

## **APPENDIX B**

### **REGIONAL BIOSECURITY PLAN FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

#### **Criteria for a Regional Biosecurity Plan for South Australia**

##### **Primary Criteria**

- The South Australian sheep flock has a low prevalence of OJD (that is, the proportion of OJD infected flocks in SA is less than 1%).
- The SA OJD Control program is actively preventing and controlling the ongoing risk of infection as well as any current infections through a regulatory control. This document and its associated business rules constitute a regional biosecurity plan which will be subjected an annual audit.

##### **Detailed Eligibility Criteria**

The following criteria are an integral part of the existing SA OJD Control Program.

- Demonstrable producer and industry commitment to protect the OJD status of the region.
- Formal regional industry-government partnership to provide the recognition necessary for industry to successfully manage the regional biosecurity plan.
- Surveillance is undertaken to detect OJD early.
- Minimum entry requirements to the region which align with the National Guidelines.
- Technical assistance is provided to suspect and infected flocks.
- Suspect cases are investigated and reported
- Control programs are implemented on infected properties.
- High risk neighbouring flocks are investigated
- Tracing of high risk movements backward and forward is undertaken promptly.
- National Sheep Health Statement that shows conformance with minimum entry requirements is required for all sheep purchases and agistment movements.
- Technical information and operational aspects of the regional biosecurity plan are actively communicated to producers, agents and advisers.
- Compliance is audited and performance is reported at an agreed frequency.

Looking at each criterion objective individually:

**Objective 1 – Producers within the Regional Biosecurity Group are able to demonstrate that they are committed to protecting and maintaining the OJD status of the Region**

The South Australian Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG) has provided its support for the whole of South Australia to progress to an OJD Protected Area. It is envisaged that the existing SA OJD Control Program will continue with its management of OJD in SA.

SASAG is a 10 member consultative forum created to interface between the sheep industry and government. It consists of ten members who are appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Six members are selected from the following regions of South Australia: the pastoral zone, the commercial wool-growing sector, high rainfall zone, cereal zone and prime lamb production. One member is nominated by the South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF). One member is nominated by Merino SA. A further member is nominated by the Sheep-meat breed organization. The remaining member represents the Minister.

In addition, SASAG is briefed upon matters pertinent to OJD by its technical subcommittee known as the SA OJD Committee. The Committee consists of 10 members, with a sheep representative from Eyre Peninsula, the Mid North, Kangaroo Island and the South East. In addition, there are representatives from the Rural Veterinary Practitioners Branch of the Australian Veterinary Association, the Southern Branch of the Australian Livestock Property Association Ltd., the South Australian Farmers Federation, the SA Sheep Advisory Group and 2 members from Biosecurity SA – Animal Health. This committee is also assisted by a Livestock Advisory Group's Executive Officer.

As such the current manager of the SA OJD Control Program Dr Peter Nosworthy will be the coordinator for the Regional Biosecurity Group.

The Regional Biosecurity Group in this situation will be referred to as the 'South Australian Ovine Johne's Disease Regional Biosecurity Group'.

Any resources necessary for the running of 'South Australian Ovine Johne's Disease Group' will be incorporated into the annual budget of the SA OJD Control program.

**Objective 2 – A formal regional biosecurity group (involving industry and government) is established and a set of Business Rules are determined and agreed to.**

The OJD Regional Biosecurity Plan Business Rules for South Australia have been developed and were acknowledged at a meeting of SASAG held on Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2012. A copy of these Business Rules is enclosed.

The Business Rules describes the strategy to be adopted for suspect and confirmed OJD Infected properties. This also includes a reference to high-risk neighbors. See Section 4.8 of the Business Rules.

The Business Rules have been revised to include up-to-date information in July 2015.

### **Objective 3 –Surveillance is undertaken by all members of the group to ensure early OJD detection**

The SA OJD Control program has assigned to an Animal Health Adviser at Murray Bridge to collate abattoir monitoring reports. This is done on a weekly basis.

Should a suspect OJD lesion be detected during abattoir monitoring, the following process occurs. The suspect samples are collected and are forwarded to the VETLAB along with a copy of the National Vendor Declaration for histopathological examination. In the advent that VETLAB finding the lesion to be consistent with OJD, the owner of the sheep is contacted to arrange flock testing.

