- provide technical and epidemiological advice to cattle tick program
- produce policy, technical and advisory material on cattle tick for stakeholders and LLS and NSW DPI staff
- represent NSW at national cattle tick meetings.

1.11 Group Director Animal Biosecurity and Welfare

- allocate budget for cattle tick program.

2. Notification and Reporting

Cattle ticks are notifiable in NSW under the Act and any person who suspects an animal is infested with cattle tick must notify a NSW DPI or LLS authorised officer promptly. Notifications of suspected cattle tick infestation may be made by ringing the local [LLS](#) or [NSW DPI office](#).

Notifications of suspected cattle tick infestation must be reported and assessed as per the Procedure on Reporting Notifiable Pests and Diseases of Animals.

An authorised officer who is aware of a failure to discharge a general biosecurity duty that has or is likely to result in a significant risk of the spread of cattle tick must notify their manager with a view to taking regulatory action.

3. NSW entry requirements

3.1 General movement requirements

Information about animal movements into and within NSW can be found at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/stock-movements>

3.2 Actions by staff at DPI cattle tick host clearance facilities

NSW DPI staff working at the cattle tick border clearance facilities must:

- assess cattle tick carriers presented for clearance to check that they meet the definition of led and tractable
- advise owners of cattle tick hosts presented at Kirra or Mt Lindesay that do not meet the definitions of led and tractable, of other options to obtain 'clearance' for entry to NSW
- examine all eligible cattle tick carriers presented at a NSW DPI clearance facility and where live ticks are found:
 - reject all cattle tick carriers in the affected consignment originating from the same property,
 - treat all the cattle tick carriers in the affected consignment and direct them to return home and
 - complete the form Cattle tick –individual biosecurity direction re stock denied entry into NSW (CM9 ref INT17/16134) and email a copy to cattletick@dpi.nsw.gov.au.
 - refuse entry into NSW if cattle tick carriers are re-presented for clearance less than:
 - four days after the failed inspection or
 - one day after the failed inspection in the case of cattle for concessional slaughter.

3.3 Actions by NSW DPI cattle tick compliance staff

NSW DPI cattle tick compliance staff will review all received forms and ensure they are complete and appropriate for the proposed movement requirement.

4. Surveillance

Surveillance activities will be undertaken by staff from the Cattle Tick Program at abattoirs, saleyards and on at risk properties (as per definitions) in north eastern NSW to detect cattle ticks.

5. Auditing of events

Events such as shows, pony club meets, campdrafts, gymkhanas, stud sales etc. where cattle tick carriers from high risk areas (e.g. Qld infested zone) are likely to be attending are audited randomly by NSW DPI authorised officers to ensure that any cattle tick minimisation requirements have been met.

The Work Instruction – Cattle tick auditing events attended by cattle tick carriers from high risk areas (CM9 ref: INT20/6222) is to be followed.

6. Response following detection of Cattle Tick

6.1 Detection during surveillance activities

Occasionally cattle tick are detected outside north eastern NSW and authorised officers from LLS may be required to assist authorised officers from NSW DPI to respond to and manage the infestation. This will occur under the guidance and direction of staff of the Cattle Tick Program, who will also provide guidance on any necessary paperwork required (such as forms, correspondence, records, etc.) and provide technical advice.

An authorised officer who detects cattle ticks on stock on property must:

- initially leave the tick(s) in situ on the animal and where possible show them to the owner and/or person in charge of the animal.
- photograph the ticks in situ using a phone.
- collect up to 20 ticks of varying stages and place them in a labelled collection container, see. [Primefact -Collection and storage of ticks](#).
- complete a [Form cattle tick specimen advice](#) for the ticks.

- hand the completed specimen advice and the sample of ticks to a supervisor and ensure they sign the specimen submission form to maintain the chain of custody.
- add any photographs and a copy of the specimen advice to the property record.

