

Statement of Animal Biosecurity Policies and Programs for the State of Victoria

1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS	3
2.1 Prevention	3
2.2 Surveillance Programs	4
2.3 Livestock Identification Programs	4
3. ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS	5
4. FERAL, PEST ANIMAL AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS	6
4.1. A description of feral animal control programs in Victoria	6
4.2 Guides and Control Handbooks	7
4.3 Projects or Training Programs for Community Groups	7
4.4 Specific Pest Control Programs	8
4.5 Research Activities	8
4.6 Vertebrate Pests Committee	9
4.7 Reviews of pest control eradication and exclusion, and social evaluations	9
4.8 Monitoring the distribution of pest animals/wildlife	9
5. LEGISLATION	10
6. APPENDICES	10
Appendix 1	10

1. INTRODUCTION

The Victorian Government, through the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), has in place comprehensive biosecurity policies, programs and procedures aimed at maintaining Victoria's freedom from pests and diseases which could adversely impact on trade, public health and food safety, market access, the rural economy and the environment.

The Government maintains infrastructure and provides resources to prevent, detect, manage and respond to serious animal and plant pests and diseases. Victoria also has in place an emergency management framework that ensures an effective whole-of-government response to outbreaks of emergency diseases that have evaded Australia's quarantine barrier or which are newly emerged.

Biosecurity programs are underpinned by contemporary legislation which has been assessed against nationally agreed critical success factors, and shown to provide an appropriate range of specific and general legislative measures and powers to deal with prevention, monitoring, control and eradication of pests and diseases, and the management of feral and other pest animals.

Animal biosecurity programs for pests and diseases are managed by the Agriculture Quality Assurance (AQA) Group of the Agriculture Division of DPI. The AQA Group is responsible for the development of policy and the delivery of systems, standards and services to Victoria's food and agriculture sector, which protect and enhance market access, market development and consumer confidence. The key strategy used by the AQA Group in the development and delivery of these services is that of risk management.

The Group's policies and operational activities are aimed at supporting a sustainable and internationally competitive Victorian agriculture and food industry with a goal of \$12 billion per annum in agricultural exports by 2010.

DSE has policy interpretation and legislative responsibility for the animals listed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and coordinates the implementation of the Government's pest animal management programs. These programs are delivered through the direct management of public lands and through the provision of behavioural change programs (extension and enforcement) for private land. The Land Management Group within the Catchment and Water Division of DSE has policy responsibility for private land pest animal programs and pest animal programs on the interface of public and private land.

Participating businesses within DSE are Forests Division, Parks Flora and Fauna Division, and Land Victoria, which are responsible for the management of most public land in Victoria.

Operational management of the parks estate is carried out by Parks Victoria in accordance with the Victorian Biodiversity Strategy, which is a whole-of-government document for the Victorian community with DSE being the lead agency for its implementation.

DSE's Regional Service is responsible for on-ground management of forest reserves, tenured and unreserved Crown land, Crown land reserves as well as service delivery of behavioural-change pest animal programs on private land.

DSE's aim of managing pest animals is to minimise their impact on State's natural assets, its social values and productive capacity of its land and waters. Native species that may at times cause

problems on either public or private lands, are managed by DSE and on-ground land managers to the extent needed to meet sustainable land management and biodiversity objectives.

2. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS

2.1 Prevention

Specific emergency disease prevention programs operate in Victoria. The two most important of these involve compliance programs for swill feeding of pigs, and for the BSE-related ruminant feed ban.

Swill Feeding

Victoria has strict legislation prohibiting the feeding to pigs of vertebrate-derived material such as food wastes etc. Compliance activities are undertaken by field animal health staff in all regions. Awareness and education programs also operate.

Prosecutions are mounted where non-compliance is detected.

Ruminant Feed Ban

Compliance with the ruminant feed ban is an on-going activity of the State's animal health services, demonstrated by extensive and on-going audit.

Recent enhanced levels of activity include:

(i) *Renderers*

All renderers of animal materials in Victoria are licensed with the Victorian Meat Authority (VMA) and are required to undergo bi-annual third party auditing. Renderers are required by the VMA to comply with the Victorian Standard for Hygienic Rendering of Animal Products which includes provision that all consignments of bulk or bagged rendered material must be labelled with the prescribed warning statement to allow end users to know whether feeds contain restricted animal materials. All licensed renderers in Victoria have been subject to third party auditing under the auspices of the Victorian Meat Authority and compliance with all aspects of the Standard demonstrated.

