

CENTRAL WEST (NYNGAN) REGIONAL OJD BIOSECURITY PLAN 2015-2018

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Defined Area

The Nyngan Regional Biosecurity Area is defined by the boundaries of the former Nyngan Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) (Figure 1), except for a small modification on the southern border (Figure 2).

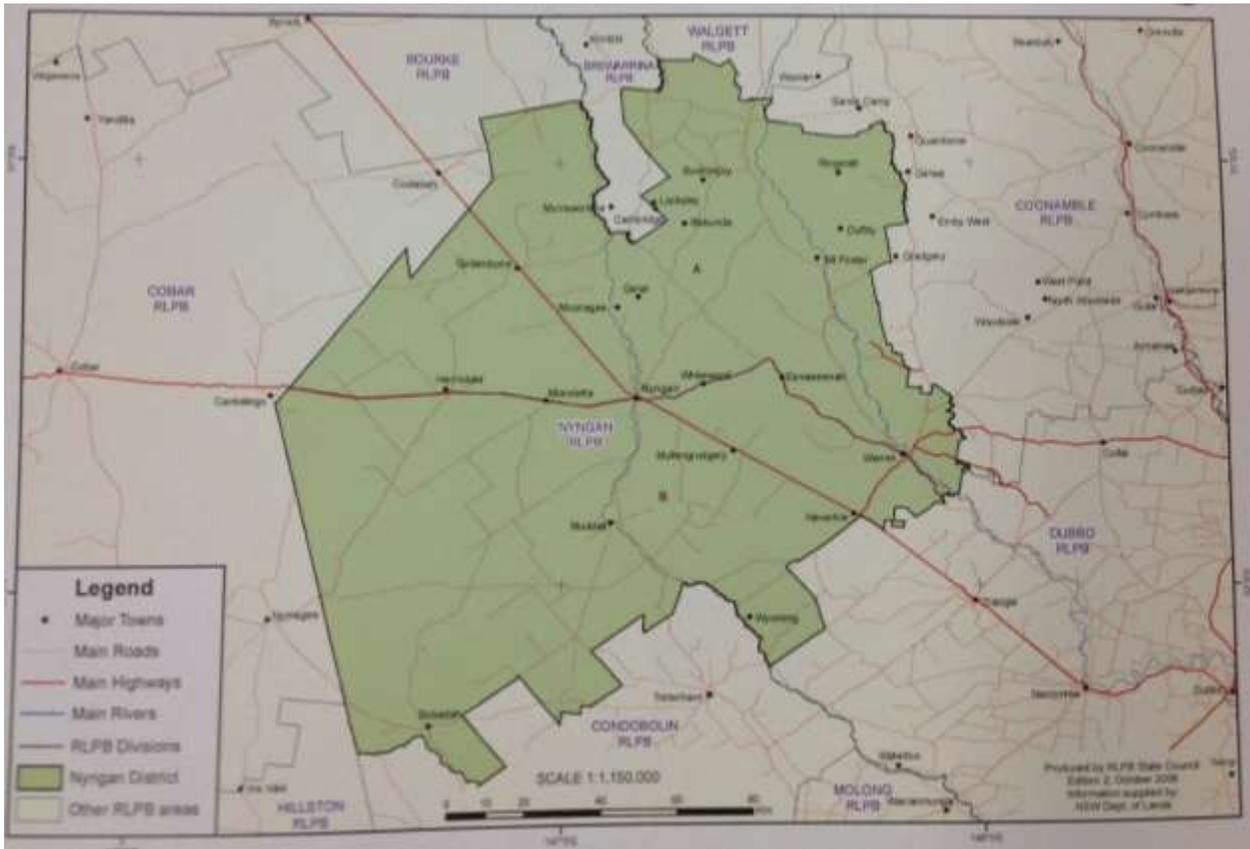


Figure 1: Nyngan RLPB boundaries

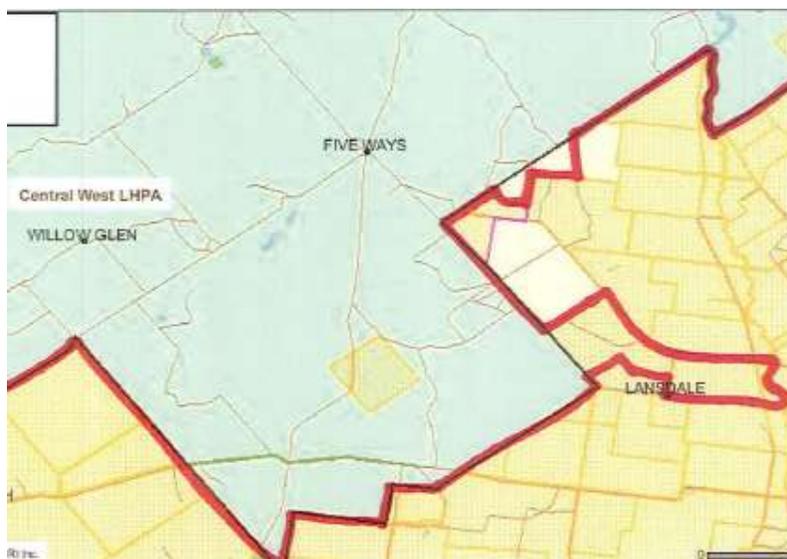


Figure 2: Modification to the Nyngan RLPB boundary on the southern border

Aims and Outcomes of the Regional Biosecurity Plan

This Regional Biosecurity Plan is an initiative of Nyngan 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 Nyngan Regional Biosecurity Area.
- To preserve the biosecurity of flocks and properties in the Nyngan Regional Biosecurity Area.
- To maintain the Nyngan OJD prevalence at less than 1% (based on abattoir surveillance).
- To detect any threat of OJD in the Nyngan 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 Nyngan Regional Biosecurity Area (both financially and mentally).
- To maintain market access into other areas.

History of OJD in the Area

Nyngan RLPB has an abattoir surveillance prevalence of 0.0%, based on data collected from 2001-2015.

In each case where OJD was detected via abattoir monitoring, there was a full Risk Assessment, trace back and trace forward conducted. In cases that warranted it (based on Risk Assessment) Property Disease Management Plans were formulated and using a combination of testing and destocking, the issue was resolved.

All records relating to OJD (including suspect cases, confirmed cases and traces) are filed in the Holding Files at the LLS office and also entered into LHMS. Details of these cases are available on request.

Nyngan is an extensive sheep grazing area, consisting of both wool and meat enterprises. The sheep population has remained relatively stable over time, fluctuating only in response to seasonal conditions.

Nyngan RLPB 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 was held in September 2012. Approximately 70 farmers attended, and there was a unanimous vote to support the RLPB becoming a Protected Area. Following this, a survey was sent out with 63% of surveys returned. Of the returned votes, 89% voted in support of a Protected 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 (as technical advisor)

- Provide industry leadership for the direction and functioning of the Nyngan 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 Nyngan Regional Biosecurity Area by providing a copy of the National Sheep Health Statement to the Nyngan 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 (LLS)

- 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.
- 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 Nyngan 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 introduced¹ within the preceding 5 years were from:
 - Flocks located in a Regional Biosecurity Area OR
 - SheepMAP flocks OR
 - (prior to 1st 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 1st January 2013) flocks that had a negative test²
- 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 Nyngan 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.

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

²PFC350 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 Nyngan Regional Biosecurity Plan guidelines for low risk sheep introductions.

Notification

All sheep introductions originating from outside the Nyngan 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 authority.

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 Nyngan 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.

- Inform the purchaser what the requirements are for sheep to enter the Nyngan Regional Biosecurity Area.
- Inform the purchaser what they need to include on their National Sheep Health Statement.
- Prepare a Property Disease Management Plan – 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 Nyngan 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.