



2021-22

Annual Report





Welcome to our 2021-22 Annual Report

This interactive PDF allows you to navigate between sections easily. Clicking on one of the tabs at the top of each page takes you to the start of each section.

© Australian Animal Health Council Ltd 2022
ACN 071 890 956

Animal Health Australia contact details:
PO BOX 5116
Braddon ACT 2612
+61 2 6232 5522
aha@animalhealthaustralia.com.au
animalhealthaustralia.com.au

Design by Animal Health Australia
Photography All images are from Animal
Health Australia unless credited otherwise



Contents

Chair's Foreword	3
About AHA	5
Board of Directors	6
Our Members	7
Animal Health Year in Review	8
CEO Report	9
Financial Overview	13
AHA Strategic Plan 2020-25	16
Strategic Priority One	17
Strategic Priority Two	26
Strategic Priority Three	35
Customer, Strategy & Operations	44
Committee Representation	45
Communication & Media Highlights	46
Event Highlights	47
Monitoring and Evaluation Report	50
Corporate Governance	71
Abbreviations	73





Chair's Foreword

SHARON STARICK

As I reflect on the past 12 months, I would say that “biosecurity” has become a much more common and well-known term among all Australians as the threat of foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and African swine fever continue to pose a risk to Australian livestock producers.

This heightened awareness has also extended to other parts of agriculture including the grains industry, with many Australian farmers producing both crops and livestock and the potential that a disease outbreak would have on markets (domestic and export) as well as logistics.

The strength of Australia's biosecurity system continues to ensure that these diseases are not in our country, but Animal Health Australia (AHA) recognises that the system is facing unprecedented challenges.

We know that Australia is well-prepared to deal with the biosecurity threats at our borders, and the AHA team plays a world-leading role in the management of animal health programs such as the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA), the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) to ensure our preparedness for future disease threats is robust.

As a pork and grains producer I see this preparedness firsthand,

and the Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) outbreak in February of 2022 was more evidence that our strong systems in place are critical to combating these diseases and getting control of them early. The approach taken at the beginning of a response needs to be critically considered as a view to eradicate leads to different decisions and pathways when compared to controlling or managing an outbreak for impact.

Since the JEV outbreak it has been shown quite clearly how improving the understanding of AUSVETPLAN and EADRA continues to be just as critical as having the agreements and plans in place, and we continue to ensure we get the right messages out at the right time through our communications, training and extension activities.

Over the past 12 months the AHA Board has also been having a strategic discussion around climate change and how the risks associated such as more extreme weather events, longer summers, colder winters etc. impact our farmers,



our members and our business, including in the risk management of many of our animal health and biosecurity programs.

The JEv outbreak was another evidence of this as it showcased that mosquito vectors need to be monitored for longer periods than normal to ensure the surveillance systems are optimised to the heightened risks.

Advances in science and technology have also elucidated genetic technologies that present the opportunity for faster and more cost-effective detection of pests and diseases than current methods. PCR or eDNA testing has gone from taking days in the laboratory, to now having tests which can take minutes in the field environment; this is particularly relevant for disease detection including facilitating management in outbreaks.

It is exciting to see the recent shift in the use of mRNA vaccines bolstering Australia's mRNA vaccine capability, particularly for emerging animal diseases, and further investment in this technology could

help safeguard our animal industries into the future against known and emerging diseases.

Ultimately it has the potential to reduce the reliance on antibiotics in food producing animals with flow on benefits to human health, animal welfare and the environment.

There are a number of exciting opportunities ahead, but also unprecedented challenges.

Over the past 12 months AHA has focussed on adapting and changing, resulting in a major reframing and reshaping of Animal Health Australia's organisation and customer value.

In September we saw the successful rollout of the new organisational structure and a brand new way of delivering our programs through a customer centric approach –

ensuring that we can better deploy our resources and ensure that we meet the needs of our members. We welcome two brand new teams, the project management office and the member - customer value team and look forward to seeing them thrive over the next few years.

And finally, I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of all in the biosecurity ecosystem, our members and partners as well as the AHA staff who continue to go above and beyond to ensure that we are prepared and ready to respond.

I commend this Annual Report to you,

Sharon Starick

Chair

Animal Health Australia

Chair's key points



The new normal: the increasing threat of EADs such as FMD, LSD and ASF have seen our biosecurity

system face unprecedented challenges and these threats will not go away, and this is why AHA has been adapting its programs and projects to ensure we adapt, innovate and remain agile.



Climate change and other environmental impacts are influencing the way we tailor and deliver

AHA's projects and programs into the future, ensuring our investments are going into the right places at the right time.



We are reshaping and reframing AHA to ensure we are nimble, agile and continue to remain

fit for purpose and relevant to our members in this ever changing and complex biosecurity environment.



About AHA

Our role

Animal Health Australia (AHA) is the trusted and independent national animal health body in Australia, bringing together government and industry to deliver animal health and biosecurity. With our members we scan the horizon for threats and opportunities, advocate for and drive solutions and take a whole-of-sector approach to ensure the long-term success of Australia's animal health and biosecurity system.

Our vision

A national biosecurity system that provides every opportunity for Australian agriculture to succeed at home and overseas.

Our mission

Informing government and industry about national action required and delivering solutions together that enhance, strengthen and protect animal health and the biosecurity system.

