

New biosecurity laws for Queensland: horses

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2016.

The Act improves Queensland's biosecurity preparedness and response capabilities. Under the Act, we will be better placed to focus on the biosecurity risks that impact our economy, our agricultural and tourism industries, our environment and our lifestyle.

All individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk have a legal responsibility for managing them.

The general biosecurity obligation for horses

As a horse owner you need to take an active role in managing biosecurity risks under your control. You are not expected to know about all biosecurity risks, but you are expected to know about those associated with your day-to-day work and your leisure activities.

The general biosecurity obligation means you will need to ensure your activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.



Registration requirements if you keep horses

Under the Act, the property identification code (PIC) system is continuing. This system provides important information for traceability purposes in case of a disease outbreak or contamination.

If you have not already registered and keep at least one horse, you will be required to register with Biosecurity Queensland as a biosecurity entity.

If you are already registered and have been allocated a PIC before 1 July 2016, you will automatically be registered as a biosecurity entity on 1 July 2016. Your registration will be valid until 1 July 2019.

You must also register if you keep:

- one or more cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, camelids (e.g. alpacas, llamas, camels) or equine species (e.g. horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, zebras)
- 100 or more designated birds – those that are raised for human consumption (poultry) or the production of eggs for human consumption (e.g. chickens), or that have been released into free flight since they started being kept in captivity (e.g. pigeons)
- one or more bee hives.

When you register, a PIC will be issued for the property where the horse is kept.

If you're planning on attending a show or event and your horse suddenly becomes ill, it would not be reasonable to take that horse to the show or event. A practical action could be to call a veterinarian to obtain a professional opinion on what could be wrong with your horse.



Registration period

Registration will be valid for three years from the date of registration. If, after that three year period you are still keeping horses, you will need to renew your registration.

If you do not renew your registration prior to expiry, your PIC(s) may be cancelled.

From 1 July 2016, a registration fee of \$127.70 applies to biosecurity entities who are commercial primary producers. You are considered a commercial primary producer if you claim primary producer status on your annual tax return. Payment is required at the time of registration or renewal.

If you keep animals only for non-commercial purposes you are exempt from the fee.

Please contact us to review your details and provide a current email address so we can contact you about your registration if needed. You can either contact your local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regional office or our Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23 to review your details.

How to register

You can obtain an application form to register as a biosecurity entity and receive a PIC by:

- Visiting www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au
- Contacting your local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regional office for an application form. To find your nearest office visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au
- Calling the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23.

Movement records

Under the Act, the requirement to record animal movements has been expanded. This will help ensure a robust traceability system is in place.

From 1 July 2016, every time a horse (or other designated animal) moves from a property, a movement record must be created by the registrable biosecurity entity. An exemption applies for those movements to a neighbouring property within 20km for ordinary stock management purposes e.g. mustering or droving on horseback.

The new legislation recognises the need for more flexible methods of recording animal movements. It allows for a range of methods (including electronic records) to be used as a valid record as long as it captures the following details:

- where the horses/s are being moved from
- where the horses/s are being moved to and the name of the person receiving the horse/s
- a description of the horse/s including species, breed and any distinguishing feature sufficient to identify the horse/s
- the date of movement
- the person completing the record

If you receive a horse onto your property you must also create a movement record that includes those details.

If you are moving a horse across the tick line you must have the movement record in your possession.



Movement records at events

Organisers of horse events must also keep records of each horse that has attended their event.

The details specified above must be recorded, as well as when the horses arrived at the show and when they left.

These records can be kept in any format as long as they can be produced if requested (by an inspector under the Act) and must be kept for two years. Horse health declarations used as an entry condition may meet this requirement as long as all the necessary details are recorded. These declarations could be copied as competitors enter the grounds and kept by the organiser.

Cattle tick management

A new risk-based cattle tick management framework commenced in Queensland on 1 July 2016. The new framework provides greater flexibility for people managing cattle tick on their property and facilitates reduced travel times and costs.

Under the framework, part of Queensland has been declared as a tick free zone and the remainder as a tick infested zone. To view the location of the tick line visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au

Infested places in the free zone

Property owners of places that are infested with ticks in the tick free zone must eradicate ticks from the property and ensure they meet their risk minimisation requirements before moving any horses from the property.

The steps you need to take to meet your requirements for moving horses are included in the Queensland biosecurity manual at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au. Generally, your horses must be free of ticks before the movement commences.

All horse owners have an obligation to report the presence of cattle tick in the tick free zone.

Property owners of infested places must also take all reasonable steps to stop cattle tick spreading, including onto neighboring properties.

Property owners must ensure good biosecurity practices regardless of their location and tick status.



Crossing the tick line

Under the new framework, horses are considered to pose a low risk of spreading viable cattle tick.

Before you move horses from the infested zone to the free zone, you must meet the risk minimisation requirements in the Queensland biosecurity manual.


Generally, horses must be free of ticks before the movement commences. The Queensland biosecurity manual provides instructions on the steps you need to take to ensure your horses are tick free. The Queensland biosecurity manual is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

You also need to record on the movement record the actions you have taken to meet the requirements.


More information about moving cattle across the tick line is available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Further information

To find out more about the Act, visit
www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

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