AFFIDAVIT

PART A: APPLICANT'S AND RESPONDENT'S DETAILS

Applicant

Queensland Police

Respondent

Trevor Andrew Hold

PART B: CASE NUMBER (if known)

Case File ID CO2500074247 and Case File ID CO2500069196

PART C: DETAILS OF AFFIDAVIT

I, Trevor Andrew Hold, of 477 Gatton Esk Road, Adare, Queensland, 4343, state on oath/solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare:

I had reasonable excuse (s) for non-compliance to direction or requirement of Police Officers at 477 Gatton-Esk Road, Adare on 16 April 2025 which resulted in two charges of obstructing police. Many of these excuse (s) are the same excuse (s) which were denied procedural fairness by the National Fire Ant Eradication Program (NFAEP) and are listed below:

1. There was an immediate risk to safety.
    a. two calves previously were euthanised with toxic liver poisoning at approximately six weeks old due to their mothers excessive and repeated exposure to toxic chemicals during embryo and foetus development.

b. The cows on the property were heavily pregnant at the time of entry and have previously demonstrated stress and experienced harm in relation to the NFAEP 's activity.

   i. one cow prematurely calved on the day due to the stress which occurred from the NFAEP staff in high visual (reflective) clothing distributing toxic chemicals in the paddocks they were occupying.

   ii. another cow presented labour like symptoms and lay in severe discomfort until 6.30 - 7pm that evening until eventually recovering and calving on the 23 April 2025.

   iii. A third cow miscarriage a fully developed calf which was found still born on the evening of 29 April 2025.

   iv. previously, to avoid harm from stress to my livestock, a farm management treatment plan was agreed to, for my farming operations at 477 Gatton Esk Road, Adare, by the NFAEP on the 7 March 2024 and implemented on the 19 March 2024 and 21 March 2024 during the previous treatment schedule. This treatment plan acknowledged the harm excessive personnel, distributing toxic chemicals, had on my stock and agreed not to treat in the paddocks where my stock occupied. This agreement specifically states that only four staff members would arrive and do two paddocks of my choosing, where no stock was occupying, and they would return later to allow me to rearrange my stock in

previously treated paddocks to prevent personnel of the NFAEP, in their high visual work clothing, to be in a paddock occupied by my stock.

v. The Engage Ant Bait, distributed under Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medines Authority (APVMA) Permit Number – PER90213,

   a. is very toxic to aquatic life and previously has contaminated the drinking water of my livestock and killed the biomass of the dams that store their drinking water. The site specific drainage and farm drought mitigation plan has drainage and open trenches which distribute all the water from irrigation, rainfall and storage tank overflows from the entirety of the property into the dam and stocks drinking water. This contamination, along with biomagnification, results in the bioaccumulation of toxins in the cows, resulting in (previously reported) embryo and foetus development problems in calves.

   b. is non-target specific to fire ants meaning it impacts other species of insects and native ants. Impacts on the properties native ant population have previously been observed. A healthy, native ant population have been scientifically reported as the best defence to prevent fire ant

infestation, as such, security of the farm is dependent on native ants flourishing to prevent harm caused by potential fire ant invasions.

2. No Fire Ants were evident on the land designated as 477 Gatton Esk Road, Adare, or in the immediate, neighbouring properties or surrounding area. Any distribution of toxic chemicals therefore can only have adverse effects and only cause negative outcomes.
3. I have received no response, written or verbal, to my previously documented and presented (to the NFAEP by email and registered mail) reasonable excuse to obstruct biosecurity officers, as detailed in section 336 of the Biosecurity Act 2014 (QLD), from prophylactic toxic chemical treatment of my property at 477 Gatton Esk Road, Adare, or received any justification or reason why these presented reasonable excuse (s) are not valid, nor was I given procedural fairness to have this matter dealt with by a court or judicial process.
    a. On the 16 April 2025, just prior to forced entry, biosecurity officer Roger Morris did state (in passing) to the effect of nothing I have provided previously is considered valid, though he did not provide the exact context or detail the assessment or allow judicial fairness to arbitrate the matter.
    b. I provided a statutory declaration of my reasonable excuse, as detailed in section 336 of the Biosecurity Act 204 (QLD), supported with a statutory declaration about the death of two calves, accompanied with notices for

response, by email and registered post, on Wednesday, 4 December 2024, Tuesday, 24 December 2025, and Tuesday 7 January 2025. All of which were ignored and not responded to.

4. Despite requesting, several times, I was not provided a current material safety data sheet (MSDS) for the chemical they were distributing on my property prior to the forced entry.
    a. the public officer, Roger Morris, falsely stated it was emailed to me prior.
    b. after initially stating the MSDS was in the car the public officer, Roger Morris, failed to retrieve it.
    c. the public officer, Roger Morris, made a false and misleading statement that the MSDS was included in the (11 page) APVMA permit.
    d. after it was identified that the public officer, Roger Morris, made a false and misleading statement that the MSDS was included in the APVMA permit he failed to cease activities and continued regardless.
    e. Furthermore, hours after the event, the public officer, Roger Morris, made a false and misleading statement that he could not retrieve the MSDS from the car because of the number of people at the address.
    f. Upon closer inspection the APVMA permit states
        i. 'This permit allows for the use of a product in a manner specified on the permit. Persons who wish to prepare for use and/or use products for the purposes specified in this permit must read, or have read to them, the details and conditions of this permit.

