MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

TERRITORY CLEARED OF BJD

21 May 2013

The Northern Territory has maintained its “Bovine Johne’s Disease (BJD) Protected Zone” status.

The Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) has tested for BJD at a number of Territory stations which have all been cleared.

Some NT properties obtained cattle from a BJD infected beef stud in Queensland; however all laboratory test results are back showing that none of these NT properties have had BJD introduced.

Cattle from the infected Queensland stud were traced forward to the NT by DPIF Biosecurity Officers and measures were put in place to restrict cattle movements while the testing was underway.

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, Willem Westra van Holthe, said the completion of the testing is an excellent result for the Northern Territory cattle industry and would not have been possible without the cooperation of cattle property owners.

“All cattle movements off the infected property for the last 7 years were traced using the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and state movement records. Luckily only a limited number of properties in the Northern Territory were involved,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“The individual traced suspect bulls were located on those properties via their electronic NLIS tags and tested for BJD.

“None of the properties had evidence of BJD having being introduced from the infected stud.

“I want to thank all the cattle property owners involved for their cooperation and patience while the testing was completed, in particular the one property that had a large number of suspect bulls who made a major commitment to respond quickly to the threat.

“Property owners and industry understand the importance of following bio-security protocols to protect the good reputation of the Northern Territory cattle industry.

“As related follow up testing is still ongoing in Queensland and the Kimberley, we must remain vigilant and continue to uphold our high standards of cattle production to ensure we do not lose our BJD Protected Zone status.

“I would also like to thank DPIF Biosecurity staff for their commitment and hard work to ensure the Northern Territory maintains its BJD Protected Zone status.”

David Warriner, of the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association, echoed these sentiments, praising the positive response by the properties involved and DPIF staff for their handling of the issue.

“I would also like to thank the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association for their cooperation with DPIF to address BJD,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

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