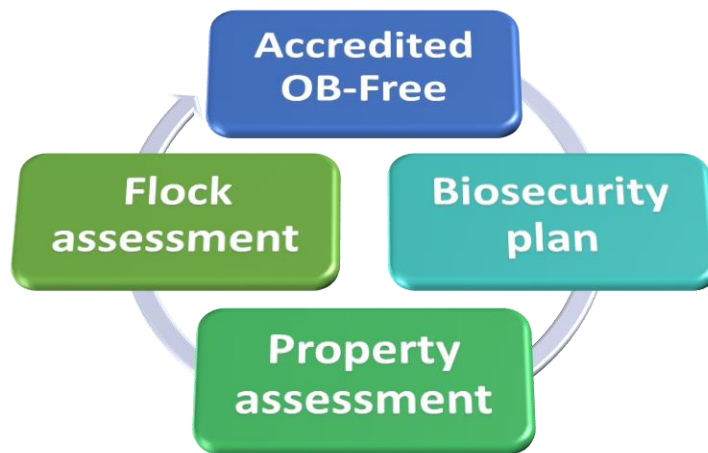


OVINE BRUCELLOSIS-FREE ACCREDITATION SCHEME

TASMANIA



OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS

2020

OVERVIEW

Ovine Brucellosis is a disease of sheep caused by the bacterium *Brucella ovis*. The bacterium causes an inflammation of the epididymis in rams. It also can cause inflammation of the placenta in pregnant ewes which may lead to abortion.

The disease can cause considerable economic loss due to increased culling of rams, reduced lamb marking percentages, extended lambing seasons and ill-thrift in new-born lambs.

Ovine brucellosis occurs in all sheep breeding areas of the world and in sheep flocks in all States of Australia. All breeds of sheep are susceptible to the disease.

Brucella ovis does not infect humans. This is different to *Brucella abortus*, which is a serious public health risk. *Brucella abortus* has been eradicated from the Australian cattle herd.

Objectives

The objective of the Tasmanian Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation Scheme ('the Scheme') is to assist owners to protect their sheep breeding flocks from the effects of Ovine Brucellosis and provide them with objective accreditation they can use to promote the health status of their flock.

The Scheme aims to:

- Provide a source of *Brucella ovis* free rams for those with uninfected flocks who want to avoid introducing infection.
- Facilitate the movement of *Brucella ovis* free rams between States.
- Provide a source of rams suitable for restocking properties that have undertaken an eradication program.
- Maintain a reservoir of *Brucella ovis* free rams by the use of management strategies that minimise the risk of introducing disease into accredited flocks.
- Reduce the risk of *Brucella ovis* infection being spread at shows and sales.

Regulatory requirements

Anyone who knows or suspects that a sheep in Tasmania is infected with Ovine Brucellosis must report this to an inspector under the *Animal Health Act*. It is an offence to sell or give away an animal suspected or confirmed to be infected with OB to another person without advising them of the OB status of the animal before hand.

Tasmania does not have a State or regional Ovine Brucellosis eradication or control program.

There is no regulatory requirement for a sheep breeder to have their flock accredited free of *Brucella ovis* or to eradicate *Brucella ovis* from their flock.

Some breed societies, show societies and selling organisations may require sheep coming to an exhibition, show or sale to be from an Ovine Brucellosis-free accredited flock or to have been tested for *Brucella ovis* with negative results.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) currently administers the Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation Scheme according to the operational guidelines. However,

responsibility for managing the OB accreditation status of individual flocks is between the flock's manager and their approved veterinarian.

The Departmental contact address for this scheme is:

OB-Free Scheme Administrator
Biosecurity Tasmania
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
PO Box 46, KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249
AnimalDisease.Enquiries@dPIPWE.tas.gov.au
Phone 1300 368 550

Introduction

The Tasmanian Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation Scheme ('the Scheme') is a voluntary, user-pays scheme run in association with the sheep breed societies, individual owners, approved veterinarians and DPIPWE.

The Scheme was developed in response to calls from the sheep breeders for a flock classification scheme that could give them and their clients confidence that participating flocks have been objectively assessed and no infection with *Brucella ovis* found.

The Scheme aims to identify and protect flocks that are free from *Brucella ovis* infection. It is based on a test and cull regime together with flock and property biosecurity measures that minimise the risk of spread of *Brucella ovis* within a flock and the introduction of *Brucella ovis* into the flock.

The Scheme emphasises the importance of sound biosecurity management principles in preventing the introduction of Ovine Brucellosis onto accredited properties. It also uses a series of clinical examinations, together with serological screening tests and follow-up investigations of reactors, to confirm the flock status.

There is a low prevalence of Ovine Brucellosis in Tasmanian flocks and there have been no breakdowns in accredited flocks under the current scheme over a considerable number of years although OB is detected in non-accredited flocks on occasion. Thus the Scheme in Tasmania utilises palpation of rams rather than blood testing for primary monitoring of Ovine Brucellosis free status in accredited flocks.

Any rams that show clinical epididymitis, even in non-accredited flocks must be investigated. Ovine Brucellosis is a List B disease under the Tasmanian Animal Health Act and any suspicion of disease must be reported to an Inspector. Submission of blood and/or semen samples to Mt Pleasant Laboratories will be taken as notification.

The Scheme requires high levels of flock management. Biosecurity measures apply to the introduction of sheep, husbandry and record keeping and are critical to the success of the Scheme.

Industry ownership of, and commitment to the Scheme are essential for its success. Promotion of the scheme is an industry responsibility.

Most of the costs of the Scheme are borne by participating flock owners.

The application fee for 2020 is \$100 (GST inclusive) and the re-accreditation fee is \$100 (GST inclusive) and these fees are payable on a tax invoice issued by the Department. The Department updates the relevant fees each financial year.

OVINE BRUCellosIS-FREE ACCREDITATION SCHEME

TASMANIA 2020

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I. Responsibilities of Participating Parties

I.1 Owners

All owners of sheep breeding flocks are eligible to apply for accreditation. The Scheme is based on sound farm biosecurity planning principles.

