



FACT SHEET

Intensive Animal Husbandry (Cattle Feedlot)

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 *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

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 Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP) – 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:

- IDAS Form 1- Application details & IDAS Form 5 - Material change of use assessable against a planning scheme.
- The application fee. Please see Council's Fees and Charges 2014/2015.
- Mandatory supporting information & material (site plans, access locations, environmental management plan,