



QUEENSLAND STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Biosecurity Plan

Abstract

This plan aims to ensure that QSEC and those utilizing the facilities meet the obligations of the Biosecurity Act 2014.

QSEC Biosecurity Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

Biosecurity relates to the preventive measures implemented 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. All persons have a 'general biosecurity obligation' to manage biosecurity risks under their control that they should reasonably be expected to know about.

Activities with horses pose a biosecurity risk and therefore under the 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 The Act for activities conducted at QSEC. 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 particular events. It sets out the minimal standards required for the use of the venue and the actions taken by MBRC 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.

We expect everyone participating at an event to understand the biosecurity risks associated with their chosen sport.

Come Clean - Go Clean

1. DEFINITIONS

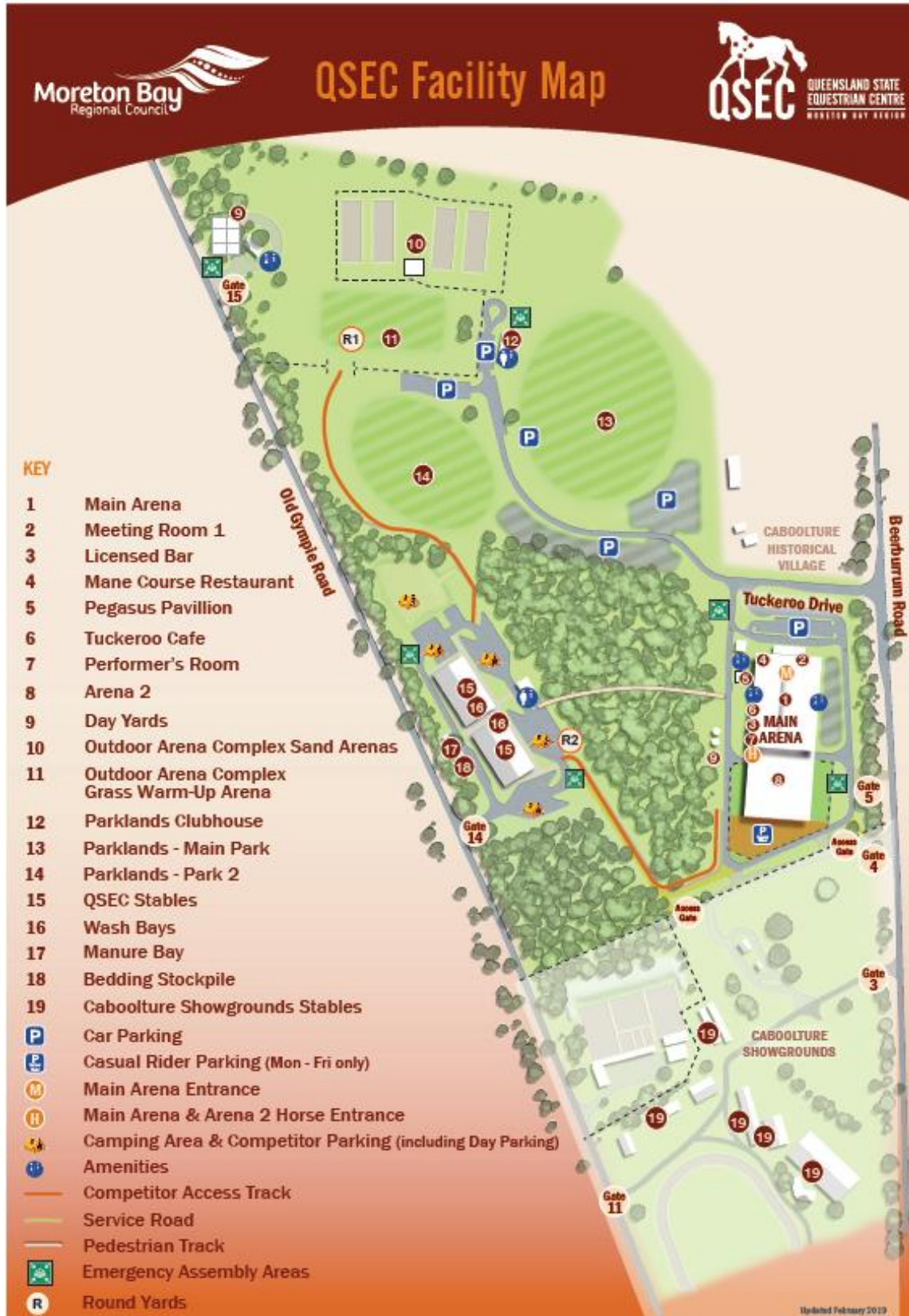
Approved Device	Is a tag or other identifying device that is fitted to a special designated animal to distinguish it from other animals
Biosecurity Emergency Order	Is made by the chief executive to isolate an emergency area, to stop the spread of any biosecurity matter and, if practicable, to eradicate the biosecurity matter
Biosecurity Event	Is an event that has, or may have, a significant harmful effect on human health, social amenity, the economy, or the environment and is caused by a pest, disease or contaminant
Biosecurity Risk	Is the risk that exists when you deal with any pest, disease or contaminant OR something that could carry a pest, disease or contaminant
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	A carrier is any animal or plant, or part of any animal or plant, or any other thing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capable of moving biosecurity matter from a place to another place or • Containing biosecurity matter that may attach to or enter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * another animal or plant * part of another animal or plant * another thing
Contaminant	Is anything that may be harmful to animal or plant health or pose a risk of any adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration
Deal With	The Act uses the term Deal With in the context of dealing with biosecurity matter or a carrier. To 'deal with' includes, to keep or possess, experiment with, produce, breed, propagate, use, grow, feed, culture, distribute, import, transport, dispose of, buy or supply
Designated Animal	Are cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, the family camelidae, the family equidae (includes horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, zebras) captive birds and honey bees
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 and 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	Is biosecurity matter not currently present or known to be present in QLD. It is prohibited because it may have a significant adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration if it did enter QLD
Restricted Matter	Is biosecurity matter found in QLD that may have adverse effects on a biosecurity consideration if conditions or restrictions under the Act were not imposed