An authorised officer who detects cattle tick on sale stock at a public saleyard must:

- initially leave the tick(s) in situ on the animal and where possible show them to the owner or the owner's agent
- before removal photograph the ticks in situ using a phone if safe to do so
- obtain the National Vendor Declaration for the cattle from the agent and determine the Property Identification Code (PIC) of the cattle in the pen. Where a pen contains a mixed consignment containing different PICS the cattle will need to be individually examined to determine which PIC relates to the cattle tick infested animal(s)
- determine from the agent the location of all cattle at the sale with the same PIC as the infested cattle
- advise the agent that the cattle can either go direct to a concessional abattoir for immediate slaughter or be returned home under permit. The cattle cannot be sold as restockers.
- if there is a dip at the saleyards the cattle will be dipped off if not going to slaughter. If there is no dip available the authorised officer must issue a biosecurity direction that specifies that they must be returned home, that they be restricted to the property and instructions on what treatment will be required
- the biosecurity direction must include instructions for the transport to travel directly to the destination and to be hosed out afterwards on the property to remove any ticks that may have fallen off the animals collect up to 20 ticks of varying stages and place them in a labelled collection container, see. [Cattle tick - collection and storage of cattle ticks found on livestock](#)
- complete a [Form cattle tick specimen advice](#) for the ticks
- hand the completed specimen advice and the sample of ticks to a supervisor and ensure they sign the specimen submission form to maintain the chain of custody
- consider whether the stockowner should be interviewed with a view to regulatory action (warning letter, penalty notice or prosecution). As a guide, an interview with a view to prosecution should be conducted if more than 10 ticks on any one animal can be observed by an authorised officer standing outside a pen
- add any photos and a copy of the specimen advice and any regulatory instruments issued to the property record
- advise the stock owner of the detection of cattle tick by telephone if details are available or arrange for another authorised officer to contact the stock owner.

Any authorised officer who detects cattle tick on slaughter stock at an abattoir must:

- initially leave the tick(s) in situ on the animal and show them to an abattoir floor supervisor
- obtain the body number for the infested animals from abattoir staff
- obtain the PIC details for the property of origin from the livestock office of the abattoir. For sale cattle moving from a saleyard the post-sale summary can be used to do an NLIS life history search
- collect up to 20 ticks of varying stages and place them in a labelled collection container, see
- complete a [Form cattle tick specimen advice](#) for the ticks
- hand the completed specimen advice and the sample of ticks to a supervisor and ensure they sign the specimen submission form to maintain the chain of custody
- if the infested animal has a NSW PIC consider whether the stockowner should be interviewed with a view to regulatory action (warning letter, penalty notice or prosecution). As a guide, an interview should be conducted if more than 10 ticks on any one animal can be observed visually by an authorised officer
- add a copy of the specimen advice to the property record

- advise the stockowner of the detection of cattle tick.

6.2 Review of samples

- a supervisor examines the tick sample from the authorised officer under magnification and if satisfied that they are cattle tick and no further examination or testing is necessary the tick sample is discarded and noted on the specimen advice. If further examination or resistance testing is required (e.g. atypical morphology from prior chemical use or there are small numbers of immature ticks or males) the suspect tick(s) and completed specimen advice are forwarded to the Leader Cattle Tick Operations by road transport
- the Leader Cattle Tick Operations may undertake further examination or may refer the sample for laboratory examination and/or resistance testing and will organise packing the sample and completing any laboratory accession form necessary.

6.3 Regulatory response

Once the property that the animal(s) have moved from is identified, the following must be undertaken:

- a NSW DPI authorised officer must visit the property and take steps under the Act to minimise the risk of spread of cattle ticks through a containment and eradication program. If the stockowner/manager is available, they will be issued with a biosecurity direction (section 128) or if an offence is suspected asked to sign a biosecurity undertaking (Section 143). The biosecurity direction or undertaking must include:
 - restrictions on cattle tick carriers moving onto or off the property
 - requirements to monitor and maintain stock proof boundary fences
 - provide information on stock movements on and off the property in the preceding 12 months
 - a requirement to present a full muster of all cattle tick carriers for regular inspection and treatment by an authorised officer at a suitable time for both parties.

Information on issuing a biosecurity direction or receiving a biosecurity undertaking can be found in the [Biosecurity Directions procedure](#) and [Biosecurity Undertakings procedure](#).

If a property visit will be delayed the AO must provide a verbal direction on the restrictions applying to the stock and property but this must be followed up with a written direction within 7 days.