An advice note has been sent by DPI in September 2001 to all renderers in Victoria advising of the new legislative requirements, and to renderers Australia-wide through the Australian Renderers Association.

(ii) *Stock Food Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Retailers*

A series of specific mail-outs to all stock food businesses has been undertaken to advise of the amended feed ban. An ongoing program of extensive audits of stockfood manufacturers has commenced. Manufacturers have been audited and no evidence found of restricted animal materials being incorporated into ruminant feed stuffs or being fed to ruminants. A strategy of improved communication with the stock feed manufacturing industry is under development.

The process of audit is ongoing and the number audited covers the vast majority of stock feed manufacturers in Victoria.

(iii) *End Users*

Feedlots and dairy producers are those most likely to use compounded rations. All major feedlots have been audited (representing well over 90% of feedlot cattle in the state) and all were aware of the ruminant feed ban and found to be in compliance with it.

Discussions are continuing with the major dairy processing companies with a view to incorporating ruminant feed ban requirements into on-farm dairy QA programs that are subject to audit. The major companies have implemented this, and negotiations are ensuring that others will follow.

In addition, a communication and education strategy aimed at improved end-user awareness is under development.

2.2 Surveillance Programs

Early detection is essential to ensure the impacts from outbreaks of disease are minimised. DPI operates animal health field and laboratory services that are aligned under the DPI Agriculture Division's core output, being "services to protect and improve market access, market development, and consumer confidence in Victorian food and agriculture."

Appendix 1 details the objectives, strategies, milestone descriptions and service delivery standards for the Agriculture Quality Assurance (AQA) Project 1 "Surveillance and disease control to maintain Market Access".

Disease surveillance programs are delivered by 22 DPI field veterinary staff supported by 40 animal health officers. Accredited private veterinary practitioners are extensively utilised for the delivery of disease control and surveillance programs. Training courses for practitioners are held with a focus on early detection of disease, and state and national disease reporting and response arrangements.

2.3 Livestock Identification Programs

Traceability of livestock is fundamental to the integrity of a biosecurity system for the livestock industries.

The Victorian Government is highly committed to electronic information systems, integrated with electronic, whole of life livestock identification and movement recording. Mandatory NLIS identification of cattle was introduced from 1 January 2002. All cattle born in Victoria after this date must be identified with an approved NLIS device before leaving the property of birth (other than for direct slaughter). Legislation has been enacted to underpin the progressive implementation of NLIS, and allow permanent identification requirements and transaction recording to be prescribed for any additional species in the future.

The integrated nature of the pig industry, combined with a legislated requirement that pigs be identified with an official tattoo brand or ear tag that sets out the property identification number, assists the effective tracing of pigs in Victoria.

The integrity of property identification registers and databases is critical to effective tracing systems. Victoria has commenced a process which will remove obsolete, disbanded and otherwise inactive records from the cattle and pig property registers.

3. ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

The Victorian Government through DPI and DSE has an excellent emergency management capability developed through its combat responsibilities to fire, pest and disease outbreaks and emergencies which threaten the natural environment.

A high level of preparedness exists, key elements of which include:

- Detailed pre-agreed response plans are in place to enable an immediate coordinated response to an FMD outbreak. AUSVETPLAN is a coordinated national response plan for the control and eradication of exotic animal diseases such as FMD. AUSVETPLAN comprises a series of strategies for diseases, and a series of operational and management manuals providing a uniform national approach to control and eradication of exotic disease.
- The State of Victoria is a signatory to nationally agreed arrangements to share the costs of an emergency response, thereby ensuring that debate about funding issues does not occur to delay an effective response.
- Victoria has the necessary legislation in place to effect the necessary disease control measures to deal with an outbreak.
- Victorian emergency management arrangements ensure a multi-agency response involving all relevant agencies (such as SES, Police and local government).
- DPI animal health staff are trained in emergency animal disease recognition and response:
 - most veterinary staff have attended the AAHL training course on recognition of exotic diseases in animals;
 - all animal health staff participate in training to meet agreed national competency standards in Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness (EADP);
 - many staff have direct experience in handling emergency diseases responses arising from past outbreaks of anthrax, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, and FMD(UK); and
 - animal health staff are available to immediately investigate any suspicion of an emergency animal disease.
- DPI has a strong frontline veterinary diagnostic capability within VIAS Attwood and its contracted laboratory supplier, with the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (Geelong) on our doorstep for rapid referral of suspect samples for specialised exotic disease diagnosis.

- DPI and the Australian Veterinary Association have pre-agreed employment contracts in place for rapid employment of private veterinary practitioners to assist in an emergency disease response.

