

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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Implementation status of Martin Inquiry recommendations by the department

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The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is implementing 27 of the 55 recommendations.

As of 7 December 2023, 22 recommendations have been completed, 4 are in progress and 1 has not yet commenced.

	Recommendation	Progress
1	2.2.4 DAF takes steps to amend the <i>Racing Integrity Act 2016</i> , if necessary, to expand the purposes for which a standard for a licensing scheme for a code of racing can be made to provide for the licensing of breeders	Completed
2	2.2.8 The Queensland Government makes an assessment of the QRIC's resources to ensure that they are adequate to undertake licensing and auditing of breeders	Completed
3	2.3.3 DAF takes steps to amend the <i>Racing Integrity Act 2016</i> to extend the QRIC's animal welfare jurisdiction to a horse retired from racing, but still in the care of a registered or licensed person under the Australian Rules of Racing or Australian Harness Rules of Racing	Completed
4	2.3.5 The Queensland Government makes an assessment of the QRIC's resources to ensure that they are adequately to strenuously enforce the substance of the recommendations above	Completed
5	3.5 The Queensland Government makes an assessment of QRIC's resources to ensure that they are adequately to strenuously enforce the substance of the recommendations above	Completed
6	6.4 DAF takes steps to amend the <i>Racing Integrity Act 2016</i> to provide that all abattoirs and knackeries in Queensland record and provide regularly to the QRIC the microchip numbers, brandings and vendor details of all horses with racing brandings processed at these facilities	Completed
7	6.5 The Queensland Government makes an assessment of QRIC's resources to ensure that they are adequately to strenuously enforce the substance of the recommendations above	Completed
8	7.2 Biosecurity Queensland publishes annual data on its website detailing the number of animal welfare complaints and investigations (by type) it manages and the investigation outcomes achieved	Completed View published animal welfare complaints and investigations data
9	10.2.1 DAF, under the guidance of an expert panel, urgently develops a compulsory Code of practice for Horses Processed at Slaughtering Establishments (including knackeries) in Queensland, to ensure best practice for the humane treatment of horses from arrival to exsanguination	Completed Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice for Horses at Livestock Slaughter Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2023
10	10.2.2 DAF takes steps to amend the ACPA to provide that establishment management store for at least 30 days the CCTV footage recorded at all critical animal welfare points and make available the recorded footage to Biosecurity Queensland upon request on 48 hours' notice	Completed
11	10.2.3 Biosecurity Queensland implements a process for examining the CCTV footage to ensure a prompt and effective response to any suspected or identified breaches of all relevant Codes of practice including any new codes developed as a result of this Inquiry	Completed
12	10.2.4 DAF takes steps to amend the ACPA to make the use of an electric prod on a horse an act of cruelty	Completed
13	10.2.5 Biosecurity Queensland ensures all Inspectors appointed under the ACPA be effectively trained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the content of all relevant Codes of practice including any new codes developed as a result of this Inquiry to recognise breaches under all relevant Codes of practice including any new codes developed as a result of this Inquiry as to their powers and obligations in enforcing all relevant Codes of practice including any new codes developed as a result of this Inquiry 	Commenced
14	10.2.6 DAF takes steps to amend the ACPA to permit, without the need for consent, an experienced Biosecurity Queensland Inspector to be present when horses are being unloaded, kept and processed at a slaughter establishment	Completed
15	10.2.7 DAF takes steps to amend the ACPA to mandate that establishment management gives Biosecurity Queensland at least 2 days prior written notice of horse arrivals and slaughter	Completed
16	10.2.8 The Queensland Government makes an assessment of Biosecurity Queensland's resources to ensure they are adequately resourced to meet these requirements	Completed
17	10.3.1 Biosecurity Queensland undertakes an immediate review of procedures and practices at the knackery. Any animal welfare issues identified be addressed	Completed
18	10.3.2 Biosecurity Queensland engages with management to undertake an immediate audit of the knackery yards and facilities and address any animal welfare issues	Completed
19	10.3.3 The Queensland Government makes an assessment of Biosecurity Queensland's resources to ensure they are adequately resourced to meet these requirements	Completed
20	12.1 DAF takes steps to amend the Code of practice for the Transport of Livestock to achieve a more reasonable balance between the welfare of the horses being transported and the interests of persons transporting them. To that end, an expert panel be convened to undertake a review of the Code of practice for the Transport of Livestock and specifically consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing the journey time that a horse can be transported without breaks/rest to no more than 8 hours the frequency of providing water to horses during transport appropriate handling standards for handled/broken-in horses and unhandled horses appropriate vehicle design, especially for handled horses requirements for the humane euthanasia of an animal if it becomes necessary during a journey reducing the journey time requirement for the keeping of records prescribing a minimum body condition score before a horse may be loaded for transport without veterinary advice 	Commenced DAF is working nationally with the Animal Welfare Task Group to review and amend the <i>Australian Standards and Guidelines - Land Livestock Transport</i> (standards and guidelines) to improve requirements for horse transport. Amendments to the standards and guidelines will be adopted in Queensland under the Code of practice for the Transport of Livestock
21	12.2 If necessary, DAF takes steps to ensure that any changes to the Code of practice for Transport of Livestock provide for extraterritorial application	Commenced
22	12.3 The expert panel consider and make recommendations about the types of amenities which need to be available enroute, to enable transporters to meet requirements to unload, feed and water horses at acceptable points of a journey	Commenced
23	12.4 Biosecurity Queensland develops and implements a compliance program that includes routine and regular monitoring for compliance with the provisions of the new Code of practice for the Transport of Livestock	Not commenced A new compliance plan is contingent on recommendation 12.1 being completed
24	12.5 Biosecurity Queensland conducts a targeted enforcement operation to test compliance with the requirements of the current Code of practice for the Transport of Livestock	Completed
25	13.1.1 DAF coordinates the drafting of a memorandum of understanding between it and the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarify their respective roles at the export establishment in relation to the welfare of horses being processed for slaughter ensure timely and appropriate responses to any animal welfare breaches 	Completed
26	13.2.1 The importance of animal welfare be reflected in the structure and staffing in Biosecurity Queensland	Completed
27	14.1.1 Biosecurity Queensland immediately engages with Meramist to ensure the prompt implementation of the substance of the recommendations applicable to Meramist, prior to the implementation of regulations (note this excludes recommendations relating to the <i>Racing Integrity Act 2016</i>)	Completed

[Contact us](#) online, by phone or in person.

Contact the [Queensland Racing Integrity Commission](#) and [Racing Queensland](#) for information recommendations being implemented by these bodies.

Last updated: 09 Feb 2024

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Department of Agriculture and Fisheries proudly acknowledges all First Nations peoples (Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders) and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the country on which we live and work.

We acknowledge their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and commit to ongoing reconciliation. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Our visual identity incorporates artwork by Shara Delaney, a Quandamooka woman.

