

24 July 2024

## CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER BULLETIN

# Bluetongue transmission zone (BTZ) change following NAMP testing in NSW

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### Current Situation

Evidence of bluetongue virus (BTV) was recently identified during routine monitoring of cattle in sentinel herds as part of the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP). Testing was conducted in the Central West and South Coast regions of NSW in late June and early July 2024. This has resulted in an expansion of the BTV transmission zone in the Central West and South Coast regions of NSW, extending into the East Gippsland region of Victoria.

There has been no evidence of clinical disease associated with these infections. Although bluetongue viruses are present in northern and eastern Australia, clinical disease is an uncommon occurrence in Australian sheep and has never been reported in Australian cattle or in any other susceptible animal species in Australia.

The Australian Bluetongue Virus Zone Map was updated on July 24, 2024, following these recent detections. To check if you or your clients are in the expanded BTV zone, please refer to the BTV zone map website. Eligibility to export livestock to some counties may be impacted.

This detection does not change Australia's status for bluetongue virus, as reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

BTV cannot be spread from animals to humans. BTV does not present a food safety risk and all Australian lamb remains safe to eat.

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### Reporting bluetongue

Bluetongue in sheep is a notifiable disease in NSW. If you suspect BTV, see signs of disease or death consistent with bluetongue in your flock, immediately contact the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline, 1800 675 888 (24-hours a day) or your Local Lands Services District Veterinarian, 1300 295 299.

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## More Information

- National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP) [Bluetongue Virus Zone Map](#) – Animal Health Australia
- [NSW DPIRD Bluetongue virus](#)
- NSW Animal and Plant Health Laboratories (APHL) – [Bluetongue](#)

<sup>1</sup> NAMP monitors the distribution of transmission and occurrence of bluetongue virus (BTV), Akabane virus and bovine ephemeral fever virus and their insect vectors. This is done by testing cattle in sentinel and serosurveillance herds and insect trapping.

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