

# **Stock Identification Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014**

Explanatory Notes for SL 2014 No. 82

made under the

*Stock Act 1915*

## **General Outline**

### **Short title**

*Stock Identification Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014*

### **Authorising law**

Section 48 and schedule 1 of the *Stock Act 1915*

### **Policy objectives and the reasons for them**

The objectives of the subordinate legislation are to:

- extend the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) reporting requirements that currently apply to cattle to include bison and buffalo. Despite bison and buffalo sharing the same susceptibility to disease they have previously been excluded from any reporting requirements;
- enhance reporting requirements to help better achieve the main purpose of the NLIS of preventing, controlling and eradicating disease. Currently, the reporting requirements lack certain details, including information about the date of arrival and slaughter of cattle. This information is important to be able to accurately trace the animals and to differentiate the records kept about deceased animals and those of live animals that could transmit disease in the event of an outbreak;
- reduce the regulatory burden of reporting about travel to and from sporting events or agricultural shows without compromising the ability to trace animals. Currently, the same reporting requirements that apply when cattle are moved from one place to another (such as a stock transit facility) apply when the cattle are moved to a sporting event or show. Stakeholders have raised concerns regarding the burden imposed by these reporting requirements for a show or event;
- address inconsistencies and industry concerns regarding the use of the term ‘harvested feral goat’. Currently, the legislation uses the term ‘harvested feral goat’ when referring to certain types of goats, however, industry does not consider this to be an appropriate term, mainly for marketing purposes, and it is not consistent with national legislation;

- improve the traceability of sheep and goats. While currently the legislation provides travel and identification requirements for sheep and goats, it does not provide any reporting requirements. It is considered that this issue needs to be addressed to provide for the same reporting requirements that apply to cattle to ensure accurate traceability of the animals under the NLIS; and
- allow the online publication of certain information under the Agricultural Property System register that underpins the livestock traceability systems. The information provided in the register, with some minor exceptions, needs to be made available online to facilitate public access.

## **Achievement of policy objectives**

The subordinate legislation will achieve its objectives by amending the *Stock Identification Regulation 2005* (the Regulation) to:

- extend the reporting requirements that currently apply to cattle to now include bison and buffalo which share similar susceptibility to disease;
- amend the reporting requirements to ensure all the information required provides better traceability of animals, such as the date of arrival and slaughter for cattle, bison and buffalo;
- introduce modified reporting requirements for cattle, bison and buffalo attending shows or events to reduce the burden on show/event organisers;
- change the term ‘harvest feral goat’ to ‘harvested rangeland goat’ as this is deemed appropriate by industry and is consistent with national legislation;
- ensure sheep and goats are appropriately tagged and introduce reporting requirements for sheep and goats under different situations;
- enable the requirement to publish the Agricultural Property System register under the Regulation in such a manner that does not breach any requirements under the *Information Privacy Act 2009* while providing better access to the relevant information under the register; and
- make additional minor amendments necessary to give effect to the amendments mentioned above.

## **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

The subordinate legislation is consistent with the main policy objectives of the relevant Act.

## **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

The subordinate legislation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

## **Benefits and costs of implementation**

The State Government will not incur any additional costs in the implementation of this subordinate legislation.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

The subordinate legislation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

## Consultation

Queensland has a limited number of bison, estimated at 100, although the exact number is not known. Individual owners of bison and buffalo were consulted regarding the proposed amendments. These owners indicated support for the proposed amendments.

AgForce Queensland advised that it considers buffalo and bison deserve to be treated similarly to cattle under movement protocols and that NLIS tag identification should be part of the government requirements for these animals.

The following governing bodies of the four major event/show bodies have been consulted and support the introduction of modified reporting: the Australian Campdraft Association; the Australian Professional Rodeo Association; the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies; and the Australian Bushmen's Campdraft and Rodeo Association.

The Queensland NLIS Advisory Committee, AgForce Queensland and the Goat Industry Council of Australia support the amendments to make the requirements of the NLIS (sheep and goats) enforceable. Legislative requirements to back the scheme are already in place in New South Wales and South Australia.

The Office of the Information Commissioner was consulted about online publication of the APS database. The amendments reflect the recommendations received in their advice.

Queensland Treasury and Trade was consulted on the proposed amendments and advised that a Regulatory Impact Statement review process was not required for the amendments.