



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

## Electronic identification of sheep and goats

### About these FAQ's

These FAQs have been developed to provide you with as much information on sheep and goat electronic identification (eID) as possible. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact one of our team members at [eIDTeam@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:eIDTeam@dpird.wa.gov.au)

### What is electronic identification?

Electronic identification devices (eID), also referred to as 'eIDs' or 'eID tags' allows individual identification of animals. These devices contain a Radio Frequency Identifier (RFID) microchip that can be read via hand-held scanning wands or panel readers.

Each eID has a unique internal serial number (RFID) to provide the animal that is tagged with a unique identifier. When the eID is scanned, the individual electronic data can be uploaded to the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database. The NLIS is Australia's system used for identifying and tracing movements of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats.

Forms of eID for sheep and goats include ear tags (sheep and goats) and hock bands (for some goats only). RFID technology has been used very successfully for many years in livestock, such as cattle, as well as domestic animals such as cats and dogs.

### Why do I need to tag my sheep and goats with eID?

Identification of livestock, including sheep and goats, is required by law under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013 (BAM (IMSA) Regulations 2013)*

[www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law\\_s43884.html](http://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law_s43884.html)

The current tagging system only allows for the tracing of mobs of stock, rather than individual animals. This means that, in the event of an outbreak of a transmissible disease, containment is slow and difficult as many points of contact with infected stock are possible and need to be explored. Being able to trace individual animals means that exposed stock can be identified more accurately, containment can occur more quickly and efficiently, and the risk of wider spread is reduced.

The '[Where's Woolly](#)' video explains how much of a difference this can make:

[agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Where%27s Woolly video 1.mp4](http://agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Where%27s%20Woolly%20video%201.mp4)

## What are the traceability benefits of eID?

- The individual animal's lifetime traceability will be available on the NLIS database.
- eID requires only one tag for the life of the animal. A pink post-breeder eID will only be necessary if an animal has lost its original eID.
- Electronic identification speeds up the tracing process by showing the life history of each animal and only the animals that actually came into contact with them or were definitely at the same place at the same time (e.g. saleyard) in the event of a disease outbreak.
- eIDs show which animals in a mob were moved onto and remain on a property, and which ones from that mob were moved off the property and where they went.
- Electronic identification can show gaps in movement history and errors.

## When will the sheep and/or goats on my property need to have an eID applied?

Any sheep or goats born from 1 January 2025 onwards must have an eID applied before they reach six months of age, or before leaving the property of birth, whichever comes first.

Saleyards and abattoirs are required to be scanning anything that has an eID, from 1 July 2025 and notifying the NLIS database of movements.

All older sheep or goats born prior to 1 January 2025 must have an eID applied before leaving a property, from 1 July 2026 onwards.

Stock born prior to 1 January 2025 can retain their visual tag if not moving from your property.

All movements must be recorded on the NLIS database from 1 July 2026.

### Western Australia – transition dates for eID implementation for sheep and goats

eID tagging requirements		eID scanning requirements	
<i>Prior to 1 January 2025</i>	<i>From 1 January 2025</i>	<i>From 1 July 2025</i>	<i>From 1 July 2026</i>
Sheep and goats born prior to 1 January 2025 do not require eID's unless leaving a property, from 1 July 2026 onwards.	Sheep and goats born from 1 January 2025 onward, must be eID tagged by 6 months of age or prior to leaving their property of birth (whichever occurs first).	Saleyards and abattoirs are required to start scanning any sheep and goat with eID tags, from 1 July 2025.  Normal processing of visual tags will continue in parallel until 1 July 2026.	All properties and facilities to start eID scanning of sheep and goat upon arrival, as of 1 July 2026.  Visual tags will no longer be permissible.

## Is sheep and goat eID going to be mandatory

Yes. Sheep and goat eID will be mandated through a regulatory process.

## I have pet sheep/goats or just a few that don't move off farm. Do I need eID?

Any sheep or goats born from 1 January 2025 onward require an eID device.

For stock born prior to this date, a visual tag will suffice so long as the animal is not moved off property after 1 July 2026 (in which case it would need to be fitted with an eID before leaving)

## What is the difference – visual tags verse eID?

eIDs in the corresponding year of-birth-colour, must be applied to the sheep or goat before it reaches 6 months of age or before it is moved off the property of birth, whichever occurs first.

