

Transition to mandatory electronic NLIS (Sheep & Goats) in Victoria – consultation snapshot

Compulsory electronic identification for Victorian sheep and goats is on its way and a range of support is now available following input from industry.

Currently, sheep and goats in Victoria must be identified with a visual NLIS (Sheep) tag. Commencing in 2017, Victoria will transition to an electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) (Sheep & Goats). This means sheep and goats born on or after 1 January 2017 must be identified with an approved electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag before being dispatched to a saleyard, abattoir or another property.

When the introduction of the new system was announced on 24 August 2016, the government committed that Agriculture Victoria would consult extensively on draft standards (or business rules) and a transition package to effectively move to a mandatory electronic system. The intention to provide 'cost-neutral' tags for the first 12 months was also announced.

The aim of the consultation period, which closed on 30 September 2016, was to listen to stakeholders across the supply chain, to understand their views on the draft standards and transition package and then to respond after considering the feedback.

The consultation period:

- resulted in 56 face-to-face meetings and 46 written submissions
- involved participation from over 400 key stakeholders
- was supported by advertising and extensive media exposure (radio, print, social and web-based)
- generated approximately 170 comments on specific clauses of the standards
- proposed 22 specific recommendations on the transition package with approximately 70 per cent accepted.

Listening to feedback

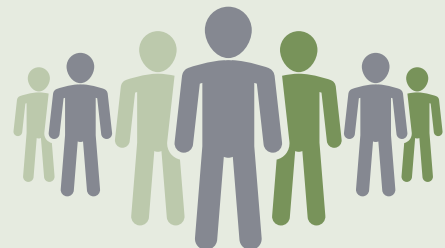
Feedback received from industry, including recommendations from the Sheep and Goats Identification Advisory Committee, helped shape the final decisions. One of the main changes is that the implementation timeline reflects the needs of industry to effectively implement change across the supply chain.

Face-to-face



56 meetings with stakeholders

Participation



400+
key stakeholders

Written submissions



46
submissions received during consultation

Recommendations



70%
of recommendations on the transition package accepted



\$17.06 million to protect our sheep and goat industries

An extensive transition package will support the phasing in of mandatory electronic identification across the sheep and goat supply chain in Victoria.

Package includes:

- subsidised tags
- infrastructure grants
- co-funded equipment grants
- education program to support sheep and goat producers, agents, transporters, saleyards and meat processors.

Subsidised tags

The cheapest electronic tags available to Victorian sheep and goat producers in **2017** will be **35** cents each. The tag subsidy will be funded up to \$7.7 million for a 12 month period.

Range of grants to help across the supply chain

A range of grants, both full and with co-contribution, will be available to support implementation of electronic identification across the sheep and goat supply chain including:

- purchasing and installing infrastructure and equipment required to meet the regulatory requirements
- undertaking planning and design activities in saleyards and abattoirs
- accessing technical support and consultants.

Training and extension

Agriculture Victoria will support training and extension activities that will assist the whole industry understand their regulatory obligations, support practice change and maximise the potential benefits associated with adopting the technology.

More information on adopting electronic identification, the transition package, the standards and the education program are available at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/SheepEID or by calling 1800 678 779.



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