



Hon Leanne Donaldson MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Reference: CTS 06755/16

Level 8
80 Ann Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 46 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7560
Email agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

14 APR 2016

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 March 2016 about petitions 2558-16 and 2540-16 related to cattle tick management.

A new framework will commence with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* on 1 July 2016 under which cattle tick control and management will be achieved through a shared responsibility approach between government, industry and individual producers. The new framework will provide greater flexibility, improve animal welfare and reduce costs for industry.

The Act and Biosecurity Regulations will provide a regulatory framework for the management of cattle ticks in Queensland that will enable property or stock owners to meet their obligations through a range of options in flexible and responsive ways. Stock owners will have the flexibility to determine the best biosecurity option for effective cattle tick control for their business to meet their obligations. The framework is about allowing industry and producers to get on with business in less prescriptive and more flexible ways.

The proposed cattle tick management framework will include:

- a cattle tick surveillance program to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations to minimise the risk of spread of cattle ticks, to check for the presence or absence of cattle ticks in the Queensland cattle tick free zone or monitor the effects of measures taken in response to a cattle tick infestation in the free zone
- the declaration of restricted places for infested places in the free area
- guidelines for eradicating cattle tick in the free zone, treating animals for cattle tick and inspecting animals for cattle tick
- the application of the general biosecurity obligation for matters not covered by the Regulation

- Regulations that describe the legal requirements for moving stock - the Regulations will designate part of Queensland as a cattle tick free zone and the remainder as an infested zone. The zones will be separated by the tick line.

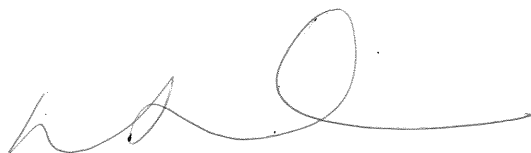
The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has undertaken consultation to determine the views of stakeholders on the preferred location of the boundary between the two cattle tick zones, commonly referred to as the tick line. The online survey on the location of the tick line closed on 29 February 2016. In total there have been over 979 submissions to the survey received or lodged. The department has received many written submissions and petitions from a number of industry groups and individual stakeholders throughout the consultation period. All submissions gathered or submitted and any other relevant information will be considered as the Queensland Government formalises a position on the location of the tick line under the new cattle tick management framework.

Movement requirements of stock under the new framework will provide a balance between protecting the free zone from cattle tick and the need to reduce restrictions on the movement of animals that pose a low risk of spreading ticks.

It is not correct to say that producers will be able to apply for self-regulation or take no action to prevent cattle ticks when moving from a place in the infested zone to a place in the free area. The proposed new Regulations will in most cases require a person to treat their cattle and obtain a biosecurity certificate that states the cattle are free of cattle tick or have been treated according to the requirements of the legislation prior to moving them from a property in the infested zone to a property in the free zone.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Ms Alana Tibbitts, Chief of Staff, in my office on telephone 07 3719 7560.

Yours sincerely



The Honourable Leanne Donaldson MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Member for Bundaberg