



11/09

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed 1.07.09 10.30am

Permanent Q-fever vaccine supply a valued win for industry

The \$9 million Q-VAX® manufacturing facility in Broadmeadows, Melbourne to screen and vaccinate farmers for Q-fever was officially opened today and is welcomed by the Cattle Council of Australia and the Sheepmeat Council of Australia.

“The opening of this facility marks a significant step in what has been a decade of work for the Cattle Council, and other Peak Councils, in securing the on-going supply of Q-fever vaccine for the Australian livestock sectors and subsequent wider communities,” said David Inall, Executive Director of the Cattle Council of Australia.

Q-fever is transmitted to humans through contact with milk, faeces, infected animals’ urine and birth products, primarily from goats, cattle and sheep. Transmission usually occurs through inhalation of aerosols or contaminated dust, generated during parturition or during the slaughtering process. Q-fever is an acute, debilitating condition that can have serious health implications.

The Cattle Council and the Sheepmeat Council were instrumental in securing a Federal Government program in 2001 that provided \$8 million dollars over three years to screen and vaccinate farmers for Q-fever.

In 2005 CSL stated an intention to cease the manufacture of the vaccine in 2007.

“Industry’s united and persistent voice at the Federal level successfully conveyed the importance Q-fever vaccine has to industry and rural communities; this played a key role in securing the Federal Government’s commitment to a long-term program,” said Mr Inall.

The B.P Marmion Q-VAX® manufacturing facility will ensure the on-going supply of Q-fever vaccine and availability of Q-fever tests.

“Permanent access to Q-fever screening and vaccination facilities has considerable importance in ensuring the continued health of those working in the meat and livestock industries,” said Ron Cullen, Executive Director of the Sheepmeat Council of Australia.

“The Federal Government has shown its commitment to Australia’s red meat supply chain and the health of the people it employs,” said Mr Cullen.

Cattle Council and Sheepmeat Council encourage producers who have not been vaccinated or who are uncertain if they have been vaccinated to consult their doctor or health department for further information on vaccination.

For comment contact:

Heidi Dennis
Media and Communications Officer
Sheepmeat Council of Australia and Cattle Council of Australia
P: 02 6273 3688 or M: 0409 654 015

www.sheepmeatcouncil.com.au
www.cattlecouncil.com.au

