



Biosecurity Plan

July 2024

This plan aims to ensure that Maryborough Showgrounds & Equestrian Park (MSEP) and those utilizing the venue and facilities meet the obligations of the Biosecurity Act 2014.

MSEP BIOSECURITY PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

Biosecurity is the implementation of preventive measures to reduce the risk of the transmission of infectious disease, invasive plant and animals and is achieved under the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 2014.

Biosecurity affects us all and is everybody's business. Good biosecurity practice requires everyone to be aware of their obligations and take active steps to manage the biosecurity risks under their control.

The Biosecurity Act 2014 (the Act) aims to protect Queensland from the impacts of invasive plants and animals, animal and plant diseases, and biological, chemical and physical contaminants. It promotes proactive management of biosecurity risk using timely and effective biosecurity responses to protect human health, the economy, the environment and social amenity.

The Act is built around the following concepts:

- Shared responsibility - everyone (governments, industries and individuals) who deals with something that may pose a biosecurity risk to Queensland has an obligation to manage the risk.
- Risk-based decision making - the Act requires that the response to a biosecurity risk is reasonable and practical and risk-based decision making is used to ensure that the response is proportionate to the level of risk. This allows flexibility in the application of the legislation and balances the interests of the community with those of the individual.
- The precautionary principle - allows action to be taken to manage biosecurity incursions where serious or irreversible damage is possible, but the scientific knowledge is incomplete. It considers that on-balance, the cost of not taking action to minimise a risk is more significant than the cost of taking early and definitive action which subsequently proves to be unnecessary.

These principles are designed to provide a responsive and equitable system for the management of biosecurity risks in Queensland.

The Biosecurity Act 2014 and the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 can be found on the Office of Queensland Parliamentary Council website:

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/browse/inforce>

Activities with horses pose a biosecurity risk and therefore under the General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) individuals and organizations need to take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimize each biosecurity risk, minimize the likelihood of causing a biosecurity event and limit the consequences if such an event is caused.

The GBO also includes the requirement for all persons to prevent or minimize the harmful effects a risk could have, and not to do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

This plan has been developed to meet the requirements of Biosecurity Act 2014 for activities conducted at Maryborough Showgrounds & Equestrian Park (MSEP).

The plan is to be used in the planning of activities on site but does not limit the scope or the implementation of mitigation measures for events. It sets out the minimum standards required for the use of the venue and the actions taken by Fraser Coast Regional Council to meet the obligations of The Act on-site.

Equine events pose an unusually high risk for the spread of infectious disease because of the various settings in which horses interact with both humans and other horses. Diseases can be spread from horse to horse, via human contact or through shared supplies, equipment, and surfaces.

MSEP Biosecurity Plan draws reference from Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024–2029 and can be found on QLD Government website:

[Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024–2029 - Queensland Biosecurity Strategy - Publications | Queensland Government](#)

MSEP Biosecurity Plan draws reference from Queensland Biosecurity Manual:

[Queensland Biosecurity Manual \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Further information regarding Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC) detailed scope of Biosecurity Plan 2022 can be referenced from website link below;

[Biosecurity-plan-2022 \(frasercoast.qld.gov.au\)](#)