The SA OJD Control Program has in excess of a decade of abattoir surveillance data.

Any sheep producer in South Australia can request abattoir inspection of their adult sheep at either of Thomas Foods International abattoir facilities in SA, that is, at Murray Bridge and Lobethal. Also Biosecurity SA can arrange for inspections at 6 abattoirs sites in Victoria – these are located at Ararat, Stawell, Geelong, Keyneton, Brooklyn and Warrnambool.

Any flock investigations in which there are significant numbers of ill-thrifty sheep can be subjected to faecal testing. The testing is carried out as part of the SA OJD Control Program. The faecal sample collection is carried out by Biosecurity SA authorised private veterinary surgeons or by Animal Health staff personnel from Biosecurity SA.

Biosecurity SA holds and maintains all records of testing.

### **Objective 4 –A minimum entry requirement is set which aligns with the National OJD Guidelines.**

**The use of the Sheep Health Statement is required for all movements into & out of the area covered by the Regional Biosecurity Plan (excluding direct from property to slaughter).**

The OJD guidelines for minimum entry requirements of sheep into the SA Regional Biosecurity Plan Area are as follows:

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEEP ENTERING SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

All sheep introduced from interstate must be accompanied by a National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and a National Sheep Health Statement\* (NSHS) **other than those moving direct to slaughter**. If sheep are purchased from an interstate location by means of an on-line facility such as Auctions Plus, a period of **ten working days** will apply for the provision of the NSHS.

### **1. Adult sheep and lambs (other than Terminal 'T' tag lambs)**

**Adult sheep and lambs (other than Terminal 'T' tag lambs) that are derived from a property with an Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) status of Infected or Suspect are not eligible for entry into SA (unless they are destined direct for slaughter). Resolution of Infected or Suspect status must in accordance with current version of the Standard Definitions Rules and Guidelines for the management of OJD in Sheep and Goats**

For adult sheep and lambs (other than Terminal 'T' tag lambs) to be eligible for entry, **at least one of the following conditions** must be met;

1 (a) The sheep destined for entry must come from a flock participating in a Regional Biosecurity Plan Area approved by SA's Chief Inspector of Stock (CIS); **OR**

1 (b) The sheep destined for entry must come from a SheepMAP accredited flock; **OR**

1 (c) The sheep destined for entry must come from a flock(s) that has had a negative faecal test (either a Pooled Faecal Culture (PFC) 350 or High Throughput Johne's (HT-J) 350 or for small flocks all sheep over 2 years of age have been tested) or Abattoir 500 test within the last two years and the flock is a closed flock (no introduced sheep, including rams); **OR**

1 (d) The sheep destined for entry must come from a flock(s) that have had a **negative faecal test** (either a PFC 350 or High Throughput Johne's (HT-J) 350 or for small flocks all sheep over 2 years of age have been tested) or Abattoir 500 test within the last two years **and** all sheep **introduced** within the preceding 5 years were from:

- Flocks participating in a Regional Biosecurity Plan Area approved by the CIS; **OR**
- A SheepMAP accredited flock; **OR**
- Flocks that had a negative faecal test (either a PFC 350 or HT-J 350 or for small flocks all sheep over 2 years of age have been tested) or Abattoir 500 testing within the last two years.

### **2. Adult sheep and lambs attending shows or breeding centres**

Sheep from an area without a South Australian CIS approved RBP may enter to attend a show or breeding centre but **MUST** be housed, fed and watered separately from all other stock at the show/breeding centre (movement tests may apply).

*These animals MUST return direct to their source property or be sold to a non-South Australian flock. These animals can only be sold to a South Australian flock with prior CIS approval.*

**3. Terminal 'T' tag lambs.**

*Terminal 'T' tag lambs (identified by a NLIS 'T' tag) may enter South Australia for fattening.*

*Terminal 'T' tag lambs **MUST** either be sold for slaughter before they cut their first permanent teeth or sold to a feedlot or property approved by the CIS (under Order for the control of OJD).*

**4. CIS approved and accredited sale yards and selling facilities.**

*The SA CIS approved and accredited sale yards and selling facilities will continue to operate in SA for slaughter livestock or breeding animals returning interstate (i.e. ineligible for entry to SA properties).*

The above entry requirements are strictly adhered to as the entry requirements for sheep coming into South Australia.