### Year of birth colour system

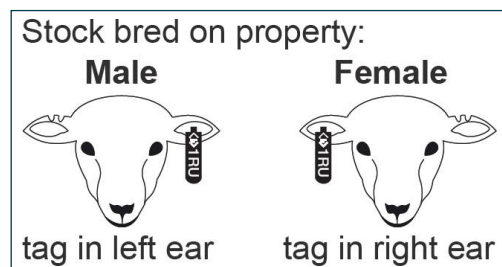
Year	Colour	Tag
2022 *	red	visual or eID
2023 *	sky Blue	visual or eID
2024 *	black	visual or eID
2025	white	eID
2026	orange	eID
2027	light green	eID
2028	purple	eID
2029	yellow	eID
2030	red	eID
2031	sky blue	eID

* Yellow eID's can be used for all stock bred on property prior to 1 January 2025, when departing property of origin after 1 July 2026 onwards.
Pink 'post breeder' eID's must be applied to stock not bred on property, when departing from 1 July 2026 onwards. Pink eID's must only be applied if the original breeder eID tag is missing.

### Positioning: sheep and goats correctly identified using NLIS accredited tags

A year of birth coloured tag is applied to the ear, according to the animal's gender – left for a male, right for a female.

The system is the same for visual and eID tagging.



### Animals not born on your property – 'Post-breeder'

Currently, a transaction tag, or pink 'post-breeder' tag needs to be applied by each subsequent owner when the animal comes onto their property, with the Brand or Property

Identification Code (PIC) of the new owner/property stamped on it.

Once eIDs become standard, there will no longer be the need to apply a pink post-breeder tag, unless:

- the animal being moved has missed being eID tagged by the breeder,
- the animal has lost their original year-of-birth coloured eID,
- the eID is damaged and therefore the RFID microchip is unreadable.

In these cases, the receiver of the livestock must apply their pink post-breeder eID tag to that animal.

Currently, a pink post-breeder tag needs to be applied in the opposite ear to that of the year of birth coloured tag. A pink post-breeder tag is applied – right for male and left for female.

There should only be one eID on an animal at any one time.

Stock ownership records will be maintained on the NLIS database as each movement of stock from property to property must be recorded. In the eID system, the eIDs are scanned, the RFID's are uploaded and then transferred on the NLIS database, capturing the data associated to that stock movement.

## Will there be a PIC or Brand on my eID tag?

NLIS eIDs come printed with an external 16-character code and the NLIS logo.

- the first 8 characters are the PIC of the property where the device is registered to.
- the next 3 characters denote manufacturer, if breeder (sheep S or goat K) or post-breeder (sheep T or goat L) and year of manufacturer (= stud year code).
- the next 5 characters are a serial number which can be specified at ordering and can start with a letter.



**WEBU0073 ASU 00014**

WEBU0073 – NLIS Training PIC

A – Allflex eID

S – Sheep

U – Manufactured 2023, Blue

00014 – serial number specified at ordering



The space left on the eID for other information (such as your brand) is dependent on the manufacturer and tag type you choose.

## Do I need to upload my eIDs onto the NLIS database?

No, NLIS accredited eIDs have their details loaded onto the NLIS database and are linked to your livestock registration and PIC, when manufactured. These will already be recorded on your NLIS account when you receive your eIDs. Using devices that are not accredited will mean that they will not be on the NLIS database and have no traceability. Only NLIS

accredited devices are suitable to comply with the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013*.

Once you are a registered owner of livestock, you can access your NLIS account via the website:

[Register | NLIS - Australia's system for identification and traceability of livestock](#)

Or through MyMLA: [www.mymla.com.au](http://www.mymla.com.au)

## Who will have responsibility for updating the NLIS database?

The responsibility for updating the NLIS database is the same under eID as it is under the visual based tagging system. The purchaser of the livestock is responsible for scanning the eIDs and uploading the associated file with the RFID's to the NLIS database.

The NLIS database must be updated within 48 hours of the movement (unless purchased via a physical public action, where this will be done for you).

NLIS Database Tech Tips, Livestock Movements – [www.nlis.com.au](http://www.nlis.com.au)

[Livestock movements \(Aug 14\).pdf \(nlis.com.au\)](#)

## Why is mandatory eID being implemented in WA now?

While electronic tagging of cattle became mandatory in Australia in 2005, the identification of sheep and goats is currently via the visual ear tag identification system in all Australian jurisdictions except Victoria (who first introduced eID into the sheep and goat industry in 2017).

It was always intended that the sheep and goat industry would follow suit with the cattle industry - the recent threat of Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease in Indonesia heightening concerns. In September 2022, the Australian Agriculture Ministers agreed to a National Implementation Plan for sheep and goat eID - efficient and accurate traceability becoming increasingly important nationally.