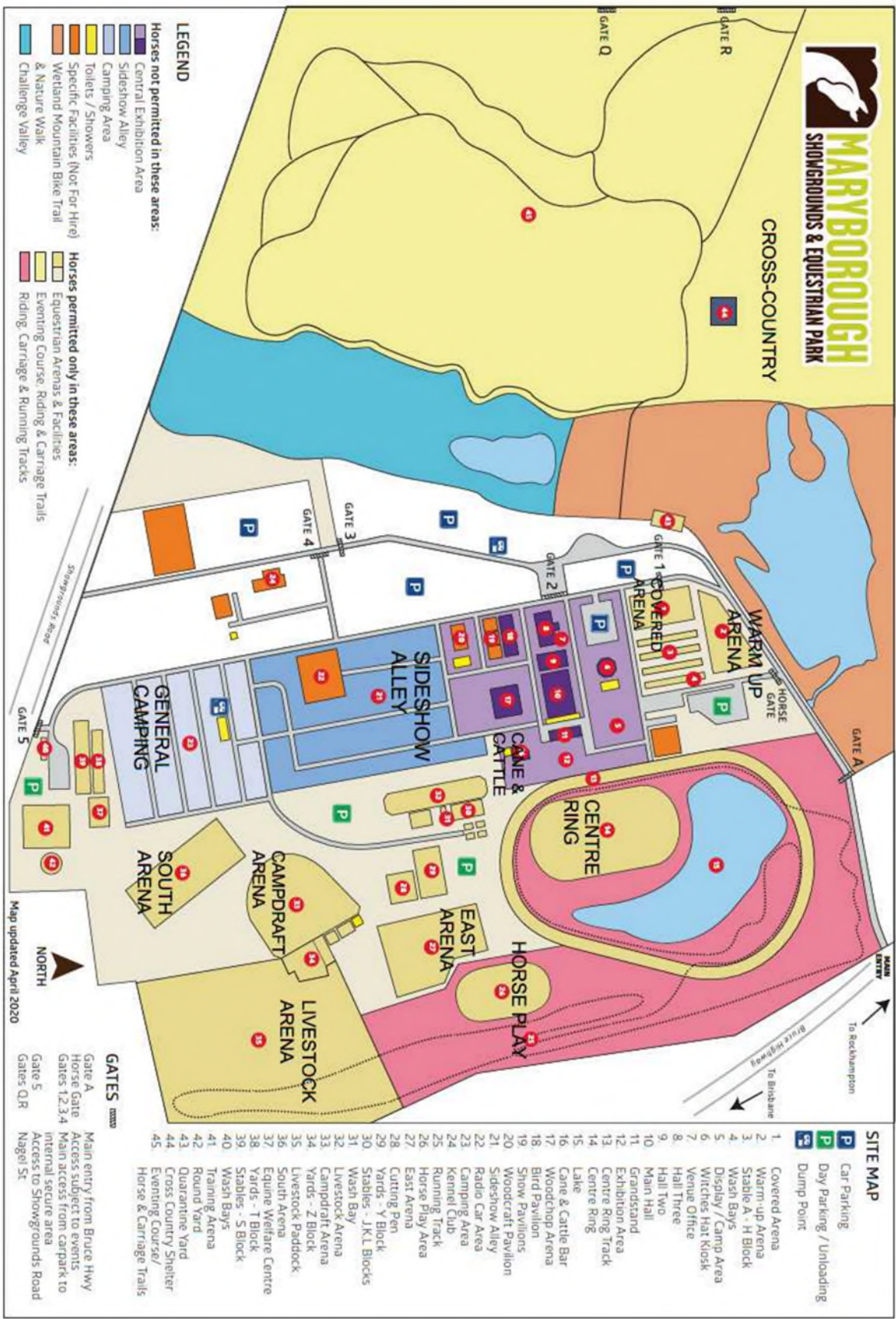
2. ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS

Abbreviations	
FCRC	Fraser Coast Regional Council
MSEP	Maryborough Showgrounds & Equestrian Park
GBO	General Biosecurity Obligation
The Act	Biosecurity Act 2014
NLIS	National Livestock Identification Scheme
Definitions	
Biosecurity Considerations	Include human health, social amenity, the economy and the environment i.e. things which may be negatively impacted by biosecurity matter
Biosecurity Emergency Order	Is made by the chief executive to isolate an emergency area, to stop the spread of any biosecurity matter and, if practicable, to eradicate biosecurity matter.
Biosecurity Event	An event or potential event that has been, or is likely to be caused by biosecurity matter, and which has had, or may have a significant adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration. These are usually high-risk events such as an outbreak of disease which may have widespread impacts on an industry.
Biosecurity Matter	A living thing (other than a human or part of a human), a disease, a pathogenic agent that can cause disease in a living thing other than a human or in a human via transmission of the pathogenic agent from an animal, or a contaminant (biological, chemical and physical).
Biosecurity Risk	Any risk (real or potential) of an adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration caused by: biosecurity matter, dealing with biosecurity matter or a carrier, or carrying out an activity relating to biosecurity matter or a carrier.
Biosecurity Zone	Is a declaration of the whole or part of QLD for managing, reducing, or eradicating specified pests or disease from inside or outside the zone.