2. ABBREVIATIONS

GBO	General Biosecurity Obligation
MBRC	Moreton Bay Regional Council
NLIS	National Livestock Identification Scheme
The Act	Biosecurity Act 2014
QLD	Queensland
QSEC	Queensland State Equestrian Centre

• VENUE MAP



2. 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, comingling and the increased stress the animals are under due to travel and being in an unfamiliar environment.

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

To mitigate risks pigs are not permitted at the venue.

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.

▪ VECTOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mosquitoes can transmit a range of diseases that impact human and animal health. To mitigate this impact MBRC conducts an extensive mosquito management program across the region. On-site mitigation measures include:

- No standing water
- If water remains on-site due to environmental conditions, vector program advised, treated if required
- Barrier treatments conducted by the vector team when adult mosquito numbers are assessed as being excessive for the site.

Visitors to the facility are advised that mosquitoes are endemic in South East Queensland 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.

▪ 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 QSEC 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 QSEC staff.

There is a proactive vermin and pest control program implemented on-site by the Building and Facility Team of Council.

3. MOVEMENT RECORDS (HORSE HEALTH DECLARATIONS)

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

Movement records (Horse Health Declarations) are required to be on the approved QSEC form, include all requested information and legible. These records are essential for the timely and effective tracking of animals that have participated in an event at the venue if required.

(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))

4. ISOLATION AREAS

Key areas on-site have been designated isolation areas in the event of a disease risk (Appendix 1). 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. Signage is available from the Vet Room - QSEC Stables & Campgrounds.

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.