All sheep movements in South Australia including intrastate transactions (other than those direct from property to abattoirs), must be accompanied by a National Sheep Health Statement (NSHS).

The NSHS will be regularly monitored at SA saleyard facilities by SA Animal Health Staff.

Individual SA sheep producers will be expected to retain copies of the NVDs and NSHSs for seven years.

**Objective 5 –Technical assistance is readily available and is provided to suspect and infected flocks.**

In SA the SA OJD Control Program, funded by the Sheep Industry Fund, provides assistance to any OJD Suspect or OJD Infected flock. A Property Disease Management Plan (PDMP) is created for each Infected or Suspect property. In SA, OJD Suspect and OJD Infected properties are subject to a quarantine order.

Section 4.7 of the Business Rules contains examples of a PDMP and a PDEP.

The general strategy for dealing with OJD Suspect and OJD Infected in SA consists initially of flock profiling, followed by full flock OJD vaccination. Followed by the introduction of disease minimization management strategies and finally PFC clearance testing. The clearance testing can only occur when the whole flock consists of approved vaccinates and a minimum of 2 years

has elapsed after the last known potentially infected animal has been removed. Alternatively in the case of a voluntary whole property destock properties are no longer considered to be infected with OJD once a destocking/decontamination program approved by the Chief Veterinary Officer has been completed.

All costs associated with the investigation including subsidized vaccination for 5 years are met by the SA OJD Control program. In some instances, where there has been an OJD detection in a seed-stock sheep producer, financial assistance to help re-establish a genetic line of sheep has been available. In addition, the expenses incurred through consultation with a financial advisor have been met by the Sheep Industry Fund.

### **Objective 6 –Any suspect case of OJD is investigated by the nominated veterinary advisor.**

All suspected cases of OJD in SA are investigated as part of the SA OJD Control Program.

Business Rules 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 describe the strategy undertaken in SA to resolve cases of suspected infection.

As outlined previously suspected OJD infection usually results from positive abattoir detection, although it may also result from a flock investigation by a private veterinarian. These investigations are dealt with immediately.

Biosecurity SA holds and maintains all records of testing.

### **Objective 7 –Effective control/eradication programs are implemented on infected properties as soon as OJD has been confirmed.**

As outlined in Objective 5, as part of the technical assistance provided to OJD Suspect and OJD Infected properties, a PDMP is created. See Business Rules 4.7.

In SA all direct neighbors of an OJD Suspect and OJD Infected property are investigated. After a risk assessment of the neighboring properties, a whole flock testing strategy is instigated and the property is offered access to subsidized Gudair vaccine. Direct neighbors are deemed to be 'at-risk' and as such a Property Disease Management Plan - Vaccination 'at-risk' is created. This enables the property to access subsidized vaccine under a regime of a 100% subsidy for a year. It is expected that all sheep will be immunized in that year.

### **Objective 8 –High risk neighbouring flocks are investigated to determine whether the infection has spread and to minimise the potential for spread.**

This was referred to in Objective 7.

An example of a SA PDMP – ‘at-risk’ template follows.



Government of South Australia  
Biosecurity SA

## OVINE JOHNE’S DISEASE (OJD)

### Property Disease Management Plan - Vaccination

#### ‘At - Risk’ Property in South Australia

**Surname:** xxxxx

**Given Name:** xxxxx

**Address:** Box xxx, xxxxxxxxxx SA xxxx

**Trading Name:** xxxxxxxx

**Phone No:** (08) 8xxx xxxx

**Mobile No:** xxxx xxx xxx

**PIC No:** SAxxxxxx

**Land Description:**

Hundred	Title Reference		Section Number	Land Parcel Details		
	CT/CL/ CR	Number		Plan Type	Plan Number	Allotment Number

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**Enterprise Description:**  
Grazing property, Cropping

**Flock Details**

Mob Type	Age	Sex	Breed	Number
<b>Total</b>				

**Fencing:** (circle appropriate condition)

Boundary            Poor   Adequate    Good            Excellent

Boundary            Poor   Adequate    Good            Excellent

Internal             Poor   Adequate    Good            Excellent

**What are the usual numbers of the other various stock carried (exclude newborn)?**

Species	Approximate number
CATTLE	<input type="text"/>
GOATS	<input type="text"/>
DEER	<input type="text"/>
HORSES	<input type="text"/>
CAMELIDS	<input type="text"/>

**OJD Testing History and any previous link to OJD:**

Commercial flock is grazed on land that is a direct neighbour to OJD Infected Property. Faecal testing has been undertaken and results are pending.