When the stockowner is available

- the NSW DPI authorised officer arranges to meet in person and assisted by the stockowner, undertakes to complete the property investigation forms in the *Infested holdings information pack* and obtain the stockowners signature on the relevant forms. This pack is saved in **CM9 reference: INT20/62533**
- the authorised officer must explain each requirement in any regulatory instruments to the stockowner/person in charge as well as provide written advisory information on cattle tick biology. They should also be advised it takes approximately 24 months to complete the eradication program (inspections, treatments and post eradication monitoring) before property restrictions on account of cattle tick are removed.
- During the investigation the AO will discuss the status of the boundary fences on the property and assess as much of the boundary fences as possible by vehicle. Based on this assessment and discussions with the stockowner the Boundary Fence Assessment and Repair Agreement (saved in **CM9 reference: INT19/38300**) will be completed and a declaration on the bottom signed by the responsible person. This document will specify when any repairs must be completed by. If the AO believes that inspection of the remaining sections of boundary fence is required, then that will be undertaken separately and may require horseback inspection. Any further repairs identified during that inspection will be added onto the existing Boundary Fence Assessment and Repair agreement including dates when any repairs must be completed.

- if the boundary fences repairs are not completed within the timeframe on the agreement then the authorised officer may issue a biosecurity direction stating that they must be repaired by the stockowner to a stock-proof standard and reinspected by an authorised officer before any eradication program commences.
- using the information provided in the Livestock Movement Declaration form an authorised officer will undertake risk assessments of all the livestock movements identified in the Livestock movement declaration. The NLIS database and agents' records may be used to assist in these investigation
- an authorised officer will contact the stockowner to arrange a herd inspection for cattle tick of all herds assessed to be at risk of cattle tick infestation. The same authorised officer will normally then manage all further aspects of the cattle tick eradication program on the property (inspections, supervising treatments, permits for movement, clearance treatments, queries or questions)
- the authorised officer will record details of the herd inspection on the [Form cattle tick specimen advice](#) if cattle tick are found, or the property file if a clean examination is reported.

For movement requirements off properties restricted on account of cattle tick see section 7.

6.4 Low Risk holdings

Holdings on which cattle tick have not been detected but may be present because of high risk movements or because they adjoin infested holdings are classified as "Low Risk". Investigations are aimed at ensuring cattle tick are not present on stock on the property.

The following steps are required for low risk holdings:

- a NSW DPI authorised officer must visit the property and take steps under the Act to minimise the risk of spread of cattle ticks through a containment program. If the stockowner/manager is available, they are issued with a Biosecurity Direction (section 128) or if an offence may have been committed ask to sign a Biosecurity Undertaking (Section 143). The biosecurity undertaking or direction must include:
 - restrictions on cattle tick carriers moving onto or off the property
 - a requirement to present a full muster of all cattle tick carriers for inspection by an authorised officer at a suitable time for both parties.
- information on biosecurity undertaking and biosecurity direction found in the respective Procedures.
- when the stockowner/person in charge is available complete the property investigation forms contained in the *adjoining holdings information pack*. This pack is saved in CM9 **reference: INT20/62550:**
 - **Property investigation (adjoining holding)** – information about the management and movement of animals on and off the low risk property including straying. This information will assist in assessing the risks that cattle tick might turn up on the low risk holding. It may also provide information on the source of the cattle tick infestation on the infested holding.
 - **Property declaration** - declaration of all the properties in which the stockholder has some interest (owned, leased, agisted, common management).
 - **Advisory information**- The authorised officer will provide copies of cattle tick information and identification.
- the NSW DPI authorised officer must explain each requirement in any regulatory instruments to the stockowner/person in charge as well as advisory information on cattle tick biology. They should also be advised that the property will remain restricted until the eradication program on the infested holding is complete and all herd inspections of all the adjoining (low risk) holdings completed. This normally takes up to 24 months

- a NSW DPI authorised officer will undertake two manual examinations of all cattle tick carriers on the property at six weekly intervals. The first such herd examination will be undertaken as soon as possible unless there is evidence that the herd has been treated with an acaricide recently. Recent treatments may mask infestations, so it is recommended to wait three weeks after treatment before examining the stock. If cattle ticks are detected at any stage the property becomes an infested holding and managed as such.
- if both herd examinations are negative the herd is not subjected to an eradication program but cattle tick host movements from the property will be restricted.
- Where the responsible person is not available the AO can issue a verbal Biosecurity Direction and follow that up within 7 days with a written IBD.

For movement requirements off properties restricted on account of cattle tick see section 7.