Carrier	Any 'thing', dead or alive, biological or inanimate, that is carrying or has the potential to carry biosecurity matter. A 'thing' includes a human.
Contaminant	Anything that may be harmful to animal or plant health or poses the risk of an adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration. Examples include pathogenic bacteria in irrigation water, environmental contaminants including dioxins and residual organochlorine pesticides, heavy metals in fertilisers and animal feed and weed seeds
Deal with	Deal with, biosecurity matter or a carrier, includes any of the following – (a) keep or possess, whether intentionally or otherwise, the biosecurity matter or carrier; (b) conduct experiments with the biosecurity matter or carrier; (c) produce or manufacture the biosecurity matter or carrier; (d) breed the biosecurity matter or carrier; (e) propagate the biosecurity matter or carrier; (f) use the biosecurity matter or carrier in the course of manufacturing a thing that is not the biosecurity matter or carrier; (g) grow, raise, feed or culture the biosecurity matter or carrier; (h) distribute the biosecurity matter or carrier; (i) import the biosecurity matter or carrier; (j) transport the biosecurity matter or carrier; (k) dispose of the biosecurity matter or carrier; buy, supply or use the biosecurity matter or carrier for the purposes of, or in the course of, a dealing mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (k)
Designated Animal	Are cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, Camelidae, Equidae, birds and bees.
General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO)	Under the GBO, everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are: - under their control and – that they know about or should reasonably be expected to know about. Individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk by: - minimising the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event', and limit the consequences if such an event is caused – preventing or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.
Keeps	A person keeps a designated animal if the person is responsible for the care and control of the animal, whether or not the care or control is exercised through an agent or employee of the person.
Movement Control Order	Is made by the chief executive to restrict the movement of biosecurity matter or the carriers of biosecurity matter for up to three months.

Prohibited Matter	Biosecurity matter that is not currently present in Queensland and is prohibited because there are reasonable grounds to believe that it may have a significant adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration if it did enter Queensland. Prohibited matter is listed in schedule 1 of the Act and schedule 1, part 1 of the Regulation.
Reasonable and Practical Measures	The term ‘reasonable and practical measures’ is used throughout the legislation to include all the mitigation measures (actions or inactions) that a person would reasonably be expected to undertake to prevent or minimise a biosecurity risk in a particular circumstance.
Restricted Matter	Biosecurity matter that is already present in Queensland and may have an adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration if restrictions are not imposed (ss21 and 22). Restricted matter is listed in schedule 2 of the Act and schedule 1, part 2 of the Regulation. Restricted matter is assigned category numbers from 1-7 based on its characteristics and the risks it poses.

3. MSEP VENUE MAP



4. RISKS

The Act places the responsibility for the management of biosecurity risks on the individual for risks that you know about or could reasonably be expected to know about. Individuals are therefore expected to know about the risks associated with your day-to-day work and hobbies.

This includes if you own, ride, compete with a horse, you are expected to stay informed about pests and diseases that could affect or be carried by your animal, as well as weeds, and the expectation that they are managed appropriately.

Events with animals have the potential to have a biosecurity event due to the circumstances with animals coming from a range of locations and the increased stress the animals are under due to travel and being in an unfamiliar environment.

Under the Biosecurity Act individuals and organisations must take all reasonable and practical measures to reduce the biosecurity risk associated with invasive plants and animals on their property.

Risks can be managed effectively by following the venue requirements and include ensuring animals are:

- Fit and healthy before attending events
- Animal and equipment is clean and free of pests and contaminants
- Movement records are accurately completed and submitted
- Animals not allowed close contact with others or equipment that is not their own
- Hygiene is followed on site, includes handwashing and housekeeping
- Current advice is followed
- Vaccination is highly recommended

Many environmental factors contribute to the spread of disease. This includes air temperature and humidity but also a range of factors that can be mitigated including mosquitoes and vermin.

5. VECTOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mosquitoes can transmit a range of diseases that impact human and animal health. To mitigate this impact FCRC conducts an extensive mosquito management program across the region.

Fact sheets regarding this program can be found at the below link;

[Fact Sheet - Regulatory Services - Environmental Management - Vector - Mosquito Management.docx \(frasercoast.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Visitors to the facility are advised that midges and mosquitoes are in high number on Fraser Coast and even with the implementation of treatment programs by the vector

team, high mosquito numbers can be experienced. Visitors are therefore advised to use repellent for themselves and their animals while on-site or implement other mitigation measures including rugs, fans etc.

Midge can transmit diseases to cattle but are not effectively managed under the mosquito program. Persons with cattle are advised to implement mitigation measures for this risk.

6. PEST AND VERMIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Vermin and pest animals have the potential to spread infectious disease agents around the site. Human and animal food attracts these species and therefore MSEP requires that everyone utilizing the site implements good housekeeping practices. This includes disposing of food waste in the bins provided. Sightings of vermin on-site are to be reported to MSEP staff.

There is a proactive vermin and pest control program implemented on-site at MSEP by FCRC & Maryborough Hervey Bay Pest Control with further information available below;

[Pest Management – Fraser Coast Regional Council](#)

7. MOVEMENT RECORDS (HORSE HEALTH DECLARATIONS)

Property Identification Code – MSEP- QBMB0072

Tracking the movement of animals is essential for mitigating the impact of any biosecurity event and is a statutory requirement of the Act. Movement records (Horse Health Declarations) must be submitted by all individuals attending the site for the following animals:

- Horses and Cattle
- Sheep and Goats
- Bison and Buffalo
- Alpacas and llamas

Movement records (Horse Health Declarations) are required to be on the approved MSEP form, include all requested information and legible. Event organizers are responsible for collecting and maintaining their participants movement records.

These must be available to present to MSEP upon request. These records are essential for the timely and effective tracking of animals that have participated in an event.

A copy of MSEP Horse Health Declaration can be found at the link below;

<https://maryboroughpark.ourfrasercoast.com.au/downloads/file/44/msep-horse-health-declaration-form>

Failure of the relevant person to submit a movement record on the appropriate form can incur a maximum penalty of 200 penalty units. Section 194 (2) (b)

8. VENUE QUARANTINE AREAS

Key areas on-site have been designated isolation areas in the event of a disease risk.

