



Biosecurity Act 2015

Discussion Paper: Minimising the biosecurity risk from pigs and ruminants consuming meat and other animal products in NSW

February 2018



Photo: © Western Australian Agriculture Authority (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, WA)

Submissions on this Paper close on 27 April 2018

Email your submission to:

submissions.biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Post your submission to:

Biosecurity Legislation
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Locked Bag 21
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Summary

It is proposed to amend the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (the Regulation) to prohibit feeding or access by:

- pigs to *any material or substance* containing mammal products, and
- ruminants to *any material or substances* containing vertebrate products.

This amendment seeks to assist in minimising the biosecurity risks of:

- foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) associated with pigs and ruminants accessing or consuming meat and other animal products, and
- exotic pig diseases associated with pigs accessing or consuming meat and other products and,
- transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) associated with ruminants accessing or consuming meat and other animal products.

Background Information

What is the problem?

Foot-and-mouth disease, exotic pig diseases and TSE can transfer to animals through eating infected animal products. If an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease or TSE were to occur in NSW or Australia, there would be a disastrous impact on Australia's domestic and international trade in animals and animal products for a protracted period. Disease outbreaks have adverse impacts on animal welfare. 'Mad cow disease', a form of TSE, can be transferred to people through eating infected meat.

The Regulation currently minimises this biosecurity risk by prohibiting access to and feeding of *stock food* that contains mammal products to pigs, and vertebrate products to ruminants. However, 'stock food' has specific meaning under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. There are other materials or substances that pigs and ruminants may access that contain mammal products or vertebrate products. For example, recovered wastes such as some compost and food wastes may contain meat products which are applied to agricultural land as soil amendments. This poses an unacceptable animal biosecurity risk in NSW.

Why is it important?

It is critical to maintain Australia's highly regarded disease free status, so that trade access and consumer confidence is maintained, and public health and animal welfare is protected.

What is the outcome we are seeking?

Minimise the risk of pigs and ruminants in NSW accessing and consuming *any substance or material* that contains mammal products and vertebrate products, so that NSW market access and public health status is preserved, and can be assured.

Current management arrangements

The Regulation prescribes a number of mandatory measures that require a person who deals with a biosecurity matter or carrier to take specific actions to prevent eliminate or minimise a biosecurity risk. Specific to this issue:

- Clause 36 defines 'feed' as allowing or directing another person to feed food to the animal, or allowing an animal to have access to the food.
- Clause 37 prohibits the feeding of stock food to a pig if the stock food contains a mammal product (unless the feeding of the product is otherwise authorised by the clause).
- Clause 38 prohibits the feeding of stock food to a ruminant if the stock food contains a vertebrate product (unless the feeding of the product is otherwise authorised by the clause).

Proposed management under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015

It is proposed to amend clause 36, clause 37 and clause 38 of the Regulation to capture *any material or substance* containing mammal or vertebrate products. This will mean that any person dealing with pigs or ruminants must ensure that the animals do not feed on or have access to any material or substance that contains mammal or vertebrate products. For example, owners must not graze their ruminant animals on pastures that have been recently fertilised with products or recovered wastes that may contain blood, meat and bone, fish, poultry or feathers.

It is not proposed to amend the mammal or vertebrate products identified in clause 37 or clause 38 that may be fed to a pig or ruminants. Clause 37 defines mammal product as any part of a mammal or anything produced by a mammal. Clause 38 defines vertebrate product as any part of a vertebrate or anything produced by a vertebrate. For example, a mammal product may be fed to a pig if the product has been rendered, cooked, or treated in accordance with the Regulation. Similarly, gelatine or milk, rendered fat or oil may be fed to a ruminant if it has been rendered in accordance with the Australian Standard.

What do you think?

We value your comments on how we can improve our biosecurity system and look forward to receiving your input into this important process.

Please complete the following survey on 'Minimising the biosecurity risks from pigs and ruminants consuming meat and other animal products in NSW' at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RQ6JD8B>

Alternatively, submit your feedback by Friday, 27 April 2018 via email at submissions.biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au or post to:

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More information

Please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact

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