Appendix 1 includes the objectives, strategies, milestone descriptions and service delivery standards for DPI's emergency animal disease/counter disaster program.

4. FERAL, PEST ANIMAL AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS

4.1. A description of feral animal control programs in Victoria

The feral animals that the DSE has legislative and administrative responsibility for under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* are the rabbit, fox, wild dog, feral pig and feral goat. Deer are listed under the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

Private land

Focus – Government support for private land feral animal control programs is primarily focused on, in order of priority, the rabbit, wild dog and fox. There is little feral pig and feral goat control activity on private land.

Outcomes – DSE is encouraging a shift away from reactive population reduction to an overall outcome of a reduction in the long term agricultural and biodiversity impacts of the pest species.

Private and public land boundary - Good Neighbour Program

The Good Neighbour Program (GNP) is an essential element in the Government's approach to pest management on the public and private land boundary in Victoria. Under the GNP, DSE works in partnership with the community to address damage caused by pests that originate on public land and disperse onto adjacent private land.

The GNP provides the mechanism for a coordinated and prioritised approach to treating pest problems on the public land/private land boundaries according to the Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) Regional Catchment Strategies and Action Plans.

The program's aims are to:

- (i) make real gains in the control of priority pest plants and proclaimed pest animal infestations within defined project areas of public land frontages;
- (ii) enhance the productivity of primary production enterprises through the control of pest plants and animals on adjoining public land;
- (iii) promote the Government as a 'Good Neighbour' when it comes to pest control on public land;
- (iv) ensure that pest management on public land takes account of community priorities and actions;
- (v) complement other public land natural resource management objectives through appropriate pest plant and animal control on public land frontages; and

(vi) integrate pest management with other natural resource management objectives.

Public Land

Pest animal control on public lands also aims to reduce the risk to environmental values in parks and reserves, as well as participating in cooperative programs with Catchment Management Authorities and other landholders.

Pest animal control in many areas of public land is an essential element in implementing Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy, which includes providing protection for threatened species and ecosystems and ensuring the viability of our natural ecosystems.

Control programs may also occur on public lands in relation to a range of native species which are overabundant or that are causing environmental, economic or social problems. There is currently little management of deer populations other than through recreational hunting.

Expenditure outside of the Good Neighbour Program on pest animal control is expected to increase in the new financial year due to new initiatives such as 'Our Forests Our Future' and the ECC box ironbark recommendations.

4.2 Guides and Control Handbooks

The Government has recently approved the release of the *Victorian Pest Management Framework – A Framework for Action* (VPMF), which provides the consistent and strategic directions for the long-term management of existing and potential pests in Victoria over the next five years. The VPMF includes strategies on weeds, foxes, rabbits, public land/Good Neighbour Program, wild dogs and feral pigs and feral goats.

In addition to the statewide focus of the VPMF, at a regional level Rabbit Action Plans have been developed across Victoria by the 10 Catchment Management Authorities to provide the basis for prioritising private and government investment over the next five years. Action Plans for wild dogs, foxes and feral pigs and goats will be developed in the next one to two years depending on whether they are considered by the community as a priority issue.

Procedural instructions for feral animals on private lands are detailed in a DSE document titled VerminPac. This document will be updated in the next one to two years to align it with the VPMF.

4.3 Projects or Training Programs for Community Groups

DSE officers assist in the training of landholders to obtain the Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) which is a legal requirement for persons intending to use specified listed chemicals including pest animal fumigants and 1080 poison baits.

The Government, through DSE, also provides grants to the community for integrated projects relating to the improvement of land use across Victoria under its Second Generation Landcare Program. Feral animal management is a key component of many of these projects.

4.4 Specific Pest Control Programs

Private land

Rabbit Buster: Activity through the Government's Rabbit Buster Program has been aimed at long-term rabbit control activities such as harbour removal and warren destruction in conjunction with the release and spread of Rabbit Calicivirus Disease. This has been one of the most successful initiatives with:

- An average reduction in rabbit populations across Victoria of 92% with a range of 77% to 99% at 17 monitoring site.
- Approximately \$34 million in annual financial benefits statewide through reduced rabbit impacts on primary production.
- High level of community acceptance with approximately 80% of participants rating it successful.

Rabbit Compliance Program: DSE rabbit management activity on private land at a regional level is directed at supporting the implementation of the priorities of the CMA Rabbit Action Plans through behavioural change programs targeting both extension and enforcement activities.