Straying History – Nil

### **Property Disease Management Plan – Vaccination (PDMP-V):**

Mr xxxx has opted to utilise Gudair OJD vaccine as part of their normal sheep management strategy. The following outlines the strategy and rules for use of Gudair vaccine in a PDMP-V:

- Vaccination of all sheep to be retained on the property for more than 12 months in year 1.
- A trained vaccinator who has received specific training and has been approved by the Chief Inspector of Stock will undertake the vaccination.
- Vaccinated sheep that qualify as **Approved Vaccinates** must be identified by an ear tag stamped with the Property Identification Code (PIC) and the letter “V” at the time of vaccination.
- The SA OJD Program will meet **100 per cent** of the costs of supply of the vaccine for **ONE YEAR**.
- Sheep may be introduced onto a property only from properties not known or suspected of being infected with OJD. These sheep will be vaccinated on arrival unless they were previously vaccinated, while receiving the vaccine subsidy.
- The supervising Inspector may undertake audit inspections at any reasonable time, with reasonable notice, to ensure compliance with provisions of this disease management plan.

### **Disclaimer**

This Property Disease Management Plan -Vaccination has been developed with consultation between Biosecurity SA and Mr xxxxxx in the context of current understanding of the epidemiology of Johne's disease in sheep under Australian grazing conditions.

This understanding is expected to evolve, especially as results of current research under the National OJD Control & Evaluation Program become available.

Biosecurity SA does not guarantee that Johne's disease can be cost-effectively controlled by the strategies described in this Property Disease Management Plan-Vaccination, and does not accept responsibility should Johne's disease be detected, or spread between or from livestock on the property during implementation of the plan.

The decision to participate in this Property Disease Management Plan-Vaccination has been determined by Mr xxxx entirely of his own volition. PIRSA does not accept any liability for any loss or damage suffered as a result of that decision to participate in the Property Disease Management Plan – Vaccination.

**Vaccine is provided at the subsidised rate, only as long as funds from the SA Sheep industry fund are available.**

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I agree to the above provisions in regard to management and the use of Gudair vaccine until **xxxx** (a year after the commencement of the PDMP-V)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner/Agent of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
PIRSA Inspector

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Veterinary Officer

As part of the risk assessment any shared waterways and shared stock routes are considered. All reports of straying sheep into or out of an OJD Infected or Suspect property are investigated.

**Objective 9 –High risk movements backward and forward are traced to determine whether the infection has spread and minimize the potential for spread.**

All trace forward and trace back movements from an OJD Suspect or OJD Infected property are investigated. If necessary, after a risk assessment of these sheep, the properties may undergo faecal testing. These properties are also deemed to be 'at-risk' properties and, as such, eligible for subsidized Gudair vaccine under the regime of a PDMP-V 'at-risk'.

**Objective 10 –Technical information and operational aspects of the Regional Biosecurity Plan are actively communicated to producers, agents and advisors.**

A successful roadshow program covering the whole of SA was run in June/July/August 2013. This roadshow provided some background information about the disease and gave sheep producers an insight into the new concept of a Regional Biosecurity Plan and how it applies to individual producers.

Dr Jack Reddin, a previous manager of the SA OJD Control Program, was the main presenter at the various venues. In addition, an Animal Health Advisor based at Murray Bridge, Amelia Gillen, undertook the development of roadshow presentation material as a part of a Project Management Diploma associated with a SA tertiary institution. All contributors of the sheep industry, namely the producers, livestock agents and rural press, participated in the roadshows.

**Objective 11 –The Regional Biosecurity Plan's compliance is audited by a nominated independent auditor and performance of the group is reported annually to the CVO of the state.**

At the end of 2014 and the commencement of 2015, Dr Ron Glanville was engaged to review the SA OJD Control Program. His report was strongly supportive of the existing program. However, the report did make a series of recommendations of modifications to the program. These are being currently implemented.

As part of the SA OJD Control Program an annual report is available for SASAG and the SA CVO.

At this time the Regional Biosecurity Plan is being audited internally.