6.5 High risk holdings.

On occasions a property may be classified by the Manager Surveillance Response and Queensland Border (SR&QB) as “high risk” based on a risk assessment by a NSW DPI authorised officer and as a result, some herd treatments are undertaken. An example might be where several strategic treatments are given on a small number of properties which have had straying stock from an infested holding to prevent spread of cattle tick down a valley. Where there is Cattle Tick Program expense involved this has to be negotiated between the property owner and Manager SR&QB.

6.6 Eradication Programs

6.6.1 Musters

- the authorised officer must stress to the owner/manager the importance of full musters at every herd inspection or treatment and this will be a condition in the biosecurity direction or biosecurity undertaking. If musters are incomplete the owner must be required to present the missing stock within two days. If there are problems with getting full musters the Manager SR&QB must be advised. Regulatory/compliance action can be taken if there is failure to ensure all cattle tick hosts are presented for examination and treatment
- if there are concerns that full musters are not or may not be achieved cattle should be ear tagged by the authorised officer to enable identification of missing cattle. If management tags are to be used all numbers should be recorded and a check sheet taken to subsequent musters. Additional tags should always be available
- NLIS tags may be scanned to identify cattle that have recently moved on to the property or cattle that have strayed.

6.6.2 Treatment program

- the eradication program can commence once the stockowner has signed a *Chemical treatment agreement form* and signed the declaration *in the Boundary Fence Assessment and Repair Agreement*.
- It is important that boundary fences are stock-proof before commencing the eradication program. If getting the fences stock-proof is going to be delayed this needs to be discussed with the AO’s supervisor regarding the commencement date for the eradication program.
- the authorised officer managing the eradication program must discuss the proposed program with their supervisor and the stockowner. The owner must be made aware of the management implication associated with products which have longer Export Slaughter Intervals (ESIs as per definitions)
- dipping at 21-day intervals is the preferred option if there is access to a plunge dip as amitraz has a nil ESI and is the most cost effective in terms of chemical costs. See 6.6.3. for licencing a dip
- if using a dip, the authorised officer must undertake dip sampling prior to using a plunge dip and prior to commencement of the each round such that any required rectification can be

undertaken before the next round of treatment. Information on dip sampling is contained in the [Primefact – Cattle tick amitraz dips](#)

- where there is no plunge dip or where resistance is suspected, MLs are usually used for the on-property eradication program. In most instances the initial treatment will be by injectable ML and subsequent treatments by pour on at 21-day intervals. Moxidectin pour on (e.g. Cydectin®) has nil ESI while moxidectin injectable has a 28-day ESI.
- products such as long acting MLs or flurazuron have extended period of activity and can reduce the number of treatments required saving mustering costs but they have long ESIs and need careful management if stock are to be sold
- the authorised officer must supervise the administration of the treatment by the stockowner
- the duration of the eradication program will be determined between the authorised officer managing the on-farm program and their supervisor. The Resource “*Cattle tick ready reckoner*” (CM9 ref: INT20/65024) is to be consulted if using treatments at 21 day intervals. Herds treatments by dipping or ML pour-on are at 21 day intervals with the first treatment being the first herd treatment after a negative herd manual examination. If using products that have longer retreatment intervals particularly if involving more than one chemical group, label directions must be followed, and technical advice should be sought in the first instance from the Manager SR&QB
- the preferred option is to conduct the eradication program without a winter break. In some areas where winters are more severe, the eradication program continues until the end of May, or until a clean treatment, whichever is later and recommences in spring. The Manager SD&R after seeking technical advice will determine the required number of treatments in the program if a winter break is taken
- chemical costs are subsidised at the rate in force at the time. NSW DPI will purchase the agreed products and invoice the client for their contribution. Only those products registered in NSW for cattle tick control may be used
- dipyards used for eradication programs must be restricted by a biosecurity direction or biosecurity undertaking unless they are located on an infested holding. The biosecurity direction or biosecurity undertaking will specify that all stock using the dipyards must be dipped before leaving the yards. If restricted, notices visible to the public advising that the dip yard is under restriction are to be attached to the yard.

6.6.3 Licencing Dipyards used in eradication programs

If there is more than one user of a dipyard to be used in an eradication program, a licence is required which gives the dip owner public liability protection if there are other users of the dip.

