

The objectives of the Walgett RBA are:

1. To prevent the entry of OJD into the Walgett RBA and to manage any detections with a view to eradication.
2. To re-instate our sheep marketing and trading options, as the Walgett RBA is traditionally a breeding area, selling sheep into all areas of NSW, as well as the relevant areas of Queensland and South Australia.

Standard 1

There are established and documented arrangements between key RBA stakeholders (such as formal regional industry-government partnership) to provide the framework necessary for industry to successfully manage the regional biosecurity plan.

Walgett Biosecurity Inc formed on 30th May 2014. Committee is comprised of merino breeders, registered studs, traders, and livestock agent and wool broker. Chairperson Brennan O'Keefe. A RBP was written, presented to other RBA and accepted in January 2015.

NWLLS District Veterinarians provide technical advice and assistance to the Committee, reporting annually to Walgett Biosecurity Inc. Business Rules developed by committee which became incorporated in December 2014.

The committee met on 6 occasions during period of formation and plan development, and has met officially on 3 occasions in 8 months since RBA has been in operation. Walgett Biosecurity Inc communicates regularly through emails and phone calls within the committee and with NWLLS District Veterinarians.

Standard 2

Commitment from producers and other industry stakeholders (eg, agents, saleyards) within the RBA to protect the disease status of the region is demonstrated.

Walgett Biosecurity Inc and meetings regarding RBA for OJD were organised by Walgett livestock agents and producers. The committee was formed and incorporated in 2014; the plan was formulated by the committee with assistance from NWLLS District Veterinarians.

Livestock Agents are actively promoting and educating clients on requirements of the plan and use of SHS.

2 suspect property managers have developed or are developing Property Management plans with the assistance of NW LLS District Veterinarians to change their suspect status to Not assessed (or eradication) , 1 PMP has been approved by the OJD technical panel , 2nd property plan is in development.

Standard 3

Members of the RBP have a property biosecurity plan in place.

On farm biosecurity plans are actively promoted and included in advice to producers on individual basis and at producer workshops and meetings.

NW LLS animal health and biosecurity staff provide advice to producers regarding biosecurity on farm.

Standard 4

Surveillance is undertaken to provide confidence in disease prevalence and for early disease detection.

Abattoir monitoring – 23 lots sourced 12 different PICs tested negative from 7439 head inspected at Wallangarra Abattoir.

Year	Number lines inspected	Number of sheep inspected	Number PICs inspected	Number of PICs infected
July 2014 to June 2015	23	7439	12	0

Passive Surveillance

15 Sheep health investigations were recorded for surveillance program from 1st January 2015 to 30th June 2015, no cases of OJD detected.

3 Cases of illthrift , wasting and death investigated where OJD was ruled out.

No positive detections of OJD in 2014-2015.

Target regional prevalence = 1%

Estimated prevalence= 0 (1 suspect property with sheep) 1 /166 =0.6 %

Standard 5

Sheep entering the RBA meet the agreed minimum standards of assurance against OJD risk.

Guidelines distributed to agents and producers. Walgett livestock agents communicate the guidelines to sheep producers through personal communications and electronic newsletters.

Conformance is monitored by examining NLIS database

Letters sent to producers introduced sheep higher risk ie from non RBA and notified of agreed standards, with request for SHS and NVD.

7 movements ex 23 movements from January 2015 to June 2015

1. 6 movements from low risk areas with previous ABC score area 4.
2. 1 movement from possible higher risk region, owner contacted.
3. Examined 2 SHS for movements identified from non RBA, and discussed with the producer introducing the sheep. Discussed 2 movements with producers who had no SHS.

Walgett agents have on record 11 (15) SHS + further 4 NVD for sheep movements into Walgett RBA from 1/1/15 to 31/8/15

Standard 6

Technical assistance is provided to suspect and infected flocks

NWLLS veterinarians have contacted and assisted 1 suspect property to develop a PEMP to resolve suspect status which has been approved by the NSW OJD technical panel. This plan is based on destocking over two summers. NWLLS Veterinarians are in contact with 2nd property with discussions on the development of a property management plan to resolve their suspect status.