Our values

Our work will be guided by our commitment to:

- **lead with integrity** — we listen, learn and deliver with the courage to shape a better future
- **connect and collaborate** — we understand the power of working together; as a collective we are stronger
- **innovate and grow** — we evolve and adapt, striving to find better ways and creative solutions
- **be bold and open** — we take action, add value and welcome hard conversations
- **embrace diversity** — our individual differences strengthen our efforts
- **customer-centric** — we listen to our customers, provide options, meet their specific needs and build solutions.



Board of Directors

AHA's Board comprises seven non-executive part-time Directors, all of whom are committed to and passionate about shaping AHA's future and the Australian animal health system. The primary role of the Board is to set and monitor the implementation of the company's strategic direction and establish goals by which the achievement of this may be measured.



SHARON STARICK (CHAIR)



CATHERINE COOPER



RENATA PALISKIS



DR LEN STEPHENS



MICHELLE GORMAN



PAULA FITZGERALD



MALCOLM LETTS





Our Members

The key factor behind the success of our projects is the ability of our members to work together through partnerships, to strengthen animal health and biosecurity in Australia and maximise confidence in the safety and quality of Australia's livestock products in domestic and international markets, enabling outcomes that would never be possible if the parties operated alone.

Australian, State and Territory Governments



Livestock Industries



Associate Members





Animal health year in review

AUG
2021

Exercise Tiliqua Part 1 was held to work through discussion scenarios and the application of the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP).

SEP
2021

ParaBoss digital communications, extension and website redevelopment program launched in collaboration with AWI, MLA and UNE.

Animal Health Australia joins the National Biosecurity Strategy writing group and plays a key role in driving its direction.

Launch of virtual reality sheep carcass tool in collaboration with PIRSA, to enhance and promote animal health management.

OCT
2021

Exercise Razorback transition to management final workshop held developing clear guidelines to be implemented as part of the EADRA 5-year review.

Updated Pork Biosecurity Manual released after an extensive expert review process coordinated over two-years.

NOV
2021

Exercise Gammalite, a first of its kind, two-day virtual exercise brought government, animal disease specialists, and industry bodies together to prepare the broader horse industry in responding to a future outbreak of equine influenza (EI).

DEC
2021

National Animal Biosecurity RD&E Strategy workshop sees 100+ participants discuss the strategies latest outcomes and developments.

FEB
2022

Japanese encephalitis virus outbreak detected across four states of Australia affects pork producers and horse owners, requiring emergency response plans to be put in place.

After a major review, an updated AUSVETPLAN enterprise manual for artificial breeding centres is published.

MAR
2022

After a major review, an updated AUSVETPLAN guidance document on Culicoides (biting midges) management during an emergency animal disease response was published.

Lumpy skin disease detected in Indonesia and puts Australia's north on high alert.

APR
2022

AHA convenes a government and industry exercise of the AUSVETPLAN response strategy for lumpy skin disease, with the findings to feed into the ongoing review.

MAY
2022

Foot and mouth disease detected in Indonesia puts Australia on high alert and sees enhanced biosecurity measures implemented at our borders.

Animal Health in Australia 2021 Annual Report released showcasing Australia's strong animal health response strategies and market access.

2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium sees 400+ of the biosecurity collective discuss the big strategic issues and launching 2021-2030 at the Decade of Biosecurity.

JUN
2022

AHA contracted by DAFF to coordinate and manage the 'Japanese encephalitis virus delimiting serosurveillance in domestic pigs' project across six jurisdictions.





CEO Report

KATHLEEN PLOWMAN

Since early 2021, African swine fever (ASF) has been of significant concern to Australia and our pork industry after being reported in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste. Then in early 2022, our pork and horse industry members were impacted by a Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) outbreak - a zoonotic disease, which sadly took the lives of five fellow Australians. This was quickly followed by the emergence of other emergency

animal diseases, first lumpy skin disease (LSD) and then foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) detections in Indonesia.

Throughout this, the resilience and strength of our national biosecurity system and our preparedness activities have been in the spotlight and, if there is one disease our livestock industries and governments are prepared for it is FMD.

Since the outbreak of FMD in the UK back in 2001, Australia has been extremely vigilant in ensuring we remain FMD free. Here lies the vital role that AHA plays, which is to ensure we, as a nation, are prepared for exotic disease outbreaks like FMD, and can, at a moment's notice to take action to contain and eradicate these awful diseases so our farmers can get back to feeding our nation and our markets.

Looking back over the year, we have worked diligently across 50 key national programs in the areas of surveillance, emergency preparedness and response, training, biosecurity and general animal health.

Our surveillance area worked strongly with our members to maintain Australia's freedom from exotic animal disease, improve animal health and market access, and foster the resilience and integrity of our animal health system.

One project that AHA is leading and coordinating is the national JEV delimiting surveillance in domestic pigs project. This project provides useful information on the extent of JEV transmission in the 2021-22 vector season, that is, summer and early autumn in the southern states. Furthermore, as JEV is a zoonotic disease, AHA surveillance collaborates with our human health counterparts through a OneHealth approach, for example, sharing knowledge from our role as managers of the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP) with the human





health National Arbovirus and Malaria Advisory Committee.

The Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) is the foundation of Australia's national preparedness and while it is regularly tried and tested through national exercises, we continue to ensure it remains nimble, agile, and fit for purpose. Key to this is the commitment of all EADRA signatories. After the JEV response in June 2022, we wrote to all signatories, encouraging them to remain committed to utilise the highly flexible processes available under the EADRA to rapidly respond to animal health emergencies.

