

Property Identification Code (PIC) amalgamation

Introduction

Normally each holding has its own PIC (Property Identification Code). However, one PIC can be used for more than one holding provided the properties are used for a common purpose (e.g. run as one farming entity) and are proximate (adjoining or nearby).

Amalgamation process

- Amalgamation can be requested in writing to the Central West Local Land Services or by completion of amalgamation forms
- Amalgamation of properties can occur over two different Local Land Services regions with authorisation from both regions.
- All stock registered to the inactive PIC after amalgamation has been approved (and before the PIC is made inactive) will be transferred to the active PIC by the PIC manager.
- If an application is made by a lessee of a PIC then the owner of that PIC must provide written consent to Central West Local Land Services for this to occur.
- Amalgamation can take up to 10 working days to complete, however in complicated circumstances the process may take longer to complete.

Amalgamation assessment

- The properties are proximate (adjoining or nearby)
- The property files for all PICs to be amalgamated will be examined for any significant persistent notifiable diseases (eg. Anthrax) or residues. The PIC currently covering the area that is associated with the problem should become the active PIC
- If there are no significant persistent notifiable diseases or residues, the active PIC should be the 'main holding'.
- Main holding - where an intensive enterprise such as a piggery or feedlot is present that is responsible for the majority of stock turnover.
- If no intensive production, the main holding is either the larger of the holdings or,
- If the holdings are roughly equal then the main holding is the holding owned by the producer or the holding where the producer lives.

Advantages

- Owner/manager of stock does not have to notify the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) database of movement between amalgamated properties (time saving and NLIS compliance)
- One set of quality assurance documents is needed for all amalgamated properties
- One National Vendor Declaration (NVD) book can be used for all amalgamated properties (cost reduction and ease of management)
- One set of NLIS devices can be used for stock on any of the amalgamated properties. ie. one set of white breeder tags for both properties.

Disadvantages

- All land covered by the same PIC share the same disease and residue status, which will be the lowest status of the highest-risk parcel of land.
- Any disease or residue traced on an animal bearing that property's PIC will implicate all holdings and all stock on those holdings until further investigations

prove otherwise (good paddock and management records will assist in this investigation.)

- If one holding has a higher disease or residue risk than the other holdings, there could be merit in keeping this as a separate property with its own PIC.
- Prompt investigation can allow the PICs to be de-amalgamated. This will allow the other PICs with no disease or residue traces to be operated normally.

De-amalgamation

- A written application has to be made to Central West Local Land Services for de-amalgamation to occur.
- De-amalgamation can occur within 2-3 working days after written request is received by Central West Local Land Services.

More information

For further information call Central West Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.

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