Following feedback from the WA Sheep and Goat Advisory Group and producers, a staged approach has been introduced to allow extra time for full implementation and to aid a smooth transition to the mandatory system, especially when producers are experiencing difficult seasonal and operating conditions.

## What involvement has industry had in the transition to eID?

On a national level, the Australian Government established an industry-government Sheep and Goat Traceability Task Force (SGTTF) – Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.

[www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/partnerships/nbc/sheep-and-goat-traceability-task-force](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/partnerships/nbc/sheep-and-goat-traceability-task-force)

The SGTTF is made up of government representatives from across the states and territories, SAFEMEAT, representatives from peak councils for sheep, wool, goats and cattle industries as well as representatives of processors, saleyards, retailers and smallgoods. The SGTTF focuses on national issues relating to eID implementation and is developing harmonised national business rules and funding arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States. The SGTTF reports back to Ministers.

In November 2021, WA established the Sheep and Goat Advisory Group (SGAG) as a forum to discuss, consult, develop and communicate traceability enhancements across the commercial sheep and goat supply chain, and with non-commercial stock owners. Members of the Advisory Group considered that an effective traceability system, in addition to being economically beneficial, was of vital public interest for maintaining foodsecurity across the whole of the livestock industry.

When the Australian Agriculture Ministers agreed to a National Implementation Plan for sheep and goat eID in September 2022, the SGAG evolved further with the purpose of the WA Advisory Group now to make recommendations to DPIRD on how mandatory eID could be implemented for a well prepared and effective transition. This advice is used to inform state government decision-making, including any requests to access national and state funding opportunities.

## How will implementing eID impact me as a producer?

Consideration should be given to your position in the supply chain and your operational practices to determine the impact that eID implementation will have on you. For producers of sheep and goats, the main change will be switching from a visual tag to an NLIS eID.

Please consult the table on Page 2 regarding what type of visual or eID you need, and when.

In the eID system, the requirements to apply pink post breeder tags will only apply if the animal is missing its original year-of-birth coloured breeder eID and no longer resides on the property of birth.

Other equipment maybe required depending upon your farming operation practices and property to property transfer activities. If you regularly buy in stock (outside of physical public actions, such as saleyards), or move stock between PIC's, a panel reader setup or RFID scanning wand maybe necessary to purchase.

When used in conjunction with appropriate software, this equipment can also be utilised for farm management purposes. eID provides the ability for producers to enhance the management of their stock by capturing individual animal data including health details, fertility, genetics, weight gain and wool traits, for example.

## What about deceased animals with eIDs?

Under the Regulations, producers who discover a deceased animal with an eID must update the NLIS database.

## What are the on-farm benefits of eID?

When used in conjunction with appropriate software, eID provides the ability for producers to enhance their management of their stock by capturing individual animal data including health details, fertility, genetics, weight gain and wool traits, for example. This data can assist producers to make more informed management, monitoring and selection decisions, facilitating the ability to improve productivity and potential profitability. For case studies of producers using eID to gain production efficiencies, go to DPIRD's '*New Technology for Sheep Producers*' page: [New on-farm technology for sheep producers.](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/feeding-nutrition/new-farm-technology-sheep-producers)

[www.agric.wa.gov.au/feeding-nutrition/new-farm-technology-sheep-producers](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/feeding-nutrition/new-farm-technology-sheep-producers)

The ability to trace animals quickly and efficiently via eID allows the government to reduce disease spread and respond and manage exotic disease incidents more quickly. This reduces the risk to producers that their animals and revenue will be negatively impacted in the case of disease outbreak.

It's as much about ruling animals out as ruling them in to suspected disease traceability.

## What are the costs associated with transitioning to eID and how is government helping?

The primary cost to producers will be the eID. Visual tags cost around 35 cents each. The

electronic tags cost between approximately \$1.99 and \$2.20 each.

Following a successful pilot of the Tag Incentive Payment (TIP) Scheme in 2023, and funding received via the State Budget, the TIP Scheme has been extended for black eIDs in 2024. Currently the TIP scheme subsidises \$0.75 per tag, to most fully accredited NLIS eIDs for the current year-of-birth colour.

Although all fully accredited NLIS tags are compatible with the NLIS database, not all eID manufacturers are currently participating in the WA TIP Scheme. Please check with your rural merchandiser or online retailer that your preferred eID manufacturer is participating in the TIP Scheme, if you wish to make use of the subsidy.