Over the past 12 months we aimed to maintain our review schedule of our 66 AUSVETPLANs. With the increased threat of LSD and FMD, we fast-tracked the reviews of these two response strategies to ensure confidence in the plan. It was a big effort and I thank everyone – government and industry – that was involved in this process.

A key part of our what we do is to help people to understand their roles and responsibilities and how a disease response works so that they know

what needs to happen and when. For example, having access to the right vaccines such as FMD and anthrax, producers protecting their farms through good biosecurity practices and Farm Biosecurity Plans, tailored training programs for our members so they are informed and ready at a moment's notice to act during a disease response. We were delighted to maintain our LLI, CCEAD and NMG training virtually and induct 68 new members to the National Biosecurity Team over the past 12 months. We now have a new cohort of trained professionals who are ready to act should they be required as part of an emergency response.

We have also been renewing our focus around the importance of on-farm biosecurity having initiated a new 3-year strategic plan with the Farm Biosecurity program (led with PHA) and continuing to innovate through key partnerships with co-funding and developing new tools such as virtual reality apps showcasing disease risk and monitoring.

While we have continued to successfully deliver on our core business priorities

and ensure this is where our focus remains, we have also been extending ourselves to begin new projects and programs, with ParaBoss (an online resource for parasite management information or sheep, goats and cattle) being an excellent example of this. Over the past 12 months the ParaBoss program has engaged with 631 livestock producers directly between March and June 2022, through a strategic national extension program (both online and in person) focused on timely parasite management tailored to seasonal topics.

As a founding partner for the Biosecurity Collective, AHA has also been working closely with other sectors and partners to strengthen the national biosecurity system, with particular focus on prevention and early action to prevent detrimental impacts on Australian communities, industry and environment from invasive plants, pests and diseases. This was clearly seen and captured through the success of the 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium and Decade of Biosecurity launch in May of this year. It was so exciting to have an



Several AHA staff presented, attended and were involved in the management of the 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium which saw over 400 delegates from across Australia and the biosecurity collective attend.

in-person event after a two-year hiatus, and have all governments sign up to the Decade of Biosecurity campaign along with key peak bodies such as National Farmers Federation, Landcare Australia, NRM Regions Australia and the National Landcare Network. A major coup was also securing Costa Georgiadis as the inaugural Decade of Biosecurity ambassador. It was great to see many of you attend the event and provide such positive feedback.

Animal Health Australia also played key roles in the drafting and eventual publishing of Australia's first National Biosecurity Strategy - a key action item/outcome identified from the 2019 inaugural Biosecurity Symposium Collective.

A momentous occasion for ensuring our biosecurity system continually

adapts to the growing threats. We, and the Industry Forum, also played a role in the development of Animalplan, Australia's National Action Plan for Terrestrial Agricultural Animal Health.

On final reflections, this past year has demonstrated that Animal Health Australia is good and effective at what we do. We are strong in our pre-eminent and key leadership roles in ensuring Australia's current and ongoing preparedness for outbreaks of EADs, which includes some 64-known exotic diseases. We are good at cultivating our community and extensive network of members and other stakeholders in the biosecurity collective. And we are well placed to identify opportunities to enhance, value add and initiate new projects to support biosecurity and emergency preparedness.

Over the last 12 months we have identified gaps and opportunities where we can add value to current national EAD and biosecurity projects (including EAD training). Our technical expertise, collaboration and partnership approach across

members and sectors is in much demand. However, our continuing ability to action these enhancements and thereby strengthen government and industry preparedness and response and improve our national biosecurity system is constrained by budget and resourcing.

In the face of changing and increasing EAD threats, we are experiencing a paradigm shift – a new norm, best described as an all-encompassing pre response phase with a renewed focus on preparedness and prevention. While AHA has implemented surge measures funded from corporate reserves and reprioritised other work to keep pace, this is unsustainable without a fundamental reset of the AHA income base that better reflects the outsized demand for AHA core services in this EAD pre-response environment.

Still, we remain nimble, agile, and innovative and at the ready. I commend the exceptional commitment and dedication of our staff and teams who have stepped-up to each challenge and opportunity

to improve and strengthen animal health and biosecurity at all levels. Of course, my thanks and acknowledgement also go to the AHA Board, who have backed us each time in this extra ordinary environment.

Kathleen Plowman

CEO

Animal Health Australia



Kathleen Plowman (CEO) and Sharon Starick (Chair) at the 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium.



Each of the CEOs of the Biosecurity Collective partners (L:R Andrew Cox, Sarah Corcoran, Kathleen Plowman and Andreas Glanznig) with Costa Georgiadis (middle), our inaugural Decade of Biosecurity Ambassador.

CEO's Top 3 Highlights



Preparedness activities ramp up

We have fast tracked our reviews of key AUSVETPLANS such as FMD and LSD, and been invited to participate in key industry and member webinar committees and roundtables to ensure correct, factual and timely information on emergency preparedness arrangements in Australia.



Mosquito surveillance and monitoring heightened

In addition to managing our major national animal health surveillance programs on behalf of our members, we have also taken a lead role in national animal health surveillance for Japanese encephalitis virus.



Decade of Biosecurity launched

May 2022 saw the launch of the 2020s as the 'Decade of Biosecurity', a collaborative initiative seeking to engage all Australians in a stronger biosecurity system. The initiative began as an outcome of the 2019 Australian Biosecurity Symposium.





