



Timeline - *Mycoplasma bovis* in New Zealand

2017	
17 July	MPI hotline notified of potential problems on a dairy farm near Oamaru and samples sent to National Animal Health Laboratory for testing.
22 July	<i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> is confirmed.
23 July	The farm, part of the Van Leeuwen Dairy Group (VLDG), is put under biosecurity lockdown. Other farms in the 16 farm group are put under strict movement controls.
31 July	A second farm in the VLDG is confirmed with the disease.
August	Four more properties in the Oamaru area test positive, bringing the total number of infected farms to six. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MPI builds on its intensive surveillance programme, tracing cattle movements from infected farms and testing for the disease. Includes blood tests, swabs and milk tests.• MPI and industry start series of farmer meetings to inform farmers about the disease and protective measures. These hugely attended meetings continue across the country throughout the response.
November	MPI begins cull of cattle on the then known infected farms in the VLDG.
December	<i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> confirmed in Southland – tracing reveals significant cattle movements from the farm group. Disease also detected in the Hawke's Bay – the first North Island infected property.
2018	
January	A farm in Ashburton area confirmed after weeks of testing.
12 January	MPI and its dairy industry partners extend milk testing already underway in Canterbury, Otago and Southland into a national milk surveillance programme. By the end of the month the tracing of animal movements has found 23 infected properties - 22 in the lower South Island and one in the Hawke's Bay.
March	Government and industry partners announce \$85 million of extra funding in response to the outbreak. MPI launches Operation Cook Strait to assess compliance with NAIT.
26 March	MPI directs the cull of remaining animals on all known infected properties - 28 in total.

28 March	Warranted searches conducted by MPI at three locations in North and South islands related to the <i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> situation.
16 April	MPI reiterates its commitment to efficient <i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> compensation payouts. Compensation team boosted and support added from DairyNZ to help farmers to complete claims.
3 May	The disease is confirmed at a beef farm in Pahiatua - the second farm in the North Island.
9 May	The disease is confirmed at a beef farm in north Canterbury, near Cheviot.
10 May 10	Minister O'Connor announces he believes more farms than previously thought are likely to be affected by the disease because of the poor use of NAIT. The number of infected properties stands at 38.
14 May	A farm near Cambridge in the Waikato tests positive for the disease.
15 May	Minister O'Connor and industry commit to making a decision about the next steps in the <i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> response within the next couple of weeks.
18 May	Work begins implementing the recommendations from an independent review of NAIT.
24 May 24	MPI and sector groups address a meeting of around 700 farmers in the Waikato to explain the situation. The meeting is one of more than 60 held around the country associated with the response.
28 May	Cabinet agrees that phased eradication is the way forward. The decision endorses a recommendation from primary sector bodies. Industry organisations, DairyNZ and Beef+Lamb New Zealand will pay 32% of the eradication cost.
Remainder of 2018	Ongoing, intensive tracking and tracing programme to detect <i>Mycoplasma bovis</i> . Depopulation of existing and newly detected infected properties, and properties under Restricted Place Notices. The timing of any cull will be worked through with farmers to reduce impacts. Second round of bulk milk testing following spring calving. Review of phased eradication decision and programme on completion of bulk milk testing – early 2019.