

Question on Notice

No. 01

Asked on 11 October 2022

THE CHAIR asked General Manager and Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland (Dr Allison Crook) -

QUESTION:

Do you have a figure on how many extension officers there are across the department in Queensland at the moment?

ANSWER:

In 2022-23, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' (DAF) adjusted budgeted staff threshold is 2120.3 full time equivalents (FTEs).

As of 21 October 2022, DAF had 78% of the total FTEs identified as frontline and frontline support. Based on the fortnight ending 21 October 2022, this included 494.73 FTE frontline positions across Biosecurity Queensland, a service area of DAF.

In the event of an emergency animal disease response, Biosecurity Queensland would also call on staff from across DAF. A large number of DAF staff have completed online Biosecurity Emergency Response Training and participated in preparedness and response activities including responses and exercises. To meet the scale of an emergency animal disease response, if necessary, the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements would be activated and resources would be utilised from across the Queensland Government, as needed.

Author:

Date: 24/10 /2022

Approved:

Date: 24/10 /2022

Approved:

Date: 25 / 10 /2022

Approved:

Date:

Question on Notice

No. 02

Asked on 11 October 2022

THE CHAIR asked General Manager and Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland (Dr Allison Crook) -

QUESTION:

For your testing facilities at Coopers Plains, for, say, a foot-and-mouth outbreak, do you have a figure on how many tests you can do in a day or in a given period?

ANSWER:

During the response to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, the Queensland Government Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory (BSL) located at Coopers Plains in Brisbane has the current capacity to perform 5 000 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests per week.

Complementing the dedicated veterinary diagnostic capacity at BSL, the national Laboratories Emergency Animal Disease Diagnosis and Response (LEADDR) network is designed to provide diagnostic capacity support to large-scale emergency animal disease responses.

Additional diagnostic capacity from other Queensland Government laboratories could also be engaged to support any large-scale emergency animal disease response.

Author:

Approved:

Date: 21/10/2022

Date: 25 / 10 /2022

Approved:

Date: 27/10/2022

Question on Notice

No. 03

Asked on 11 October 2022

THE CHAIR asked CROOK, Dr Allison, General Manager and Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland

QUESTION: (Referring to NLIS enforcement and compliance) What happens at the Queensland level? Do you know about enforcement to make sure that people are complying with ear tags and providing the appropriate information to the database about transferral of livestock? ...particularly the penalty itself for noncompliance—I suppose, generally, it would be a maximum penalty under the law—and who is responsible for doing that and what checks are made on a regular basis to ensure compliance

ANSWER:

In Queensland, the enforcement of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) requirements is set up in separate divisions under Chapter 7 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act), namely:

- fitting of approved devices (which includes NLIS tags), with a maximum penalty amount of 100 units
- notifications to the NLIS administrator or a biosecurity inspector when receiving special designated animals, with a maximum penalty amount of 100 units
- movement record requirements, with a maximum penalty amount of 200 units
- NLIS device supply and disposal rules, with a maximum penalty of 200 units, and
- the accuracy of information provided to the NLIS administrator, with a maximum penalty of 1,000 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment.
 - One unit = \$143.75 (commenced 1 July 2022).

There are 33 penalty provisions within Chapter 7 that support these rules. Penalties are determined by a Magistrate based on evidence before the court.

Most penalties can be given as penalty infringement notices (PIN / 'on the spot fines') to individuals or to corporations at a maximum of 5% of the maximum penalty amounts available under the Act. Penalty infringement notices are given by biosecurity inspectors or by members of the Queensland Police Service's (QPS) Rural and Stock Crime Squad members. Schedule 1 of the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 lists the Act offences that are available as penalty infringement notices. A full list is attached (Table 1).

Biosecurity inspectors conduct routine monitoring and compliance activities for the NLIS. This includes a range of surveillance activities such as desk audits and investigations of alleged breaches of legislation. QPS officers routinely focus on livestock movement and traceability in the carriage of their role.

The department must be notified of livestock that arrive at a facility and do not bear a NLIS tag. Biosecurity inspectors record these incident notifications and investigate the alleged breaches as per the legislative requirements.

Author:

Approved:

Date: 21/10/2022

Date: 26/10/2022

Approved:

Date: 26/10/2022

Approved:

Date: 26/10/2022

Table 1 – Maximum penalties and Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs)

Section	Max penalty (# penalty units)	PIN amount - individual	PIN amount - corporate
178 Only suitable approved device to be fitted	100 penalty units.	1	5
179 The (RBE) person must ensure that, if the special designated animal is moved from the place of origin, the animal is fitted with a suitable approved device for the animal	100 penalty units.	1	5
186 Special designated animal delivered to meat processing facility -receiver to advise NLIS administrator within 48 hrs	100 penalty units.	1	no PIN
187 Special designated animal delivered to saleyard or live export holding - receiver to advise NLIS administrator within 48 hrs	100 penalty units.	1	5
188 Special designated animal delivered to restricted agricultural show - receiver to advise NLIS administrator within 48 hrs	100 penalty units.	1	5
189 Special designated animal moved from restricted agricultural show - receiver to advise NLIS administrator within 48 hrs	100 penalty units.	1	5
190 Special designated animal delivered to another place - receiver to advise NLIS administrator within 48 hrs	100 penalty units.	1	5
190 Special designated animal delivered to another place - person responsible for animal (e.g. drover, agistment property owner) to advise NLIS administrator within 48 hrs	100 penalty units.	1	5
193 Particular special designated animal not fitted with suitable approved device - receiver to advise inspector within 24 hrs.	100 penalty units.	no PIN	no PIN