Applicants must make a written undertaking on the application form. Applicants and the owners of accredited flocks must in particular:

- Acquire a Property Identification Code (PIC) if they do not already have one.
- Maintain fences.
- Provide a property plan (see 3.1.2).
- Permit property inspections (see 2.1.6).
- Present all rams and teasers for testing.
- Liaise with an approved veterinarian in the conduct of the scheme.
- Provide adequate records to ensure the effective running of the scheme (see 3.1.1).
- Prevent contact between their accredited flock and non-accredited, untested or infected rams.
- Guard against stray sheep (see 3.4).
- Treat any sheep that has strayed from their accredited flock as an introduction from a non-accredited flock.
- Transport sheep in isolation from sheep from other flocks (see 3.7).

I.2 Breed societies and associations

Breed societies and associations will:

- Ensure that existing and new members are aware of the Scheme.
- Ensure that when organising shows, exhibits or sales, accredited sheep are not mixed with non-accredited sheep.
- Liaise with the Department to resolve any issues in relation to administrative principles and Scheme policy.
- Request current Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation certificate to accompany entry forms.

I.3 Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania

The Animal Health Laboratories (AHL) will offer blood, semen and pathology testing for samples submitted under this Scheme. Other NATA approved veterinary laboratories may be utilised but approved veterinary practitioners must ensure that laboratory reports are forwarded to the Administrator if requested.

The Administrator for the Scheme will maintain a register of accredited flocks. The Administrator will also maintain the list of accredited flocks whose owners have elected to have their flock's accreditation status published on the DPIPWE web site.

The Administrator will charge an application fee for initial accreditation and a re-accreditation fee (see 4.1).

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) may make orders about the testing and accreditation of any applicant or accredited property.

I.4 Approved veterinary practitioner

The approved veterinary practitioner has the responsibility for the implementation of the Scheme on a flock by flock basis. The approved veterinary practitioner carries out all testing of rams and teasers on farm and ensures all samples submitted for testing are **identified to the individual**

animal, and that identification (eg ear tag) is included in all laboratory submission documentation. The approved veterinary practitioner is responsible for ensuring that the manager of the flock establishes and maintains an effective risk management program on the property.

The approved veterinary practitioner must endorse the initial application for accreditation before the Administrator will approve the application. The approved veterinary practitioner must endorse eligibility for re-accreditation for flocks based on their assessment of the flock.

Veterinarians applying to be registered as an approved veterinary practitioner will have to be registered to practice in Tasmania and satisfy the Administrator that they have familiarised themselves with the Scheme. Accreditation under the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians (APAV)* is not mandatory but highly recommended.

An auditing program for veterinarians run by the Administrator has been developed to ensure that the Scheme is implemented correctly.

2. Procedures

2.1 Requirements for initial accreditation

2.1.1 Application

The applicant (Flock owner):

1. Completes and signs the application form at all relevant places AND **retains** for the approved veterinarian to complete and sign. This form is submitted **AFTER** all testing has been completed.
2. Contacts an approved veterinary practitioner to arrange an assessment of their flock and property.
3. Once the property assessment and all testing is completed - submits the application form with the required signatures to the Administrator.

Only the land described on the application may be used for the flock, unless the owner has the prior approval of the Administrator.

The Administrator will arrange for the applicant to be invoiced for the application fee once the flock is eligible for accreditation according to the scheme rules.

The process involved is summarised in Figure 1.

