

New Queensland 1080 System Update August 2014

Background

Under the current government provided system landholders have to undertake one off baiting programs, which are often only offered at certain times. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Honourable Dr. John McVeigh, MP has requested that a new system of providing 1080 baits based around non-government providers be established. The new system is to be based on the existing system used in Western Australia.

The New 1080 System

Because of the poison classification of 1080, State and Local Government Officers are required to set the written directions for the baiting program and these are currently set at the time of supply. Because non government providers will be central to the new system, the written directions for the baiting program will be covered by a bait user authorisation document which will remain in force for a period of time not exceeding two years. Once they have this document, landholders can at any time and for as many times as they need go to any non government provider of their choice to obtain baits.

Bait User Authorisations will be obtained by making a written application to State or Local Government. In due course these 'bait user authorisations' will only be issued to landholders who have completed bait user competency testing. Once a user has a bait user authorisation they can approach any one of the following 'bait providers' to obtain baits:

- S7 Poison Retailers who will be supplying manufactured baits only.
- Approved Contractors which can include Pest Management Technicians, Pastoral Company Employees, NRM Employees, and others in the business of providing pest management services. Contractors can supply both perishable and manufactured bait, can also lay baits on a bait user's property/s in accordance with the bait user authorisation.
- Approved Landholders who will be able to prepare perishable baits for their own use and prepare and supply baits for other bait users at no direct cost. Approved landholders will need a permit to lay baits on their own land and can only supply to designated bait user authorisation holders.

Government providers will continue to provide a service during the phase in of the new system. They will also provide services for government lands.

Currently the cost of 1080 baits is met by a mixture of local government and landholder funding. In this new system local government can continue to provide baiting services, but will have to abide by the National Competition Policy provisions of the Local Government Act which means they must offer the services on a commercial basis.

However where the local government considers there is an overall community benefit as opposed to a private benefit from the baiting they can formerly exempt themselves from these provisions, but this is only expected only to apply to peri-urban baiting.

Implementation

The Minister announced the commencement of the system on 30 July 2014 in Charleville. The new system will roll out progressively over the following stages:

Stage 1

Testing and refinement of system processes in Murweh Shire local government area.

Stage 2

Pest Management Technicians, Pastoral Company Employees, NRM Employees, and others in the business of providing pest management services in the Murweh Shire can apply to be approved Contractors.

Stage 3

Progressive roll out of Stages 1 and 2 to the remainder of the Queensland.

Stage 4

Suitable qualified landholders can apply to be Approved Landholders.

Stage 5

Bait Users applying for new permits or the renewal of old permits required to provide proof of competency in Queensland 1080 use.

Progress

At the time of writing the new system was restricted to Murweh Shire, however it is anticipated that it will be extended to Quilpie and Blackall-Tambo in the near future.

A total of eight persons across four businesses with current S7 poison licences in Charleville have been authorised to sell 1080 baits. Demand for the new bait user authorisation has been slow, but it is for the businesses to solicit custom not the government.

Persons who wish to become contractors, irrespective of their location, can indicate their interest now and contact Bob Parker on 07 3087 8064 or email robert.parker@daff.qld.gov.au.

At the moment freshly prepared baits are not available under the new system as the providers of commercial 1080 concentrate, PAKS National and Animal Control Technologies have to extend the registration of their concentrate solutions to Queensland. However they have both lodged applications to do this with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and label extensions to Queensland are expected in the near future.