193 Particular special designated animal not fitted with suitable approved device - receiver to comply with reasonable inspector directions	100 penalty units.	no PIN	no PIN
194 Movement record requirement -The relevant person must ensure that, if the animal is moved from the place where the animal is kept and have in the conveyer's possession a movement record	200 penalty units.	2	no PIN
194 Movement record requirement - The conveyer or drover must not proceed they don't have in their possession a copy of the movement record (paper) or the serial number for the electronic record (electronic).	200 penalty units.	2	no PIN
197 Keeping and producing movement record - keep for 5 yrs (paper) or 2 yrs (electronic)	200 penalty units.	2	10
197 Keeping and producing movement record - Produce the copy, record or serial number to an inspector if asked	200 penalty units.	2	10
198 Movement record for receiving designated animal - must not accept delivery unless also delivered with a movement record from drover/conveyor	200 penalty units.	no PIN	10
198 Movement record for receiving designated animal - if taken delivery of a copy of a movement record from drover/conveyor, must keep copy of movement record for 5 yrs	200 penalty units.	2	10
198 Movement record for receiving designated animal - accepts delivery of the animal at the end of the movement but doesn't need to receive record from drover/conveyor, must create, and keep for 2 yrs a record of the movement	200 penalty units.	no PIN	10
198 Movement record for receiving designated animal - A person required to keep the copy of a movement record must, at any time in the period, produce it to an inspector for inspection if asked to	200 penalty units.	2	10
199 Show organiser to record designated animal movements - must keep, for 2 years after a designated animal arrives at the agricultural show, a record in the appropriate form for the designated animal	200 penalty units.	2	no PIN

200 False, misleading or incomplete movement record - must ensure the movement record does not contain information that the person knows or ought reasonably to know is false, misleading or incomplete in a material particular.	200 penalty units.	2	no PIN
201 Supply of device for use as an approved device - supplier must not supply to purchaser unless given a written order	200 penalty units.	2	10
201 Supply of device for use as an approved device - purchaser must not receive from supplier unless purchaser has given a written order	200 penalty units.	2	10
201 Supply of device for use as an approved device - supplier must make a record of purchaser name, date of supply, PIC details, number of devices and order expiry date. must keep record for 5 yrs and produce the record to an inspector if they ask to see it	200 penalty units.	2	10
202 Restriction on applying or removing approved device - must not fit an approved device (the new approved device) to a special designated animal that is already fitted with one unless its removed first or allowed by CE	100 penalty units	1	5
202 Restriction on applying or removing approved device -must not remove from a special designated animal an approved device fitted to the animal and in the form of a tag unless the removal is authorised	100 penalty units	1	5
202 Restriction on applying or removing approved device must, within 48 hours after removing the existing approved device, advise the NLIS administrator of— (a) the serial number of the new approved device; and (b) if the existing approved device includes a microchip—the RFID number of the microchip; and (c) the PIC of the place where there is kept the special designated animal to which the device is to be fitted. Maximum penalty— 100 penalty units	100 penalty units	1	5
203 Restrictions on altering, defacing or destroying approved device -must not alter or deface unless it happens because of the removal of the device from a special designated animal; and (b) the removal is permitted or required under this Act	200 penalty units.	no PIN	no PIN

203 Restrictions on altering, defacing or destroying approved device - must not destroy unless— (a) the destruction happens because of the removal of the device from a special designated animal and the removal is permitted or required under this Act; or (b) the destruction— (i) happens before the device is fitted to any special designated animal; or (ii) is otherwise permitted or required under this Act	200 penalty units.	no PIN	no PIN
204 Requirement to destroy removed approved device - must asap after the removal, destroy the approved device	100 penalty units	no PIN	no PIN
204 Requirement to destroy removed approved device - must until it's destroyed take reasonable steps to ensure the device is kept secure against theft	100 penalty units	no PIN	no PIN
207 Person must not give false or misleading information to NLIS administrator	1,000 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment	no PIN	no PIN

Question on Notice

No. 04

Asked on 11 October 2022

THE CHAIR Asked Dr Allison Crook, General Manager and Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland

QUESTION:

Were any restrictions put on the movements of Queensland bees for pollination services to Victoria?

ANSWER:

There have been no restrictions placed on the movement of bees or beehives from Queensland to Victoria for the provision of pollination services by the Queensland Government.

The Victorian, South Australian and New South Wales Governments have introduced restrictions on the movement of Queensland bees through or into their respective jurisdictions, and specifically for the provision of almond pollination services during the recent almond pollination season.

The New South Wales Government required Queensland hives to meet specified conditions to prevent the ingress or egress of bees while transiting through the state to Victoria and South Australia.

The Victorian and South Australian Governments required Queensland beekeepers to obtain a permit and meet specified conditions for hives to enter their respective jurisdictions for almond pollination.

The Queensland Government, through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, facilitated the movement of hives to other states for almond pollination by negotiating conditions for their transit through New South Wales and entry into Victoria and South Australia. It also provided certification to beekeepers to meet Victorian and South Australian entry conditions.

Author:

Date: 24 / 10 /2022

Approved:

Date: 24 / 10 /2022

Approved:

Date: 25/10/2022

Approved:

Date: 26/10/2022