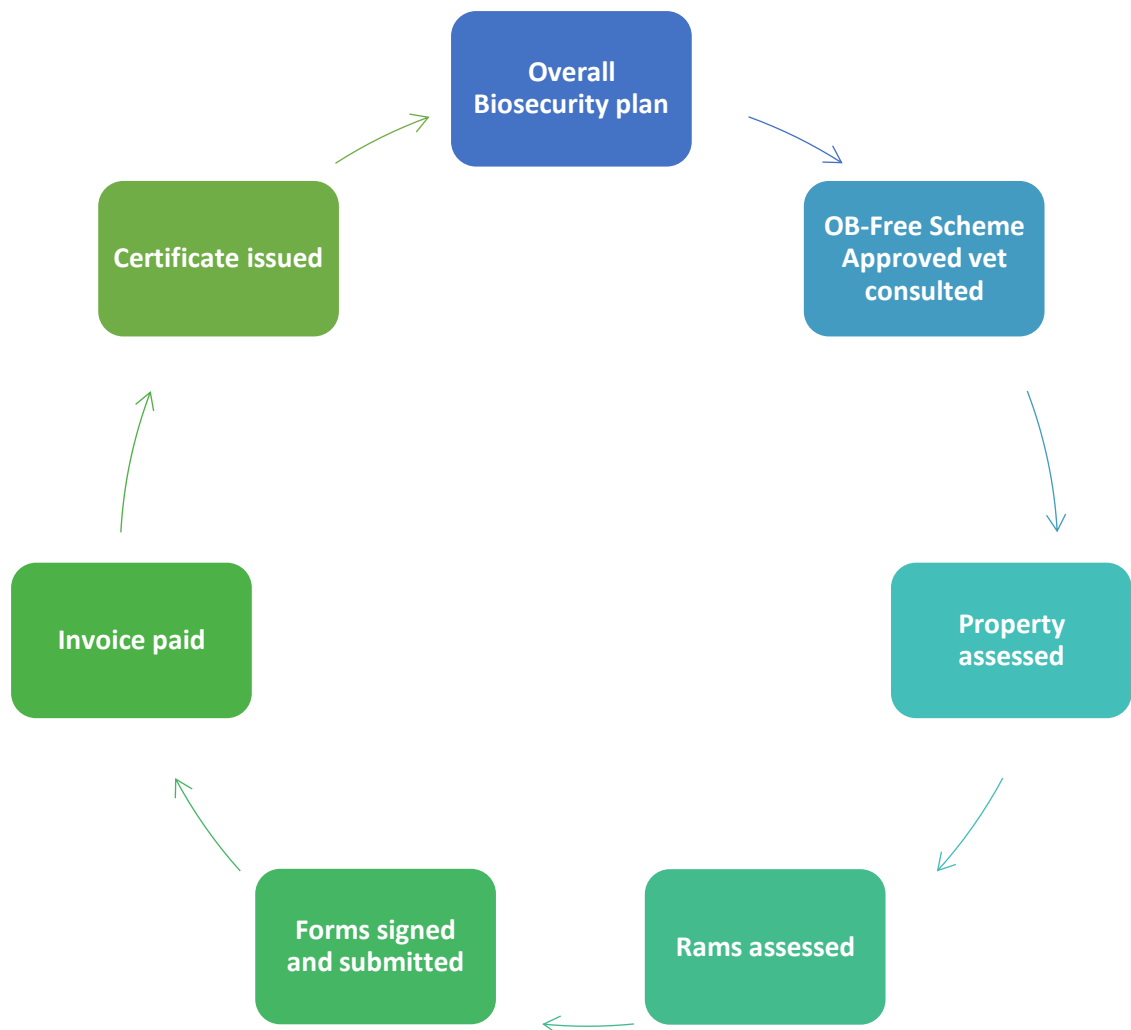


Figure 1. Tasmanian OB-Free Accreditation Scheme operational summary

2.1.2 Testing for initial accreditation

- a) All rams (including teasers) over 4 months of age must be individually and permanently identified by means of a NLIS eartag, tattoo and/or other means as approved by the relevant Breed Society or association.
- b) All blood samples and palpation records must be identified to the individual animal and individual identification must be included on all laboratory submission documentation.
- c) Prior to accreditation, all rams and teasers over 4 months of age that are on the property must test negative to the Ovine Brucellosis Complement Fixation Test (CFT) at two consecutive tests **at an interval of not less than 60 days and not more than 120 days** unless the flock is formed from other accredited flocks (see 2.1.3)
- d) No untested or unaccredited rams are to be introduced into the flock from the time of the first test.
- e) All blood tests (see 3.13) are to be carried out at the Animal Health Laboratories (AHL), Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment or another NATA accredited veterinary laboratory.
- f) Any animal that is positive, suspect or inconclusive to the blood test is to be **removed from the flock as soon as possible and isolated**.
 - If any Complement Fixation Test (CFT) result is greater than 16, then immediate action to determine true status of flock must be carried out (see 2.2.4 for actions).
 - If there are reactors to the CFT test, **and none of these reactors** have clinical lesions or have titres exceeding 16, then these animals will be isolated and re-tested 4 weeks later to resolve suspicion. If the animal remains inconclusive (suspect) on re-test, it is to be assessed according to 2.2.4.
 - If there are reactors to the CFT test and **animals do have lesions** (suspects), further testing will follow (see 2.2.4)
- g) In infected flocks, testing is to continue until there are two consecutive negative test results from blood taken at an interval of not less than 60 days and not more than 120 days.
- h) All previously tested animals must be accounted for at all subsequent tests.

2.1.3 Establishing an accredited flock from existing accredited flock/s

Where a newly registered flock is being established and all rams are purchased from accredited flocks, the newly established flock is to undergo one test (equivalent to an accreditation renewal test as per 2.2) **within 60 days after purchase and establishment** of the new flock as well as meeting all other requirements.

All non-accredited rams must be removed from the property or that portion of the property the accredited flock will run on **before** any accredited rams are introduced.

2.1.4 Testing and Flock Closure

Where Ovine Brucellosis has previously been diagnosed in a flock applying for accreditation and may still be present, the flock must be closed (ie no sales or purchases) from the commencement of testing until qualified for accreditation via testing.

2.1.5 Results of any previous testing

Where testing has been carried out on a property **for five consecutive years immediately prior to applying for accreditation** and complete records of prior testing are available, the CVO may allow a previously unaccredited flock to be admitted to the Scheme with reduced testing provided:

- The owner has met the responsibilities set out in 1.1 and the level of testing is equivalent to that set out in 2.1.2.
- All prior testing results have been negative.
- The approved veterinary practitioner certifies the previous history of the flock.
- The owner has complied with the management requirements of the Scheme.

2.1.6 Property inspection

The approved veterinary practitioner will inspect the property at the initial testing visit and will report to the Administrator on the property status, emphasising the suitability of the fences to contain the rams, ram lambs and teasers. Also the approved veterinary practitioner will assess whether the management systems are compatible with accreditation.

Land owned by the applicant but not included in the accredited property will be considered on the same basis as land used for agistment (see 3.8).

2.1.7 Properties re-entering up to one (1) year after lapsing accreditation

Flocks which have lapsed from the Scheme for **up to 1 year from the date of scheduled renewal** may be able to re-enter the scheme by having a risk assessment performed by an approved veterinary practitioner.

If the risk is assessed as **low** the approved veterinarian can elect to either:

- only bleed all adult rams/teasers and palpate all young/sale rams once or
- test according to the moderate to high risk procedure.

If the risk is assessed as being **moderate to high** then the standard two bleeds of all rams and teasers over 4 months old, with an interval of not less than 60 days and not more than 120 days apart is to be undertaken.

Those flocks that have lapsed for more than 1 year must undergo the initial accreditation process (See 2.1).

2.2 Renewal of accreditation

2.2.1 Re-testing periods

Due to the low risk of breakdown in Tasmanian accredited flocks, accredited flocks will be tested every two years after initial accreditation testing unless OB has been detected in the flock during that period ('breaking down').

Previously infected flocks will be subjected to annual testing by blood (CFT) and palpation with negative results for at least 3 consecutive years after which the CVO may permit the flock to revert to biennial testing (See 2.3.1 and 2.3.2).

2.2.2 Testing requirements at each accreditation renewal test

For flocks with more than 10 rams and teasers over 4 months of age, the re-accreditation test will consist of palpation of all animals. Any ram with lesions is to be blood tested.

For flocks with 10 rams and teasers or less, all rams and teasers over 4 months of age must be bled.

Flocks diagnosed positive for infection within the last 3 years will be subjected to annual testing by blood (CFT) and palpation with negative results before reverting to biennial testing (See 2.2.4).

All blood tests are to be carried out at the Animal Health Laboratories (AHL), Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania or another National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) accredited veterinary laboratory.

Any ram or teaser, irrespective of age which is suspect because of the flock history or clinical examination is to be blood tested.

2.2.3 Inconclusive (suspect) blood test (CFT 16 or less)

If infection has not been diagnosed or suspected in the flock and **the reactor does not have lesions**, any animal that has an inconclusive (suspect) blood test result is to be isolated and re-tested 4 weeks later to resolve suspicion.

