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## Regional quarantine facilities: Key requirements to consider Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Programme

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Pandemic-related workforce issues have challenged food and fibre supply chains across Australia. As one of the initiatives to assist the state's agricultural sector with labour supply, the Queensland Government is participating in the recommencement of the Australian Government's Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Workers Programme (PLS/SWP). These programmes source workers from Pacific nations with no or low Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) risk.

The PLS/SWP for Queensland offers three options for quarantine: on-farm, industry-led regional facilities and hotel. Queensland was the first state to introduce on-farm quarantine.

Following is a list of requirements if you are considering establishing a regional quarantine facility. Regional quarantine facilities must:

- be located within 2 hours of a major airport
- have capacity for full flights (160-200 people)
- have the ability to segregate accommodation, dining and recreation facilities into smaller cohorts (max of 80 people)
- have 24/7 security presence with CCTV capability
- have all local government approvals in place (including local council building approvals)
- have backup/alternative power source
- have a commitment from, or ability for, local medical providers to attend the site if required for non-COVID related illness and injuries
- have appropriate transportation available on site as required
- have all weather access and alternative routes in case of natural disaster
- be fully fenced with a minimum of 1.8 metre non-climbable fencing
- have separate accommodation and bathroom facilities for men and women
- have appropriate recreation facilities (outdoor and indoor) and provision of WIFI (to enable communication with family/friends)
- have access to pastoral care
- have appropriate cooking facilities and/or commercial grade kitchen and an appropriately sized area for meals
- have appropriate laundry facilities sufficient for the number of workers
- have a minimum separation distance from built up areas of 1 km
- have an accommodation site not used/open to members of the public.

The latest version of the Regional Guidelines can be downloaded from the Document Library; please note this document is still subject to final Queensland Chief Health Officer (CHO) approval.

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For further information, please contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on **13 25 23** or email [info@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@daf.qld.gov.au)