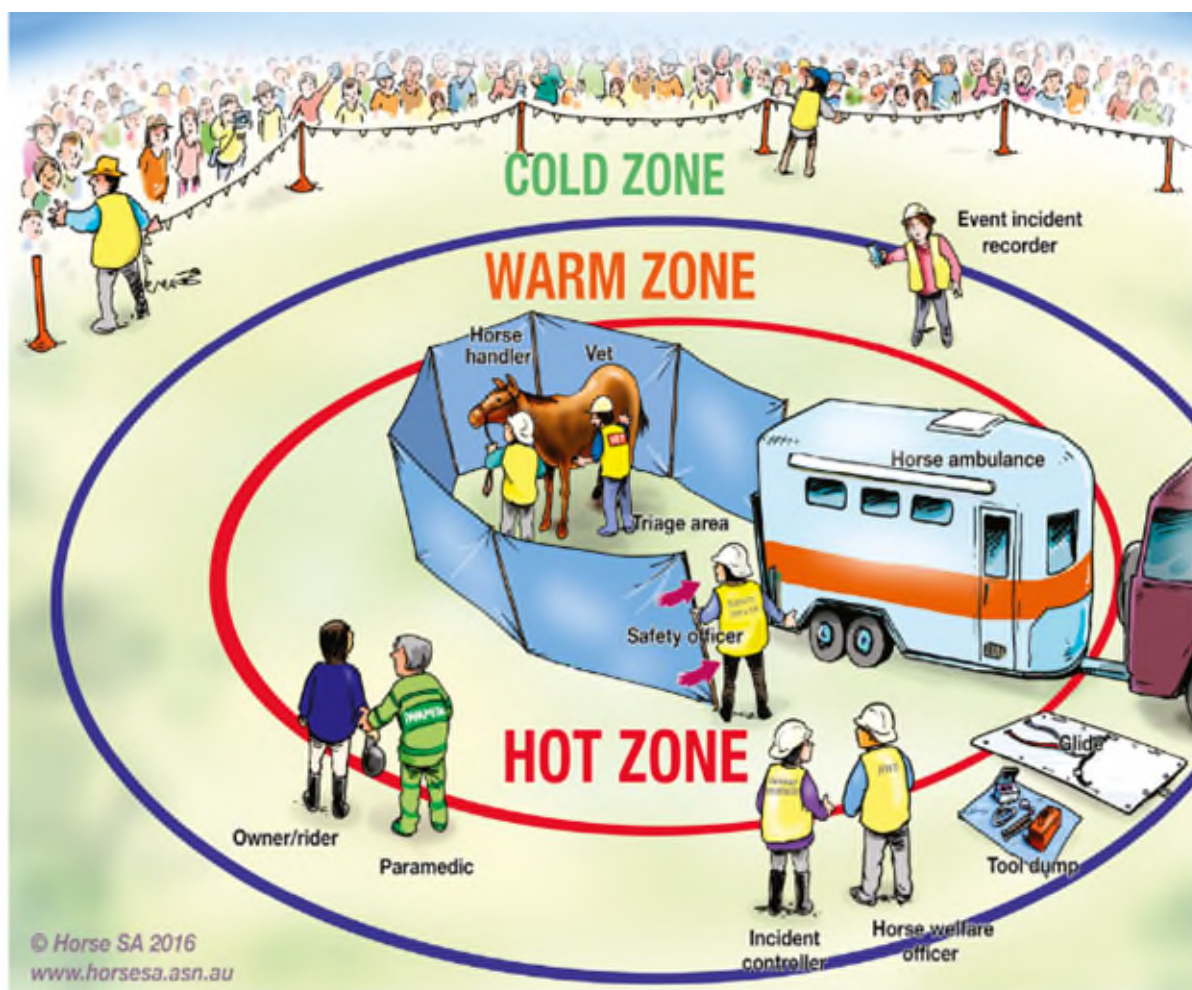
These may vary between events, but all event organizers are required in their event planning to have designated areas for the isolation of animals that display illness while on-site.

MSEP Quarantine Yard is located on western side of internal entry road also listed as Item 43 on above mentioned MSEP Venue Map.

Sick horses can shed infectious disease agents that can transmit infections directly or indirectly to susceptible horses. Isolation of at-risk horses reduces the risk for the others on-site.

Access to the isolated animals also needs to be restricted to reduce the risk of movement of the agent around the venue.

Below is a visual guide to best practice methods in the event of isolation.



9. MANURE DISPOSAL

Manure is to be removed from the common areas and stables cleaned regularly. Manure and stable waste materials are to be placed in the designated areas by the venue hirer and/or individual attending the site. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that the site is clean, and that manure does not pose a biosecurity risk.

Manure is a potential carrier of a range of infectious disease organisms and is treated as a risk material on-site. Frequent manure removal from site aids in eliminating parasites and insect breeding sites.

MSEP management requests that manure is not removed from the venue under any circumstances to best comply with the Biosecurity Act.

10. VENUE HYGIENE PRACTICES

There are hand wash stations available in amenities across the site and all persons attending are required to ensure that they mitigate the risks associated with transferring diseases by washing hands.

Equipment should not be shared between animals which are not normally housed together. There are no communal drinking troughs on-site for animals and all persons responsible for animals are advised to bring appropriate containers onsite to ensure the welfare of their animals.

Stables are cleaned and disinfected annually as part of our MSEP Maintenance plan.

Hay is a key carrier of weed seed and contaminated material, all hay brought to the venue must either be removed with the animal or disposed of in the available waste receptacle. Hay and manure cannot be placed around trees or in any other area due to the risk of contamination of the site.

