

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 607

Asked on 10 May 2011

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies (MR MULHERIN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to advice that Biosecurity Queensland officers are no longer permitted to accept and consign dip samples for testing due to legal advice from Workplace Health and Safety advisors—

How does Biosecurity Queensland propose that cattle producers get these samples to testing authorities?

ANSWER:

I am advised that Biosecurity Queensland, a service of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI), is not aware of specific legal advice in relation to workplace health and safety aspects of the consignment of dip samples.

Biosecurity Queensland is proposing changes to how dip owners submit their samples to simplify current submission processes and ensure that samples are consigned in the most efficient manner to the appropriate laboratory. The changes will allow dip owners to provide samples directly to the analytical laboratory of choice by post or courier for testing.

I am advised that dip samples are not classed as a dangerous good under the International Air Transport Association (IATA) standard and are able to be sent by post (or courier), provided they are packed according to the standard set by Australia Post for the packaging of liquids.

Biosecurity Queensland currently provides a free dip testing service to cattle producers in Queensland to support the effective use of registered dipping chemicals for the control of cattle ticks.