Standard 7

Suspect cases are investigated.

NWLLS District Veterinarians are available to investigate any suspect cases. NWLLS Veterinarians carried out 15 investigations sheep health in Walgett RBA in period from 1st January 2015 to 30th June 2015.

3 cases of illthrift, wasting and death in sheep were investigated by District Veterinarians.

No cases of OJD were diagnosed in the Walgett RBA.

Standard 8

Effective control/eradication programs are implemented on infected properties

No known currently infected properties.

Producers are required to develop and implement a control or eradication program if found to be infected.

NWLLS District Veterinarians provide advice to assist in the development of the plan, and facilitate its approval process to NSW OJD technical panel.

Standard 9

High-risk neighbouring flocks are investigated.

No currently known infected flocks.

NW LLS District Veterinarians will contact and provide advice, which may include investigation, of high risk neighbours flocks with permission from the affected producer and their neighbour.

Standard 10

Tracing of high-risk traceforward and traceback movements is conducted

No traceforward or traceback movements reported.

NWLLS District Veterinarians and Biosecurity officers will notify and provide advice for affected sheep producers of a high risk trace that has been reported to NWLLS.

District Veterinarians and Biosecurity officers from NWLLS will assist with notifying traces and providing advice to owners of high risk flocks in Walgett RBA or to the technical advisor for the RBA of the affected flocks.

Standard 11

A Sheep Health Statement is obtained for all sheep movements into the RBA.

Sheep Health Statement is required for all sheep movements into the Walgett RBA. A copy is to be kept for 5 years.

Livestock Agents and technical advisors are encouraging and educating producers to use sheep health statements.

Livestock Agents are encouraging producers to buy with SHS on auctions plus and to complete these at assessment for auctions plus.

Walgett agents have on record 11 SHS + further 4 NVD for sheep movements into Walgett RBA from 1/1/15 to 31/8/15

Standard 10

Technical information and operational aspects of the RBP are actively communicated to producers, agents and advisers.

Walgett Livestock agents have been notifying sheep producers of Walgett RBA guidelines for the introduction of sheep through electronic newsletters and personal communications.

Walgett RBA, producer responsibilities and SHS discussed at Walgett Sheep Breed and Feed workshop

Producer Information regarding the Walgett RBA, Sheep introduction checklists and maps have developed by NWLLS technical advisors for distribution. This information has been sent or handed to producers and sent to Walgett Livestock agents and members of Walgett Biosecurity Inc.

Walgett livestock agents have consulted with NWLLS District Veterinarians regarding guidelines and risk assessments for sheep introductions into the Walgett RBA.

Standard 11

Compliance is audited and performance is reported at an agreed frequency.

First audit report is being compiled with internal audit for Walgett Biosecurity Inc and to be presented to other RBAs for scrutiny. Walgett has been in operation for 8 months at time of report.

Methodology

NLIS database examined for sheep movements into the Walgett RBA, letters sent to producers requesting SHS and NVD. SHS are examined and risk assessment made. Follow up actions may include phone calls to producers or property visits to discuss a property management plan for high risk introductions.

LHMS data is examined for District Veterinarian activities which are reported for Walgett RBA producers. Surveillance activities for RBA are recorded on LHMS database.

Numbers of OJD detections or reports including negative findings are reported.

Numbers of PDMPs and progress are reported, PDMP details and progress updates are entered on LHMS.

Abattoir surveillance reports provided to the LLS by NSW DPI are examined. Number of lines, PICs and number of sheep inspected are reported.

Livestock Agents records including numbers of SHS filed are reported.

Walgett Biosecurity Inc met to discuss the audit, then communicated with technical advisors NWLLS requirements for the audit.

Walgett Biosecurity Inc has prioritised the education of sheep producers in the RBA on sheep producer responsibilities and guidelines for the introduction of sheep into the Walgett RBA for the next 12 months.