There are no shared water sources on site due to the high risk they pose for the spread of pathogens. Users of the venue are required to bring water buckets as required for their animals and these are not to be shared with other owners on-site. Water hoses can be pathway for the transmission of disease between horses this is to be considered when taps and hoses are used on site for the washing of horses and filling of buckets.

Animal products must not be feed to animals (breach of Biosecurity Regulation) all general waste must be placed in the available waste receptacles. Any concerns about waste on-site must be brought to the attention of the MSEP venue staff.

Interaction with the general public must be kept to a minimum. Public access is to be restricted to areas away from animals and any general interaction to be restricted, this is to be included in the event specific biosecurity plan. Event organizers should consider methods to identify persons allowed to access these areas including the use of wrist bands etc. Restrictions on public access improve the safety for animals, handlers as well as the public and reduce horse health risk.

Medical device use and disposal at an event pose a safety hazard and are a potential disease transmission risk. Sharps containers are provided within the amenity block on-site for the safe disposal of these items. Items contaminated with blood must be disposed of safely. Hazardous waste disposal bin is provided for veterinary use and is available upon request.

11. VENUE STABLING

Stables are cleaned and disinfected annually as part of our MSEP Maintenance plan.

Users on-site are to advise the stable manager (if not available any staff member) immediately if there are issues with the cleanliness of their designated stable.

All users of the stable complex are required to follow good hygiene practices and not allow their horses to have close contact with others. Infectious disease pathogens can spread easily from an infected horse to a susceptible horse by direct or indirect horse contact. Grooming equipment, feed buckets and water buckets should not be shared between horses with different owners.

Event organizers are required to consider restricting access to the stable complex for the general public as part of their event management planning.

12. HORSES

All horses coming on-site must be free of disease and the relevant person for the horse must submit a horse health declaration on the approved form. Companion horses are allowed on-site, depending on the event specific conditions but must be included on all horse health declarations.

All Casual riders and users of the facilities at MSEP are to include all horses on the submitted horse health declaration and submit via email or MSEP Venue Office for each visit to MSEP.

Horses are not required to be Hendra Vaccinated to be on-site, but it is highly recommended. Movement records must clearly show the vaccination status of the horse and the horse clearly identifiable.

HORSES/PONIES USED FOR INTERACTION WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Horses and ponies brought on site for the purposes of pony rides, petting zoos etc when they will have close contact with the general public, must be Hendra Vaccinated.

This is required to be outlined in the event specific biosecurity plan which event organizers can find the appropriate recommended template at the link below;
[EVENT BIOSECURITY PLAN \(equestrian.org.au\)](https://equestrian.org.au)

REQUIREMENTS WHILE ON-SITE

Horses must be regularly inspected for ill health and disease while on-site. The assigned veterinarian or designated event official for the event must be advised of any disease symptoms that develop while the horse is at the event.