Wild Dogs : Private land wild dog activity by DSE is focused on protecting livestock enterprises on land that adjoin public land. This is delivered through DSE's 17 full time doggers that operate out of 12 locations across Victoria's North East and Gippsland. Management activities on private land are a mixture of reactive (trapping) and preventative (electric fencing and poisoning in key areas) measures.

Foxes : DSE provides a bait supply service for landholders on private lands and encourages coordinated group control activities in areas where foxes are a priority issue.

Feral Pigs and Feral Goats : On private land feral pigs and goats are not considered a problem. Landholders undertake management programs when the animals are found on their land.

4.5 Research Activities

DSE is currently undertaking the following pest animal research projects:

- Marketing, extension and land systems approach to rabbit management
- RHD epidemiology monitoring
- Rabbit baiting review
- Carbon monoxide fumigation of rabbits
- Extension approaches relating to wild dog management
- Assessment of 1080/analgesic for the control of red foxes

- Using scat DNA to measure fox abundance and management success
- Improving the humaneness of leg-hold traps for wild dog management
- Development of a felid toxin and bait delivery system
- Trials are being undertaken in 4 locations in eastern Gippsland to determine the effectiveness of large-scale fox baiting in providing protection of native wildlife.

4.6 Vertebrate Pests Committee

DSE is a member of the Vertebrate Pests Committee

4.7 Reviews of pest control eradication and exclusion, and social evaluations

The following reviews have been carried out:

- the Rabbit Buster Program Stage 1;
- the Wild Dog Program;
- Effect of prosecution – changing behaviours in DSE’s South West Region; and
- Evaluation of the attitudes and behaviour of landholders towards controlling pest plants and animals in DSE’s North West and North East regions.

4.8 Monitoring the distribution of pest animals/wildlife

DSE has developed and operates the Integrated Pest Management System (IPMS) to provide a recording, evaluation and reporting system for pest animal activity across Victoria.

The Pest Animal Information System has been developed and used by the Department’s North East, Gippsland and North West Regions to record wild dog program activities, eg trapping and poisoning details and results, such as baits taken and dogs caught. While this is currently a ‘stand-alone’ system, it will be integrated into DSE’s Integrated Pest Management System (IPMS).

While the general distribution of wild dogs, foxes and rabbits is known, feral goat and feral pig distribution is poorly understood.

The Integrated Pests Management System has been developed by DSE to record and evaluate all funded regional pest management programs undertaken on private lands. While not directly providing pest animal distribution data it does provide information relating to where priority action is taken on pest animals.

5. LEGISLATION

Victoria has comprehensive, contemporary legislation that underpins biosecurity policies, programs and procedures aimed at maintaining freedom from significant pests and diseases.

The *Livestock Disease Control Act (1994)* provides a broad range of specific and general measures and powers to deal with the prevention, monitoring and eradication of emergency animal diseases. The legislation was reviewed as comprehensively delivering the "16 critical success factors" identified by SCARM as essential to mounting an effective emergency animal disease response. Appropriate powers for search, entry, decontamination, destruction and compensation are provided.

Victoria's emergency management legislation (*Emergency Management Act (1986)*) aims to ensure that prevention, response and recovery phases of an emergency disease response are organised within a structure that facilitates planning, preparedness, operational co-ordination and community participation.

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* provides a range of general and specific measures to control the impact of the rabbit, fox, wild dog, feral pig and feral goat on agriculture and the environment. Deer are controlled under the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Agricultural Quality Assurance Project 1 "Surveillance and Disease Control to maintain Market Access" – Objectives; Strategies; Milestones; Service Delivery Standards.

AQA PROJECT 1: SURVEILLANCE AND DISEASE CONTROL TO MAINTAIN MARKET ACCESS

OBJECTIVES

- To minimise the economic impact of significant diseases affecting Victoria's livestock industries.
- To maintain monitoring, surveillance and reporting for significant endemic, and zoonotic diseases, especially those diseases that impact on trade.
- To maintain disease information systems and provide health certification that satisfy the protocols for export of livestock and livestock products overseas and interstate.
- To ensure that Victoria meets its responsibilities as part of the national preparedness and response programs for exotic and emergency animal diseases and to fulfil the Department's obligations under the Emergency Management Act, 1986.
- To survey cattle and sheep populations for presence of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies to prove absence of disease and ensure access to export markets
- To promote industry-based quality assurance programs that allow the sale of livestock under Vendor Declarations.
- To minimise the economic impact of anthrax to Victoria's livestock industries and to work with Health Authorities to prevent zoonotic infection with anthrax.
- To monitor cattle herds to ensure that Victoria maintains its Free status for bovine tuberculosis.
- To increase the efficiency of the apiary industry by achieving production of produce from apiaries where bee diseases and chemical contamination are controlled and the provision of healthy honeybee colonies for commercial pollination services.
- In relation to footrot control, improve the productivity and welfare of sheep in Victoria and ensure that there is continued access to interstate markets for live sheep.
- To promptly investigate and resolve animal welfare problems.
- To promote sound animal management and health practices that are consistent with optimal animal welfare.

