

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

Business Paper

OPEN SESSION

ITEM

Dog, Avian and Stock Importation Policies - Moratorium

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve acceptance of applications to import chickens and approval of compliant applications subject to the normal conditions of importation and an additional condition that:

All chickens imported after May 2018 must be destroyed or removed from the island and all feed be removed from the island or sealed within rodent proof metal containers at least two weeks prior to implementation of the Rodent Eradication Program with destruction/removal being at the cost of the importer.

ISSUE

At the May 2017 meeting, the Board approved the following:

1. *Extract from May 2017 minutes:*
 - a) *A moratorium on the importation of chickens, livestock and dogs be implemented with immediate effect until the September 2017 Board meeting, at which time a “go/no go” decision will be made in regard to the Rodent Eradication Project (REP).*
 - b) *Residents be informed by way of a “householder” of the moratorium, subject to the “go/no go” decision to be made at the September Board meeting.*
 - c) *Residents be informed by way of a householder of the Board’s decision at the September Board meeting.*

2. *If the decision to proceed with the REP in 2018 is made in September 2017:*
 - a) *Maintain the moratorium on chickens and livestock until the Board obtains confirmation of rodenticide breakdown in the environment after the REP.*
 - b) *Accept applications for dog importation and advise that the Board will not compensate owner for transportation and kennel cost during the REP.*
 - c) *Formally advise current owners of chickens, livestock and dogs of amended conditions and responsibilities and that failure to comply may result in approval for the animal(s) being revoked.*
 - d) *Revise the Avian Importation Policy (Revised July 2015), Dog Importation and Management Policy (Revised July 2015), Stock Importation Policy (Revised July 2015) and Plant Importation Policy to accommodate any REP requirements as required only for the duration of the REP.*

3. *If the REP does not proceed cease the moratorium on imports and accept and process importation applications under the existing policies.*

CURRENT POSITION

- The Board agreed at its September 2017 meeting that the REP should proceed in 2018.
- In line with the May 2017 decision, applications to import dogs have been accepted and approved subject to normal conditions and the condition that “...*the Board will not compensate [the] owner for transportation and kennel cost during the REP.*”
- In line with the May 2017 decision, applications to import chickens and livestock are not currently being accepted or approved.
- At the March 2018 meeting, the Board deferred operational commencement of the REP until 2019.
- The current moratorium prevents the importation of poultry, with several residents claiming their current flocks are aging with subsequent decreases in egg production.

COMMENT

To ensure local egg production is maintained until implementation of the REP in winter 2019, it is proposed that applications to import chickens be accepted and approved subject to the normal conditions of importation and an additional condition that:

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RECOMMENDATION

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Prepared: Hank Bower Manager Environment/World Heritage

Endorsed: Penny Holloway Chief Executive Officer