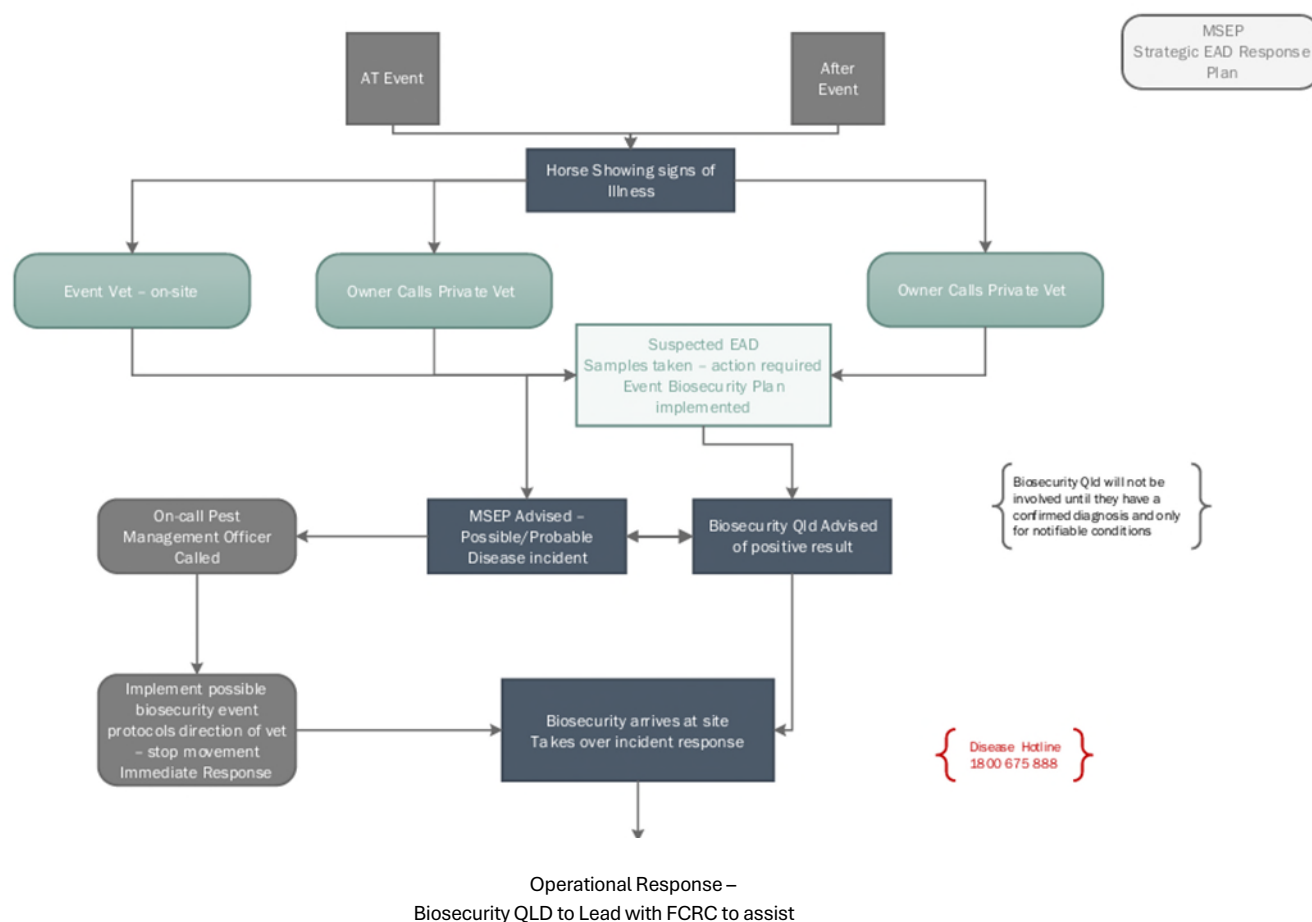
All horses are to be contained in a way that ensures that they cannot escape or roam and that they are not readily accessible to the general public. Horses must comply with the requirement of any breed, association, or federation for identification while on-site.

Identification of horses is critical to maintain effective mitigation of biosecurity risks. Owners should consider how their animal can be identified when on-site and may include the use of Id tags, or bridle numbers.

Healthy adult horses have:

- Temperature of 37.5-38.5 °C
- Resting heart rate 28- 45 bpm
- Resting respiratory rate 10 - 14 bpm

In the event of illness or suspected disease, please follow flowchart as below;



TICK ZONES

MSEP is located within the infested cattle tick zone and therefore owners bring or taking animals into tick free zones must comply with state legislation -

[Transporting livestock between cattle tick zones | Business Queensland](#)

Horses are classed as low risk carriers but must meet the risk minimization requirements stated within the Biosecurity manual and must be accompanied by a movement record which includes details on how these requirements have been met –

[Moving low-risk livestock between cattle tick zones | Business Queensland](#)

STOP MOVEMENT ORDERS

Event management, in consultation with onsite veterinarian, must determine the level of risk for a specific disease outbreak situation. A temporary movement restriction may be implemented to allow time for an assessment of the situation to be completed.

