



## Western LHPA Ovine Johne’s Disease Exclusion Area Operational Plan

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# Western LHPA Ovine Johne's Disease Exclusion Area Operational Plan

**Please Note:** This plan should be read in conjunction with DPI's Policy and Procedure on Ovine Johne's Disease Exclusion Areas ([http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/339203/o088-ojd-eas.pdf](http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/339203/o088-ojd-eas.pdf)) and [http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/339604/procedure-PRO2009-010-ovine-johnes-disease-exclusion-areas.pdf](http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/339604/procedure-PRO2009-010-ovine-johnes-disease-exclusion-areas.pdf) respectively). It is not the intention of this document to replicate the information from these documents.

## **1 Background**

The current Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) national plan has 4 main objectives:

1. Minimise the risk to properties and geographic regions which currently appear disease free, and actively manage incursions when they occur;
2. Reduce the area prevalence in regions where the disease is endemic through the use of vaccine and the implementation of grazing management practices to minimise the exposure of stock to *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* subsp. *avium* (Mptb);
3. Promote the benefits of active biosecurity planning to manage disease risk at the individual property and regional level;
4. Provide improved trading opportunities for producers who actively manage the disease through the use of the Assurance Based Credit (ABC) Scheme.

An Exclusion Area (EA):

1. relies on producers cooperating with each other to protect their area status for mutual benefit;
2. is principally driven by extension advice that provides producers with the knowledge to manage risk of introduction of OJD;
3. provides producers in the area with tools to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of OJD within their area;
4. assists in preserving trade advantage;
5. provides LHPA/DPI with 'reserve' regulatory powers to ensure that optimum management of OJD can occur within the area.

An Exclusion Area is a protected area for OJD that is declared by the Minister for Primary Industries at the request of the LHPA. In July 2011, sheep producers of the Western Division voted to maintain the current Exclusion Area for a period of 3 years.

According to the OJD Exclusion Area Policy, the LHPA is required to develop an OJD Operation Plan which outlines the objectives, strategies and performance indicators for maintaining the integrity of the Exclusion Area. The Operational Plan must be endorsed by the NSW OJD Coordinator.

## **2 Objectives of the Exclusion Area**

To prevent the entry of OJD into the area and manage any outbreaks that may occur with a view to eradication.

## **3 Strategies**

1. Discourage the entry of OJD infected sheep into the EA
2. Monitor movements and disease status of sheep being moved into the EA.
3. Manage any outbreak of disease that might occur within the EA so that the disease is eradicated.
4. Utilise abattoir monitoring of sheep for OJD to ensure:
  - a. no disease has been introduced and
  - b. prevalence of infected flocks in the area is below 0.8%.
5. Promote the concepts of biosecurity to sheep producers within the Western Division to ensure understanding of EA responsibilities and benefits of compliance with these responsibilities.
6. Create a sense of community responsibility to maintaining the EA status for the benefit of all sheep producers within the EA.

## **4 Responsibilities of Exclusion Area**

### **Producers**

- Only introduce sheep into the EA that have an ABC score of 4 or greater.
- Ask for the SHS before you buy or agist sheep and only proceed if the sheep have a score of 4 or more ABC points.
- send a copy of the SHS to the LHPA within 7 days of sheep moving onto your property from outside the EA,

### **LHPA/DPI**

- Monitor all sheep movements through the NLIS database. LHPA
- Reconcile sheep movements with SHSs received. LHPA
- Investigate cases where sheep movements do not match SHSs received. LHPA
- Investigate incidents where incorrect or misleading information has been provided or suspected or where irregularities have been observed. LHPA
- Undertake a Risk Assessment where it is believed a suspicious movement has occurred. This Risk Assessment may include the requirement to muster and test some or all of the suspected sheep. LHPA  
Veterinary Officer

- Where the Risk Assessment cannot discount the introduction of disease, develop a Property Disease Management Plan (PDMP), in conjunction with the property owner, aiming to minimise the risk of infection spreading to other properties and to return the stock from this property to its former Low Prevalence status (4 ABC points in category A of the SHS) as quickly as possible.

Veterinary Officer

## **5 Financial**

1. The purpose of the EA is to protect all producers from the costs of OJD.
2. During a risk assessment or investigation, testing of suspect sheep may be required eg sheep from medium or high prevalence areas, or sheep from a property within the EA with OJD positive animals found at abattoir monitoring.
3. OJD faecal testing typically costs approx \$1,000 per flock test. The Western LHPA will pay for the investigation costs only if it is satisfied that the producer followed all the recommendations in the Western LHPA EA Operational Plan eg bought-in sheep were 4 ABC points or greater, SHS was completed with correct information.
4. Conversely, if a producer buys in sheep with fewer than 4 ABC points, the producer will be required to fund any risk assessment and subsequent PDMP costs him/herself.
5. There may be occasions where disease is found on a property despite compliance with movement procedures eg OJD may be found during abattoir monitoring. If an investigation confirms that the disease exists on this property, the cost of the PDMP will be supported by the LHPA on a fifty percent (50%) basis to a maximum of \$3,000. The remainder of costs will be borne by the producer. (Costs in this context means, vaccine and further testing costs only).
6. The decision on whether the LHPA will financially assist a producer as described in items 3 and 5 above will be made by the LHPA's animal health committee, having considered recommendations by the investigating veterinary officer.

To support the EA, the Western LHPA will therefore make provision in its annual accounts for 3 PFC tests per annum. In addition, provision will also be made for cost sharing as described in 5.5 above, for one PDMP per annum. It should be noted that in the Western LHPA, it will take only 4 flocks to become infected, for the 0.8% Low Prevalence threshold to be breached.

## **6 Education and Extension**

- Articles and reminders of the obligations and benefits of the EA will be published in newsletters and correspondence to ratepayers.
- Consolidated abattoir monitoring data will be used to complement articles and reminders.
- Failure to provide a SHS to the LHPA will prompt an advisory letter to the purchaser or receiver of stock.
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## **7 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

### **Regional prevalence**

Measure: Abattoir monitoring confirms prevalence below 0.8%.

### **Movement Compliance rate**

- a) Measure: Number of SHSs number of movements into WD, improving annually.
- b) Measure: Number of movements where <4 ABC points/ number of total movements decreasing annually.

### **Reserve powers:**

Measure: Reserve powers not used.

### **Education**

Measure: at least 2 articles/reminders per year to all sheep producers on EA responsibilities etc.

### **Budget**

Measure: budget for investigation/PDMP support is not exceeded.

## **8 Resourcing of EA Operational Plan**

The Board has determined that no additional staff will be required to implement the EA Operational Plan.

## **9 Survey of Producers**

Every third year, a survey will be undertaken of a third of sheep producers to confirm the community's wish to continue the EA.

**Brian Thomas (Chair, Western LHPA)**  
**November 24, 2011**