Financial Overview

ASHLEY TURNER *FGIA CPA*
AHA's Company Secretary
& Head of Finance

The 2021-22 operating result sees AHA transition from the prior year's COVID-19 constraints and delivers on 2021-22 project outcomes.

In 2021 Animal Health Australia (AHA) restructured in response to the increasing threat to and complexity of Australia's animal health and biosecurity system. The restructure has put in place the foundations of a more responsive and adaptable AHA, as demanded by our operating environment and its rate of change. This supports AHA with the capabilities to act more proactively and decisively in the face of an emergency animal disease (EAD) and to better allocate resources in a time when securing funding and human capital is an ever-increasing challenge for all organisations.

The net operating result was a \$0.7m surplus. This was primarily driven by industry levy income exceeding project expenditure by \$2.1m, offset by a \$1.1m reduction in the marked-to-market valuation of investments and a \$0.5m write-down of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) Vaccine bank.

Income

Subscription income received from government, non-levy industry, and associate members was \$3.1m. Revenue from non-subscription

programs of \$3.6m was \$0.5m better than budget, as projects delivered on their 2021-22 milestones and caught up on previous year activities deferred as a result of COVID-19.

After a strong FY 20-21, the impacts of global inflation, labour shortages and the volatility in domestic and international markets have seen the valuation of AHA's medium and long-term investments marked-to-market \$1.1m down at 30 June. Throughout the second half of FY 21-22, the Board adjusted the AHA investment risk profile by moving 11 per cent of total investments into lower-risk assets. (Refer to Note 4).

Levy income was \$0.1m and \$0.3m better than budget and the prior year respectively, as the impact of the end of the flock rebuild, improved weather conditions and high prices increased sheep and lamb levies, marginally offset by a herd rebuild reducing cattle levies. The AHA EADRA levy was activated for laying and meat chicken for the 2020 Victorian Avian Influenza (AI) response. This \$0.2m unbudgeted EADRA levy was collected and

subsequently returned to the Commonwealth as per priority three (3) of the Australian Animal Health Council (livestock Industries) Funding Act 1996 (AAHC Act).

Other income exceeded budget by \$0.4m, primarily due to the revenue generated from the highly successful Biosecurity Symposium held on the Gold Coast in early May 2022. The event attracted three hundred fifty-eight attendees, \$0.1m in sponsorship and \$0.4m in subscriptions, with the surplus shared equally amongst event partners.

Expenditure

2021-22 saw the transition out of the COVID-19 constraints, with AHA increasing face-to-face interactions with its members and customers, holding on-site training and events, and reprioritising and expanding surveillance and laboratory testing. Subscription program activity of \$5.2m was in line with both budget and the 2020/21 financial year, following members' agreement to maintain an inflationary increase at one (1) per cent to core subscriptions. Non-subscription program activities

of \$7.5m were \$1m greater than the prior year, returning to 2019/20 levels.

The catchup on prior year activities post-COVID-19 and the delivery of 2021-22 project milestones was supported through the use of consultants, as AHA, like many organisations, grappled with recruitment and talent sourcing in a very tight Canberra labour market, with vacancy and recruitment timelines driving a salary and wages result that was marginally down on 2020-21 numbers. 2021-22 saw other material increases in recruitment costs, labour hire, venue hire, staff, and non-staff travel.

Balance Sheet

The increase in equity of \$0.7m is reflected in a \$3.0m increase in total assets (\$2.6m increase in cash & investments and \$1.7m take up of the Right of Use Asset) offset by a \$2.3m increase in total liabilities (\$0.8m in contracted liabilities and \$1.7m lease liability). In 2022 AHA signed a new five-year lease with a five-year option at 243 Northbourne

Avenue and in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16, accounted for this 10-year lease commitment (\$1.7m) as a non-current asset (Right of Use Asset) and as a non-current liability (Lease Liability).

Summary

The 2021-22 operating result sees AHA transition from the prior year's COVID-19 constraints and delivers on 2021-22 project outcomes. AHA has acted decisively to provide a restructured organisation better suited to meeting its organisational objectives and responding to the increasing complexity and challenge to Australia's national animal health and biosecurity system. The outlook for 2022-23 remains uncertain as AHA seeks to rally the system resources, focus and urgency required to prepare and respond in the face of an increased likelihood of a serious disease incursion.





15.1m

TOTAL
REVENUE

6.7m

SUBSCRIPTION AND
NON SUBSCRIPTION
PROGRAM INCOME

0.3m

INTEREST /
DISTRIBUTIONS

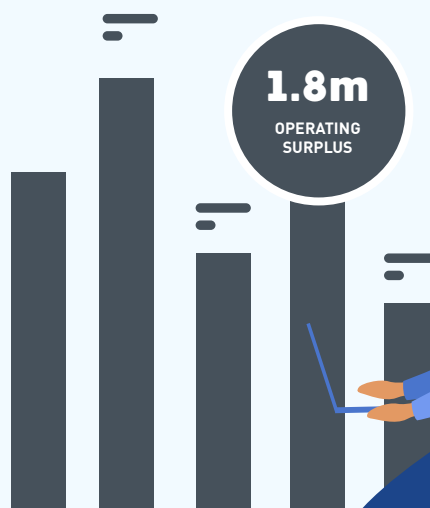
7.3m

LEVIES

0.8m

OTHER
INCOME

Financial Snapshot



1.8m

OPERATING
SURPLUS

13.3m

TOTAL
EXPENDITURE

5.2m

SUBSCRIPTION
PROGRAM
ACTIVITY

7.5m

NON-SUBSCRIPTION
PROGRAM
ACTIVITY

0.5m

ASSET WRITE-
DOWNS

View our full
financial statements
by scanning this
QR code or visiting
the corporate
publications section
of our website.