It is anticipated that there will be funding available in future years. The amount of funding available will determine the level of assistance and the timeframe the TIP Scheme will run. The WA Sheep and Goat Advisory Group will continue to discuss the best way to make any future funding assistance practical and equitable for all producers.

The time to fit additional pink post-breeder visual tags for brought-in stock should be considered when evaluating the difference in the cost of the systems.

Refer to the Tag Incentive Payment Scheme media release for further details:

[Enhancements to WA eID system implementation \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au) or the website

[Electronic identification for sheep and goats | Agriculture and Food](#)

The State Government has also provided up to \$3.52 million to downstream operators (such as saleyards, processors, feedlots, export depots) and local community groups (grower group alliances, community resource centres) to assist with the purchasing and installation of eID-reading equipment.

## **Will WA continue with the year-of-birth colour system?**

Yes, WA will continue with the year-of-birth colour system for eID. The NLIS Standard for eID allows for year-of-birth colours.

All producers should be using NLIS accredited eIDs, in the corresponding year-of-birth colour and applied in the correct ear to avoid the need to re-tag or possible penalties for non-compliance, under the Regulations.

During the implementation period of mandatory eID, for older farmed sheep and goats born before 1 January 2025, a single colour eID (YELLOW) can be used for all existing stock to make it easier to order enough tags and fit them efficiently (rather than having to put a green eID on a green tagger etc).

All older stock on property with visual tags will need to have an eID fitted before leaving the property or entering the supply chain, after the 1 July 2026. Visual tags are to remain in place to provide year-of-birth indicator and previous ownership history. Apply the appropriate eID next to the visual tag.

Any excess purchased eIDs for a particular year that have not been applied to an animal can be used in future years - the same currently practised for visual tags.

## **How will pink post-breeder tags be used in the eID system?**

Pink post-breeder tags identify that an animal was not bred on the property it currently resides on.

In the eID system, pink tags will only be necessary if the original eID breeder tag has fallen out – at which point traceability is lost. Replacement tags should be fitted as soon as it is reasonable to do so on becoming aware that an animal is without an eID.



If you have purchased sheep or goats that only have a visual tag (the animals were born prior to 1 January 2025), you must apply a pink post breeder eID before those animals can move off your property, after 1 July 2026.

## Will there be any exemptions?

Other than Harvested Rangeland Goats and unweaned kids and lambs, there will be no general exemptions to particular animals or types of movement after 1 July 2026. All animals leaving any property will need to have an accredited NLIS eID applied.

Harvested rangeland goats going direct to slaughter can go untagged under an LPA and State Government permit arrangement.

Rangeland goat harvesters can request a permit from DPIRD which recognises the need to minimise handling of unmanaged, feral animals for the welfare of both the harvester and the goats. Should goats be moved to a property other than an abattoir, they will need to be tagged prior to movement.

If you operate a registered rangeland goat depot to consolidate loads, please contact DPIRD on 1300 926 547 or email [eIDTeam@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:eIDTeam@dpiird.wa.gov.au)

## Do I have to use eID on lambs going to slaughter?

Yes. While all due care can be taken, animals jump or get mixed up and errors are made under time pressure. It is also not always possible to determine, upon tagging newborn sheep, as to whether they will eventually go to slaughter or not.

Using eID verifies the property where the stock arrive from and shows any error that may be made in linking a whole consignment or a single sheep in lairage to the correct PIC on the NVD/waybill. This is an improvement, not currently available with visual tags, that will avoid unsuitable product going to an inappropriate market and ensures the correct person gets paid for the quality, weight and number of livestock they deliver.

From the 1 July 2025, new season lambs (those born from 1 January 2025 onwards) cannot go to slaughter without eIDs. Doing so would make handling at the processor difficult and inefficient as receipt will be slowed to manage unidentified stock, increase the cost to the processor as they are then obliged to apply post-breeder eIDs to unidentified stock (as well as the increased labour costs associated with managing your stock separately).

By not tagging your lambs correctly, you also risk being refused access to the processor in future. Some processors are investing in hook tracking technology for better feedback to producers, which will not work without eIDs.

Not tagging your lambs going to slaughter impacts the integrity of the NLIS database due to missing and incorrect data. Any non-compliance issues, in line with BAM (IMSA) Regulations must be reported and may attract intervention of a livestock inspector. This can result in serious penalties for the producer and the processor.

## Do I have to tag my animals if they never leave the property?

Yes, the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013* state all sheep and goats must be tagged before 6 months of age or prior to leaving a property, whichever occurs first.

