

# BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

## Biosecurity Regulation 2017

## Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017

### SHEEP

The NSW sheep industry is a vital contributor to the \$3.3 billion Australian sheepmeat industry and \$1.9 billion wool industry. Diseases such as virulent footrot have had significant economic impacts affecting productivity and market access.

The biosecurity framework and tools safeguard our economy, environment and community.

**This factsheet provides a summary of management arrangements for sheep biosecurity risks in NSW. More detailed information is available in the Biosecurity Regulation 2017, Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017 and other documents at [dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact)**



### ! GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY

#### ● OUTCOME IS TO PREVENT, ELIMINATE & MINIMISE RISKS

- Any sheep producer or person working with animals and carriers has a responsibility for managing biosecurity risks that they know about or could reasonably be expected to know about
- Implementing an on farm biosecurity plan, implementing 'come clean go clean' practices or taking actions to prevent stock from straying are some ways to discharge your general biosecurity duty
- Documents such as the National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual - Grazing Livestock Production provide guidelines on good biosecurity practices

### ! MANDATORY MEASURES

#### ● OUTCOME IS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL THE RISK

##### Footrot

- Duty to notify presence or suspected presence
- Person must not vaccinate, or attempt to vaccinate, sheep animal against footrot unless approved to do so by the Chief Veterinary Officer
- Sheep entering NSW must be accompanied by a signed National Sheep Health Declaration which must be given to the person taking delivery of the sheep

##### Notifiable pests and diseases

- Duty to notify within one working day of becoming aware of the presence or suspected presence of footrot, Johne's disease and cattle tick

##### Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy

- A person must not feed restricted animal material to a ruminant

##### National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)

- Duty to identify and record the movement of sheep
- A property where sheep are kept must have a property identification code (PIC)

### ! EMERGENCY ORDER

#### ● OUTCOME IS TO CONTAIN AND ERADICATE

- Responds to an incursion of a pest or disease that poses a significant biosecurity risk
- Presence of prohibited matter may trigger an emergency response e.g. Foot and mouth disease
- Action can be taken regardless of whether the matter is prohibited matter

### ! PROHIBITED MATTER

#### ● OUTCOME IS TO PREVENT OUTBREAKS OF, OR ENTRY INTO NSW

- Listed in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act e.g. foot and mouth disease, anthrax, transmissible spongiform encephalopathy
- Duty to immediately notify of presence or suspected presence
- Authorised officers may accept a biosecurity undertaking from an owner or issue a biosecurity direction to manage a disease or pest incident e.g. Anthrax
- Duty not to test or attempt to test unless certain conditions are met
- Offence to deal with or possess prohibited matter

# DEFINITIONS

## General biosecurity duty

The general biosecurity duty can apply to anyone. It provides that any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier, who knows (or ought reasonably to know) of the biosecurity risk posed (or likely to be posed), has a biosecurity duty to ensure that the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised – so far as is reasonably practicable.

## Control orders

A control order is an order made by the Minister (or delegate) that establishes one or more zones to prevent, eliminate, minimise or otherwise manage a biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.

Generally, a control order will be made to prevent the introduction of, or to eradicate, particular biosecurity matter.

A control order can be made quickly so that a timely response can be mounted to a biosecurity risk or impact that does not require an emergency response, or while longer term management arrangements are being developed.

For example, a control order could require containment, treatment or disposal of soil, stock, plants or products from a contaminated area, to prevent the contaminant entering the human food chain. It could prohibit grazing or, plant and livestock production on the contaminated area, and require decontamination actions such as removal or deep burial.

A control order can remain in place for up to five years. If it is clear that longer term management is required, a biosecurity zone could be established.

## Mandatory measures

Mandatory measures are requirements set out in regulation for a person who deals with biosecurity matter or carriers to take specified actions to prevent, eliminate or minimise a biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing.

## Emergency orders and powers

The Act contains rapid response powers enabling swift and decisive action to be taken in emergency situations. If such action is not taken quickly, highly pathogenic and contagious matter such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death) or potato cyst nematode could quickly spread and cripple industries with devastating impacts on the economy, environment and community.

If an authorised officer reasonably suspects an emergency is occurring or is imminent, he or she will be able to activate some limited emergency powers until an emergency order is made by the Secretary or delegate.

An emergency order may prohibit, regulate or control the doing of anything, or require or authorise the doing of anything.

## Prohibited matter

Prohibited matter is biosecurity matter that is listed in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act.

This listed matter is biosecurity matter that could have significant adverse consequences to the economy, environment or community. Examples of prohibited matter include foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, citrus canker, and parthenium weed.

Notification obligations apply with respect to prohibited matter. It is also an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

## Dealing

Dealing is used in the context of 'dealing with' biosecurity matter or a carrier or to 'engage in a dealing'.

A Dealing can include to keep, possess, care for, have custody of, control, produce, manufacture, supply, import, acquire, buy, sell, dispose of, move, release, use, treat, breed, propagate, grow, raise, feed, culture, experiment with, display, enter into an agreement that deals with, agree to deal with, and/or cause or permit a dealing.

For further information about the Act, visit our website or contact us:

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