Strategic Plan 2020–2025

The world around us is changing. AHA's Strategic Plan 2020–25 considers this changing operating environment and seeks to overcome challenges facing the animal health and biosecurity system. AHA's strategic direction is supported by three strategic priorities.

This is year two of the new five year plan.



**Prepared
and ready to
respond**



**Better health
and biosecurity
practices**



**Connecting
systems for
stronger
biosecurity**





1

Prepared and ready to respond

Enhancing Australia's capability to detect and respond to emergency animal disease (EAD), supporting Australia's domestic and international market access.





Overview

AHA will ensure that Australia's emergency preparedness and response capabilities are strong and able to deal with increasing biosecurity risks to the agricultural sector. We will build on the mechanisms already in place through an integrated and coordinated approach, leading to a better prepared and resilient system.

Key 2021-22 Highlights



Reviewed and tested national emergency response arrangements to develop recommendations to enhance the operations of the EADRA

- Coordinated the 'After Action Review' of national arrangements for the 2020 avian influenza responses with findings referred to the EADRA five-year review.
- Collaborated with Plant Health Australia to engage with members of the National Biosecurity Committee on the efficiency of emergency response Deed operations was completed.
- Project managed the on budget, on time delivery of the final Exercise Razorback workshops, testing the guidance on the new transition to management principles which have been written into the EADRA.
- Delivered the Exercise Gammalite program in collaboration with Harness Racing Australia to exercise an equine influenza response with the horse industries and Australian governments.



Supported response capabilities of our members

- Completed a major recruitment for the NBRT Program, leading to 68 cross-sectoral response personnel being inducted onto the NBRT from across Australian, state and territory government biosecurity agencies.
- Developed new training materials for LLI personnel, including an information guide and just-in-time training pack.
- Collectively delivered virtually five (5) CCEAD, NMG and LLI workshops, with a total of 41 government and 52 industry participants in attendance.



Published four updated or new AUSVETPLAN documents

- Pork industry, and artificial breeding centres enterprise manuals (both were major reviews)
- Porcine epidemic diarrhoea response strategy (new manual)
- Managing insect vectors during an EAD response (major review)





Outlook for 2022-23



Engage with signatories to undertake the scheduled five-year review of the EADRA incorporating learnings from the recent exercises and responses including the AI and JEv responses and implement efficiencies to EADRA program management and delivery.



Influence broader emergency animal disease preparedness and response policy through identification of key issues during priority AUSVETPLAN updates, the five-yearly review of EADRA and reviews of EAD responses.



Develop EAD response capability of members who perform national EAD response roles as representatives on CCEAD, NMG and LLI by providing contemporary, fit for purpose training solutions.



Enhance jurisdictional response capability through the development and implementation of biosecurity emergency response training within the NBRT and the new NBRT Cadet Programs.



Lead and implement activities under the National Animal Health Surveillance Plan, which contributes to Animalplan.



Manage the 'Japanese encephalitis virus delimiting serosurveillance in domestic pigs' project which will inform future national Japanese encephalitis virus surveillance activities.



Enhance entomology capability and capacity through training in the identification of Culicoides midges and screw worm fly, development of reference resources for Culicoides identification and supporting entomology with molecular diagnostics.



Strengthen the NAMP and its Operations Plan by incorporating learnings from Exercise Tiliqua.





"Of course, the hope is that there are no future disease incursions, but if there is, then we all need to be prepared to play our role and minimise the impacts we saw back in 2007. We felt an exercise like this would assist all equine groups preparedness and knowledge."

- Andrew Kelly, CEO Harness Racing Australia

Horse industries rehearse an equine influenza outbreak

In a first of its kind, a two-day virtual exercise brought government, animal disease specialists, and industry bodies together to prepare the broader horse industry in responding to a theoretical outbreak of equine influenza (EI).

Hosted and coordinated by Animal Health Australia from 23–24 November 2021, Exercise Gammalite consisted of practical activities to ensure all industry stakeholders understand the role they play in responding to an outbreak, should one occur. Initiated and funded by Harness Racing Australia, the exercise attracted 60 participants in total including those from national horse organisations: Racing Australia, Australian Horse Industry Council, and Equestrian Australia, as well as several Commonwealth and jurisdictional Chief Veterinary Officers.

"The EI exercise was designed to achieve an increased awareness and understanding around everyone's roles and responsibilities should an outbreak occur in the future." Dr Samantha Allan.