STRATEGY

General

- Implement cost-effective disease surveillance and control programs using diagnosis, research, extension and regulatory processes, as appropriate, for

the disease, industry and economic circumstances.

- Facilitate the marketing of Victorian livestock and livestock products by development and administration of targeted disease free accreditation programs (eg. ovine brucellosis-free accreditation program).
- In liaison with medical authorities, develop and implement disease control programs for important zoonotic diseases.
- Investigate significant occurrences of disease or toxicity in livestock.
- Monitor contracted service delivery to ensure quality and timeliness of service delivery.

Enzootic Bovine Leucosis

- Monitor Victorian dairy herds for Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) by the bulk milk test.
- Encourage the owners of EBL-infected herds to test herds and slaughter infected animals under the industry-funded program.
- Audit compliance of herd owners and contracted veterinarians under Victorian EBL eradication program.

Exotic Disease/Counter Disaster

- Provide point(s) of contact for notification of suspicion of emergency and exotic diseases 24hrs/day, every day.
- Carry out surveillance and monitoring to ensure early recognition and thorough investigation of suspected cases of exotic and emergency diseases and emergencies affecting the livestock industries.
- Facilitate officer participation in training for exotic animal disease preparedness at local, state and national levels, including at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory. This includes participation in on-going training programs to ensure that appropriate skills are available in the areas of disease recognition, disease control strategies, field operations, control centre operations and management of exotic disease outbreaks.
- Facilitate the training of private veterinary practitioners in exotic disease recognition and response.
- Provide staff and resources at all times as part of the Department's coordinated response to natural disasters, according to arrangements in the Agricultural Disaster Manual and Victoria's emergency response plan (DISPLAN).
- Participate in state, regional and local emergency planning committees.

Anthrax

- Ensure effective monitoring, surveillance and diagnostic services are in place to detect the presence of anthrax and, as soon as practicable after notification, implement anthrax control measures in accordance with the Manual of Procedures.

Footrot

- Investigate circumstances where footrot is suspected to determine whether virulent footrot is present, taking appropriate action as required.

- Undertake timely extension and education to reinforce the benefits of footrot eradication.
- Encourage the eradication of virulent footrot through the promotion and facilitation of local self-help groups.
- Undertake regulatory action where footrot is detected in public places or where neighbours' flocks are at risk of infection.
- Develop marketing strategies that will enhance the sale of footrot-free sheep, eg. Vendor Declarations.
- Provide training and supervise the Footrot Contractors Accreditation program.

Livestock Health Certification

- Provide inspection and surveillance of imported animals (for exotic animal disease) as required.
- Conduct inspections and provide valid property certification for the export and interstate movement of animals by ensuring necessary staff and resources are available to undertake investigations of endemic diseases and to maintain appropriate records and information bases.
- Support the export trade in livestock by providing specialist services during their assembly, when required.
- Assist in the inspection and approval of properties and premises, including semen and embryo collection centres, for the purposes of pre-export or post-arrival quarantine and testing.
- Provide timely advice to the CVO/MAHO and certifying veterinary officers on regional, district and property disease status.

Bees

- Facilitate the production of apiary products that are free of disease organisms to meet phytosanitary requirements of interstate and export honey markets through:
 - programs to eradicate and/or control endemic bee diseases;
 - training programs designed to improve apiarists' diagnostic skills;
 - monitoring of commercially produced honey to detect outbreaks of American foulbrood
 - disease (AFB) in apiaries; and
 - extension programs designed to increase apiarists' awareness of exotic bee diseases.
- Production of chemical residue free honey through extension programs targeted to apiarists and evaluation of disease control measures to ensure appropriate recommendations.
- Support the implementation of the AFB reduction program.

Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program (TFAP)

- Maintain systems that identify cattle and pigs to their property of origin.
- Thoroughly investigate any suspicions of disease in accordance with

- nationally agreed standards.
- Carry out abattoir, field and laboratory disease monitoring programs as required by the National TFAP Agreement, including the National Granuloma Submission Program.