If the blood test remains inconclusive (suspect) on re-test the animal is to be:

EITHER

Necropsied and the reproductive tract removed and the organs (tail of epididymis, seminal vesicles and ampullae) cultured and examined histologically;

OR

Semen is to be collected 3 times at 4-week intervals from the inconclusive (suspect) ram or teaser and cultured.

2.2.4 Positive blood test (CFT greater than 16)

Rams or teasers that return a positive blood test must be isolated immediately and

EITHER

Necropsied and the reproductive tract removed and the organs (tail of epididymis, seminal vesicles and ampullae) cultured and examined histologically

OR

Semen is to be collected 3 times at 4-week intervals from the inconclusive (suspect) ram or teaser and cultured. If confirmed infected, the rest of the rams and teasers must be re-bled at intervals of 4-

6 weeks until no further reactors are found and then proved negative to a further clean test at 60-120 days before qualifying for accreditation.

This accredited flock will be subjected to annual testing by blood (CFT) and palpation with negative results for at least 3 years after which it may revert to biennial testing or palpation as determined by flock size (see 2.2.2).

2.2.5 Timing of re-accreditation testing

The Administrator will forward a reminder letter together with application form for re-accreditation prior to the expiry of the accreditation period (usually 30 June of that year) to the address on file.

It is the responsibility of the flock owner to ensure that the testing is carried out by the due date for re-accreditation. The absence of a reminder letter from the Administrator is not a reason for any failure by the owner to carry out the required testing at the required time.

Palpations must be performed and any blood samples must be collected and submitted to the AHL (or other NATA accredited veterinary laboratory) **within 40 days prior to the due date for re-accreditation.**

2.2.6 Lapsed Accreditation

If all the required reports and the re-accreditation fee have **not** been received by the accreditation expiry date (30 June), the accreditation **will automatically lapse.** The Administrator may grant a **single** extension on application:

- if the issue has not and will not increase the disease risk; and
- the application for an extension is received prior to the original expiry date.

The flock's accreditation will remain lapsed until the Administrator provides the extension should one be granted.

Flocks may re-enter the Scheme under a modified protocol (see 2.1.7).

2.2.7 Certificate of accreditation

At the conclusion of any required testing for re-accreditation and provided that the other conditions of accreditation remain valid, the Administrator will issue a Certificate of Accreditation. The certificate will be valid for 2 years (see 4.2) or for such period as relevant to the flock's ongoing testing regime.

2.3 Breakdown (ie flock has become infected) – loss of and reinstatement of accreditation

2.3.1 Breakdown of accreditation

The detection of any test positive sheep (including strays) on an accredited property constitutes a breakdown and accreditation will be suspended immediately.

For reinstatement of accreditation, the owner must fulfil the inspection and test requirements for a new application. All rams/teasers over 4 months of age present on the property will be required to be individually identified and blood tested.

In some cases it may be possible to show that only part of the property has been infected and the CVO may approve a lesser degree of testing.

The owner must comply with any additional conditions the CVO may determine.

2.3.2 Re-accreditation after breakdown

After a breakdown has occurred as in 2.3.1, re-accreditation will be granted after 2 consecutive negative tests at an interval of not less than 60 days and not more than 120 days apart.

Re-accreditation following a breakdown will be for 12 months and re-testing by blood test will be annual for the first 3 years following re-accreditation. In satisfactory circumstances, the CVO may then permit biennial testing (see 2.2.1).

2.4 Suspension

2.4.1 Reasons for suspension

The Administrator may suspend accreditation where any of the following occurs:

- a) A diagnosis of ovine brucellosis is confirmed in any ram/teaser on the property.
- b) Testing for renewal of accreditation is not carried out by the due date for re-accreditation.
- c) There is any actual or apparent breach of the conditions of accreditation and the CVO determines that suspension is appropriate.
- d) At any time the fencing is found to have deteriorated and no longer meets the required standard.
- e) Following **trace back** from an infected flock, accreditation will be suspended until the accredited flock's status is resolved (see 2.4.3)

2.4.2 Re-accreditation after suspension

Re-accreditation after suspension for reasons other than breakdown (dealt with in 2.3.2) or trace back (see 2.4.3) shall be permitted:

- In the case of 2.4.1 (b) ie testing not carried out by the due date, see 2.1.7
- In the case of 2.4.1 (c) and (d) ie breach of protocol and unsatisfactory fencing, subject to such conditions as the CVO may consider necessary.

2.4.3. Re-accreditation after trace back from an infected flock

Following trace back from an infected flock, accreditation will be suspended until the accredited flock's status is resolved. This will require assessment by an approved veterinarian of the flock's reproductive records for the past 4 years and examination of the ram flock.

Ram flock examination will follow the same palpation and testing procedures used for accreditation renewal (see 2.2.2) unless the reproductive history of the flock indicates more intensive testing should be entered into according to a risk assessment as per 2.1.7.

2.5 Introductions and disposals

2.5.1 Introduction of rams

Rams and/or teasers may be introduced to the flock either:

- By transporting sheep from another accredited flock in complete isolation

OR

- Where the introduced animal is from a non-accredited flock in which Ovine Brucellosis is not known to be present and the approved veterinary practitioner has been consulted prior to moving the animal(s) and agrees that the movement is feasible, by holding the animal(s) in complete isolation pending ram assessment.

The ram is assessed via the completion of two clinical examinations and two blood tests, with an interval of not less than 60 days and not more than 120 days.

The first test may be carried out on the property of origin NOT MORE than 14 days before shipment. The animal(s) must be held in complete isolation from the time of the first test, during transport and until the result of the second test is known. The second test must be **NOT LESS than 60 days after shipment**.

2.5.2 Introduction of rams from interstate and overseas

A full set of certification as per DPIPWE website www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au, (search for importing sheep) is required for the movement of all sheep into Tasmania from another state or territory. It does not qualify sheep for entry into an accredited flock without further testing unless a completed Sheep Health Statement (Section 4, Question 10) indicates that the sheep come from an accredited flock.

Rams from flocks accredited under an approved interstate Ram Accreditation Scheme may be introduced to Tasmanian accredited flocks without further testing provided that transport is in complete isolation from non-accredited sheep (See 2.5.1) and there is **documentation verifying current accreditation status of the flock of origin**.