NSW DPI will negotiate with the dip owner, use of the dipyard for examination and treatment of stock from adjoining, high risk or infested holdings for a nominal fee for a period of two years. The agreement is formalised in the licence agreement.

No licence is required if there is only one user of the dipyard.

All stock moving off a dipyard under licence must be dipped off.

If the dipyard is not located on a restricted holding and the dip owner is allowing use of the dipyard under licence, the yards are to be restricted by way of a general biosecurity direction and published on the NSW DPI website.

6.6.4 Record keeping

The Manager SR&QB is responsible for ensuring all records of examinations and treatments are recorded in the property file for each restricted holding.

For more complex infestations (recurrent or unknown origin), the Manager SR&QB will coordinate the completion of a *Property investigation summary report* which will provide an overview of the infestation, property biosecurity and any suspected linkages to other infestations.

7. Movement Requirements off holdings restricted on account of cattle tick

The cattle tick movement risk minimisation requirements for animals moving off restricted holdings can be found in the [Primefact Cattle tick moving stock off restricted properties](#).

See also [Biosecurity Permits procedure](#) and [Biosecurity Certificates procedure](#) for guidance.

An authorised officer may allow cattle tick hosts to move from a holding **restricted on account of cattle tick** providing:

- the animal(s) are visibly free of cattle tick before leaving the property
- animals which have not met the ESI following treatment for cattle tick are not moving to an abattoir or a saleyard
- cattle tick risk minimization requirements for the movement have been met and the cattle tick carriers are accompanied by a copy of the Record of Movement and any biosecurity certificate issued.
- the movement occurs no longer than 24 hours in the case of plunge dipping and spraying or no shorter than four days when the most recent treatment is using MLs.
Stock that are infested with potentially chemically resistant ticks and moving to a saleyard have:
 - an ML treatment used for the most recent treatment, and
 - if not moving to slaughter, a manual examination by an authorised officer at the saleyards is followed by a supervised treatment.
- the Manager SD&R has approved movements where flurazuron or long acting moxidectin treatments have been used
- repeated movements are only authorised where:
 - the cattle tick carriers are moving to a saleyard or abattoir
 - the herd has had two clean treatments if infested or one clean treatment if low risk or high risk
 - the authorised officer has confirmed that the applicant has met the criteria for owner declaration movements as specified in the [Primefact Moving stock off properties restricted on account of cattle tick](#)
 - the applicant is required to notify the movement of each consignment by providing a copy of the owner declaration to an authorised officer or dropped off at a designated site at a saleyards or abattoir
 - the conditions for the movements on owner declaration is listed in the biosecurity undertaking or biosecurity direction.

Where a stockowner is authorised to move stock on owner declaration to a saleyards or abattoir, the authorised officer must check a sample of the owner declarations to ensure that they are eligible movements.

8. Revocation of a biosecurity direction or biosecurity undertaking

Restrictions on Infested and adjoining holdings are released from regulatory restrictions as a block. The procedure for removing restrictions is:

- the cattle tick treatment program on the infested holding must have been completed
- The infested holding and all adjoining holdings must have completed two clean manual inspections six weeks apart with the first inspection commencing six weeks after the last treatment on the infested holding
- the authorised officer delivers records of examination to the Cattle Tick Program Kyogle office who place the information on the property file
- a supervising authorised officer will complete a record of examination (CM9 **reference: INT19/53154**) and forward to the Leader Cattle Tick operations for approval.
- the Leader Cattle Tick operations will coordinate preparation of the appropriate release instrument
- the signed release instrument is then sent to the stockowner.

The [Biosecurity Directions](#) procedure or [Biosecurity Undertakings](#) procedure should be consulted for guidance on removing restrictions.

