

Rec 4/5/12



**Queensland Government**

**Queensland Health**

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL SERVICES  
LOGAN WEST MORETON PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CONTROL**

Enquiries to: CDC and EH  
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Mr Louis Toumbas  
PO Box 5006  
WEST END QLD 4101

Dear Mr Toumbas,

Thank you for your email correspondence dated 2 April 2012, in relation to concerns about the risk of contracting Q fever for residents living in the vicinity of Teys Bros Beenleigh.

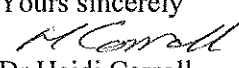
While any specific concerns you have around the operation of Teys Bros Beenleigh should be directed to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (formerly DERM) as the licensing authority for the business, the following information is provided for your consideration.

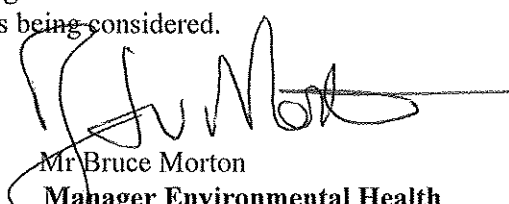
The majority of cases of Q fever in Queensland are acquired occupationally, are sporadic in nature and not associated with an outbreak. There is a relative risk associated with living in close proximity to an abattoir; with this risk dissipating the further one lives away from an abattoir. There are few published guidelines on recommended buffer distances between abattoirs and residential development in relation to Q fever. European literature suggests that the relative risk of contracting Q fever may extend up to 5km from high risk industries. However as animal husbandry practices in Europe generally differ to those in Australia, it is unknown how this risk may relate to the Australian setting.

Queensland Health routinely undertakes investigation and ongoing surveillance of all reported cases of Q fever in Queensland. From these investigations, our local information suggests that the risk of contracting Q fever is greater than community background risk, within at least one kilometre of "high risk" industries, such as abattoirs.

Based on this locally specific information, Queensland Health therefore supports the precautionary principle that residential development should be limited around abattoirs to help prevent any non-occupationally acquired Q fever that may be associated with living close to an abattoir. Queensland Health recommends a buffer distance of up to one kilometre between high risk industries such as abattoirs and future residential development. These recommendations serve as guidelines for future land development and are reviewed regularly, as more information about Q fever and its transmission becomes known by the scientific community.

Queensland Health does not have regulatory responsibility for approval of planning and development, however it strongly advocates that planning agencies take these recommendations into consideration when approval for future residential development is being considered.

Yours sincerely  
  
Dr Heidi Carroll  
Public Health Physician  
2/05/2012

  
Mr Bruce Morton  
Manager Environmental Health  
2/05/2012

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