Core Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) Operation and Integrity	<p>Ensure the EADRA remains a nationally agreed, contemporary and legally binding Deed that enables a rapid, effective and efficient response to EADs.</p> <p>Ensure all EADRA signatories understand their shared obligations and legal responsibilities as well as their benefits under the EADRA.</p>	<p>The EADRA continues to be thoroughly tested through key exercises with peak bodies, governments and other affected stakeholders.</p> <p>Guidance on the implementation of new EADRA clauses for transmission to management were tested through the final Exercise Razorback workshops.</p> <p>Learnings will be used to both update the guidance document and inform the five year review of the EADRA.</p>	
Informing Emergency Animal Disease Responses	Maintain a government and industry endorsed suite of evidence-based EAD policy resources (AUSVETPLAN) which inform decision making to underpin a nationally agreed and cost-shared EAD response plan.	<p>During the first half of the 2021-2022 financial year, AUSVETPLAN was making good progress – four updated or new manuals</p> <p>The detection of lumpy skin disease and then foot-and-mouth disease in Indonesia required a significant shift in focus and prioritisation of these two reviews above everything else in the work plan. Significant progress was made on both these reviews and they are on track for finalisation and publication early in the 2022-2023 financial year.</p>	
Increase Response Capacity and Capability	Deliver tailored training and education that builds the response capability of AHA and our members.	<p>AHA continually sought to refine and deliver relevant and fit-for-purpose training and resources to our members over 2021-22.</p> <p>The imminent threat of FMD and LSD has shifted focus and led to an increase in demand for training, particularly those with an awareness scope.</p>	



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK





Other Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine Bank Management	Enhance Australia's preparedness for an FMD outbreak by ensuring access to the appropriate FMD vaccines, if required for use in a response.	Australia has an agreement in place with a major international manufacturer of veterinary pharmaceuticals in Europe (UK and France) to provide FMD vaccine within seven working days, to be used as part of an emergency response. The agreement has been reviewed in line with the increased likelihood of an outbreak in Australia.	
Anthrax Vaccine Bank Management	Enhance Australia's preparedness for a significant anthrax outbreak by maintaining a local inventory of anthrax vaccine.	The anthrax vaccine bank project ensures that a local supply of imported anthrax vaccine (specially manufactured to Australian specification) is available immediately should it be needed to respond to a large-scale outbreak of anthrax.	
Johne's Disease (JD) and Anthrax Reference Laboratories	Provide Reference Laboratory services to support national disease management programs for animal diseases with a high public health risk, such as JD and anthrax. These services underpin national control, eradication, and market assurance programs, facilitate interstate and international trade, optimise public health through zoonosis recognition and support biosecurity measures.	Reference laboratory services have continued to support national disease management for Johne's disease and anthrax despite challenges faced due to COVID restrictions impacting the collection and submission of samples, and staff movements. The Reference Laboratories continue to strengthen national and international relations and communications.	

Cont'd

**PROJECT TRACKER****COMPLETED****ON TRACK****NOT ON TRACK**



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Maintain Access to Arbovirus Sensitive Markets	Monitor the distribution of economically important arboviruses of livestock such as Bluetongue, and their vectors.	The NAMP is an invaluable resource for supporting market access for livestock and their products. The scenario-based discussion exercise held in 2021-22 was viewed favourably by members and has informed further enhancements to the program operations in the upcoming year.	
Enhanced Surveillance for Significant Exotic Diseases of Pigs	Raise awareness of important exotic pig diseases and encourage submission of diagnostic samples by private veterinarians seeing pigs. This supports international market access by providing greater evidence of the absence of exotic pig diseases in Australia	This project successfully increased engagement between private pig veterinarians and government laboratories and increased the number of samples submitted for serious notifiable pig diseases. This helps to support Australia's claims of disease freedom when negotiating trade agreements. Based on these results, APL has agreed to fund this valuable project for a further two years.	
National Biosecurity Response Team Program (NBRT)	Build the capability and capacity of a national team of biosecurity emergency response specialists, who can be requested by any jurisdiction to assist in the event of a biosecurity response.	68 members were appointed onto the NBRT as the program entered its second cycle. The introduction of new members invigorated the program with fresh perspectives and networks. While the membership has been highly engaged, the toll that their increased jurisdictional preparedness and response activities are having on members' availabilities are becoming more apparent.	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK





Several members of the National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT) were in attendance at the 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium showcasing how this Team is enacted during pest and disease emergency responses.





TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Maintain Australia's Freedom from Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)	<p>Maintain Australia's freedom from classical bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and scrapie, and highest-level international rating.</p> <p>Carry out sufficient TSE surveillance to meet international requirements, assure markets that Australian animals and animal products are free of TSEs and to ensure the early detection of a TSE (should it occur).</p> <p>Demonstrate that no restricted animal material is fed to ruminants.</p>	<p>Adequate surveillance of cattle, sheep and goats completed in the program and reported to the Australian Government, which was in turn reported to the OIE (now WOAH).</p> <p>This surveillance reporting has allowed Australia to maintain our status of free of BSE and scrapie.</p>	
Monitoring for an Exotic Zoonotic Pest	<p>Monitor the level of risk of SWF establishment in Australia, provide sampling kits to enable early detection in the event of an incursion, and raise awareness of SWF in northern Australian communities.</p>	<p>AHA is strengthening the Screw Worm Fly Surveillance and Preparedness Program, by planning an entomology workshop to be held in September 2022, and by planning a project for late 2022 to evaluate the sensitivity of myiasis inspections of wounds as a surveillance strategy.</p>	



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK





2

Better health and biosecurity practices

With a focus on prevention and strengthening on-farm and supply chain biosecurity practices, we will ensure animal health, welfare and product integrity are protected, reducing the impacts of disease and improving producer and supply chain outcomes.





Overview

As an effective collaborator and trusted partner, AHA will work with our members and partners to benefit biosecurity practices at a grass-roots level and with supply chain reach-through. Through joint effort we will enable producers to provide premium products with high levels of access to markets at home and overseas.