Rams from non-accredited interstate flocks may be introduced under the same conditions as in 2.5.1. Tests must be carried out by AHL or a NATA accredited laboratory in the State of origin.

For introduction from overseas, apply to Biosecurity Australia (ph: 1800 900 090) for current requirements. The CVO may allow direct entry to an accredited flock depending on the testing regime for entry into Australia.

2.5.3 Introduction of ewes

Non-accredited non-pregnant ewes, whatever their breed, that are introduced to an accredited property should not be joined for four months.

Pregnant ewes should be lambled in isolation and not rejoined for four months post-lambing. Ram lambs should be weaned early and tested when over 4 months of age, before mixing with other ram groups.

2.5.4 Disposal of infected rams

Any ram or teaser determined by AHL or the testing veterinary practitioner to be infected with *Brucella ovis* must be immediately and permanently removed from the flock and euthanased or sold for direct slaughter.

A signed declaration of disposal is to be provided to the CVO.

2.5.5 Disposal of suspect rams

Suspect rams must be disposed of in a manner approved by the CVO. Any suspect ram disposed of without appropriate testing to determine true status, will result in the accredited flock being classed as infected and full flock re-testing may be required.

3. Generalities and definitions

3.1 Relevant information

3.1.1 Adequate records are required showing:

- The number of rams of each breed and teasers on the property.
- The origin of introduced rams and their OB-free accreditation certificate number and expiry date must be recorded.
- The movement of sheep to and from shows or sales and other movements away from the accredited property.
- Details of testing and isolation records of non-accredited rams introduced to the flock.

3.1.2 Property plan

A plan of the property is required. This should be approximately to scale and show:

- Location numbers and access road names
- Boundary and subdivisional fences
- Names of adjoining neighbours
- Types of fences
- The Property Identification Code (PIC) from the DPIPWVE Registrar of Brands and Property Identification Number/s (PIDs) from local council rates notices
- Shared shearing shed or other facilities with non-accredited property
- Any unfenced right of way through property.

The property plan is updated and presented when changes occur to the part of the property where the accredited flock is kept. It is the owner's responsibility to notify an approved veterinary practitioner of any land acquired on which it is intended to run the accredited flock. It will be necessary for a property inspection to be carried out on new land (see section 3..

3.2 Presentation of rams

All rams and teasers to be tested are to be made available on request in suitable facilities.

3.3 Rams returning to property from shows, sales or any other reason

Rams, other than rams that have been in direct contact only with other accredited sheep and have been otherwise held and transported in isolation, that are part of an accredited flock and leave the designated property must:

- a) If contact with other unaccredited sheep is **unknown**, but unlikely, be held in complete isolation for 60 days on return and then undergo palpation and one blood test
- b) If contact with unaccredited sheep is **known**, be held in complete isolation for 60 days on return and then undergo two palpations and two consecutive tests at an interval of not less than 60 days and not more than 120 days apart.

3.4 Stray sheep

The owner will report to the approved veterinary practitioner any stray sheep on or from his property or any other significant failure of the isolation of his flock. Where the owner's sheep have strayed, testing will be appropriate to the circumstances and at the discretion of the approved veterinary practitioner. Rams may be held in isolation for 60 days and returned after one test, as in 3.3 (a).

3.5 Right of control

The CVO may at their discretion, direct which rams are to be tested in any flock undergoing accreditation or re-testing for accreditation.

3.6 Ram lambs

Appropriate testing of ram lambs is to be carried out after 4 months of age as in 2.1.2.

3.7 Transport

Sheep subject to accreditation must at all times be transported in isolation from non-accredited sheep.

3.8 Agistment

Agistment or other depasturing of rams from an accredited flock on land separate to the accredited property may be approved by the approved veterinary practitioner.

All rams so depastured at the time when an accreditation test is due must be tested as required up to 30 days after the date when the rest of the rams in the flock are tested.

The conditions for returning such rams to the main flock will be appropriate to the degree of risk involved according to a risk assessment performed by an approved veterinary practitioner.

Where the fencing is good and there has been no contact with non-accredited rams, no testing will be required on return.

Where the fencing is doubtful and it is unlikely there has been contact with other rams, then on return, isolation for 60 days and be negative on palpation and one test will be required.

The onus to maintain isolation rests with the flock owner. If the owner is concerned that there may have been contact with suspect rams, or where it is known that there definitely has been contact with other rams, the rams must be isolated and be found negative on two palpations and two tests, as in 3.3 before returning to the flock.

If ewes have been on agistment and may have had contact with non-accredited rams, then on return to their original property, they must not be joined for at least 4 months unless testing is carried out.

3.9 Change of flock location or ownership

The Administrator must be notified within 20 working days of a permanent change in flock location or ownership.

New location:

The new location will need to be assessed by an approved veterinarian and documented by completing Parts C and D of the Initial Application form and including a Property Plan as per section 3.1.2 of this document.

New owner:

If the intention of a new owner of an accredited flock (which has remained at its accredited address) is to maintain that accreditation, Part A of the Initial Application Form must be completed by the new owner and their Approved Veterinarian countersign the document. This documentation must be forwarded to the Administrator within 20 working days of the change.

3.10 Artificial breeding

3.10.1 Artificial insemination

Artificial insemination may be carried out on the ewes of an accredited flock only if the semen is:

Derived from an ovine brucellosis-free accredited ram;

OR

Derived from rams which have been held in isolation and have tested negative for ovine brucellosis at two consecutive tests at an interval of not less than 60 days and not more than 120 days apart prior to using the semen.

3.10.2 Embryo transfer

Embryo transfer can be used in an accredited flock.

3.10.3 Artificial breeding and accreditation/re-accreditation

Only the rams or teasers on the property at the time of accreditation/re-accreditation are required to be tested. If there are no rams or teasers over 4 months of age at the time of testing, then no testing is required. Note that if any rams or teasers are introduced to the flock, they must be introduced under the conditions of 2.3.2.

3.11 Costs

All costs of inspections, examinations, testing and registration fees will be borne by the flock owner.

3.12 Approved veterinary practitioner

Clinical examination and the collection of samples will be carried out by an approved veterinary practitioner (see 1.4 and appendix).

3.13 Clinical examination

Clinical examination involves the palpation of both testicles and both epididymides. Any ram/teasers with clinical signs must be blood tested.

