

Livestock brands and earmarks: consultation snapshot

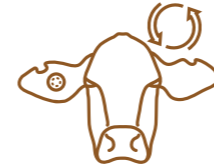
The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is seeking feedback on how livestock brands and earmarks will be managed in the future.



Livestock owners could continue to brand their animals under both options.



Application and transfer fees would increase, and a new renewal fee would be introduced under all proposed options to fund the system.



A new information system for brands and earmarks is needed urgently. By consulting now, a new system incorporating changes can be implemented by 2024.



The *Brands Act 1915* is more than 100 years old and brands are no longer used for most biosecurity purposes.

OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION

OPTION 1

Status quo with renewal fees

- Branding and earmarking would be mandatory for cattle and pigs (of a required size being sold).
- Brands and/ or earmarks would be voluntary for horses, camels, sheep, and goats.
- Symbol brands would continue to be required to be linked to a three-piece brand.
- There would be a new fee structure including a renewal fee which would help fund the new information system and ongoing administration.

OPTION 2

Providing choice about branding under a streamlined system with a renewal fee

- Brand registration would be simplified to be more efficient for livestock owners and government alike.
- Symbol brands could be registered without three-piece brands.
- There would be a new fee structure including a renewal fee which would help fund the new information system and ongoing administration.

Under this option, there will be more choice about branding. Providing choice to those who do not want to brand would free up brands for other users and reduce costs and red tape for those livestock owners and businesses along the supply chain.

More choice about branding

OPTION 2A

Giving owners the option of an exemption from mandatory branding of cattle or pigs (choice to opt-out)

- Brands would be mandatory for cattle and/or pigs (of a required size being sold) unless livestock owners register for a self-exemption.

OPTION 2B

Giving owners the option of voluntary branding of cattle or pigs (choice to opt-in)

- Brands and earmarks would be voluntary for cattle, and pigs (unless needed for PigPass), giving livestock owners the freedom to choose.

The consultation also provides a choice about earmarking. All earmarking options are compatible with branding options 1, 2A and 2B.

EARMARK OPTION 1

Retaining the current legislative requirements for earmarks (the status quo)

EARMARK OPTION 2

Retaining registration of earmarks but removing earmark districts

EARMARK OPTION 3

Allowing earmarking but not registering earmarks



Full details of the consultation are contained in the Livestock Brands and Earmarks in Queensland: Regulatory Impact Statement and Supplement. To view these documents, or to provide your feedback, visit daf.engagementhub.com.au/brands-consultation. You can provide feedback on the options by 5pm, 15 January 2023.



Queensland Government