



**Queensland Goat Producers Inc submission
to the
Biosecurity Protection Levy**

3 October 2023

About Queensland Goat Producers Inc

[Queensland Goat Producers Inc](#) (QGoat) is a non-profit community based goat producers organisation. The group was formed in 2022 as the first non-breed specific commercial goat producers group representing meat, dairy, fibre, environment, companion and working goats and their purposes and derivatives in Queensland.

Queensland Goat Producers Inc. encompasses all of Queensland, with regionally specific sub-groups to cover the diverse goat rearing conditions, to present workshops, assist with research, and develop networks relevant to the areas. With its vision to grow a strong, progressive and sustainable commercial goat industry.

A mission to offer direct engagement with commercial goat producers, youth, researchers, educators, suppliers, and agencies to identify producer issues and collaborate to address issues within Queensland. To implement an integrated, science-based approach to goat production through supportive partnerships across our industry. They are innovative and driven by action at a grassroots level.

About the Australian goatmeat industry

The Australian goat flock has moved into an expansion phase after a number of years impacted by drought and low numbers of breeding stock. More favourable climatic conditions since 2021, underpinned by a La Niña weather pattern for several years, has led to flock expansion and production ([MLA 2023](#)). In 2022 goat slaughter increased 38% year-on-year to a total of 1,671,611 head ([MLA 2023](#)).

In a global context Australia is a small producer of goatmeat but is the largest exporter, with a 31% volume share of the global goatmeat exports in 2021.

A compulsory transaction levy of 37.7 cents per head is collected at each point of sale and the levy is split up thus:

| Levy type | Amount (cents) |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Marketing | 10.5 |
| Research and development | 16.7 |
| Animal Health Australia | 4.5 |
| National Residues Survey | 6 |

Additionally;

- processors pay a levy of 10 cents per head which is payable on slaughter of livestock for human consumption
- All goats sent for live-export incur a 50 cent levy
- The goat fibre levy is 1.5% of the sale value.

Position summary

QGoat welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Biosecurity Protection Levy.

We welcome the government's commitment to developing a sustainable biosecurity funding model to support and protect Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries, however our concern is that this new levy will:

- Add addition economic and administrative burden to producers at a time when prices are below the cost of production and farmed goat producers will soon need to absorb the cost of

changes to the National Livestock Identification System and need to use the more expensive [electronics tags to track their stock](#).

- Perpetuate a system that already has significant levy leakage and will continue to miss contributions from the many hobby and pet goat producers across Australia who represent a higher biosecurity risk (risk creators).

Within the goat industry small land holders and the pet industry are often not paying any of the existing industry levies, and thus will likely be missed for the Biosecurity Protection Levy if its collection is tacked onto existing processes. These entities pose a large biosecurity risk to the commercial goat industry as they are often unaware/non-compliant with standard animal health care and biosecurity practices and their own obligations. Hobby farmers and the pet industry is a growing sector and represent substantial biosecurity risk to the industry as well as significant levy leakage.

With these points in mind, QGoat supports:

- A revision of the existing agricultural levy collection and auditing processes to identify ways to:
 - reduce overall levy leakage and identify more cost effective collection methods (i.e. levies collected annually through Australia Tax Office returns).
 - incorporate a fair and equitable levy collection mechanism for hobby and pet goat producers to ensure these entities contribute to the protection of the industry.
- Implementation of a biosecurity levy for air and sea freight, conveyance or containers applied on imported product ready for human consumption as recommended in [the 2017 Independent review of the capacity of Australia's biosecurity system](#).
- Industry consultation to guide investment of the funds raised for the Biosecurity Protection Levy and provision of clear and transparent reporting on the return on industry's investment.

More broadly regarding biosecurity, QGoat supports and advocates for:

- Early and genuine industry engagement in biosecurity management.
- Recognition of industry insights, data and practical experience by key decision makers.
- Collaborative strategic reviews of international trends and science to proactively identify and prepare for industry's next big threats.
- Compliance systems backed by:
 - Processes to rectify and deter non-compliance.
 - An expansion of post border surveillance and import pathway traceability systems to allow for real time risk management.
- Application of nimble policy, regulation and legislation using current science, technology and information to enable effective coordinated responses to biosecurity threats.
- While still managing perceived risk, regulation, legislation, and policies should be streamlined to reduce confusion, bolster business confidence and promote consistent policy implementation.
- The implementation of mandatory, scientifically proven biosecurity procedures for imported products.
- Recruitment, retention and training of key personnel within the biosecurity workforce must be prioritised by government and research institutions.
- Ongoing and effective communication and extension programs must be maintained targeting key stakeholders.

Thank you

QGoat, on behalf of our members would like to thank you for taking the time to review our submission. I welcome the opportunity to discuss any of our requests with you further and can provide more details if needed.

Finally, I would like to thank you in advance for your support of the future of Australia's goat industry.

Yours sincerely,

Glenda Henry, Chair, Queensland Goat Producers Inc

0428 774 687

qldgoatgroup@gmail.com