3.14 Laboratory testing

Blood and semen samples will be tested at the AHL or a NATA accredited veterinary laboratory. The blood (serological) test will be the complement fixation test (CFT) unless otherwise directed by the CVO.

3.15 Reporting

When required, the approved veterinary practitioner will forward all reports of clinical examinations and blood tests on the prescribed form to the Administrator within 14 days of each test. Any other occurrence that may contravene the conditions of this Scheme must be notified to the Administrator as soon as possible.

3.16 Suspension of approved veterinary practitioner

The CVO may suspend an approved veterinary practitioner from that role. In the case where the CVO has suspended an approved veterinary practitioner from that role, the CVO may require that further testing on certain properties be carried out by an alternative approved veterinary practitioner.

4. Registration Fees

4.1 Initial Application or Renewal Fees

The owner is to pay an initial application (or renewal fee as relevant) fee for each flock to be accredited to the Administrator.

The accreditation process is taken to be **completed** once the Administrator has received the completed application/renewal form from the flock owner AND been notified by the approved veterinarian of the final negative test result. Applicants are cautioned not to Forward application/renewal documentation BEFORE final testing has been completed.

Once the Application form has been accepted as correct and the negative test results received by the Administrator, a tax invoice for the Initial Application/Renewal fee (currently \$100 including GST) will be issued to the applicant.

4.2 Certificates

Certificates are issued to successful applicants/renewals on payment of the relevant fee. The certificate identifies the flock owner, flock's location and Accreditation number and has issue and expiry dates.

Appendix I Approved veterinary practitioners as at 31 January 2020

NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT PHONE
Dr Kim Barrett	Launceston Veterinary Hospital 351 Wellington Street LAUNCESTON TAS 7250	03 6344 4566
Dr Roger Blackwell	Deloraine Veterinary Centre 21/23 Beefeater Street DELORAINES TAS 7304	03 6362 2108
Dr Jim Connah	Farm Vet Services 11 Leslie Road KINGSTON TAS 7050	0474 311 163
Dr Libby Cooper	Vet in the Valley 'Glenleith' 977 Glenora Road PLENTY TAS 7104	0419 306 182
Dr Keith Crook	"Kincora" CAMPANIA TAS 7026	03 6260 4223
Dr Chris Donaldson	200 Richie Street Westbury TAS 7303	0409 402 294
Dr Ron Harris	642 Bream Creek Road BREAM CREEK TAS 7175	03 6253 5666
Dr Graham Harrison	Wynyard Veterinary Service PO Box 777 WYNYARD TAS 7325	0419 884 094
Dr Genevieve Heffernan	Longford and Northern Midlands Veterinary Service 29 Marlborough Street LONGFORD TAS 7301	0429 594 396
Dr Bruce Jackson	29/38 Amiens Avenue, MOONAH TAS 7009	0407 872 520
Dr Gavin Kaiser	Wynyard Veterinary Clinic 2/126 Goldie Street, WYNYARD TAS 7325	03 6442 4242
Dr Felicity Kerr	Deloraine Veterinary Centre 21/23 Beefeater Street DELORAINES TAS 7304	03 6362 2108
Dr Neil Leighton	Smithton Veterinary Clinic PO Box 23 SMITHTON TAS 7330	03 6452 1054
Dr Sam Morgan	Longford and Northern Midlands Veterinary Service 29 Marlborough Street LONGFORD TAS 7301	0449 280 217
Dr Paul Nilon	Nilon Farm Health 11 Old Bridge Road PERTH TAS 7330	03 6398 1666
Dr Jeff Parsons	East Coast Veterinary Clinic 65 Quail Street ST HELENS TAS 7216	03 6376 1577
Dr Jim Reilly	Forth Valley Veterinary Clinic	03 6428 2703

	25 Wilmot Road FORTH TAS 7310	
Dr Scott Rogers	Montrose Veterinary Centre 488 Main Road MONTROSE TAS 7010	03 6272 3599
Dr Khyle Stewart	Scottsdale Veterinary Service 35 Ringarooma Road SCOTTSDALE TAS 7260	03 6352 2996
Dr Margaret Thompson	Brighton Veterinary Service 643 Briggs Road BRIGHTON TAS 7030	03 6268 1729
Dr Georgina Vollus	Scottsdale Veterinary Service, 8 Charles Street SCOTTSDALE TAS 7260	0419 352 734
Dr Gilbert Walker	C/- Post Office WESLEY VALE TAS 7307	03 6427 8959
Dr Peter Wishart	Longford and Northern Midlands Veterinary Service 29 Marlborough Street LONGFORD TAS 7301	0427 768 678
Dr Eileen Wronski	119 Main Road HUONVILLE TAS 7109	0435 033 039

Appendix 2 Forms

Initial OB-Free Accreditation Form

Renewal OB-Free Accreditation Form

INITIAL Application to join the Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation Scheme

Applicant/s and their approved veterinarians to complete. Applicant/s to complete Parts A and B; Approved veterinary practitioner to complete Parts C and D. The applicant to return the forms to the address below once all testing has been finalised. A tax invoice for the accreditation fee will be issued on acceptance of the forms by the Administrator; current fee is \$100 inc GST.

OB-Free Scheme Administrator
Biosecurity Tasmania, DPIPW
PO Box 46, KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249
AnimalDisease.Enquiries@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au; Phone 1300 368 550

PART A APPLICATION FORM

I/We (name)Of (address)

.....(PIC) _ _ _ _ _

hereby apply to have my/our flock accredited by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment as free from *Brucella ovis* infection.

I/We agree that:

1. For initial accreditation, the property and its management will be subject to assessment by an approved veterinary practitioner under the Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation Scheme.
2. Facilities necessary for testing, handling and management of the flock to maintain accreditation will be provided and maintained.
3. All rams and teasers over 4 months old are to be accounted for at each test and all eligible stock are to be presented to the approved veterinary practitioner for manual examination and blood sampling as required.
4. All rams to be accredited will be individually and permanently identifiable to the satisfaction of the examining approved veterinary practitioner.
5. The advice of the approved veterinary practitioner will be followed with respect to the disposal of serological reactors or clinical cases of *Brucella ovis* infection.
6. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment shall have no liability accruing from property inspections, clinical examination, sampling, laboratory testing, suspension of accreditation or failure to re-accredit the flock, any delays in administrative procedures or deficiencies in the Operational Guidelines.
7. If my/our flock becomes accredited, I/we give permission for my/our accreditation status to be publicised once per year in a Tasmanian newspaper and recorded on the DPIWWE website. **YES NO (please circle)**
8. I/We have read the Schedule of Conditions for the Scheme and will abide by the conditions set down in the Schedule.