Animal Welfare Services

- Promote the guidelines for the handling, transport and slaughter of bobby calves and promote the bobby calf Vendor Declaration.
- Promote the findings of research into animal welfare aspects of animal husbandry practices.
- Investigate promptly, thoroughly and objectively, complaints from the public and, where appropriate, recommend legal proceedings.
- Ensure that corrective action is undertaken promptly where animals are found to be suffering.
- Provide expert advice to and/or participate in Animal Experimentation Ethics Committees as required.
- Promote compliance of Bass Strait & other livestock export facilities with Codes of Welfare for transport of livestock

TSE Surveillance Program

- Investigate eligible cases and supervise the national TSE surveillance program (NTSESP) to prove absence of these disease conditions from Victoria's cattle and sheep industries.
- Ensure that annual targets under the NTSESP are met.

Project 1. MILESTONES	MIS #01226	SURVEILLANCE AND DISEASE CONTROL TO MAINTAIN MARKET ACCESS
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No.	Milestone Descriptions
	Conduct General Livestock Disease Surveillance
1	Quarterly reports of disease occurrence to CAS Manager and MAHO.
2	Quarterly reports to MAHO for National Animal Health Information System within 2 weeks of the end of each quarter.
3	Collect samples for National Arbovirus Monitoring Program from sentinel herd(s) twice between 1 January 2003 and 30 June 2003 (NI, NW, SW and Gippsland regions).
4	Collect samples from sentinel chicken flocks for arbovirus monitoring from October 2002 to April 2003 (NW, NI & NE regions).
5	Rapid recognition and reporting of disease or toxicity occurrence and emerging issues.
	Eradication of Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL)
6	Bulk milk samples for EBL collected twice yearly (in conjunction with dairy factories).
7	Provide advice on positive and inconclusive BMT results to owners within 2 weeks of receipt.
	Conduct Surveillance for Exotic and Emergency Diseases
8	Provide updated contact lists for the Agricultural Disaster Manual and other manuals to the MAHO by 15 November 2002.
9	Prompt, thorough investigation, response and reporting of suspected exotic and emergency livestock diseases (eg. anthrax) and emergencies affecting the livestock industries in accordance with state and national response plans and NRE AH&W Service Delivery Standards (Project 1)
10	Support nominated staff to participate in training an assessment to achieve competency in national emergency animal disease response standards.
	Control Ovine Footrot
11	Monitor 70% of major store sheep sales (over 5000 head) in public saleyards for virulent footrot and, where it is detected, take appropriate action, in accordance with the Manual of Procedures.
12	Undertake to diagnose footrot according to the Manual of Procedures.
13	Arrange footrot training programs for approved veterinarians and staff.
14	Supervise the Footrot Contractor accreditation program.
15	Promote the use of vendor declarations for footrot.
	Maintain Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program Surveillance
16	Investigate, manage and report incidents according to national TFAP Standard Definitions and Rules.

17	Conduct audits to maintain that 99% of cattle at point of sale in Victoria are traceable to their property of origin as measured through compliance audits as described for AH&W Project 2.
Conduct Animal Welfare Monitoring and Surveillance	
18	Prompt, thorough investigation and reporting of complaints of animal cruelty, with problems resolved through advisory and, where necessary, regulatory action. Participate in Animal Experimentation Ethics Committees, as required.
19	Provide extension and monitoring initiatives for specific issues, eg. drought, welfare of bobby calves, Bass Strait trade, live animal exports etc.
Provide Livestock and Property Health Certification	
20	Maintain district property and disease records and AH&W databases to allow provision of accurate, timely and credible health certification in accordance with the Manual of Procedures, the requirements of interstate and overseas markets and Sale of Land Act section 32 certification.
Control Ovine Brucellosis	
21	Supervise the Ovine Brucellosis Free Accreditation program in the region, and the Mallee OB Control Area (NW region only).
Supervise TSE surveillance program to prove absence of the conditions to maintain sheep/cattle export markets	
22	Ensure annual regional targets for TSE submissions are met.

	BOVINE	OVINE
GIPPSLAND	20	19
SOUTH WEST	22	30
NORTHERN IRRIGATION	20	4
NORTH EAST	7	18
NORTH WEST	8	21
TOTAL	77	92

23	Maintain a record of investigations and diagnoses for quarterly reporting to NAHIS.
24	Supervise owner & approved veterinarian payment incentive schemes.
Control Apiary Disease	
25	Apiary Inspectors to conduct audits of 10% of apiarists who have not re-registered by 1 July 2002 for compliance with registration requirements to ensure disease tracing system is accurate for chemical contamination and disease investigations.
26	Apiary Inspectors to conduct training of apiarists in recognition and reporting of notifiable diseases.

