

**Biosecurity Australia**

**Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

Additional Budget Estimates, 15 February 2005

**Question: BA 01**

**Topic: Beef Imports**

**Hansard Page: 33**

Senator Heffernan asked:

How many countries are there in the world that are major exporters of meat that are free of BSE and foot-and-mouth disease?

Answer:

Five countries: Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

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**Question: BA 02**

**Topic: Beef Imports**

**Hansard Page: 43**

Senator O'Brien asked:

So the policy itself is not available?

Answer:

Yes. The 1999 red meat policy is available from Biosecurity Australia, but no longer on its website.

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**Question: BA 03**

**Topic: Beef Imports**

**Hansard Page: 33**

Senator Heffernan asked:

Could we be provided with the decision-making process in 1998 and who partook of that process?

Answer:

Proposed amended conditions for meat and meat products that included relevant changes to Quarantine Proclamation 1998 were circulated for public comment on 25 November 1998. The conditions were sent to those on the stakeholder register and placed on the Department's website. The stakeholder register includes Commonwealth, State and Territory Chief Veterinary Officers and livestock industry representative bodies (including National Farmers' Federation, livestock export and the meat industry). Following consideration of comments from 3 stakeholders, the policy was adopted on 4 May 1999 and stakeholders were advised.

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**Question: BA 04**

**Topic: Beef Imports**

**Hansard Page: 33**

Senator O'Brien asked:

Is there a formal process which kept the minister informed about these considerations?

Answer:

No. Decisions on the application of policy through the granting of import permits are made in accordance with the *Quarantine Act 1908* by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine or their delegate.

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##### **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

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**Question: BA 05**

**Topic: Beef Imports**

**Hansard Page: 44**

Senator Heffernan asked:

What is the arrangement with the Bolivian border, where there is foot-and-mouth?

Answer:

Brazil is assisting Bolivia in its control of FMD through joint activities under a technical cooperation plan. Activities include vaccination campaigns, animal health education, social communication activities, surveillance and training. This effort has been especially directed at the FMD control program in areas near to the States of Rondônia, Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul in Brazil. The Brazilian Government donates FMD vaccine to the Bolivian veterinary service in an effort to strengthen the border region.

Local units of the veterinary service are located in the border area. Inspection posts have been established to support FMD surveillance programs and monitor stock movements.

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##### **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

Additional Budget Estimates, 15 February 2005

#### **Question: BA 06**

#### **Topic: Beef Imports**

#### **Hansard Page: 45**

Senator Heffernan asked:

Could you provide to the committee the foot-and-mouth disease history of Brazil over the years – how it has built up, built down or come and gone – and could you provide the foot-and-mouth history of adjoining countries. You can it provide in written form.

Answer:

According to published sources

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1965 | Brazil commenced a program to manage foot and mouth disease (FMD). The strategy was revised in 1992 with the aim to eradicate FMD.  |
| 1998 | Two States, Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, obtained FMD-free status with vaccination.  |
| 2000 | The Midwest Livestock Circuit gained same status (FMD free with vaccination). A FMD outbreak occurred in Rio Grande do Sul in August. International recognition of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina as a FMD free zone was withdrawn. |
| 2001 | Further expansion of the FMD free zone. Outbreaks in Argentina and Uruguay led to an outbreak into Rio Grande do Sul.   |
| 2002 | The FMD control and eradication program was extended to the rest of Brazil.   |
| 2003 | Further States achieved FMD free with vaccination status.   |
| 2004 | In June, Brazil reported an FMD outbreak in the State of Pará (not a FMD free zone), Monte Alegre district. In September, Brazil reported a FMD outbreak to OIE in the State of Amazonas (not a FMD free zone).                           |