Unless otherwise stated, the use of the product must be in accordance with the product label at Attachment 1 or Attachment 2. All users must read the current Safety Data Sheet as provided by the product supplier prior to use'.

ii. '*All product must be supplied with a copy of the current Safety Data Sheet*'.

iii. Attachment 1, MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET, Additional information is listed in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

5. I have a duty of care to ensure activities which occur on my private property, at 477 Gatton Esk Road, Adare, 4343, do not contravene APVMA permits. In addition to not receiving a MSDS, concerns on the legitimacy and lawfulness of the activities by the NFAEP due to

   a. No answer was given to my question about what constitutes a 'minor use' in APVMA Permit Number – PER90213 title. Considering the NFAEP has an eradication zone documented as 185 + thousand hectares and treatment is scheduled for 4 - 6 times over two years on 100% of the properties, serious concerns about contravening this term existed.

   b. No further conversation was allowed about the permit even though it is an 11 page document that was just supplied prior to forced entry and details specific restraints, cautions and critical use comments.

   c. One of the restraints being '*baiting in fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, spices, cereal grains and sugar cane may only be undertaken either*

where the crops do not come in direct contact with the bait by baiting between rows or broadcast directly onto crops but only when all crops (except cereal grains) are washed after harvest and before marketing. Baiting may not take place in grain cropping areas other than cereal grains'; I had an area in my back yard eligible for assessment for this restraint which was being ignored and required intervention and obstruction of the biosecurity personnel to prevent toxic chemicals being distributed in the area. I was not asked why I was obstructing biosecurity officers (not police) in this instance which consequently led to my police arrest and one of the obstruction charges.

d. The APVMA permit states *'All spreading equipment should be calibrated on a regular basis to ensure that the permitted rate per hectare is achieved and not exceeded, and to ensure that bait spread pattern is as intended'.* I was not provided with any documentation relating to the last calibration, or method of assessment, of the equipment used to distribute the toxic poison over my land.

6. I am in consultation with the University of Central Florida biology department and fire ant research team, which includes Dr Joshua King. I have a commercial agreement and licence in their patented environmentally friendly insect control technologies. Significant investment has occurred by my commercial business, Australian Advocacy Group, (trading name of HOLD Technologies Pty Ltd, ABN 96 109 935 891) in both training, specific to fire ants and their management, and

to have an Australian built version of the technology available for use in Australia. This technology was specifically designed and researched for the control of fire ants and has been used to treat fire ants in the suppression zones on private property. I have significant experience in management of fire ants, and I am supported by the world's leading researchers specific to understanding the biology and ecology of fire ants and how they interact with species in the ecosystems they invade. This technology is stored and available for use (though not required) at 477 Gatton Esk Road, Adare, Queensland, 4343. I believe my experience and significant investment to meet my biosecurity obligations and ability to provide alternatives to the chemical solutions offered by the NFAEP, which have harmed my cattle and resulted in loss of income and considerable stress, support my overall reasonable excuse.

7. Supporting this affidavit is:
    a. Document 03 Stat Dec Dead Calves, Exhibit 03 – 3 Pages,
    b. Document 04 Farm Management Treatment Plan, Exhibit 04 – 3 Pages
    c. Document 05 Previously Supplied Reasonable Excuse to NFAEP, Exhibit 05 – 2 Pages,
    d. Document 06 First Notice relating to reasonable excuse, Wed, 4 Dec 2024, Exhibit 06 – 1 Page
    e. Document 07 Second Notice relating to reasonable excuse, Tues, 24 Dec 2024, Exhibit 07 – 1 Page,

f. Document 08 Third Notice relating to reasonable excuse, Tues, 07 Jan 2025, Exhibit 08 – 1 Page

g. Document 09 Material Safety Data Sheet, Engage, Supplied 16 April 2025, Exhibit 09 – 8 Pages

h. Document 10 APVMA PER90213, Current 16 April 2025, Exhibit 10 – 11 Pages,

i. Document 11 Dr Joshua King Open Letter of Concern, Oct 4, 2024, Exhibit 11 – 3 Pages,

j. Document 12 Court Brief, Case File ID CO2500074247, Exhibit 12 – 5 Pages

k. Document 13 Court Brief, Case File ID CO2500069196, Exhibit 13 – 5 Pages,

l. Document 14 Evaluation License Agreement for Fire Ant Technology, Exhibit 14 – 1 Page

PART D: SIGNATURE

Sworn (or affirmed) by:

Trevor Andrew Hold

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in the presence of:

Person making affidavit to sign	**Person taking affidavit to sign**
Print name	**Commissioner for declarations/ solicitor/justice of the peace.**