



## **AgForce Queensland Industrial Union of Employers**

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18 November 2015

BJD Review Team  
Animal Health Australia  
Level 2, 95 Northbourne Ave  
Turner ACT 2612

Via email: [bjdreview@animalhealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:bjdreview@animalhealthaustralia.com.au)

To the BJD Review Team,

### **Re: National BJD Strategic Plan Review – AgForce Response to Framework Paper ‘BJD – Where to from here?’**

#### **Overview**

AgForce thanks the BJD Review Team for the opportunity to comment on the ‘BJD – Where to from here?’ Framework Document (the Framework) as part of the National BJD Strategic Plan Review (the Review).

AgForce is the peak representative body for broad acre primary producers in the cattle, grain, sheep and wool industries of Queensland and AgForce members collectively manage more than 50 per cent of Queensland’s land mass. The strategic vision of AgForce Cattle is for a ‘progressive and profitable beef industry’ for Queensland.

As per our previous contributions to the Review it is necessary to have appropriate systems in place that provides animal health, welfare and biosecurity assurances to our customers both domestically and internationally.

#### **Comments: The Framework**

AgForce recognises that a significant amount of consultation has occurred in developing the Framework and provides in principle support to the Fundamental Objectives (P8, pg. 4). Core to our previous submissions to the query was that –

1. Trade risk to domestic and international customers is clearly recognised and managed;
2. Mandatory tools are put in place that support reducing this risk for the trade of cattle;
3. JD retains regulatory control processes in Queensland; and

4. Industry and government are provided with appropriate levels of resourcing to manage this change effectively.

However, in meeting these Fundamental Objectives AgForce is of the view that the following amendments must be made to the Framework and be a consideration in the jurisdictional roll out in Queensland:

| AgForce Concern   | Key Reference  | Comment   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Trade risk to domestic and international customers is clearly recognised and managed.            | P22, pg.8: Industry and trade requirements are the determining references. | No operational tools, either at an international or domestic level are offered to support this overarching 'fundamental.' This needs to be rethought at a trade cooperation level as this is not something that can simply be managed by producers.                           |
| 2. Mandatory tools are put in place that support reducing this risk for the trade of cattle.        | P28, pg.9: Three key types of tools.                                       | This tools must be <b>mandatory</b> in order to provide assurance to producers and participate in the market. A PIC status register should also be considered.  |
| 3. JD retains regulatory control processes in Queensland.   | P39, pg.11: Regulation will not be mandatory for JD in cattle.             | AgForce was supportive of the removal of trace forward quarantine, instances of clinical diagnosis should be managed and reflected in regulation accordingly. Biosecurity Queensland should retain its role as regulator and manager in the instance of a positive diagnosis. |
| 4. Industry and government are provided with appropriate levels of resourcing to manage this change | P14, pg.4: Funding.  | It is very unclear the levels of funding to be allocated by industry and government and whether this will support the roll out of market participation tools for producers. Any change  |

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| effectively. |  | to the current conditions will only be supported if sufficient financial support is provided. Clarity is sought around the exact contributions by Animal Health Australia and, in this instance, Biosecurity Queensland. |
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Lastly, it must be noted in the instance of the roll out in Queensland this should not be considered in isolation of the broader biosecurity reform and resourcing –

- *Biosecurity Act 2014*: To be fully implemented by July 2016 this Act does shift policy setting responsibility to a more regional and farm focus. However, JD management needs to be considered as part of the broader focus of this and in line with the *Biosecurity Capability Review* (as per below).
- *Lack of Queensland Cattle Industry Biosecurity Fund*: Industry currently has no means of supporting any market participation tool through an industry funded, government collected scheme. This situation needs to be amended moving forward in any changes in biosecurity management.
- *Biosecurity Capability Review*: This is currently an ongoing review into the current biosecurity system in Queensland and the gaps in both government capabilities. No major reform should be pursued until these gaps are known and strategies are put in place to address these.
- *Biosecurity extension services*: There is currently a lack of any extension officers (public sector) delivering biosecurity extension. In the instance government wishes to step back from a traditional manager/ regulator role this will need to be filled with education and awareness services to effectively manage the change period.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Senior Livestock Policy Director Anna Campbell on 0429 649 881 or [campbella@agforceqld.org.au](mailto:campbella@agforceqld.org.au).

Yours faithfully,



**Anthony 'Bim' Struss**  
**AGFORCE CATTLE PRESIDENT**