27	Support the introduction of the American Foulbroad Reduction Program.
Monitoring contracted service delivery	
28	Oversee reports and invoices from contracted service providers (private veterinarians and private veterinary laboratories) to monitor quality of service delivery and approve invoices for payment by AHOB.

SERVICE DELIVERY STANDARDS PROJECT 1: SURVEILLANCE AND DISEASE CONTROL TO MAINTAIN MARKET ACCESS

1.1 General Disease Surveillance	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
<p>a] Conduct investigations into diseases causing economic loss in livestock and / or zoonotic diseases</p> <p>◆ Report to Program Leader QA/SVO</p>	1 wk	1 wk
<p>b] Monitor and survey endemic disease prevalence and incidence, achieved by:</p> <p>◆ Investigating and reporting on disease incidents</p> <p>◆ Contact with farmers, farmer groups, livestock industry workers, private vets, abattoir and knackery management, monitoring laboratory reports and communication with colleagues</p>	1 wk	as applicable
<p>c] Promote specific disease freedom programs eg. ovine brucellosis accreditation, TSE Surveillance Program</p>	frequent	
<p>d] Conduct extension activities for significant economic disease prevention and control</p>	as applicable	
<p>e] Conduct field based research, investigation and surveillance to identify, prevent and control economically important diseases of livestock.</p>	on-going	
	as applicable	

1.2 Enzootic Bovine Leucosis	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
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Collect bulk milk samples from each dairy factory for each producer, twice yearly for testing at an approved laboratory	Oct / Nov test Feb / Mar test	
DVOs to report results to suppliers with positive and suspicious test and advise owner to seek private veterinary advice	1 week	

1.3 Exotic and Emergency Animal Diseases and Disaster Management	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
a) After notification of suspected exotic animal disease (EAD)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Farm visit to collect history, stock movements and report to SVO and CVO. ◆ Diagnostic team visit [establish diagnostic team - SVO/MAHO] 	2hrs 24 hrs	24 hrs
b) General Preparedness		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintain office and residence phone numbers of all AH&W and other key staff ◆ manage staff leave so that a VO with experience in EAD recognition is available at all times ◆ check emergency specimen submission kit ◆ make available updated scientific and technical EAD material ◆ maintain stores, equipment and maps for use in emergency response 		ongoing ongoing six monthly as appropriate on going
c) Maintain contact lists [update Nov/Dec]		annually

◆ **At Risk Premises**

- abattoirs - manager/owner and vet in charge
- AI and embryo transfer units
- animal feed companies
- dairy factories
- knackeries
- feedlots
- livestock dealers and agents
- livestock transporters
- saleyards
- rendering plants
- zoos, wildlife parks and animal exhibitions.

◆ **Essential contacts**

▪ **Federal Government**

AFFA, CSIRO/AAHL, Telstra

▪ **State Government**

NRE, SES, Police (Displan Coordinator), HHS

▪ **Local Government**

Shire/City Engineer (office and residence), Welfare Agencies

▪ **Other Organisations**

VFF, Livestock industry organisations, AVA, vet practices,
Independent professional valuers

d] Attend local disaster committee meetings	as applicable
e] Surveillance and monitoring	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regular formal and informal visits to farmers (individuals and groups), saleyards, abattoirs, vet practitioners, knackeries and monitor all vet lab submissions for EAD. NB: most of these activities are undertaken under other projects 	<p>on-going</p>
<p>F] Conduct awareness meetings for industry, local government, other agencies and producer groups</p>	<p>regular</p>
<p>g] Participate in staff EAD training plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ on initial employment, Intro to AVP, Ag. Disaster Manual, Disease Investigation, IP/Field Ops Training packages ◆ VOs to complete AAHL EAD recognition course ◆ for those selected - intro to CCM package, CCM exercise and ANEMIS tutorial ◆ for those selected, Disaster Response Management Course ◆ for those selected, Controllers Course ◆ attend exercise at level of expertise 	<p>first year</p> <p>as available</p> <p>second year</p> <p>third year</p> <p>third or fourth year</p> <p>annually</p>
<p>h] Emergency Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ response to be in accordance with AUSVETPLAN and/or Agriculture Disaster Manual ◆ advise and assist other disaster management agencies when NRE has the supporting role ◆ preparedness for response across the state and where required, nationally 	<p>immediate</p> <p>immediate</p> <p>on-going</p>