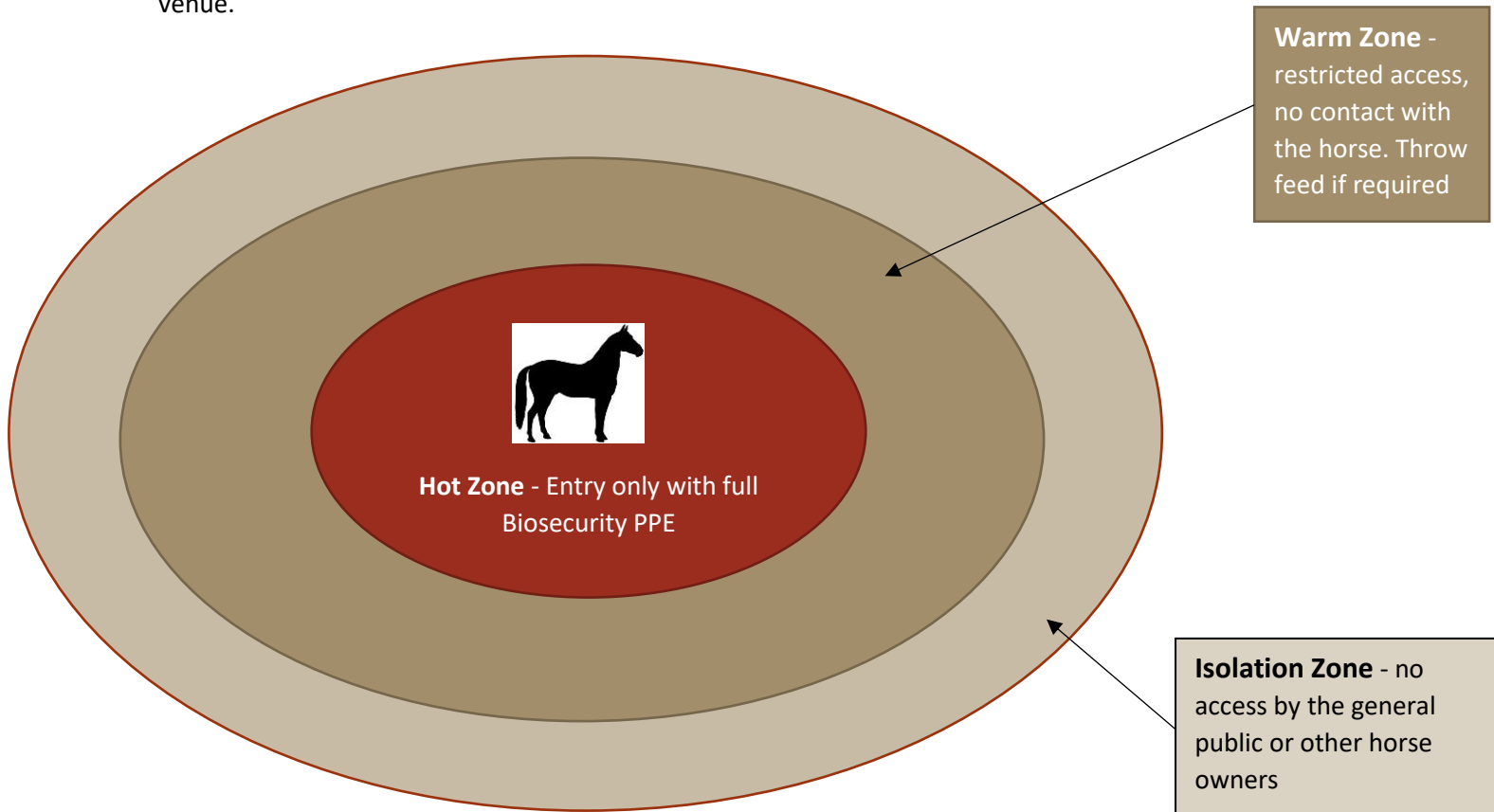


Diagram 1 - example of restriction zones for the management of a sick horse

5. 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. QSEC manure disposal protocol can be found here - **A19040384 QSEC Biosecurity Procedure - Manure Management.**

Frequent manure removal from site aids in eliminating parasites and insect breeding sites.

