

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Purick, Member for Goyder to Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODE (PIC) - LIVESTOCK

PREAMBLE

A PIC may have one species of livestock eg cattle or a number of the prescribed livestock species eg cattle, buffalo and horses.

A PIC is essential to operate within the commercial cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat industries being the essential identifier for waybills, health certificates, National Vendor Declarations and National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) devices. There is no cost to the owner to register a PIC or change PIC details. The registration of a PIC for cattle and buffalo has been in place for over 35 years.

The registration of a PIC for the minor livestock species is still evolving. There is a communication strategy to encourage registration. If there was an emergency animal disease response in a particular species it would be necessary to ensure compliance, which would be associated with an intense communication program.

1. How many PIC numbers are in existence for the Northern Territory in the following categories of livestock?

ANSWER

Property Identification Codes (PIC) are not issued for specific categories of livestock, rather it identifies an individual property for a rapid response in the event of an emergency animal disease response.

There are 979 registered PICs at 28 September 2011.

The following livestock were identified on properties at registration or update of the PIC.

Alpacas	1
Buffalo	109
Camel	14
Cattle	698
Deer	6
Goats	56
Horses	274
Llamas	1
Pigs	65
Poultry	74
Sheep	20

2. How many PIC number registrations are on pastoral leases and for what categories?

ANSWER

There are 194 pastoral leases and perpetual pastoral leases registered with a PIC.

3. How many PIC number registrations are on Aboriginal land as described under the Commonwealth Aboriginal Land Rights (1976) Act and for what categories?

ANSWER

There are 67 PICs registered to Aboriginal Land Trusts.

4. How many PIC number registrations in the above livestock categories in the regions of Darwin, Katherine/VRD, Tennant Creek/Barkly and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Darwin	467
Katherine	309
Tennant Creek	77
Alice Springs	126

5. How has Government informed all livestock owners in the Northern Territory of the requirement to obtain a PIC number?

ANSWER

The PIC, previously the tailtag number, has been used within the cattle and buffalo industry for over 35 years. There is full compliance within these industries.

There have been awareness activities for livestock owners at all shows for a number of years. Advice is available on the departmental website and there are fact sheets available. The web link is <http://pic.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au>.

6. What systems and processes are in place to ensure all people who own poultry whether in an urban or rural setting have a PIC number?

ANSWER

Refer to answer 5. If an emergency poultry disease were to occur eg highly pathogenic avian influenza, there would be an intense media campaign to inform the community about potential threats.

7. Has there been any requirement in the last two years for Government to contact PIC number holders and if so for what purpose and for what livestock category?

ANSWER

There was a recent audit of all PICs to confirm that livestock were still on the property and the contact details remain current. Correspondence was sent to all properties with cattle (according to the PIC record) during May 2011 concerning the changes to the regulation of Parkhurst cattle ticks.

Registration of a PIC by horse owners would provide a valuable communication mechanism to horse owners concerning Hendra virus as an example. There was a brands audit carried out to update the details for all registered brands for cattle, buffalo and horses during 2010 and 2011.