

## Issue

Industry & Investment NSW released the Terms of Reference, which will provide the framework for the Review into Bovine Johne's disease (BJD) in August 2009.

## Background

- Industry has long been attempting to move to a more risk-based approach for managing BJD, decreasing the negative impact of the disease on individual producers.
- The aim of the new approach is to enhance market access of NSW cattle herds by empowering individual producers to:
  - Minimise contamination of farms and farm products
  - Protect non-infected herds
  - Minimise the social and economic impacts of BJD
- The new approach has been adopted as a three step process. The first step was an extension and education campaign informing producers of the changes.
- The second step involved regulatory changes, which were introduced on 31 March 2008. Major changes included:
  - No quarantines apply to **dairy herds** which are infected with BJD or are suspected of being infected with BJD
  - Dairy producers selling or moving cattle in NSW are required to provide a Dairy BJD Assurance Score Declaration Form except when the cattle are being sold directly to an abattoir or at a slaughter-only sale
  - Cattle from dairy holdings in the Control Zone can be moved directly to dairy holdings in the Protected Zone. However to move cattle from dairy holdings in the Control Zone to beef properties or saleyards in the Protected Zone, the dairy cattle have to meet standard inter-zone movement requirements i.e. they are enrolled in CattleMAP or have been Check Tested.
- The third step is planned to include removing the NSW BJD zones and other steps. Before the third step is starts, the second step needs to be reviewed and reassessed.
- The Association is encouraging all of our dairy and beef Members to get involved in this process. If you have a comment, an issue or an area that you would like to discuss, contact us today. It is essential that all concerned dairy and beef producers, and indeed all Association Members, have the opportunity to have their views represented.

## Association policy

**AC 99** That the Association strongly support a national approach to OJD and BJD to keep these diseases to a minimum or eradicate

**AC 07** That the Association ensure dairy and beef producer members are involved in the review of Stage 2 prior to the commencement of Stage 3 on 1/1/2010 of the new BJD National Programme

**EC Oct 09:** That the Association supports the current review process for the management of BJD, including the movement towards a risk-based approach for managing BJD and the removal of BJD zoning in NSW.

### Changes from 31 March 2008

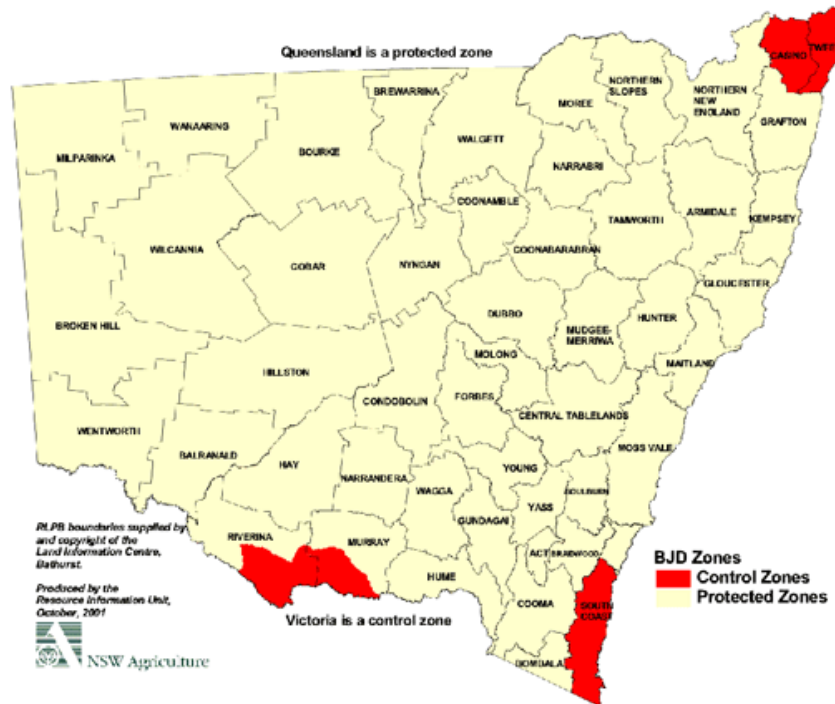
In March 2008 the way BJD is managed in NSW changed, to introduce **risk-based trading**. This is in keeping with the less regulated approach for managing BJD in Australia, which has been agreed nationally by cattle industries, governments and stakeholders.

What changed	What remained the same
<p><b>Dairy Herd Quarantining</b> No quarantines apply to dairy holdings which are infected with BJD or are suspected of being infected with BJD after 31 March 2008.</p>	<p><b>Beef herd Quarantining</b> Beef herds infected or suspected of being infected with BJD remain in quarantine. The Financial and Non-Financial Assistance Package provides support for these herds as producers eliminate BJD from their herds</p>
<p><b>Scoring</b> The National Dairy BJD Assurance Score was fully implemented in NSW.</p>	<p><b>BJD Zones</b> BJD Zones remain in place and inter-zone movement conditions continue to apply until 2010</p>
<p><b>Selling at saleyards</b> At saleyards the Dairy BJD Assurance Score is displayed and the auctioneer announces the Dairy BJD Assurance Score prior to selling cattle from dairy holdings. Cattle from dairy holdings with a Dairy BJD Assurance Score of less than 7 are held in a separate area of the saleyard.</p>	<p><b>Beef auditing</b> <i>Beef Only</i> conditions and audit requirements continue unchanged</p>
<p><b>Cattle movements</b> Cattle from dairy holdings in the Control Zone can be moved directly to dairy holdings in the Protected Zone. However, to move cattle from dairy holdings in the Control Zone to beef properties or saleyards in the Protected Zone, the dairy cattle have to meet standard interzone movement requirements, e.g. they are enrolled in CattleMAP or have been Check Tested, i.e. <b>they are Dairy BJD Assurance Score 7 or higher.</b></p>	<p><b>Scoring</b> Beef producers who purchase dairy cattle with a Dairy BJD Assurance Score of 6 or below and whose herds become infected with BJD are not eligible for the Financial and Non-Financial Assistance Package for beef herds</p>
<p><b>Monitoring</b> Movements of cattle from dairy holdings to beef herds are monitored by NLIS</p>	

### Zones

Zoning involves placing different regions of a country into a certain 'zone' according to the region's level of disease risk and control. Restrictions are then placed on the movement of animals

between zones and animals have to meet certain standards for movement. A large part of NSW was declared a Protected Zone (Figure 1.), where there is little or no evidence BJD, there is a high level of confidence that if disease were present it would be detected and on-going surveillance is occurring. BJD may be present in a control zone however strict restrictions are placed on known infected herds within the zone. Producers in Control zones have a responsibility to adopt best practice when buying stock to ensure their herd does not become infected with Johne's disease.



**Figure 1.** Map of BJD zoning in New South Wales (Source: NSW DPI)

**Association representation**

Richard Chamen, Chairman of the Cattle Committee represents the Association on the NSW BJD Executive Summit. Jamie Drury represents the Association's Dairy Committee.

**Where to from here**

- The Association lodged a submission to Industry & Investment in November 2009.
- The Association is currently awaiting the recommendations from the review. Members will be informed when the recommendation are released.