Signature of applicant/s..... Date.....

Signature of approved veterinary practitioner..... Date.....

PART B FLOCK INFORMATION DATA SHEET *(Applicant/s to complete)*

Applicant/s name			
Applicant/s name or Business name to appear on certificate			
Postal address		Postcode	
Property address		Postcode	
Property Identification Code (PIC) (Mandatory)			
Phone / Fax	Phone:	Fax:	
Mobile Phone	Mobile:		
Email			

Flock Details

No. rams over 4 months	No. Teasers over 4 months age	No. Ewes over 1 yr	Breed/s of rams	Society brand (if applicable)

Flock History *(to be completed only where flock originates from existing accredited flock/s)*

Flocks of origin & accreditation number	Date introduced	Any contact with unaccredited rams en route to property

Details of artificial insemination (AI) in your flock during last 2 years

AI date	Flock of origin	Accreditation No.

Previous testing *(refer to 2.1.5 – results of any previous testing)*

Date	Veterinary practitioner	Description of sheep (ram or teaser over 4 months old)	Result

Property Plan

As per 3.1.2, a property plan must be provided to the approved veterinary practitioner

PART C INITIAL ACCREDITATION VETERINARY ASSESSMENT

To be completed by the approved veterinary practitioner

Approved veterinary practitioner to complete **Parts C** and **D** and provide to the owner to return to the Administrator.

Name of applicant/s.....

Please detail relevant history of flock to be accredited including:

- accreditation status of flock/s of origin;
- contact between animals from this flock with non-accredited sheep;
- previous testing history of flock;
- sharing of rams with non-accredited flocks;
- agistment arrangements and other properties.

Please comment on standard and type of boundary and subdivision fencing, noting particularly separation from other non-accredited flocks, shared shearing shed, unfenced rights of way

Any additional comments on farm biosecurity including history of previous incursions/strays .

I have developed a risk management plan (see Part D) in consultation with the applicant with special emphasis on risk factors for introduction of *Brucella ovis* infection onto this property and practices that minimise the risk of introducing *Brucella ovis* infection into the flock.

I recommend this property for accreditation.

Name of approved veterinary practitioner.....

Signature of approved veterinary practitioner..... **Date**.....

PART D RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN for (insert applicant/s name and PIC)
Applicant/s name..... **PIC**

To be completed by the approved veterinary practitioner following discussion with the applicant

I/We have read and understood the Risk Management Plan as above:

Signature/s of applicant/s.....**Date**.....

	Activity that may pose a risk for introduction of disease	Practices that minimise risk of introduction	Comment required from approved veterinary practitioner to verify that the risk management strategy is understood
1	Movement of purchased rams onto accredited property	Check accreditation status of rams and obtain a copy of accreditation certificate. If purchased animals are not from an accredited property, contact an approved practitioner for testing and isolation of stock	
2	Movement of purchased ewes onto accredited property	Non-pregnant ewes from non-accredited properties should be isolated and not joined for 4 months after last joining. Pregnant ewes should be lambled in isolation and not rejoined for 4 months post lambing. Ram lambs from non accredited ewes should be weaned early and tested after 4 months of age.	
3	Introduction of semen onto accredited property	Buy semen from accredited properties (check their accreditation certificate). If not accredited buy semen from licensed centre, or from rams that have been isolated and tested free of OVINE BRUCELLOSIS following 2 blood tests 60 to 120 days apart.	
4	Rams returned from leasing, sharing or agistment	Rams should not be agisted, leased or shared unless the property is OVINE BRUCELLOSIS accredited or has been inspected by an approved practitioner. If any contact with non-accredited rams, isolate and test 60 days after return.	
5	Rams returned from show or sale	Determine whether all rams at the show are from accredited properties or fully tested. If this is not possible, accredited rams should be held in isolation from non-accredited rams. If any contact with non-accredited rams, isolate and test 60 days after return.	
6	Straying rams or ewes (from accredited flock to non-accredited flock)	Isolate sheep and contact approved practitioner to discuss risk of disease entry. Testing procedures will be at the discretion of approved practitioners	
7	Straying rams or ewes (from non-accredited flock to accredited flock)	Isolate sheep and contact approved practitioner to discuss risk of disease entry. Testing procedures will be at discretion of approved practitioner.	
8	Transport of sheep	All sheep from approved property must be transported in isolation from non-accredited sheep	
9	Rams to AI centre	Ensure that AI centre is licensed. All sheep at centre should be accredited or tested OVINE BRUCELLOSIS negative.	
10	Fencing	Ensure all boundary fences are secure to minimise risk of straying sheep	
11	Other risk factors (expand over page if necessary)		

I have explained the risk factors for introduction of Ovine Brucellosis to the applicant and discussed the risk management plan as above:

Signature of approved veterinary practitioner.....**Date**.....

Part D continued

OB Testing Results (to be completed and filed by the approved veterinary practitioner)

Applicant/s nameDate.....

<i>RAM ID Tag/Tattoo</i>	<i>AGE Months</i>	<i>PALPATE Pos/neg</i>	<i>Blood sample ID</i>	<i>Test results Neg/Titre</i>

Privacy Statement

Personal information will be collected from you for the purpose of accrediting or re-accrediting your flock under the **Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation Scheme** and will be used by DPIPWE for managing, assessing, advising upon and determining the relevant application and may be used for other purposes permitted by the *Animal Health Act 1995*.

You are required to provide accurate information by section 76(1)(c) of the *Animal Health Act 1995*. Failure to provide this information may result in your application not being able to be processed.

Your personal information will be used for the primary purpose for which it is collected, and may be disclosed to contractors and agents of the DPIPWE, and other organisations authorised to collect it.

Your basic personal information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies where necessary, for the efficient storage and use of the information.

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to DPIPWE. You may be charged a fee for this service.