In addition to the Regulations, although you may not intend your animals to leave your property, unforeseen events can occur where animals must be moved quickly or escape from a property. In the case of a bushfire for example, fences maybe cut for emergency services vehicles, or stock maybe moved off property and out of harm's way. Without correct tags and identification, ownership is very hard to prove.

## Can eID be used to find stolen stock?

If we had to find specific animals, their eID RFID can be loaded into a scanner and an alert set when those stock are scanned. This is very useful to identify stock that have been listed as stolen or have been blood tested, drenched, vaccinated or otherwise treated and need to be found again.

Lost, stolen or stray stock can have a status added to their record to alert the NLIS if their RFID is scanned within Australia and uploaded/transferred on the database.

## Are there eID options for earless goats?

Earless goats are subject to the same traceability requirements for all sheep and goats. Currently there is one manufacturer of fully accredited NLIS goat leg bands that is included in the WA Tag Incentive Payment Scheme. Currently the eID goat leg bands can be used for dairy, miniature or earless goats. All movements must be recorded on the NLIS database.

## Do we have to scan onto the truck when leaving the farm?

If the animals are consigned to saleyards, abattoir or feedlots, the eIDs will be scanned by the facility and the NLIS database will be updated with this movement.

If the animals are going to another farm with a different Property Identification Code (PIC), without going through a saleyard, they will need to be scanned – either before the journey commences or on receipt at the destination. It should be agreed by both parties at which point the animals will be scanned. Ultimately, it is the buyer's responsibility to upload the transfer onto the NLIS database within 48 hours of the movement.

## Where can I purchase eID tags?

Contact your local agricultural retailer who can order eIDs for you. You can also order eIDs online, either directly from the manufacturer or via an independent online retailer. You must have a current livestock registration to purchase eIDs.

Check your registration via the Brands online search: <https://brandssearch.dpir.wa.gov.au>

## What equipment will stock owners need?

In most cases, there is no need for livestock owners to purchase any equipment for reading eIDs.

However, access to a scanner is necessary if you:

- move stock between different PIC's that you run stock on,
- if you buy stock privately or direct from another producer,
- if you wish to use scanning equipment and associated software for management purposes.

All animals purchased through physical public auctions will be scanned at the saleyard and transferred to the new owners on the NLIS database within 48 hours of purchase.

Scanning wands will be available to borrow from most Regional DPIRD offices, some local Community Resource Centres and some Local Government offices. Stock agents managing on farm or private sales may provide this scanning service for you.

Some examples of decisions on equipment access:

- Farmer A owns a closed flock, only purchasing in rams from on-farm ram sales (public auctions) and selling sheep through the saleyards and abattoirs. Farmer A does not need access to equipment as scanning would be done by the facilitator of the sale.
- Farmer B owns a small goat flock and occasionally buys-in goats privately. Farmer B borrows a wand from the local CRC or DPIRD office to scan the goats once they arrive on property.
- Farmer C has a ram stud that sells rams both privately and through an annual on-farm ram sale. Farmer C chose to purchase a wand for management purposes. Farmer C now offers to scan and transfer rams sold privately to clients as a service of their business.
- Farmer D is a small feedlot that purchases lambs in privately. Farmer D chose to buy a panel reader to make scanning animals quicker and easier as they arrive at the yard.

## When will stock owners need to update the NLIS database?

While a private purchaser is required to ensure the NLIS database is uploaded, they can request the upload is completed by the Vendor or their livestock agent.

If someone does the upload for you, ask for the 'Upload ID' number as a receipt/proof it has been done and write it on your copy of the NVD/waybill associated with the purchase.

Some examples:

- Farmer A owns a closed flock, only purchasing in rams from on-farm ram sales (public auctions) and selling sheep through the saleyards and abattoirs. Farmer A will not be required to scan animals and update the NLIS database as this would be done by the facilitator of the sale.
- Farmer B owns a small goat flock and occasionally buys-in goats privately. Farmer B needs to record this movement of livestock on the NLIS database.
- Farmer C has a ram stud that sells rams both privately and through an annual on-farm ram sale. Farmer C scans and transfers rams sold privately to clients as a service of their business and provides the Upload ID on the NVD/Waybill. At their annual on-farm ram sale, the animals will also be scanned and the livestock agent running the sale will upload the details of the transfer of those rams sold by action.
- Farmer D is a small feedlot that purchases lambs in privately. Due to the nature of the operation, Farmer D installed panel readers at his feedlot. As of the 1 July 2026, all sheep received at this feedlot must have an eID tag and Farmer D is required to be scanning all eID's. It is Farmers D's responsibility to do the transfer on the NLIS database within 48 hours of receiving the livestock.

