

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 317
Asked on Tuesday, 22 March 2005

MR ENGLISH asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the National Livestock Identification Scheme which I understand will come into effect on 1 July 2005—

How will his department manage the data for all farmers involved?

ANSWER:

The data on cattle producers in Queensland has been managed since 1986 in a computerised register maintained by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F). Currently this register holds records on some 50 000 registered properties.

The register is required to be maintained under the *Stock Act 1915* for the purposes of disease control within the state. Animal disease control is a state responsibility. Information on registered properties is provided from the state register to the NLIS database that is managed by Meat and Livestock Australia.

DPI&F is currently implementing a major program to update the information in this database prior to the 1 July 2005 commencement of mandatory National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) arrangements. All owners of registered properties have received a copy of their current details, with a request that this be checked and updated.

Under NLIS, it is the responsibility of Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) to maintain the database of cattle movements (NLIS database) and it is the responsibility of people receiving cattle to ensure that movement data is transmitted to the database.

This database contains information that allows the tracking of cattle movements between properties registered by all states/territories. This information will be available to DPI&F for the purposes of tracing suspect or diseased animals from anywhere in Australia.

The efficiency of data management and transfer will be assisted by the use of internet based systems. This allows highly efficient linking of data storage systems and the ability to supply or recover data from a great range of locations in Queensland and Australia. DPI&F is currently introducing a number of initiatives to allow producers to easily and electronically communicate with the state register.

These features will ensure that Queensland's biosecurity systems for disease surveillance and control are world best practice thereby ensuring the continued access of our animal products into extremely discriminatory world markets.