



project factsheet

September 2009

Biosecurity Management – Livestock

Introduction

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance is committed to maintaining the highest standards of biosecurity control against the transmission of animal diseases.

Our investigations have identified that many diseases have very low or no potential to be spread as a result of the Sugarloaf Pipeline project. However, there is always some element of risk. To minimise this risk, we have biosecurity procedures with the objective of having no increase in the distribution of disease directly related to the construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline, and to have no outbreaks of disease directly related to the construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

Biosecurity procedures

Biosecurity procedures have been in place throughout the investigations phase of the project. With the commencement of construction, these procedures have been expanded to specifically address biosecurity risks during the

construction and reinstatement phases of the project.

The following animal diseases are addressed:

- ovine and bovine Johne's disease (*Mycobacterium avium subsp. Paratuberculosis*)
- Virulent ovine footrot (specific strains of *Dichelobacter nodosus*)
- *Taenia saginata* (human tapeworm).

Cleaning vehicles and equipment Disinfecting

- Prior to construction commencing (surveying, fencing, clearing, grading and removal of top soil) and during reinstatement activities, wheels and or tracks will be sprayed on arrival, between properties and prior to exiting properties. The following disinfectants, diluted to manufacturers recommended levels, will be used. Log book records will

also be kept: Hibitane and water at all sites; and the use of a certified mycobacteriocidal disinfectant (e.g. TriGene) on grazing properties being entered.

Mud and dung

- Prior to construction commencing (clearing, grading and removal of top soil) and during reinstatement activities, all vehicles and equipment will be inspected for cleanliness on arrival at a property, and cleaned to remove contamination such as mud, grass and dung, before entering each property. Where necessary, a section of geo-textile fabric will be used to ensure the capture of soils and other materials.
- Once the pipeline corridor has been cleared of topsoil, vehicles and equipment accessing the corridor will continue to be inspected and cleared of mud and dung, but will not need to be disinfected on arrival, leaving the pipeline corridor





A Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance worker steam cleans a vehicle to ensure livestock and plant diseases are not transferred between properties

or moving between properties, as it is considered a controlled area.

Livestock and soil management

Livestock management

- Livestock will be excluded from the fenced pipeline construction zone for at least 12 months after the topsoil is replaced to prevent transmission of the *M. paratuberculosis* organism, which is persistent in the environment.
- During construction activities, if livestock are required to be moved between paddocks and require thoroughfare across the pipeline corridor, appropriate matting/ material will be laid down on the pipeline corridor, or any other measure deemed appropriate, to prevent stock having direct contact with soil to minimise the risk of transmission of the *M. paratuberculosis* organism.
- On sheep properties, the pipeline corridor will not be accessed by machinery or personnel until seven days after sheep are removed from

the relevant paddock or where sufficient risk assessment has been undertaken to minimise the risk of transmission of footrot. The *Dichelobacter nodosus* organism lives for less than seven days in the environment.

- Direct contact with livestock will be avoided.

Soil management

- As *M. paratuberculosis* is known to be highly associated with faeces and soil particles, the clean removal of 100-200mm of topsoil before construction, should result in effective removal of the majority of any contamination present.
- Stockpiled topsoil will be segregated on the pipeline corridor using silt fencing and battering, to ensure there is minimal risk of transfer of any prior contamination to or from other soil through run off.
- Stockpiled topsoil will be replaced over the cleared pipeline corridor once pipeline construction is complete, thereby burying any

potential contamination during the 12 months of livestock exclusion, minimising the chance of transmission of ovine and bovine Johne's disease.

Personal cleanliness

- On arrival, between properties and leaving of each property, footwear and clothing will be brushed or scrubbed down to remove any mud, dirt or animal dung. Footwear will also be disinfected via footbaths with the disinfectants described above. Log book recordings will be kept.
- Measures to prevent the spread of Johne's disease will also control the spread of non-specified faecal pathogens such as salmonella.
- Designated toilet facilities will be provided for staff at all sites.