1.4 Footrot	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
<p>Detection of Footrot in Saleyards/Public Place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Contact/recontact owner ◆ Farm visit ◆ conduct interview re LDCA breach, as required ◆ report activity and findings to SVO ◆ recommendation for action 	<p>1 wk</p> <p>2 wk</p> <p>2 wk</p> <p>2 wk</p>	<p></p> <p>2 wk</p> <p>4 wk</p> <p>4 wk</p>
<p>No virulent footrot detected (at farm visit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ report activity & findings ◆ revisit during transmission period, as required 	<p>2 wk</p>	<p>4 wk</p>
<p>Virulent footrot detected (at farm visit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Samples for laboratory examination <i>D.nodosus</i> confirmed ◆ Prepare property report of investigations ◆ Enter details on VADIS data base ◆ Identify tracebacks/traceforwards ◆ Advise appropriate offices of tracings ◆ Agreement discussed with owner & acknowledged ◆ Refer to approved advisor for control advice 	<p>4 wk</p> <p>2 wk</p>	<p>6 wk</p> <p>6 wk</p>
<p><i>Eradication program successful</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ based on minimum 2 visits at least 1 month apart during transmission period by approved advisor, no further action 		
<p>Eradication program unsuccessful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ identify obstacles impeding eradication ◆ redevelop program 	<p>4 wk</p>	<p>4 wk</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agreement discussed with owner & acknowledged ◆ Monitor through to its successful conclusion, as above 	2 wk	8 wk
1.5 Anthrax	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
<p><i>Farm visit and submission of specimens</i> Anthrax not diagnosed, advise SVO, MAHO, private vet</p> <p>Anthrax diagnosed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ impose quarantine ◆ advise SVO, MAHO, private vet, neighbours ◆ vaccinate herd/flock, collect history and stock movements, surveillance for further cases daily for 1 week, weekly to 3 weeks <p>Anthrax controlled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ lift quarantine as per MOP 	<p>24 hr</p> <p>immediate</p> <p>72 hr</p> <p>7 wk</p>	<p>0.2 wk</p> <p>0.5 wk</p> <p>7wk</p>

1.6 Bees - American Foulbrood (AFB)	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
Farm visit and submission of specimens	1 wk	1 wk
<p>Suspicious AFB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Impose quarantine, where appropriate ◆ Collect history of hive movements and other sites occupied by apiarist ◆ report activity to SAI 	3 wk	4 wk
<p>AFB not diagnosed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ lift quarantine, advise SAI 	1 wk	5 wk
AFB diagnosed		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ impose quarantine (if not already done) ◆ assess extent of infection in apiary ◆ advise SVO, neighbouring apiaries ◆ record activity to SAI 	2 wk	6 wk
<p>AFB Controlled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ lift quarantine 	as appropriate	
1.7 Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
<p>TB Notification Farm visit and confirmation of traceback</p>	48 hr	0.4 wk
<p>Suspicious tuberculosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Impose quarantine and MAHO/CVO advised ◆ Test herd ◆ Reactors valued and slaughtered 	24 hr 2 wk 1 wk	0.5 wk 3 wk
<p>Tuberculosis not diagnosed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lift quarantine (SVO) & advise MAHO/CVO 	10 wk	13 wk
<p>Tuberculosis diagnosed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Advise MAHO/CVO ◆ Surveillance for clinical cases (monthly) ◆ Develop TB disease eradication program 	72 hrs 4 wk	1 wk 5 wk
1.8 General surveillance & traceback systems	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cattle identification systems as per Project 2. ◆ Specimens collected for National Granuloma Submission Program. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Monitor pig sales and abattoirs for compliance with tattoo/tag requirements. 		
1.9 Animal Welfare	MAXIMUM RESPONSE TIME	MAXIMUM ELAPSED TIME
<u>Investigation of Complaint - invalid</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Report explaining why no further action intended ◆ Entered on data base 	1 wk 1 wk	1 wk 2 wk
<u>Investigation of Complaint - valid</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide extension/advice to rectify problem ◆ Advice posted or delivered to person responsible for animals - copy to SVO ◆ Monitor at appropriate intervals until problem resolved 	1 wk 2wk	1 wk 3wk
Regulatory action considered appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Appropriate action to relieve pain and suffering ◆ Complete investigation, conduct autopsies, collect specimens for laboratory confirmation, interview person responsible. Full/interim report prepared and lodged with SVO. ◆ SVO discusses report with officer and recommendations to MAHO; draft warning letter prepared and/or prosecution recommended to MAHO/PAHO 	24 hrs 4wk 4wk	 6wk 10wk
Participate in institute/regional Animal Experimentation Ethics Committees as appropriate	ongoing	