

Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance

Implementation of Biosecurity Management Plans in domestic abattoirs and knackeries in NSW

The Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance team led the implementation of Biosecurity Management Plans in domestic abattoirs and knackeries in NSW.

The implementation of Biosecurity Management Plans assisted these businesses to maintain compliance with the Biosecurity Act 2015 and improve biosecurity risk management at their facilities.

Background

Abattoirs and knackeries are instrumental in the detection of notifiable endemic and emergency animal disease (EAD) events, playing a key role in frontline disease response.

EAD planning forms a component of a complete Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP). As part of a landholder biosecurity project; the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) together with Local Land Services and in collaboration with domestic processing plant representatives have developed an informative and actionable benchmark BMP that can be specifically tailored to a plant operation.

To complement this, MINTRAC have undertaken a national training program to

address EAD awareness and preparedness gaps in domestic processing plants, which was funded by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). As a result, MINTRAC have prepared a range of resources, including a flip book guide, [online training modules](#) and an EAD preparedness template for plants to complete as part of their biosecurity management plans.

What we did

There are 13 domestic red meat abattoirs and 6 knackeries currently licensed in NSW.

The Biosecurity Management Plan Implementation Program was developed and put in place at each plant in 2020 to help licensed abattoirs and knackeries apply measures that reduce the biosecurity risks involved with operations.

To date (June 2021), 7 of these facilities (37%) have returned their completed plans.

General Circular - Biosecurity Management Plan implementation for abattoirs and knackeries was sent to all licensed abattoirs and knackeries in February 2021 outlining the implementation program.

The *Biosecurity Plan Implementation: Guidance for Processors and Knackeries* was also provided as a practical guide to assist these businesses implementing and complying with a BMP.



Figure 1: Biosecurity Management Plan signage forms one element of a BMP.

All abattoirs and knackeries will have their biosecurity management plans inspected in 2021 and will form a third tier in current auditing requirements of domestic abattoir and knackery plants alongside food safety and animal welfare monitoring by Biosecurity & Food Safety (BFS) Compliance.

We also established an online abattoir and knackery industry group meeting to be held every quarter to discuss current and evolving issues relating to the industry with government and other industry stakeholders.

Benefits of a BMP

Correct implementation of biosecurity measures outlined in a BMP provides individuals and businesses with stronger protections from people who enter a property and do not adhere to the measures outlined in the BMP.

The adoption of a plan also provides harsh penalties for individuals who subject a property to uncontrolled biosecurity risks.



Figure 2: Site maps outlined in a BMP distinguish the areas the plan covers to mitigate biosecurity risk.

What's next

After recent *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) outbreaks, BFS Compliance have been researching the need for similar plans for poultry processors. The SE outbreak and the subsequent [Biosecurity \(*Salmonella* Enteritidis\) Control Order 2019](#) has proven to increase biosecurity and food safety standards in the poultry sector.

Discussions with the poultry sector have commenced to better understand where support may be needed in improving on-plant biosecurity and EAD preparedness.

Acknowledgements

The implementation of biosecurity management plans is a collaboration between the NSW DPI, MINTRAC and DAWE.

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