



# Level 3 Neighbour risk management

Neighbours may pose a potential risk to your Farm Biosecurity.

Use this tool to better understand what that risk may be.

## Fences

Boundary fences are the most important barrier between properties and the quality of the fence is usually the most important thing to consider when looking at the risk of diseases spreading across boundaries.

### Definitions

- Stock proof** lambs and bulls can't get through only get a stray through it every few years.
- Good** stock won't get through unless they are pushed hard, occasional strays through it, mostly lambs and bulls.
- Fair** mostly good fence with a few holes, regularly get strays.
- Poor** essentially no barrier.

## Barrier risk score

The barrier is mainly made up by the fence, but other features may increase the separation between stock.

If we look at the quality of the fencing with any other type of physical separation we can estimate what sort of barrier exists.

Using a scoring system lets us combine the different risk.

SCORE	FEATURES
5	Double fenced <200m apart with a stock proof fence on both sides OR Double fenced >200m apart with good fences on both sides
3	Permanent stream always >20m wide OR Stock proof fence OR Double fenced <200m apart with good fences on both sides
2	Good fence OR Double fenced with fair fences on both sides
1	Fair fence
0	Poor fence

## Neighbour enterprise risk score

The amount of turnover in a particular enterprise and the number of sources of livestock directly affects the chance of new diseases being introduced.

SCORE	ENTERPRISE
5	No stock in previous 12 months
3	Closed flock/herd with long-term ram/bull source
2	Introduce stock from traditional sources for several years of breeding or wool growing (new stock every few years) Sheep had lice or footrot within the past 2 years Cattle had Johne's disease within the past 5 years
1	Introduce stock from traditional sources for short-term grazing (new stock most years, sometimes several mobs per year) Sheep had Johne's disease within the past 5 years
0	Trader Infected with any contagious disease

## Assessing total neighbour risk

To estimate the risk that any neighbouring enterprise presents to your operation you need to consider the elements of the risk: the chance that the two flocks/mobs will come in contact and the chance that the neighbour's stock will have a disease.

Do this by adding the barrier risk score to the enterprise risk score. Also use this for internal paddocks and for roads.

SCORE	RISK	ENTERPRISE
0	V high	The risk of disease being introduced makes it almost impossible to maintain healthy livestock
1-2	High	The risk of disease being introduced makes it almost impossible to maintain healthy livestock
3-5	Mod	Reasonable precautions will have a good chance of keeping diseases out
5-10	Low	The risk does not justify rigorous action

## Hotline Numbers

24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline: **1800 675 888**

24-hour Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: **1800 084 881**