

Northern Territory Property Identification Codes (PICs)

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Do you keep poultry, pigs, pigeons, sheep, goats, deer, horses (including ponies, donkeys and mules), cattle, buffalo, camels, alpacas, llamas?

If you answered YES, then under Northern Territory Livestock Regulations Section 32(1), your property must be registered with Animal Biosecurity, even if you keep only a single animal of any of these species.

Who should have a PIC?

It is a mandatory requirement for owners of an identifiable property with livestock to have a PIC registered for that property.

Regardless of the size of your block, (including suburban house blocks), parcel of land, or block or property, if you have one or more animals (livestock as stated above), then a PIC is required.

Pets

The PIC system covers both commercial and pet livestock. Pet livestock can also carry and be affected by exotic diseases, some of which can potentially devastate rural communities, stop access to markets for farmers, affect humans and kill or infect livestock, including pets. Some exotic diseases can affect livestock even if they do not leave the property.

What about agistment or rental properties?

Livestock owners should check with the owner/manager of the property/parcel of land/block (including house blocks) on which their livestock are located to establish whether those properties/blocks have a PIC or not.

What is a PIC?

A PIC is an eight-character code allocated by the Department of Primary Industry and Resources (or equivalent authority in other states/territories) to identify a property where livestock are kept.

In the Northern Territory (NT), PICs begin with the letter T (for Territory) followed by three more letters, followed by four numerals. For example, TCDG0066.

PICs enable the efficient collection and recording of a range of data, including details of owners and relevant contact persons, property information and species and numbers of animals held on the property.

The PIC is permanently registered to a specific parcel of land as described by the Lands Title Office. Upon sale of the property, the PIC remains with the property; it cannot be transferred to another property.

PICs – why?

A database of properties and numbers of livestock are essential for efficiently managing animal disease outbreaks and other animal emergencies. They enable efficient livestock movement controls and improved traceability in the event of a disease outbreak. Registering all properties that have livestock improves the protection of animals and hence markets from exotic diseases, such as equine influenza (horse flu), avian influenza or foot and mouth disease (FMD), besides other emergencies, such as cyclones, floods and bushfires.

An exotic animal disease has the potential to be economically devastating for Australia. The Productivity Commission says a major FMD outbreak could cost Australia more than \$50 billion in lost export earnings, destruction of stock, control and quarantine measures over a ten-year period. An FMD outbreak in the United Kingdom in 2001 demonstrated the need for a livestock ownership registration and identification system that enabled rapid traceability of all livestock. The UK authorities' inability to mount a rapid response due to difficulties in traceability caused significant economic, health and social costs to the community.

The 2007 equine influenza outbreak in Australia also demonstrated the need for a system that identifies and records horse property locations, owner details and indicative numbers of animals. Losses to industry were estimated to be more than \$1 billion while the direct cost to the Australian and State governments to eradicate equine influenza nationally was more than \$110 million. The cost of industry assistance was \$267 million.

Therefore, the purpose of property identification is to enable a rapid response in tracing and controlling disease in the event of exotic disease incursion, and for locating properties and notifying owners quickly.

PICs are required for most livestock movement and identification documents, such as NT Waybills, on which PICs must be recorded for both origin and destination when moving stock.

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)

Australia's system for identification and traceability of livestock, NLIS, was introduced in 1999 to enable tracing of animal movements in the event of an animal disease outbreak or food quality issue and to meet European Union requirements for cattle exports.

To obtain NLIS 'tags', producers need a PIC. NLIS has been expanded to enable cattle, sheep and goats to be traced from property of birth to slaughter for biosecurity, meat safety, product integrity and market access. The system requires individual identification of cattle, sheep and goats sold or transferred to underpin market access and disease control.

Livestock owners are responsible for ensuring that their registered PIC is accurately described on NLIS devices. The property name and PIC are provided to the NLIS national database.

How to apply for a PIC

PIC registration is free of charge and simple. Please complete the PIC Registration form located at www.nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock, click on 'Get a Property Identification Code (PIC)' or contact your Livestock Biosecurity Officer in your region for assistance.

Certificate of PIC Registration

Once you have registered your parcel of land/property, you will be issued a *Certificate of Registration of Property Identification Code (PIC)* which is an official document, listing the PIC, the property portion number (land description), livestock kept on the property and owner details.

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Change of details/update your property details

Information linked to the PIC (such as ownership and contact details, species on the property and animal numbers) can be updated at any time and, is in fact, encouraged to maintain an accurate database.

Update your property details online at www.nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock click on 'Updating your details' or contact your Livestock Biosecurity Officer in your region for assistance.

How to find a PIC

There are several different ways to access NT and National PIC Registers.

NT Property Identification Code Search Database <http://pic.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/>

National PIC registers using your NLIS account www.nlis.mla.com.au/

Log in to your NLIS account and select **Search the PIC register** or download QuickPIC

Contacts and Further Information

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For further assistance please contact the Livestock Biosecurity Officer in your Region:

Darwin Region Fax: 08 8999 2146	Katherine Region Fax: 08 8973 9759
Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer Ph: 08 8999 2034 M: 0401 115 802	Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer Ph: 08 8973 9767 M: 0467 740 233
Livestock Biosecurity Officer Ph: 08 8999 2030 M: 0409 736 235	Livestock Biosecurity Officer Ph: 08 8973 9765 M: 0427 604 002
Tennant Creek Region Fax: 08 8962 4480	Alice Springs Region Fax: 08 8951 8123
Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer Ph: 08 8962 4458 M: 0401 113 445	Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer Ph: 08 8951 8125 M: 0401 118 125
Livestock Biosecurity Officer Ph: 08 8962 4492 M: 0457 517 347	
Livestock Biosecurity Branch	www.dpir.nt.gov.au
NT Property Identification Code Search Database	http://pic.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/
NT Brands Register Search Database	http://brand.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/

Please visit us at our website: www.dpir.nt.gov.au

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