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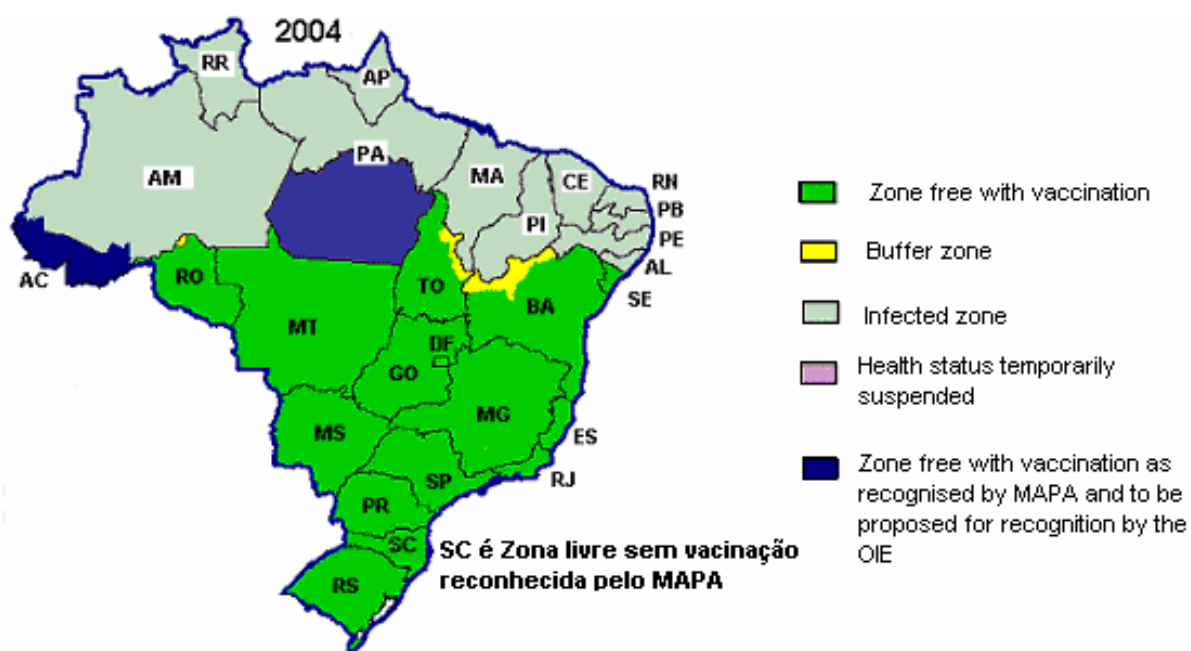
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**Question: BA 06 cont.**

**Topic: Beef Imports**

**Hansard Page: 45**

#### Status of zones free from FMD with vaccination in Brazil



<i>Acre</i>	AC	<i>Maranhão</i>	MA	<i>Rio Grande do Norte</i>	RN
<i>Alagoas</i>	AL	<i>Mato Grosso</i>	MT	<i>Rio Grande do Sul</i>	RS
<i>Amapá</i>	AP	<i>Mato Grosso do Sul</i>	MS	<i>Rio de Janeiro</i>	RJ
<i>Amazonas</i>	AM	<i>Minas Gerais</i>	MG	<i>Rondônia</i>	RO
<i>Bahia</i>	BA	<i>Paraná</i>	PR	<i>Roraima</i>	RR
<i>Ceará</i>	CE	<i>Paraíba</i>	PB	<i>Santa Catarina</i>	SC
<i>Distrito Federal</i>	DF	<i>Pará</i>	PA	<i>Sergipe</i>	SE
<i>Espírito Santo</i>	ES	<i>Pernambuco</i>	PE	<i>São Paulo</i>	SP
<i>Goiás</i>	GO	<i>Piauí</i>	PI	<i>Tocantins</i>	TO

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Argentina – that part of Argentina north of the 42<sup>nd</sup> parallel was free with vaccination until an FMD outbreak in September 2003. The northern zone remained infected until January 2005 when it was recognised, once again, as free with vaccination. The zone south of the 42<sup>nd</sup> parallel is free without vaccination.

Paraguay – Paraguay suffered outbreaks of FMD in November 2002 and July 2003. However, it was once again recognised as free of FMD with vaccination in January 2005.

Bolivia – Bolivia is infected with FMD except for the Chiquitania zone which is free with vaccination.

Uruguay – Uruguay suffered outbreaks of FMD during 2001 but was recognised by the OIE as free with vaccination in May 2003.