Key 2021–22 Highlights



Farm Biosecurity resources and tools developed

- Released several new on-farm materials to support best practice animal disease management including, development of a new Mosquito Management for Piggeries Manual (during the JEv outbreak) and an updated Pork Biosecurity Manual.



ParaBoss program goes from strength to strength

- Continued to drive and deliver the ParaBoss phase 3 communication, extension and adoption program, which includes delivery of an updated and upgraded ParaBoss website.





Outlook for 2022-23



Enhance the impact of the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project, utilising the findings from other related projects, and improve benefits to producers from the animal health feedback.

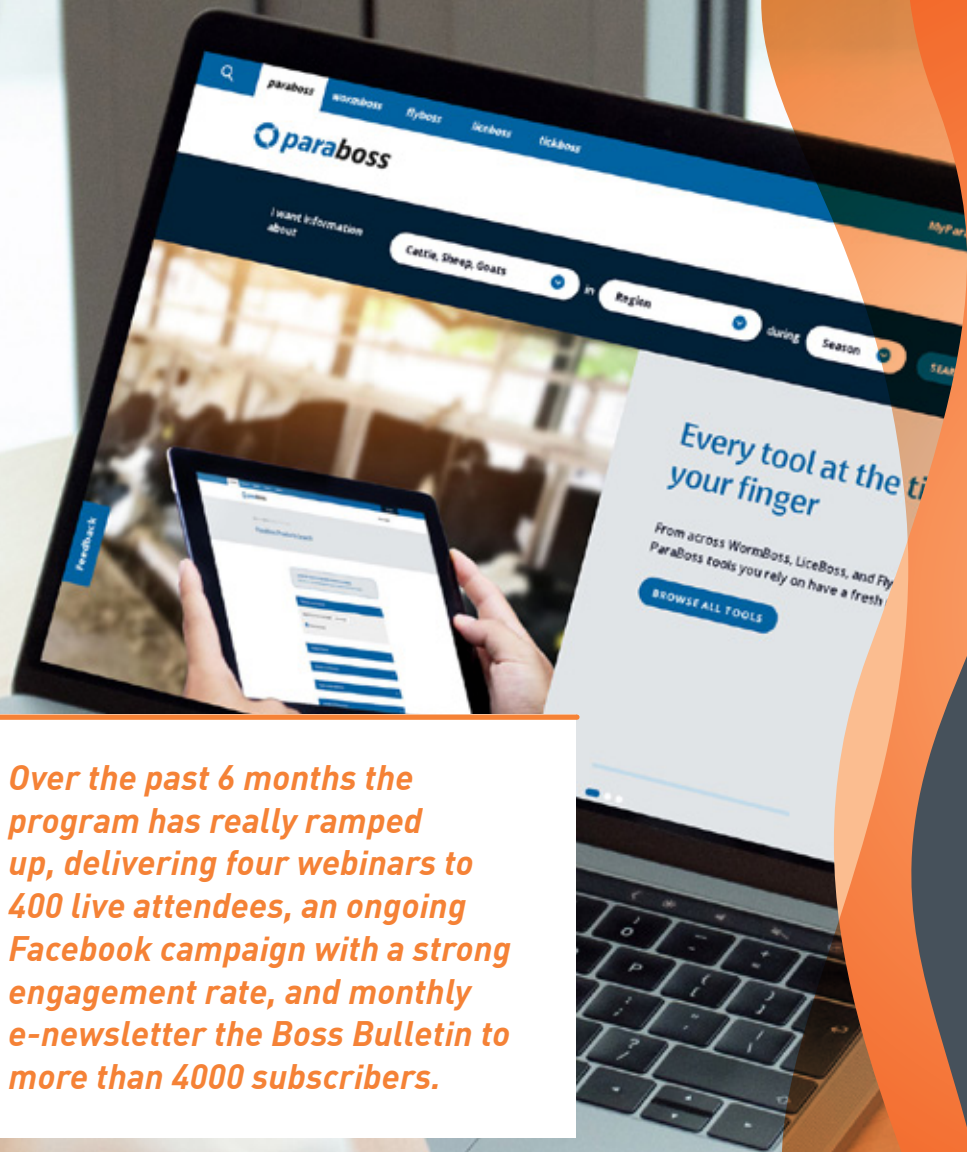


Utilise recently developed augmented and virtual reality tools to help deliver biosecurity extension to cattle, sheep and wool producers.



Support stronger biosecurity systems through strengthening connections between participants in the production value chain.





Over the past 6 months the program has really ramped up, delivering four webinars to 400 live attendees, an ongoing Facebook campaign with a strong engagement rate, and monthly e-newsletter the Boss Bulletin to more than 4000 subscribers.

ParaBoss phase 3 takes lift off

ParaBoss is the national authority for sheep, goat and cattle parasite control in Australia, providing information on parasites and their control through its suite of products – WormBoss, FlyBoss, LiceBoss and TickBoss.

The program is owned by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), and the University of New England (UNE), with contributions from Animal Health Australia (AHA).

Phase III of the ParaBoss program (2021-2024), managed by AHA, includes designing a new producer-friendly website interface, making information easily accessible with improved regional information available at your fingertips, along with an extension program which will involve face to face workshops and a series of webinars tailored for producers.





