## THE 5 WHYS - ON ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (eID) TRACING Why move to eID for sheep and goats?

We need to be in the best recovery position if there is an emergency animal disease (EAD) or food safety incident.



An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) could have significantly greater and devastating consequences than anything we've have had to deal with in the past.

If there's an outbreak, business stops. No one exports sheep or goat products. Animals are destroyed and whole towns can be without key employers.





Recovery will be shorter if we strengthen our biosecurity system with improved traceability. The chance of disease getting into flocks in the first place will be lessened if we can individually trace sheep and goats.

An FMD outbreak in Australia is estimated to have an



direct impact to our economy

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\$80 billion

### We need to maintain market access

A loss of reputation and confidence caused by a livestock disease outbreak or a chemical contamination incident, would incur large and long-lasting costs for Australia's export markets. An effective tracing system will enable an efficient, effective and targeted response.

**98%** of Australian wool and over **70% of** Australian sheepmeat is exported and sold to overseas markets. Australia also exports **95%** of goatmeat.

The economic benefits from our production is heavily export dependent. A violation of import protocols can affect market access and significantly impact the returns earned by producers.

<u>Click here</u> to learn more about the potential consequences of a foot and mouth (FMD) disease outbreak.

# Why is eID better than visual tagging?

Evidence both locally and abroad demonstrates the current visual, mob-based system is not as quick or accurate at tracing the movement of sheep and goats.



Implementation of eID for sheep in Victoria was found to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of traceability by **30% and exceed the national standard with 99.64% accuracy** 

eID technology has been around for some time and is used successfully for sheep in Europe, for cattle in Australia since 2005 and for sheep and goats in Victoria since 2017.



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<u>Click here</u> to learn more about the benefits of eID for sheep and goats.

### RAPID TRACING WITH eID



Contrasting the speed of response in two recent cases.

### WITH eID

It took

to identify the full life history, including properties of residence, to prove that there was no known Bovine Johne's Disease in a consignment of **321 cattle** involving **120 properties over 5 states.** 

The ability to trace the cattle quickly and accurately resulted in market access being resumed within days.

### WITHOUT eID

**3 DAYS** 

**to locate 74 sheep** infected with anthrax off a Victorian property.

# Why have a nationally consistent system?

Disease does not respect jurisdictional boundaries; we need to work together.

One system means we can quickly contact trace where a sheep or goat has been, what sheep and goats they have mixed with, and the livestock's destination.



We already have one traceability system – the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) – for movement recording using visual tags. We don't need to start over. We need to update the technology and be smarter about how we use the system.

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<u>Click more</u> to learn more about how the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) works.

### **Why** introduce additional costs in this current environment?

We don't want to lose business. While there will be some increased investment associated with this change, the benefits of improved traceability far outweigh any increased costs.





There are current price differences between visual and eID tags. There are also costs associated with supporting infrastructure like readers at saleyards or wands.





We understand the current trading conditions and issues facing many in our industry. We're focused on minimising any additional costs, working with hardware and software providers and exploring funding options in relation to implementation and ongoing expenses.

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The Sheep and Goat Traceability Taskforce (SGTTF) is overseeing the national roll-out of the individual electronic identification (eID) for all sheep and goats. <u>Click here</u> to learn about their Terms of Reference.

# Why has 1 January 2025 been set as the implementation date?



#### **BIOSECURITY THREATS ARE** ON OUR DOORSTEP.

We need to move as fast as we can to protect ourselves and give us the ability to respond more effectively.

Australia trades as a nation, and **trade restrictions** will be imposed on Australia for both animals and their products in the event of an emergency disease outbreak, regardless of where an incursion is first detected.



We must have a fit-for-purpose, nationally aligned traceability system that enables Australia to return to trade as quickly as possible. 2025 provides **sufficient time for suppliers to scale up** production and undertake the necessary activities to support the national implementation.

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Government and industry are working together to determine the implementation plan and milestones, as agreed at the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting. <u>Click here</u> to learn more.