

NAMP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**FOR DECISION****Date:** 24 July 2020**BTv ZONE MAP CHANGE PROPOSAL****Purpose**

1. To **NOTIFY** the NAMP Technical Committee that bluetongue virus transmission is confirmed in an unexpected location.
 2. To seek **ENDORSEMENT** from the NAMP Technical Committee for a proposed change to the bluetongue virus zone map.
 3. To seek **ENDORSEMENT** from the NAMP Technical Committee for the proposed text to be used in the email alert notification.
- To seek **ENDORSEMENT** for **EXPANSION** of the bluetongue transmission zone in the Windorah region of south-western Qld and corresponding text for the email alert notification (see below).

Description

- BTv transmission has been detected near Windorah (south-western Qld) on a NAMP survey site (Q369) partially located within the Buffer Area. Windorah is approximately 70 km west-north-west of the site.
 - Twenty head of cattle, ranging in age from three to six years, were sampled on the 22nd June 2020.
 - The cattle are confirmed as having been born and bred on the site and have not moved off the site.
 - The proposed amended BTv zone map is described in the attachment to this notification.

Testing Results**BTv:**

- Of the 20 cattle sampled from Q369 on the 22nd June 2020 seven were positive on BTv Elisa (ID vet Elisa). The samples were retested and the same results were obtained.
 - Of the seven Elisa positive animals six were positive and one was suspect on BTv AGID.
 - All 20 animals were negative when tested by pan-BTv PCR.
 - Samples of plasma from six of the seven BTv Elisa positive animals were forwarded to Berrimah for serotyping by VNT. Positive VNT titres were obtained from all six animals, ranging from 128 to greater than 192. Note: there was insufficient plasma from one of the animals to allow testing.
 - A previous survey sampling was taken from the site in July 2019; this included 26 homebred animals that were between 10 and 12 months of age. All animals were negative on BTv Elisa and pan BTv PCR.
 - There are three NAMP survey sites around Q369 that were sampled within approximately the previous 12 months of this incident:
 - Q325:
 - Approximately 83 km to the east and wholly within the BTv Transmission Zone
 - Last sampled on the 17th April 2019 with 30 animals: all negative on BTv Elisa and 22 positive for AKA.
 - The last positive BTv Elisa result recorded at this site was in April 2016.

- Q405:
 - Approximately 230 km to the west and wholly within the BTV Transmission-Free-Zone
 - The site was available for an opportunistic sampling on the 25th Sept 2019 with 22 animals: all negative on BTV Elisa and two positive for AKA.
- Q375:
 - Approximately 112 km to the north-west and wholly within the BTV Transmission-Free-Zone
 - Last sampled on the 13th Sept 2019 with 29 animals: all negative on BTV Elisa and three positive for AKA.

AKA:

- Of the 20 cattle sampled from Q369, 13 were positive to AKA virus by VNT. There was a range of titres from 4 to 1024.

BEF:

- Of the 20 cattle sampled from Q369, all were positive to BEF virus by VNT. There was a range of titres from 4 to 1024.

Protocols (as per the Operations Plan)

Please check the box that applies and provide an explanation below for incomplete protocol steps.

Sample	Yes	No
Test results confirmed	☒	☐
Sample identification confirmed	☒	☐
Additional livestock testing	☐	☐
Animal status confirmed	☒	☐

Notification	Email	Phone	No
State/Territory CVO	☒	☐	☐
Biosecurity Australia	☐	☐	☐
Livestock Exporters Association	☐	☐	☐
AHA NAMP Manager	☒	☐	☐

Details**Insect observations:**

- There are no insect traps within the vicinity of the site.

On-site weather observations (Q369):

- The last rainfall recorded at the site was in January and February of 2020, with falls totalling approximately 50 mm; this resulted in a small run in the creeks with the producer noting a “small amount” of insect activity.
- During May, June and July 2019 rainfall and daily temperatures were generally above average. Rainfall produced excellent pasture growth. Creek and channel systems running through Q369 had excellent runs and flood-out. These systems run into the Cooper Creek, which is about 38 km to the west of Q369. Insect activity was “solid” during this time.

BTV Transmission-Free-Zone amendment:

- The amended BTV zone map is drawn such that the BTV Transmission-Free-Zone is at least 100 km from the boundaries of the affected survey site with a 50 km Buffer Area.
- Because there did not appear to be any management, ecological or geographical features likely to interrupt the transmission of BTV, all properties with any area falling within the required 100 km from the boundary of the BTV positive survey site were excluded from the BTV Transmission-Free-Zone.

Issues for Discussion

Large areas of land are involved in the zone change proposal because of the expansive nature of properties in the region and a conservative approach to exclude, from the BTV Transmission-Free-Zone, those properties partially included within the 100 km clearance requirement.

By way of background on the land types involved in the proposed changes, available management and stocking information on representative country is provided below.

Tanbar (NAMP-Q376)

- Partially located within the Buffer Area on its eastern border.
- Part of the land holdings within *Paraway Pastoral*
- Consists of approximately 1 million hectares, to the south-west of Windorah.
- The Cooper Creek flows through Tanbar and floods out a significant portion of the property each year, as well as feeding into the ephemeral Lake Yamma Yamma; average annual rainfall is 220mm per year.

South Galway Station:

- Partially located within the Buffer Area on its eastern border.
- Located about 64 km south west of Windorah in the Channel Country.
- The property occupies an area of 4,876 square kilometres.
- Situated along the Cooper Creek approximately half the property is flooded river country and about one quarter is rolling downs.
- The property is a growing out station, backgrounding cattle for AACo's beef brands.

Braidwood:

- Presently located within the BTV Transmission-Free-Zone but is contiguous with the Buffer Area on its eastern border.
- Approximately 33,927 hectares.
- Located 8 km from Jundah and approximately 225 km south west of Longreach.

- Consists of approximately 7689 hectares of Thomson river flood inundation country, 10117 hectares of Mitchell grass downs, 25,000 hectares of Mulga country, balance is a mix of creeks and associated flats incurring occasional flooding with a small area of arable range country.

Email alert notification (proposed text)

Dear NAMP Bluetongue Zoning Map user,

This is an automated message to notify you that the Australian bluetongue virus transmission zone has been updated. Please go to the zone map website to view or download a current version of the map.

During routine monitoring, evidence of bluetongue virus infection has been detected in a survey herd located near Windorah in south-west Queensland. This detection has resulted in an expansion of the bluetongue virus transmission zone in this region. There is no evidence of clinical disease associated with these infections.

Although bluetongue viruses are present in northern and eastern Australia, clinical disease has never been reported in cattle and rarely observed in sheep.

Bluetongue virus transmission surveillance and zoning is conducted under the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP), managed by Animal Health Australia. Further information about NAMP can be found on the program [webpage](#) at Animal Health Australia.

Recommendations (responses to be made on out-of-session paper provided)

That the NAMP Technical Committee:

1. **ENDORSES** the proposed change to the bluetongue virus zone map as shown in Attachment A and available on NAMP-*Info*.
2. **ENDORSES** the proposed text to be used in the email alert notification.

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Author

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