There are three basic levels of movement restrictions that can be implemented onsite depending on the risk associated with the disease of concern. They are:

- Minimal movement restrictions, event continues, only those sick or directly exposed animals moved to an isolation area.
- Temporary restriction on all animals leaving the venue whilst disease risk is ascertained, this will be implemented in consultation between MSEP staff, event management and the onsite veterinarian. The aim will be to ensure the obligations of the Act are achieved and that a possible event is not made worse by not taking appropriate action.
- Complete venue shut down. All movement halted on confirmed diagnosis by Biosecurity QLD and on the authority of Biosecurity Queensland officers.

Communication is key to successfully manage a disease outbreak and to ensure that everyone complies with their biosecurity obligation. Event organizers are to consider how effective communication will be achieved in the as part of their event planning process on how communication will occur in the event of these circumstances.

More information regarding Stop Movement Orders and Livestock Standstill below;

[Livestock standstill | Business Queensland](#)

13. CATTLE

All cattle coming on-site must be free of disease and the relevant person for the livestock must submit a movement record which will allow for the animals to be traced in the event of a disease occurrence. The movement record must be submitted on the approved form for MSEP which includes the details of:

- Details of the place from which the animal(s) came from
- PIC of QSEC and
- Name and address of the person that delivered the livestock to the event
- Description of the animals
- Date of the event
- When the livestock arrived and left the event

The retention cycle for these documents is 2 years.

All cattle as per Queensland legislation must be fitted with an approved NLIS device and all movements updated by the responsible person on the NLIS database within 48 hours of movement if required. As livestock coming on site are not for sale purposes a National Vendor Declaration is not required.

Cattle are considered a high-risk animal for the movement of cattle tick in Queensland. MSEP is within the current cattle tick infested zone which imposes specific requirements. Cattle moving from this location into the tick free zone must adhere to the risk minimization requirements established by Biosecurity Queensland as detailed below.

[Queensland Biosecurity Manual \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](http://daf.qld.gov.au)

Transporting livestock between cattle tick zone guide -

Cattle tick zone map -

[ArcGIS - Cattle tick biosecurity zone map \(current\)](#)

Movement of cattle from the infested zone to a free zone must be tick free. This will require a biosecurity certificate issued by an accredited certifier and must always accompany the livestock.

REQUIREMENTS WHILE ON SITE

Stock must be regularly inspected for ill health and disease while on-site. The assigned veterinarian for the event must be advised of any disease symptoms that develop in the livestock while at the event. Stock is to be contained in a way that ensures that they cannot escape or roam and that they are not readily accessible to the general public.

14. DOGS

Domestic dogs are allowed on-site at venue they must be kept on leash. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs at all times while on-site and must ensure that they do not cause a nuisance. Animals which cause a nuisance or a risk to public health and safety can be reported to FCRC Local Laws for action. Dogs are not to enter any stable, riding or competition area at any time, unless they are an appropriately marked assistance dog.

15. MANAGEMENT OF DECEASED ANIMALS

Animals which die on-site are the owner's responsibility and must notify MSEP as soon as practical. Deceased animals are required to be moved within 24 hours and notify. All event organizers are required to have a process to deal with any deaths that might occur due to accident in their event biosecurity plan.

If the death is due to illness or a biosecurity event, management of the body will be under the direction of the treating or event veterinarian.

Specific requirements will be implemented at the direction of Biosecurity Queensland and the Chief Veterinarian as required for the management of a disease outbreak.

16. REFERENCES

QLD Biosecurity Manual

[Queensland Biosecurity Manual \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](https://daf.qld.gov.au)

Biosecurity QLD Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029

[Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024–2029 - Queensland Biosecurity Strategy - Publications | Queensland Government](#)

Australian Animal Welfare Guidelines

[Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](https://agriculture.gov.au)

FCRC Biosecurity Strategic Plan

[Biosecurity-plan-2022 \(frasercoast.qld.gov.au\)](https://frasercoast.qld.gov.au)

EQ Event Biosecurity Plan

[EVENT BIOSECURITY PLAN \(equestrian.org.au\)](https://equestrian.org.au)

MSEP Movement Record / Horse Health Declaration

<https://maryboroughpark.ourfrasercoast.com.au/downloads/file/44/msep-horse-health-declaration-form>