

National BJD Financial and Non-Financial Assistance Package for Beef Cattle Producers

Cattle Council of Australia Inc (CCA) is assisting beef cattle producers whose herds are already known or found to be infected, or are suspected of being infected, with bovine Johne's disease (BJD). The scheme is known as the *National BJD Financial and Non-Financial Assistance Package* and is available to producers throughout Australia.

Why is BJD financial and non-financial assistance being provided to owners of infected beef herds?

Cattle Council recognises that BJD is a disease of significance to the beef cattle industry and supports the goals and objectives of the National BJD Strategic Plan, developed by Animal Health Australia. Through this Assistance Package, Cattle Council aims to minimise the social, economic and trade impacts of BJD at herd, regional and national levels by:

1. Providing financial assistance to affected producers
2. Reducing BJD prevalence
3. Removing the emotional stress and stigma associated with BJD infection.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Assistance Package is available to all beef producers whose beef herds have been confirmed as infected with BJD, or are suspected of being infected with BJD. Eligibility for the financial component will be determined by the BJD Counsellor on a case-by-case basis, with producers being required to meet specific criteria.

Affected producers, or their veterinarian, should contact the BJD Counsellor to discuss the herd situation prior to considering any options and eligibility for financial assistance.

What can producers expect from the National BJD Financial and Non-Financial Assistance Package?

Owners of herds that are known to be infected, or are suspected of being infected, with BJD are eligible for assistance to investigate and resolve the status of their herd. **The assistance scheme is not a compensation package to cover losses.** Instead, the scheme provides assistance for producers to: undertake a situation assessment, including testing; develop a property disease management plan; and, identify and remove high-risk animals from within the herd.

There are two components available for owners of infected or suspect herds:

1. A **non-financial** component—provides access to a BJD Counsellor to conduct a Situation Assessment, assist with considering management and trading options, develop a disease-management plan and liaise with the supervising veterinarian.
2. A **financial** component—provides funding towards the cost of developing and implementing an Enhanced Property Disease Management Plan (EPDMP), including approved program testing and slaughter of identified high-risk animals. Testing to resolve Suspect status will also be covered under the program.

What type of activities and items can be claimed under the National BJD Financial and Non-Financial Assistance Package?

Financial assistance is available to resolve a Suspect or Infected status. The maximum amount payable is \$11,000 GST inclusive per property for eligible properties.

Activities that are eligible for funding include herd testing, resolution of reactors identified in herd tests through faecal culture, post mortem, histopathology, faecal and tissue culture and slaughter assistance for animals identified as high-risk. Levels of available assistance are shown in the table below.

Any financial assistance provided is in addition to the proceeds of sale for slaughter of the identified high-risk animals.

Stock type	Assistance level (\$) GST inclusive*
Herd bull (> 30 months)	550
Young bull (18-30 months)	220
Yearling bull (12-18 months)	110
Weaner bull (6-12 months)	55
Bull calf (< 6 months)	0
Breeding cow (> 24 months)	220
Pregnant heifer (< 24 months)	110
Non-pregnant heifer (12-24 months)	55
Weaner heifer (6-12 months)	55
Heifer calf (< 6 months)	55

*Conditions apply

Costs associated with mustering, labour, infrastructure and loss of production are *not eligible* for financial assistance under this scheme.

All financial claims must be made on the *Producer Claim for Expenses* form, accompanied by the relevant supporting documentation, and be lodged with the BJD Counsellor.

Where can I find more information?

For more information, contact your local BJD Counsellor or District Veterinarian.

<p>BJD Counsellor — Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia & Western Australia</p> <p>David Allan Ph: 0427 572 879 Email: david.a.allan@bigpond.com</p>	<p>BJD Counsellor — New South Wales & Queensland</p> <p>Campbell Trotter Ph: 0411 249 125 Email: cmtrotter@bigpond.com</p>
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