

NYNGAN OJD REGIONAL BIOSECURITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

OJD RBA Activities Throughout 2014-2015

The Nyngan OJD Regional Biosecurity Area (RBA) was formed on July 1 2013, in response to the changes to the National OJD Management Plan 2013-2018.

The RBA is made up of 193 sheep producers in the area previously known as the Nyngan Rural Lands Protection Board, and encompasses all PICs with a 10 code. There are two additional holdings to the southern edge of the RLPB boundaries that were added to the RBA on the 28.4.14, and are detailed in the Nyngan OJD Regional Biosecurity Plan.

The producers involved in the RBA are committed to working together to prevent introduction and spread of OJD, as demonstrated by a well attended public meeting in September 2012, where 70 sheep producers attended and voted unanimously to support the RBA; and a postal vote where 63% of surveys were returned and 89% supported forming an RBA.

The Group is guided by an OJD Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of producers, agents, and the Local Land Services District Veterinarian (who acts as the technical advisor). This formal industry-government partnership has written a Regional Biosecurity Plan, and has adhered to it over the past 12 months.

The OJD Advisory Committee has met twice in the 2014-2015 audit period. We have communicated via email throughout this period.

An updated guide to buying and selling sheep was posted to all sheep producers in the Nyngan RBA in March 2015. It was also uploaded to the Central West Local Land Services website in February 2015.

There have been three media activities (newsletter articles) produced in the past 12 months, relating to the OJD Regional Biosecurity Area, using the Sheep Health Statement and buying safe sheep. In addition to media activities, there have been 19 individual producers contacted and given advice on a one-on-one basis regarding the requirements of the RBA. Four show societies in the local area were given advisory information on their obligations as part of the RBA.

Monitoring Sheep Movements into the Area

The minimum standards for entry into the Nyngan RBA are documented in the Central West (Nyngan) Regional Biosecurity Plan 2013-2018.

During the period from 1st July 2014 until 30 June 2015, there were 65 sheep movements into the Nyngan RBA, as recorded on the NLIS database. There were also eight transfers on the NLIS database that were found to be incorrect. Many of these incorrect transfers stem from the Narromine saleyards and this has been discussed at length with the Narromine Associated Agents, the Narromine Shire Council and the NSW DPI.

There were 67 Sheep Health Statements submitted to the Local Land Services District Veterinarian (and coordinator of the RBA) during this period – a 103% submission rate.

There was a high risk movement in July 2014. This movement consisted of 88 ewes from the Mudgee Merriwa area with no accompanying Sheep Health Statement. The owner has agreed to do a Pooled Faecal Culture on these sheep when they are next yarded.

In September 2014 there were 75 animals brought into the Nyngan RBA from a Peak Hill property. These animals do not technically meet the Nyngan RBA guidelines, but on further investigation it is a closed flock from a previous 4 point area with excellent on farm biosecurity so this movement is considered low risk.

In September two producers brought two animals each into the Nyngan RBA from the Gilgandra area. Looking at the on-farm biosecurity of the property of origin and the sheep movements onto this farm, it has been assessed as a low risk introduction.

In November 2014, a producer bought 106 animals from the Mudgee area. This movement was accompanied by an old Sheep Health Statement certifying that the flock had 4 points, despite the area being a previous 2 point area. The Nyngan producer was advised that this movement does not meet our OJD RBA guidelines and the sheep are undergoing a Pooled Faecal Culture.

In October 2014 two animals from the Tullamore area moved into the Nyngan area, which did not meet our guidelines, however on further investigation these were killers and did not survive long at Nyngan! Hence this is considered a low risk movement.

In February 2015, a producer bought 341 sheep from the Tomingley area via Narromine saleyards. This property of origin is believed to be low risk – they do not trade sheep, they have no history of OJD and were a previous 4 point area.

In April 2015 a producer bought sheep from the Dubbo area which did not meet our guidelines. On further investigation this was a flock that was in a previous 4 point area, has a property biosecurity plan and have only introduced rams that are Sheep MAP accredited and is therefore assessed as being low risk.

In summary, all movements that do not meet the RBA guidelines have been investigated, with follow up action (Pooled Faecal Cultures) in the two cases where a full risk assessment was not satisfactory.

Surveillance

All Nyngan RBA producers are encouraged to formulate a Property Biosecurity Plan and a template has been distributed for their use. As a result of this, producers within the RBA are aware that they

need to check and maintain records of any stock movements, monitor their stock for signs of disease, and report any signs of ill health to the LLS District Veterinarian.

The Nyngan OJD Advisory Committee and RBA are very active and are using the formation of this group to look at a range of farm biosecurity issues and other diseases across the area (such as lice, brucellosis and footrot).

Throughout the period from 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015, a total of 4243 sheep aged over two years were examined at slaughter for signs of OJD. **All were negative for OJD.** These 4243 sheep were 11 lines of sheep and originated from 8 PICs within the Nyngan RBA. The Local Land Services District Veterinarian attended 25 farm visits to sheep flocks in the Nyngan RBA throughout the period from 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015. There were no cases of OJD diagnosed during this period. As of the 30th of June 2015, the Nyngan RBA has an OJD surveillance prevalence of 0%, which it has maintained since 2001.

Conclusion

The Nyngan RBA continues to meet its aims, which as outlined in the Nyngan RBA Regional Biosecurity Plan are:

- 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.

The Nyngan area is currently recruiting for new committee members to further add to the continued strength and vitality of the group.

The Nyngan RBA has continues to have strong producer support, and an active OJD committee which continues to keep OJD out of the area.

Appendix 1: Methodology in preparing Audit Report

- The NSW DPI publishes sheep movement reports fortnightly, and these are available on the extranet.
- On a monthly basis, the technical advisor checks the movements and Sheep Health Statements and advises if any movements that do not meet the RBA guidelines for safe sheep introductions.

- This involves contacting the producer via phone, mail or email to get a Sheep Health Statement or more information about the movement.
- It may involve checking the NLIS database for the property of origin history (are they sheep traders, are they home bred closed flock sheep etc).
- It may involve visiting the property and checking the sheep to verify their age or health.
- The movement reports, the SHSs and any investigation details are filed.
- At the end of the audit period, the movements, SHS submitted and details of any high risk movements are collated and included in the audit report.
- Abattoir monitoring reports are received from the DPI at the end of the financial year. These are collated and included in the report.
- LHMS (the LLS Livestock Health Management System) is interrogated for any details of sheep property visits to a 10 PIC where passive surveillance for OJD may be undertaken.
- Any media activities or producer advisory events conducted throughout the year are also documented in the Nyngan RBA file at the LLS office, and these are documented in the audit report.
- The Nyngan RBA communicates via email during the collation of this report and meets to discuss it prior to submission.