6. SITE HYGIENE

There are hand wash stations available 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 washed and disinfected quarterly as per **A19040386 QSEC Biosecurity Procedure - Cleaning, Disinfecting Stables & Wash Bays.**

Fodder is a key carrier of weed seed and contaminated material, all fodder brought to the venue must either be removed with the animal or disposed of in the available waste receptacle. Fodder 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.

The venue will be inspected annually (April) for restricted plant matter to ensure that these species do not become established on the site.

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 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.

- **STABLE COMPLEX**

Stables are cleaned and disinfected by QSEC staff quarterly following the process **A19040386 QSEC Biosecurity Procedure - Cleaning, Disinfecting Stables & Wash Bays**.

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.

7. 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. Day use individuals are to include all horses on the submitted horse health declaration.

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.

- **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 requirements 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.

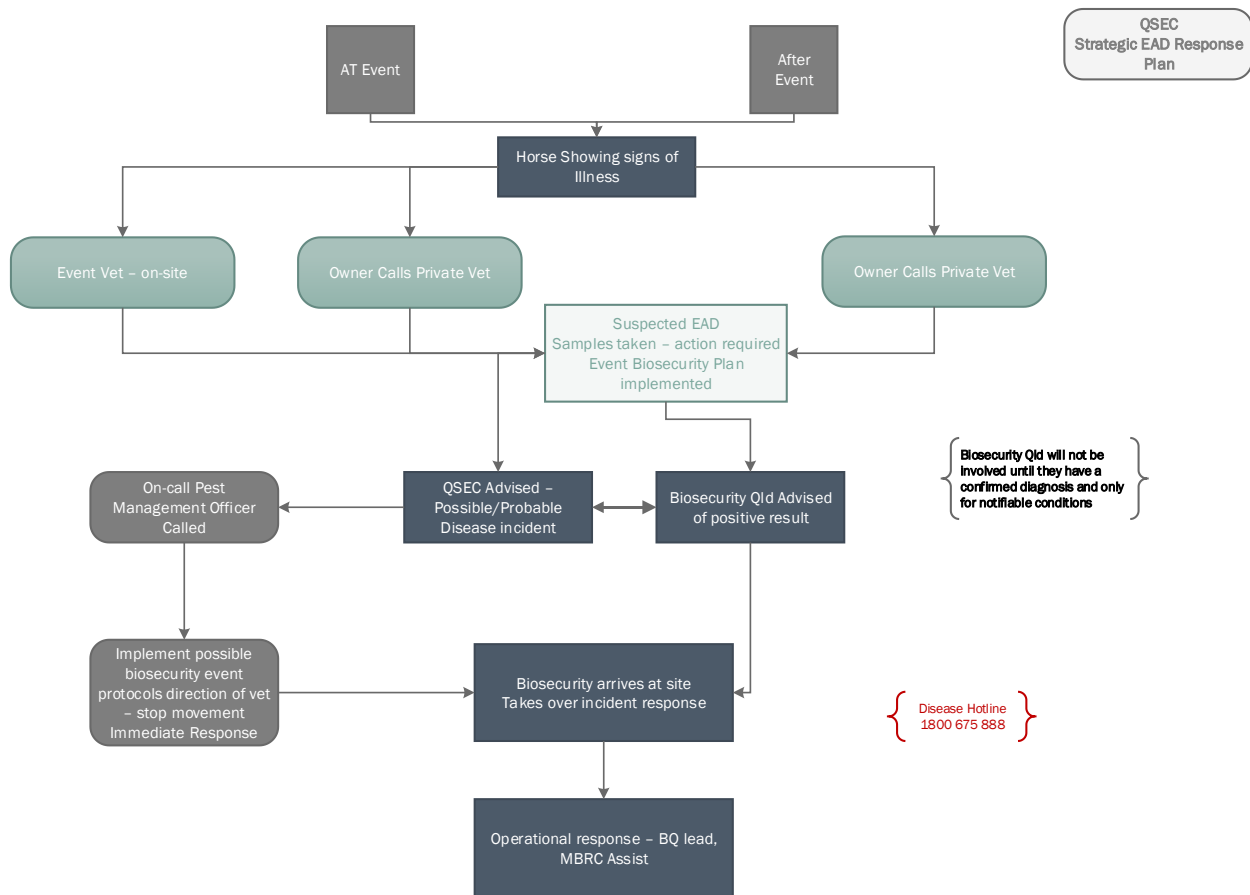
Healthy adult horses have:

