



## GENERAL MESSAGE

16 August 2021

### RE: REGIONAL AUSTRALIA ON HIGH ALERT FOR COVID-19

Dear ALFA Members,

The COVID situation in NSW is changing rapidly. We are receiving updates from relevant state departments. Below is the latest information we have received from relevant QLD and NSW authorities.

### RE: QUEENSLAND - GENERAL

*Following provided by Queensland DAF:*

Please avoid travelling into NSW if at all possible. At this time, we are encouraging agribusinesses to reconsider their plans to cross the border to reduce the risk of further transferring COVID-19.

If you require further information, please contact DAF by email: [info@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@daf.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

#### **All NSW regional areas in lockdown**

All regional NSW is now in lockdown, effective from **5pm Saturday 14 August 2021 to 12.01am Sunday 22 August 2021**.

Stay-at-home orders apply to everyone living in regional NSW and anyone who leaves their home must carry a mask with them at all times. NSW Health is still urging people to get tested, even if they have the mildest of symptoms.

#### **Border crossing**

Although Queensland's new border direction doesn't list farmers or agribusiness workers as essential work, all exemptions previously provided for freight and logistics operators and for farmers and agribusiness workers still apply.

This includes the current [class exemption](#), the [Queensland Freight Protocol](#) and any endorsement letter received as part of a specialist worker exemption.

If you meet the criteria of these provisions, you can cross the border.

Be sure you carry the [necessary documentation](#), such as evidence of a negative test within the last 7 days, and your Quarantine Management Plan. If you have been to an [interstate exposure site](#) or are a close contact of someone who has, then the class exemption cannot be used, nor will endorsements for specialist and essential workers apply.

If you require further information, please contact DAF by email: [info@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@daf.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

## RE: QUEENSLAND - GENERAL

*Following provided by Queensland DAF:*

### **Border zones**

The current [class exemption](#) for farmers and agribusiness workers is in place until the **20 August 2021**. You can help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transfer by limiting the movement of your workers. Please abide by your quarantine management plan and remember to monitor the list of [exposure sites](#) at least once every 24 hours.

If you have been to an [interstate exposure site](#) or are a close contact of someone who has, then the class exemption cannot be used, nor will endorsements for specialist and essential workers apply. An interstate exposure site is a place recently visited by someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

### **Interstate areas of concern**

There are additional restrictions for anyone moving from an [interstate area of concern](#), also called 'stay at home' zones, in the local government areas of Walgett, Bourke, Brewarrina, Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Richmond Valley. Please re-check your border pass as an X pass is no longer valid for agricultural work.

If you're coming from an interstate area of concern, farmers and agribusiness workers will now need to use the class exemption in the border zone area and apply for a Queensland Entry Pass—class exemption—Z pass. You must comply with the requirements as listed in the [reference table](#).

### **ACT lockdown**

Queensland will declare the ACT as a hotspot from **1am AEST Saturday 14 August 2021**.

### **Supporting culturally diverse workers in your business**

[Resources in language](#) are available to ensure your culturally diverse workers can clearly understand the information around home quarantine, getting tested, wearing masks and registering for vaccination.

You can also use [interpreter services \(help with English\)](#) by calling 13 QGOV ([13 74 68](#)) and asking for an interpreter.

If you require further information, please contact DAF by email: [info@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@daf.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

## RE: QUEENSLAND - WESTERN

*Following provided by Queensland DAF:*

### **Western Queensland COVID-19 Alert 15 August 2021**

Please avoid travelling into NSW if at all possible. At this time, we are encouraging agribusinesses to reconsider their plans to cross the border to reduce the risk of further transferring COVID-19.

Although Queensland's new border direction doesn't list farmers or agribusiness workers as essential work, all exemptions previously provided for freight and logistics operators and the class exemption for farmers and agribusiness workers still apply.

### **Border gates**

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has been advised that the western e-gates from Talwood across to Killarney to are closing at **8pm tonight 15 August 2021**.

Please cross the border via the 5 vehicle check points below:

- Killarney Border Road, Killarney

- Amosfield Road, Stanthorpe
- New England Highway, Wallangarra
- Texas–Inglewood Road, Texas
- Newell Highway, Goondiwindi.

Depending on your circumstances, you must apply for a Border Declaration Pass—Z pass under the class exemption or a Freight and Logistics—F pass under the Queensland Freight Protocol and ensure you carry the [necessary documentation](#), such as your Quarantine Management Plan and evidence of appropriate testing.

If you have been to an [interstate exposure site](#) or are a close contact of someone who has, then you can't enter Queensland until additional requirements have been met.

Farmers using the e-gate crossings will need to reapply once the new system is in place in the next 24 to 48 hours.

We will continue to update you if changes occur.

If you require further information, please contact DAF by email: [info@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@daf.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

## **RE: NSW – LIVESTOCK SALEYARDS**

*Following provided by New South Wales DA:*

### **Commercial livestock saleyard operation during lock-down**

Commercial livestock saleyards can operate in Local Government Areas impacted by stay-at-home orders. People are not permitted to participate in auctions in person. Saleyard staff and those who conduct the auction, and can not perform their work duties from home, are within the rules as a reasonable excuse to leave home.

Buyers, vendors, freight operators, compliance staff and other key personnel to saleyards and auctions are permitted to attend, however they must only do so if unable to perform their work from home.

Saleyard operators must comply with safety requirements, meet social distancing rules and comply with QR code records management. All attendees must wear face masks and must follow rules in place by the saleyard operator.

People must not enter the local government areas where the stay at home rules are in place without a [reasonable excuse](#). If a worker is unable to perform their duty from outside of that area, they must follow the rules when in the LGA and MUST follow the stay at home rules when they leave.

This information is based on the rules as at 13 August 2021. All individuals must regularly check the public health orders to ensure they understand their obligations. For further information, visit [COVID-19 rules | NSW Government](#)

### **Can on-farm livestock auctions, such as ram or bull sales, take place in an impacted LGA?**

Only online auctions can occur during the stay-at-home order period. Stock agents will be permitted to attend a property for this purpose and stock inspections can be scheduled to minimise risks, but crowds are not permitted for the auction.

The business will be required to have a [COVID Business Safety Plan](#) in place and have a QR code to track all visitors. If unable to do QR code, a business must keep a register that can be provided to Health officials if requested, within 4 hours in either excel or csv file format. This register must be held for a period of 1 month.

This information is based on the rules as at 13 August 2021. All individuals must regularly check the public health orders to ensure they understand their obligations. For further information, visit [COVID-19 rules | NSW Government](#)

**NOTE:** *The material in this GENERAL MESSAGE has been compiled from external resources such as State and Federal government sources. It does not constitute legal advice or recommendations and should not be relied upon as such. It is provided in good faith to assist ALFA members. Appropriate legal advice should be sought that reflects your individual circumstances.*



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