RENEWAL of Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation

Applicant/s and their approved veterinarians to complete. Applicant/s to complete Parts A and C; Approved veterinary practitioner to complete Parts B and C. The applicant to return the forms to the address below once all palpation and testing has been finalised. A tax invoice for the renewal fee will be issued on acceptance of the forms by the Administrator; current fee is \$100 inc GST.

OB-Free Scheme Administrator
 Biosecurity Tasmania, DPIPWE
 PO Box 46, KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249
AnimalDisease.Enquiries@dPIPWE.tas.gov.au; Phone 1300 368 550

PART A RENEWAL APPLICATION

I/We (name)
 wish to apply for renewal of the Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation of my/our flock.

Applicant/s name			
Applicant/s name or business name to appear on certificate			
Postal address		Postcode	
Property address		Postcode	
Property Identification Code (PIC)			
Phone/Fax	Phone:	Fax:	
Mobile Phone	Mobile:		
Email			
Nominated approved veterinary practitioner			

I/We declare that:

- all boundary fences for the accredited property have been maintained and are sheep proof;
- all rams and teasers over 4 months of age have been presented for testing;
- I/we have complied with the risk management plan (see Part C) for this flock to minimise the risk of introduction of Ovine Brucellosis onto the accredited property;
- the information given in this application is correct.

I have kept adequate records of:

- the number of rams and teasers on the property and their breed;
- the origin of introduced rams and/or semen;
- the movement of sheep to and from shows, sales and other movements away from the accredited property;
- any event which may have exposed my accredited flock to *Brucella ovis* and the actions taken to mitigate this risk;
- all sheep have adequate individual identification to the satisfaction of the approved veterinary practitioner
- a property plan approximately to scale that shows boundary and subdivisional fences, names of adjoining neighbours and type of fencing for boundary fences.

I/We give permission for my/our accreditation status to be publicised once per year in a Tasmanian newspaper and recorded on the DPIPWE website. **YES** **NO** **(please circle)**

Applicant/s name.....

Applicant/s signature/s.....Date.....

PART B RENEWAL APPLICATION – Veterinary Certification

Name of applicant/s.....PIC _ _ _ _ _

Flock details

No. of rams over 4 months of age	Number of teasers over 4 months of age	Number of ewes over 1 year of age	Breed/s of rams	Society brand (if applicable)

I palpated.....rams andteasers over 4 months of age.

Blood samples were taken fromrams and.....teasers.

I am satisfied that the applicant is aware of risks for the introduction of Ovine Brucellosis to the accredited property and has complied with the Property Management Plan to prevent introduction of Ovine Brucellosis to the accredited flock.

I am satisfied that the property, management and testing meet the requirements of the Tasmanian Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation Scheme and that the property is eligible for re-accreditation.

I examined this flock on:.....

I have attached the completed forms **B and C**.

Name of approved veterinary practitioner.....

Signature of approved veterinary practitioner.....

Date.....

PART C RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN for (insert applicant/s name and PIC)

Applicant/s name.....PIC _____

To be completed by the approved veterinary practitioner following discussion with the applicant

	Activity that may pose a risk for introduction of disease	Practices that minimise risk of introduction	Comment from approved veterinary practitioner to verify that the risk management strategy has been complied with
1	Movement of purchased rams onto accredited property	Check accreditation status of rams and obtain a copy of accreditation certificate. If purchased animals are not from an accredited property, contact an approved practitioner for testing and isolation of stock	
2	Movement of purchased ewes onto accredited property	Non-pregnant ewes from non-accredited properties should be isolated and not joined for 4 months after last joining. Pregnant ewes should be lambed in isolation and not rejoined for 4 months post lambing. Ram lambs from non accredited ewes should be weaned early and tested after 4 months of age.	
3	Introduction of semen onto accredited property	Buy semen from accredited properties (check their accreditation certificate). If not accredited buy semen from licensed centre, or from rams that have been isolated and tested free of OVINE BRUCELLOSIS following 2 blood tests 60 to 120 days apart.	
4	Rams returned from leasing, sharing or agistment	Rams should not be agisted, leased or shared unless the property is OVINE BRUCELLOSIS accredited or has been inspected by an approved practitioner. If any contact with non-accredited rams, isolate and test 60 days after return.	
5	Rams returned from show or sale	Determine whether all rams at the show are from accredited properties or fully tested. If this is not possible, accredited rams should be held in isolation from non-accredited rams. If any contact with non-accredited rams, isolate and test 60 days after return.	
6	Straying rams or ewes (from accredited flock to non-accredited flock)	Isolate sheep and contact approved practitioner to discuss risk of disease entry. Testing procedures will be at the discretion of approved practitioners	
7	Straying rams or ewes (from non-accredited flock to accredited flock)	Isolate sheep and contact approved practitioner to discuss risk of disease entry. Testing procedures will be at discretion of approved practitioner.	
8	Transport of sheep	All sheep from approved property must be transported in isolation from non-accredited sheep	
9	Rams to AI centre	Ensure that AI centre is licensed. All sheep at centre should be accredited or tested OVINE BRUCELLOSIS negative.	
10	Fencing	Ensure all boundary fences are secure to minimise risk of straying sheep	
11	Other risk factors		
12	Other risk factors		

I/We have read and understood the Risk Management Plan as above

Signature/s of applicant/s.....Date.....

I have explained the risk factors for introduction of Ovine Brucellosis to the applicant and discussed the risk management plan.

Signature of approved veterinary practitioner.....Date.....

Part C continued

OB Testing Results (*to be completed by the approved veterinary practitioner*)

Applicant/s name.....Date.....

<i>RAM ID Tag/Tattoo</i>	<i>AGE Months</i>	<i>PALPATE Pos/neg</i>	<i>Blood sample ID</i>	<i>Test results Neg/Titre</i>

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You are required to provide accurate information by section 76(1)(c) of the *Animal Health Act 1995*. Failure to provide this information may result in your application not being able to be processed.

Your personal information will be used for the primary purpose for which it is collected, and may be disclosed to contractors and agents of the DPIPWE, and other organisations authorised to collect it.

Your basic personal information may be disclosed to other public sector bodies where necessary, for the efficient storage and use of the information.

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and may be accessed by the individual to whom it relates on request to DPIPWE. You may be charged a fee for this service.