

**CENTRAL WEST (COONAMBLE) REGIONAL OJD BIOSECURITY PLAN 2015-2018**

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## Defined Area

The Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area is defined by the boundaries of the former Coonamble Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB). It encompasses all properties with a 17 PIC prefix.



## Aims and Outcomes of the Regional Biosecurity Plan

This Regional Biosecurity Plan is an initiative of Coonamble sheep producers, in consultation with the Local Land Services (LLS) District Veterinarian who acts as the group's technical advisor. OJD is not regulated in NSW, and this program relies upon producer support.

Aims:

- To reduce the risk of OJD infected sheep entering the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area.

- To preserve the biosecurity of flocks and properties in the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area.
- To maintain the Coonamble OJD prevalence at less than 1% (based on abattoir surveillance).
- To detect any threat of OJD in the Coonamble area as quickly as possible and respond as quickly and effectively as possible.
- To assist producers to manage any outbreak of OJD, within technical, operational, financial and political limits.
- To minimise the impact of OJD on producers in the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area (both financially and mentally).
- To maintain market access into other areas.

### **History of OJD in the Area**

The Coonamble area has an abattoir surveillance prevalence of 0.0%, based on data collected from 2001-2015.

Coonamble is a mixed farming area, with both wool and sheep meat production prominent.

Coonamble was in the Exclusion Area until May 2012, and until June 2013 had 4 points (Low Prevalence).

A public meeting to discuss the OJD changes proposed in the National OJD Management Plan was held in September 2012. Approximately 90 farmers attended, and there was a unanimous vote to support the RLPB becoming an OJD Regional Biosecurity Area. Following this, a survey was sent out with 67% of surveys returned. Of the returned votes, 91% voted in support of a Regional Biosecurity Area.

This is evidence of strong interest in OJD Biosecurity and support for this Regional Biosecurity Plan.

### **Responsibilities**

#### ***OJD Advisory Committee***

– made up of local Producers, Agents, and the LLS District Veterinarian

- Provide industry leadership for the direction and functioning of the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area.
- Provide input into the Regional Biosecurity Plan and future updates.
- Deliver key messages to industry via media.

#### ***Producers***

- Introduce sheep in compliance with the guidelines outlined in this Regional Biosecurity Plan and avoid high risk movements.
- Notify the LLS prior to or within 7 days of any sheep introductions to the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area by providing a copy of the National Sheep Health Statement to the Coonamble LLS office.
- Record Property to Property transfers on the NLIS database.
- Regularly monitor their sheep flocks for signs of disease.
- Develop and implement a Property Disease Management Plan as appropriate if OJD is diagnosed.
- Maintain records.

- Develop and implement a Property Biosecurity Plan.

#### ***Local Land Services***

- Assist the OJD Advisory Committee to write and update their Regional Biosecurity Plan and audit documents.
- Act in compliance with the relevant Act, Regulations, Policies and Procedures.
- Check submitted Sheep Health Statements and NLIS database mob based movements monthly.
- Advise producers that introduce high risk sheep.
- Implement an OJD education and advisory program in accordance with the Regional Biosecurity Plan.
- Update the educational and advisory programs if regional OJD prevalence changes.
- Develop Property Disease Management Plans in consultation with the flock owner as required.
- Report as required.

#### **Low Risk Sheep Introductions**

Sheep that meet the following requirements are accepted into the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area:

##### 1. Adult sheep and lambs from:

- An approved Regional Biosecurity Area (other than from infected or suspect flocks);
- SheepMAP flocks
- Flocks that have had a negative PFC 350 or Abattoir 500 test within the last two years and the flock is a closed flock (no introduced sheep, including rams)
- Flocks that have had a negative PFC 350 or Abattoir 500 test within the last two years and all sheep introduced<sup>1</sup> within the preceding 5 years were from:
  - Flocks located in a Regional Biosecurity Area OR
  - SheepMAP flocks OR
  - (prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013) flocks that met the requirements for moving into SA (except Kangaroo Island) and NSW Exclusion Areas (i.e. ABC Score 4 or higher under the superseded ABC scheme), OR
  - (after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013) flocks that had a negative test<sup>2</sup>
- A Regional Biosecurity Area flock, that have attended a show or breeding centre at which they have been housed, fed and watered separately from all other stock, and are returning direct to the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area within 14 days.

##### 2. Terminal 't' tag lambs

Defined as lambs that must be sold for slaughter before they cut their first permanent teeth and are identified by an NLIS (sheep) 'T' tag.

<sup>1</sup>All introduced sheep must have been accompanied by a National Sheep Health Statement that has been retained as evidence of the sheep status.

<sup>2</sup>PFC350 or Abattoir500 test within the preceding two years.

## **Activities**

### ***Extension and advisory program***

Extension and advice will underpin the Regional Biosecurity Plan and will target sheep producers and agents. The key messages will include:

- Individual producers are responsible
- Purchase low risk sheep
- Check National Sheep Health Statements

Three extension activities will be undertaken each year and may take the form of a newsletter, a newspaper article or a workshop. Other media formats will be considered as they are adopted by sheep producers.

Advice given on entry requirements for sheep will be consistent with the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Plan guidelines for low risk sheep introductions.

### ***Notification***

All sheep introductions originating from outside the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area should be notified to the local LLS within 7 days of the movement via submission of a National Sheep Health Statement.

### ***Surveillance***

Surveillance is undertaken to detect OJD early. Surveillance may consist of:

- Testing by Industry– eg MAP, PFC 350, abattoir surveillance.
- Passive surveillance – all disease events where OJD may be a differential diagnosis will be investigated by LLS District Veterinarians as part of their routine activities.
- Targeted surveillance – All suspect cases will be investigated.

### ***Tracing***

Traces to other Authorities are to be notified to the LLS District Veterinarian of the respective area.

Traces from other authorities and direct line abattoir trace-backs will be investigated.

The assessed risk will determine what further action is required and will be dependent on epidemiology, financial constraints, trade patterns and the support of the producer/s involved.

Each time a new abattoir trace is received part of the risk assessment should include checking each PIC on LHMS to determine previous trace backs.

### ***Monitoring Sheep Introductions***

The mob based movement report on the NLIS database will be interrogated monthly, as will the Sheep Health Statements submitted by producers. An assessment will be made of any introductions that don't comply with the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Plan guidelines for Low Risk Introductions.

Follow up action for *high risk* movements will include:

- Contact the purchaser to verify the details on National Sheep Health Statement and discuss the introduction.
- Advise the purchaser what the guidelines are for sheep to enter the Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Area.
- Advise the purchaser what they need to include on their National Sheep Health Statement.
- Prepare a Property Disease Management Plan if deemed necessary – which may include an agreement to test and/or vaccinate (at their expense).

***Property Disease Management Plan (PDMP)***

Technical assistance will be provided to suspect and infected properties. Wherever possible a Property Disease Management Plan should be developed and include strategies such as:

- Biosecurity for the benefit of the infected flock and neighbours
- Trading options
- Notification of neighbours
- Tracing information
- Testing
- Vaccination
- Destocking
- A combination of the above three strategies.

***Recording***

All OJD activities will be recorded on LHMS and in auditable paper records at the local LLS office.

***Reporting and Auditing***

The Coonamble Regional Biosecurity Plan's compliance will be audited by other members of the OJD Regional Biosecurity Working Group annually, in lieu of an independent auditor. An annual report will be provided to the National OJD Management Committee and other interested parties upon request.