

# CATTLE TICK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

## COMMUNIQUE OCTOBER 2025



### WHAT IS THE CATTLE TICK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CTCC)?

The CTCC was established to provide the NSW DPIRD with a consistent and concise forum to consult on matters relating to the cattle tick management program. Meetings take place 2- 3 times per year.

### INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Terry Toohey, eastAUSmilk
  2. Ron Chittick, Stock & Station agent
  3. Neil Summerville, cattle producer
  4. John Seccombe, Casino Food Company
  5. Deborah Willis, NSW Farmers
  6. James Harris, AgShows
  7. Jed Taylor, Biosecurity QLD
- Chair & Secretariat - NSW DPIRD

### OUTCOMES OF MEETING 30.10.25

#### AGENCY UPDATE

Peter Day - Executive Director Strategy & Regulatory Policy, provided an update on recent departmental changes. The compliance area & cattle tick program has been moved into his Division, & he advised he is looking at increasing compliance operations & improving stakeholder engagement & communication across the industry.

#### OWNER TREATMENT SCHEME

Darren Butt - Manager Border Compliance, tabled copies of the owner treatment manual and talked to the Scheme advising there are currently 95 participants. Darren reiterated that the program was not automatically open to everyone and that there were strict requirements and assessment that would occur to determine if a landholder was able to enter the program. There was discussion about compliance and non-compliance with the scheme and of the positive feedback being received from those who are involved and already receiving reimbursements for chemical use.

### COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Mark Mackie - Director Compliance, tabled the compliance report with some key statistics for this Financial Year. He provided members with a brief overview of Operation Victa - a roadside border operation run in conjunction with the NSW Police, Transport NSW & National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, where biosecurity compliance officers pull over suspect vehicles for Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) or Cattle Tick, with a focus also on stock trucks & horse floats during the operation.

In total just this Fin. Year, Operation Victa has stopped approx. 1600 vehicles, & of those 73 were stopped for cattle tick assessment purposes and 6 were returned to QLD for failure to treat. 18 Penalty Notices were issued 1 July - 21 October 2026

### INDEPENDENT BIOSECURITY COMMISSIONER (IBC)

Dr Katherine Clift - IBC, gave an overview of her role - engaged by the Minister to provide advice around the cattle tick program. Elements include: risks, benefits & alternative approaches, beneficiaries, funding & cost recovery, & comparisons to other jurisdictions.

Dr Clift noted that without an effective cattle tick program, it is evident that cattle tick has the potential to establish itself within coastal NSW, which would have a significant impact on cattle health and productivity.

The IBC is consulting with key stakeholders, & everyone can get involved via a short survey on the **'Have your say'** consultation website.

Dr Clift's final review is due to the Minister at the end of March 2026.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held in Feb/Mar 2026