9. Definitions and acronyms

Acaracide	A chemical active against ticks.
Adjoining holding	Cattle ticks are not known to occur on the property but may be present due to factors such as tick infestation on neighbouring properties, straying animals from, common management factors, location, or time of year..
Approved acaricide	Any chemical which is approved by I&I NSW for killing or sterilising cattle tick.
Authorised officer	a person working for NSW DPI or LLS who has been authorised under the <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> to carry out various functions.
Biosecurity direction	a legally binding direction given by an authorised officer to manage biosecurity risks
Biosecurity undertaking	a voluntary agreement by the person named on the undertaking to carry out the requirements specified in the undertaking by an authorised officer in order to manage a biosecurity risk.
Cattle Tick Program	Cattle Tick Program operated by NSW DPI
Clean Inspection	An animal is manually examined and no live ticks detected. A tick is alive if it exudes liquid when crushed.
Clean treatment	A clean inspection of an animal or group of animals followed by an acaricide treatment.
Clean herd treatment	A whole herd procedure where all animals in the herd are found to be free of cattle tick and are subsequently treated with acaricide
Dipping	Immersion in a plunge dip containing an approved acaricide
ESI	Export Slaughter Interval. The number of days following application of a chemical to an animal, which must elapse before an animal can be slaughtered at an export abattoir. This period is always equal to or longer than the withholding period (WHP) specified on the product label.
Infested holding	Cattle ticks are known or suspected to occur on the property
Led and Tractable	A “led and tractable” animal is defined as an animal which can easily and safely be unloaded and led to a treatment crush, physically examined for ticks, and power-sprayed with a registered acaricide without resulting in any safety risks for the animal(s) under treatment or people in attendance including NSW DPI staff, persons handling the stock or members of the public
Live Tick	A live tick is one that shows obvious signs of movement or from which body fluid can be expressed
Manager SR&QB	Manager Surveillance Response and Queensland Border within the Cattle Tick Program of NSW DPI
ML	An acaricide based on the macrocyclic lactone chemical group e.g. Cydectin. These may be pour-on or injectable.
Preliminary Treatment	One or more treatments with an acaricide whose purpose is to remove all visible signs of tick life on a visual inspection
Primary Carriers	Primary Carriers are species on which cattle tick routinely complete their life cycle (i.e. Cattle, Buffalo, Bison, Deer)
Secondary Carriers	Secondary Carriers are species on which cattle ticks occasionally complete their life cycle (e.g. Horses, Sheep, Goats, Camelids)
Spraying	Applying an acaricide by hand or motorised spray in an approved manner
Tick	Unless specified otherwise all references to “tick” in this document relate to Cattle Tick <i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i>
Visual inspection	Stock are visually examined from outside a crush for cattle tick
At Risk (low)	Cattle ticks have not yet been detected but there is a low risk that they may be present due to factors such as tick infestation on neighbouring properties, straying animals from neighbouring properties, common management factors, location, time of year etc.
At Risk (high)	Cattle ticks have not yet been detected but there is a high risk that they may be present due to factors such as tick infestation on neighbouring properties, straying animals from neighbouring properties, common management factors, location, time of year etc.

10. Documentation

[Biosecurity Act 2015](#)

[Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#)

[Biosecurity Order \(Permitted Activities\) 2017](#)

[Policy - Endemic pests and diseases of animals](#)

[Policy - Biosecurity - Collection, use and disclosure of information](#)

[Procedure- Tick Fever](#)

[Procedure - Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals](#)

[Primefact Notifiable pests and diseases of animals in NSW](#)

[Primefact - Manual inspection of cattle tick carriers](#)

[Primefact - Identifying the life cycle stages of cattle tick](#)

[Procedure - Investigation breaches](#)

[Procedure – Biosecurity Certificates](#)

[Procedure – Biosecurity Directions](#)

[Procedure – Biosecurity undertakings](#)

[Procedure – Biosecurity permits](#)

[Form – Cattle Tick Carrier – General](#)

[Form – Cattle Tick Carrier – Feedlot and Abattoir](#)

[Cattle Tick Carrier – Permitted movement](#)

[Form – Cattle Tick Carrier – Restricted holding](#)

[Form – Cattle Tick Carrier - Veterinarian](#)

[Form - Infested holding information pack – CM9 reference – INT20/62533](#)

[Form - Adjoining holdings information pack – CM9 reference – INT20/62550](#)

[Qld Biosecurity manual and procedures cattle Tick](#)

[Resource- tick treatment ready reckoner – CM9 reference – INT2065024](#)

[Primefact - Collection and Storage of ticks](#)

11. Records

Records created as a result of this procedure are stored in the Livestock Health Management System (LHMS).

Records relating to properties placed under biosecurity restrictions must be maintained for at least ten years.

12. Revision History

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	01/07/2017	New procedure developed from old policies and procedures in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>	Animal Biosecurity and Welfare
2	14/05/2020	Updated some of roles and responsibilities and names of forms used in the program. Repaired broken links	Animal Biosecurity

13. Contact

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