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

Warning signs:

- Body temperature greater than 38.5 °C
- Horse is recumbent - unable to get up
- Demonstrating either aggressive behaviour or stupor
- Profuse diarrhea
- Increased respiration rate
- Nasal discharge
- Inappetant (off feed) - other signs of colic
- Oral or gum ulcers

Reporting of sick horses is required to follow the process:



All movement of horses is to comply with the compulsory Queensland code of practice for the land transport of livestock, which commenced 31 January 2014 under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*. Document can be found here - <https://www.business.QLD.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/livestock-movement/animal-transport-welfare/land-transport-code>

▪ TICK ZONES

QSEC is located within the infested cattle tick zone and therefore owners bring or taking animals into tick fee zones must comply with state legislation - <https://www.business.QLD.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/livestock-movement/cattle-tick-zones>

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 - <https://www.business.QLD.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/livestock-movement/cattle-tick-zones/low-risk-livestock>

▪ 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 QSEC 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.

8. 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 QSEC (**A18744927 - MBRC Livestock-movement-record**) 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.

▪ TICK ZONES

Cattle are considered a high-risk animal for the movement of cattle tick in Queensland. QSEC 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.

Biosecurity Manual - https://www.daf.QLD.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/379138/QLD-biosecurity-manual.pdf

Transporting livestock between cattle tick zone guide - <https://www.business.QLD.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/livestock-movement/cattle-tick-zones>

Cattle tick zone map - <http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=dc39d0aad4a64c30acc438f8c5dcd4e9&extent=133.3416,-29.6449,161.7303,-10.9572>

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 accompany the livestock at all times. A list of accredited certifiers can be found at - <https://www.business.QLD.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/livestock-movement/cattle-tick-zones/accredited-certifiers>

▪ 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 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.

Stock with different J-BAS scores are not to be yarded together. If cattle are coming on-site from multiple owners a J-BAS plan must be established specific to the event.

9. DOGS

Domestic dogs are allowed on-site in the stables & campgrounds and parking areas. If domestic dogs are brought to the venue they must be under effective control and not allowed to roam off lead. 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 MBRC Local Laws for action. Dogs are not to enter any riding or competition area at any time, unless they are an appropriately marked assistance dog.

10. MANAGEMENT OF DECEASED ANIMALS

QSEC deceased animal policy and procedure can be found at **A19040387 - QSEC Biosecurity Procedure - Deceased & Injured Animal.**

Animals which die on-site are the owner's responsibility and are required to be moved within 24 hours. All event organizers are required to have a process to deal with any deaths that might occur due to accident.