## Can I use any type of eID tag?

No. The legislation requires that only accredited NLIS devices can be used. Accredited devices have undergone extensive testing under a program run by Integrity Systems Company Ltd (ISC) to meet certain standards in terms of quality.

A list of accredited tags and devices for sheep and goats is available on the Integrity Systems Company, [www.integritysystems.com.au](http://www.integritysystems.com.au) Note, some are fully accredited, after a successful three-year trial. Others are provisionally accredited, yet to complete the three- year trial.

Accredited devices have their RFID loaded onto the NLIS database when ordered. Using devices that are not accredited will mean that they will not be on the NLIS database, have no traceability and are deemed to be the same as having 'no tag' under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013. Non-compliance penalties may apply.

## Is information stored on the tag?

No, the eID does not store any information other than its unique RFID serial number.

The unique RFID number can be used in management software, spreadsheets or databases to record production data for each animal.

This means any data collected remains with the owner, it does not 'travel' with the animal. Only the RFID serial number is transferred on the NLIS database.

## How can I transition to using eIDs?

Ensure your registration as an owner of livestock is up to date and that you have created a login to your NLIS account: Register | NLIS - Australia's system for identification and traceability of livestock [www.nlis.com.au/Account/Create/](http://www.nlis.com.au/Account/Create/)

Do your research on the list of accredited NLIS eIDs available:

[www.integritysystems.com.au/siteassets/accredited-sheep-and-goat-devices-september-2023.pdf](http://www.integritysystems.com.au/siteassets/accredited-sheep-and-goat-devices-september-2023.pdf)

There are many factors to consider when deciding which eID will suit your needs:

- Do you already use tags? Can you use the same applicator you already have, or would you need to purchase another one?
- Are the eIDs you wish to use available to you from your regular supplier?
- Will the selected eIDs have the required space to include the details you want printed – would you want your Brand printed on the tag, for example?
- Cost comparison - are the eIDs you are considering included in the TIP Scheme?
- Consider your position in the supply chain and how your individual business operates. What eIDs will you need to order - coloured year-of-birth eIDs or only pink post-breeder eIDs?
- When is the best time for your operation to start incorporating eID into your flock? Can you take advantage of the TIP Scheme and start applying eID's to breeding stock now?

## What are the legislations and standards that cover the use of identification tags and devices for sheep and goats?

### National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is the Australian traceability system for livestock, that meets nationally consistent standards for animal identification, property identification (PICs), waybills and recording stock movement on the NLIS database.

The NLIS is designed to meet internationally recognised National Livestock Traceability Performance Standards. These standards are prescriptive to trace different diseases and biosecurity threats.

### Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013

The WA state legislation for identification of livestock is found in the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013* – commonly referred to as the BAM (IMSA) Regs.

Electronic identification has been mandated at a national level, however the BAM (IMSA) Regulations will set the requirements for WA.

## Are there any penalties for not using eIDs?

Yes, the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013 outline a range of offences that carry fines as penalties.

These offences include:

- Possessing stock that are not legally identified.
- Using another person's registered brand or earmark.
- Possessing another person's registered branding or earmarking equipment.
- Applying your earmark or NLIS tag to animals on another person's property.
- Using another person's NLIS tags.
- Removing NLIS ear tags.
- Trading or moving animals without correct identification.
- Failure to transfer animals on the NLIS database after movement to a different PIC.

The penalty for a breach of this legislation may be a fine of up to \$20 000.

## Where can I find more information?

### For further information about Sheep and Goat eID implementation in WA:

Phone: 1300 926 547

Email: [eIDTeam@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:eIDTeam@dpird.wa.gov.au)

Website: [Electronic identification for sheep and goats | Agriculture and Food  
www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-movement-identification/electronic-identification-sheep-and-goats](https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-movement-identification/electronic-identification-sheep-and-goats)

### For general enquiries about the NLIS:

Phone: 1300 WA NLIS / 1300 926 547

Email: [nlis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:nlis@dpird.wa.gov.au)

Website: [Livestock identification and movement: sheep | Agriculture and Food  
www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/livestock-identification-and-movement-sheep](https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/livestock-identification-and-movement-sheep)

### For information regarding the national rollout of eID:

<https://www.sheepproducers.com.au/national-traceability>

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