

FACT SHEET

Intensive Animal Husbandry (Cattle Feed Lot)



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This fact sheet has been prepared to assist with understanding the local government's requirements for intensive animal uses, specifically cattle feedlots, in the Banana Shire. This fact sheet applies to small feedlots on as well as proposals for larger feedlots.

Definitions

Generally, activities involving the penning and hand or mechanical feeding of cattle is considered an intensive animal use. The Banana Shire Planning scheme uses the term 'intensive animal husbandry' whereas the Taroom Shire Planning Scheme uses the term 'intensive animal industry'.

The Banana Shire Planning Scheme 2005 'intensive animal husbandry' means the keeping, depasturing or stabling of any animal. In particular, the Banana Shire Planning Scheme defines a cattle feedlot as;

- On-sites less than 2 hectares – 10 or more cattle
- On sites equal to or greater than 2 hectares up to 10 hectares – 20 or more cattle
- On sites greater than 10 hectares – 50 or more cattle

The Taroom Shire Planning Scheme 2006 - 'Intensive animal industry' means the use of "Premises", including buildings, structures, pens, storage areas and effluent treatment areas, for commercial or other non-domestic activities involving the breeding, keeping or depasturing of animals where the animals:

- (1) are reliant on prepared or manufactured food for production purposes; and/or
- (2) are temporarily held pending transportation or marketing.

Standard Cattle Unit

A **standard cattle unit** is a unit of measurement based on the live weight of cattle. The following table shows the equivalent SCU based on the weight of an animal.

Live weight (kg)	Number of standard cattle units
Up to 350	0.67
More than 350 to 400	0.74
More than 400 to 450	0.81

More than 450 to 500	0.87
More than 500 to 550	0.94
More than 550 to 600	1.00
More than 600 to 650	1.06
More than 650 to 700	1.12
More than 700	1.18

Material Change of Use

The start of a new feedlot, the re-establishment of an abandoned feedlot or an increase in the numbers or density for an existing feedlot constitutes a material change of use as defined under the *Planning Act 2016*.

Is a Development Application required?

Feedlots require a development application because under both the Banana Shire Planning Scheme and the Taroom Shire Planning Scheme 'intensive animal husbandry' and 'intensive animal industry', respectively are made impact assessable when located in the Rural Zone. This means that a development application must be lodged and approved by Council prior to the commencement of the cattle feedlot. There are requirements to publicly notify an impact assessable development application, which occurs during the application process.

Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERA)

Environmentally Relevant Activities are generally industrial activities however; some agricultural activities such as intensive animal feedlotting also constitute an ERA.

Proposing an 'intensive animal feedlot' by keeping in excess of 150 standard cattle units (SCU) is defined as an Environmentally Relevant Activity under the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008

What is a prescribed ERA?

Prescribed ERAs are set out under Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008. The prescribed ERAs marked with a 'C', are known as concurrence ERAs and are dependent on the number of standard cattle units proposed (thresholds). A concurrence ERA requires a development application for a material change of use and also requires the application to be referred to the

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Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) – State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA).

Concurrence ERAs – Intensive Animal Feedlotting

Threshold	ERA
Keeping the following number of standard cattle units in a feedlot –	
(a) more than 150 but not more than 1,000	
(b) more than 1,000 but not more than 10,000	C
(c) more than 10,000	C

Environmental Authority

In Queensland, you need to apply for an Environmental Authority (EA) to perform any environmentally relevant activity (ERA). This is a separate process to a development application through Council. It is recommended that you contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to determine the requirements for the EA component of your proposal. There will be separate processing fees for this agency as well as requirements for more detailed plans and reports.

Other types of development**Vegetation clearing**

Clearing vegetation may require additional operational works applications and approval from Council and/or may trigger referral to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) during the application process.

Common questions**What if the feedlot is existing?**

Planning approvals for feedlots have been a requirement in both the former Taroom and former Banana Shire local government areas since at least the early 1990s. The applicant will need to provide evidence if claiming an existing use right. In general, existing lawful uses are able to continue operating provided the use has not been abandoned or changed in a way that would trigger a material change of use i.e. increase in numbers or density.

If I do not need an Environmental Authority do I still need an MCU application?

Yes, feedlotting less than 150 standard cattle units only removes the requirement under State legislation for an Environmental Authority which is a separate process under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

What does not constitute a feedlot?

The following activities are generally not considered feedlotting;

- Feeding in a drought declared area, if the animals are fed no more than their nutritional requirements; or
- Feeding on a feed pad in a paddock; or
- Feeding for no longer than is reasonably necessary for the purpose of sale, slaughter, transport, weaning and the like.

Making and lodging an application**Making an application**

A well prepared application will consist of the following information:

- DA Form 1- Application details.
- The application fee. Please see Council's current Fees and Charges.
- Mandatory supporting information & material (site plans, access locations, environmental management plan, transport movements and site based management plans).

Odour impacts

Odour is one of the major impacts of feedlots. Factors such as feedlot orientation, location, wind direction and waste management strategies are all important aspects of a proposal and should be given due consideration in a planning report. It is recommended that an environmental consultant is engaged to assist in identifying and addressing odour impacts for feedlot proposals.

Traffic impacts

Feedlot proposals may require examination of the potential impacts of heavy vehicle movements within the Shire. Council may request a Traffic Impact Assessment and other reports where heavy vehicles have an impact on Shire roads and residents adjoining transport routes. As a minimum, you should provide average daily truck movement data (size and number) including movements relating to transporting feed.

Best Practice Guidelines

The National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia and the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice are excellent resources and a great place to start.

The above documents contain best practice information on establishing a feedlot and managing feedlot impacts and can be easily found on the internet or by contacting DAF.

Lodging an application with Council Feedlots proposed in the Rural Zone are made impact assessable under the Banana Shire Planning Scheme 2005 the Taroom Planning Scheme 2006. This means that a

development application must be lodged and approved by Council prior to feedlot use commencing.

Referral Agencies

Your application may require referral to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA). This will depend on the location of the proposal and additional aspects of the development (i.e. vegetation clearing, proposed capacity/numbers, and proximity to Main Roads).

Getting advice

Readers are encouraged to contact Council and the relevant State agencies with accurate property information (real property description) or seek independent advice about the approvals process and preparation of a development application.

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Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Tel: 13 25 23

Email: info@daf.gov.au**Department of Environment and Science**

Licensing and Permits

Tel: 1300 130 372 Check number

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Rockhampton Office

Visit: Level 2, 209 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton

Post: PO Box 113, Rockhampton QLD 4700

Tel: 07 4924 2914

Please note: There are other intensive animal husbandry uses such as piggeries, dairies, stables and squab production; each of which are threshold based. This fact sheet only provides information regarding cattle feedlots. If you require any information regarding any other intensive animal husbandry use, please contact Council.

How can you contact us?

online, visit www.banana.qld.gov.au
click on 'Contact us'



email enquiries@banana.qld.gov.au



telephone (07) 4992 9500



mail, post to Banana Shire Council
PO Box 412, Biloela Qld 4715

Disclaimer: The information in this factsheet is issued as a general guide intended to focus on the requirement to lodge a development application and the subsequent process for applying for a development approval. It should not be construed as a legal opinion about the matter or preliminary consent to carry out development under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. The property you wish to develop may not be conducive to the type of development proposed or involve matters that are beyond the scope of this factsheet. Readers are encouraged to contact Council with accurate property information or seek independent advice about all planning and development related matters and the information contained in this document.