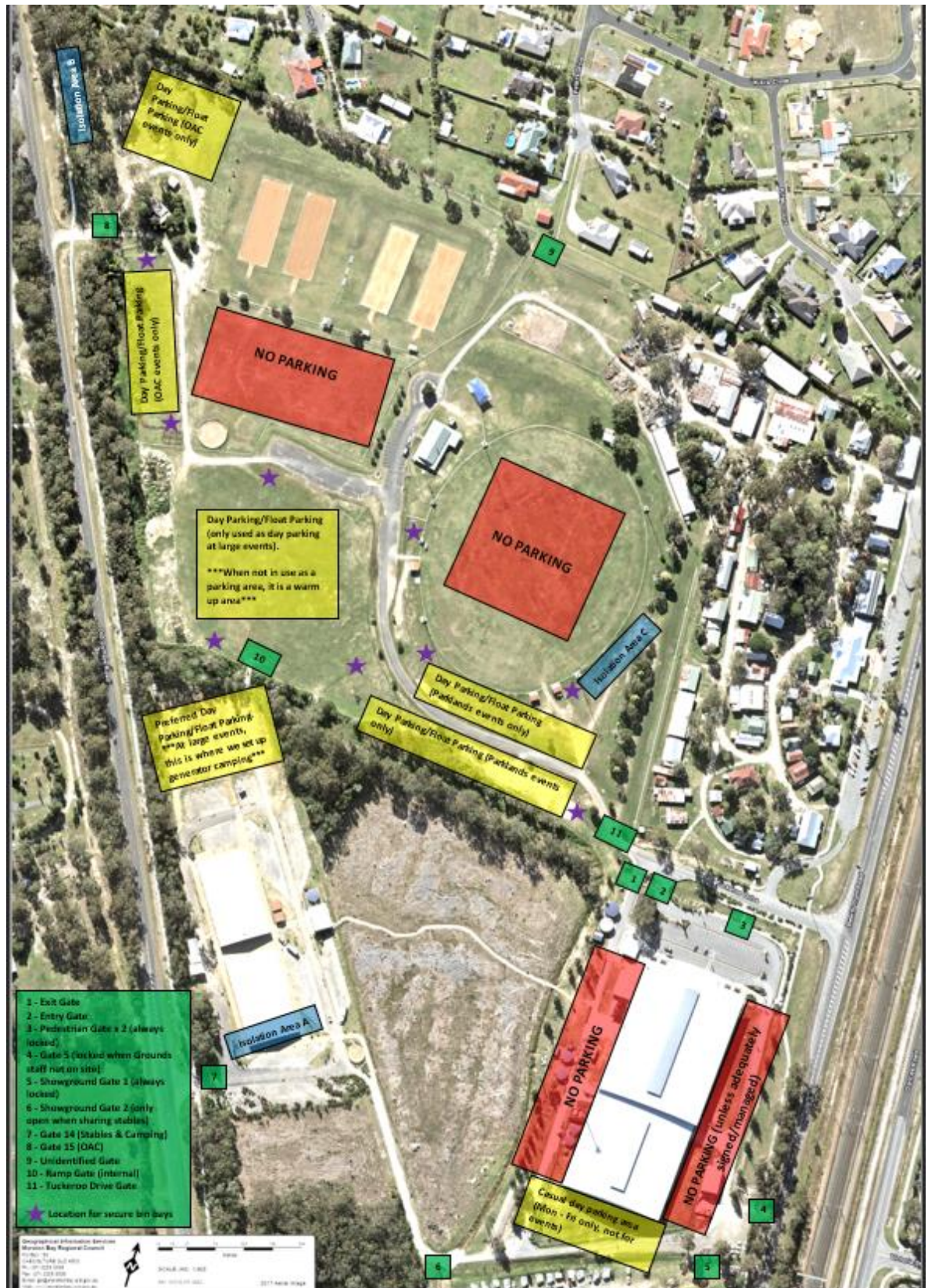
If the death is due to illness or a biosecurity event, management of the body will be under the direction of the treating or event veterinarian. Specific requirements will be implemented at the direction of Biosecurity Queensland and the Chief Veterinarian as required for the management of a disease outbreak.

11. RECORD KEEPING

All documents are saved in Council's (Objective) computer system. Document management is via **A19046615 - QSEC Biosecurity Procedure - Record Keeping - Bedding, Vets, Cleaning Chemicals.**

Tracking of animals is critical in the case of a biosecurity event and therefore record keeping is a key component so that all details are readily available.

12. APPENDIX 1 - AREA MAP



13. APPENDIX 2 - EVENT PLANNING TIMELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

TIMELINES

Event Biosecurity Plan template sent	Upon event confirmation (deposit paid)
Completed Event Biosecurity plan received	Seven (7) days prior to the event commencement
Event Biosecurity checked by QSEC staff	Five (5) days prior to the event commencement

REQUIREMENTS

The Event Biosecurity Plan is a checklist for all event organizers to complete prior to the event and return to QSEC following the timelines above.

The plan can be found at **A18674554 - Event Biosecurity Plan**.