



# Queensland Shows

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CEO  
Aurukun Shire Council  
39 Kang Kang Road  
AURUKUN  
QLD 4871

Email: [council@aurukun.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@aurukun.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **RE: BIO SECURITY AT QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL SHOW FACILITIES**

The Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Inc. (QCAS) has been working in consultation with the Queensland Horse Industry Alliance (QHIA) and Biosecurity Queensland to develop best practice procedures to combat the spread of infectious diseases and pests at public events and in particular agricultural shows throughout Queensland.

QCAS has promulgated a *Hendra Virus – Biosecurity Policy Statement* designed to assist Agricultural Show Societies in protecting their communities against Hendra Virus (in particular) and all equestrian and livestock events held in suitable facilities.

Many other equestrian organisations have also promulgated policy statements and associated documentation for the management of their events. In all cases these documents complement each other and aim to provide protection to the organisations, competitors and the general public.

As a number of agricultural societies operate on community trust land, which in some cases they do not have tenure, it has been recommended by the QCAS Board that regional councils be made aware of the requirements that QCAS and other equestrian organisations have placed on their members, including Agricultural Show Societies and the effect that non-compliance by facility management could have on an agricultural show if there is no policy in place for the management of Biosecurity on a year round basis.

Biosecurity of livestock facilities is a continuous issue requiring managers of livestock facilities to have procedures in place to ensure that all users are protected and their planned events are not disrupted by negligent activities of other users. The *Policy Statement* prepared by QCAS requires that all horses entering a showground facility at any time of year complete a *Horse Health Declaration* prior to being allowed access to the facility. These declarations are then available to Biosecurity for tracking purposes in the event of an emergency animal disease incident.

Based on current research and advice from industry leaders, QCAS highly recommends all showground and public livestock facility managers implement best practice procedures to ensure the duty of care of facilities under their care. This will ensure the longevity of the local agricultural show and many other community events throughout Queensland.

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Copies of the *Policy Statement*, a *Bio-Security template* and *Horse Health Declaration* have been included with this letter for your perusal and consideration. Electronic or hard copies of these documents are available by contacting [admin@queenslandshows.com.au](mailto:admin@queenslandshows.com.au) .

QCAS is working with QHIA and other organisations including Biosecurity Queensland to develop a standard *Horse Health Declaration* across Queensland. Until then there are a variety of these forms, all of which are acceptable to Queensland agricultural shows.

For further information please contact myself at [ceo@queenslandshows.com.au](mailto:ceo@queenslandshows.com.au) or 0439 894 439. Your council's initiative in assisting agricultural societies and other livestock organisations in adopting a Biosecurity policy and plan for livestock venues under your control is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Mark Bryant  
CEO

Enclosures:

- a. QCAS Hendra Virus – Biosecurity Policy Statement
- b. QCAS Bio Security Plan Template
- c. QCAS Horse Health Declaration Form.

CC:

- a. Biosecurity Queensland
  - b. Queensland Horse Industry Alliance
  - c. 128 x Agricultural Societies
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