Core Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Better On-Farm Biosecurity	<p>Increase the implementation of biosecurity practices on-farm and throughout the supply chain.</p> <p>Assist livestock producers to manage the health conditions of their animals.</p>	<p>The Farm Biosecurity program continues to be a key resource for biosecurity preparedness on farm. A new 3-year strategy has been developed and will begin from July 2022.</p> <p>During the JEv outbreak, key resources developed around vector management for piggeries and horses were loaded to the site and downloaded many thousands of times.</p>	
Improving Livestock Welfare	<p>Facilitate national solutions that maintain and increase market access through effective partnerships for livestock welfare, policy development and implementation.</p>	<p>AHA participated in national committees and groups such as the Animal Welfare Collective and developed a new welfare statement to better define AHA's future role in welfare activities.</p>	



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK





Other Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
On Farm Biosecurity Extension (SA/NSW)	Provide tools and resources that build awareness and understanding of farm biosecurity practices, resulting in practice change.	With the departure of AHA's Extension officers in late 2021, AHA sought to undertake a review of its extension services, resulting in a delay for field activity for current extension programs. The review is exploring alternative delivery options with partners.	
Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians	Provide a contemporary, accessible online learning platform to allow registered veterinarians to access training to become accredited to participate in government veterinary programs. Maintain a database of accredited veterinarians and business services to ensure it is current and supported by appropriate accreditation fees.	The database of accredited veterinarians was maintained throughout 2021-22 in support of associated certification programs.	
Australian Government Accredited Veterinarian Training	Provide a contemporary, accessible online learning platform to allow private veterinarians to become accredited to undertake export certification work on behalf of governments.	The AAVet Course was redeveloped to reflect recent updates to legislation and processes, as well as enhancing user experience elements of the course.	
Cattle Health	Provide the framework for a nationally integrated approach to health conditions and biosecurity within the Australian cattle industry.	A Cattle Disease Guide for producers is under development with PIRSA, due to be launched in second half of 2022.	

Cont'd

**PROJECT TRACKER****COMPLETED****ON TRACK****NOT ON TRACK**



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Cattle – Northern Breeding Business (NB2)	As part of the Northern Breeding Business Strategic RDE&A Partnership (NB2), Meat & Livestock Australia, AHA and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation have partnered to support indigenous producer groups to develop innovative communication methods, utilising immersive digital technologies that support “on-country” learning opportunities, which promote adoption of animal health practice innovations that maximise reproductive outcomes for the breeder herd.	Three producer workshops out of a planned four occurred in this period, with the development of the immersive biosecurity tool well under way.	
National Management of Johne’s Disease (JD)	Manage the cross-sectorial issues associated with JD in alpacas, cattle, goats and alpacas.	Presentation given at the International Paratuberculosis Forum as well as a meeting held of the steering committee to discuss common JD issues.	
Goat Health	Provide the framework for a nationally integrated approach to health conditions and biosecurity within the Australian goat industry.	GoatMAP review process near completion with a release planned in late 2022.	
Improving Livestock Welfare – Pigs	Develop pig national livestock welfare standards, with complementary guidelines, to provide welfare outcomes that are evidence based and meet community and market expectations.	This work was delayed by the governments’ Animal Welfare Task Group while the Poultry Welfare Standards & Guidelines have continued to be developed by DAFF.	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK





TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Prohibited Pig Feed Compliance & Awareness	Harmonise compliance and awareness work performed by state/territory jurisdictions and industry, to prevent the potential introduction and spread of EADs due to the feeding of prohibited pig feed (swill) to pigs.	Compliance data continues to be recorded with evidence of high levels of compliance found through the jurisdictional and industry data collection.	
ParaBoss	Expand producer, grower and trusted advisor audience reach and recognition of sheep, goat and cattle parasite management.	The ParaBoss phase 3 program is delivering an upgraded website and continues to roll out a strategic and structured producer communication and extension program.	
National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy (NSIBS)	Work with Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia to deliver the NSIBS. Identify gaps within the sheep industry related to biosecurity and either address them directly or leverage other projects to do so.	A new augmented reality Sheep EAD app was delivered in collaboration with PIRSA and Think Digital and officially launched in August 2022.	
Feedlot Sheep Health	Work with Sheep Producers Australia to assess possible health issues with feedlot sheep and develop extension and other resources to help producers prevent or avoid them.	The project is now in full swing with feedlot visits by the researchers and will be completed within 12 months.	
Fit to Lamb	Create a database of existing research and effect of management practices specific to sheep breed, ewe age and production environment on lamb mortality.	After significant delays in contracting between the other project partners, this project is now likely to start early in 2022-23.	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK





TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Rebuilding the Flock	Social science research into the reason for Australia's sheep flock being at an historic low and recommendations to underpin the sustainability of sheep meat/wool industry supply chains and the communities/ economies they support.	This project was completed at the end of the year. Report provided to Sheep Producers Australia for their consideration and action.	
Sheep Health	Provide the framework for a nationally integrated approach to health conditions and biosecurity within the Australian sheep industry. Monitor sheep health and productivity conditions through abattoir monitoring, reporting back to producers.	Abattoir inspections continued in 8 abattoirs with work underway to integrate the South Australian abattoir from January when the Enhanced Abattoir Surveillance program ceased there. All data provided to Livestock Data Link for producers to be able to potentially increase the productivity of their stock. Finalisation of the virtual reality carcass tool as well as the first 'Feedback Focus' producer workshops occurred.	
Sheep Pneumonia Survey	A sampling survey during all four seasons of the year in four different abattoirs to determine the cause of pneumonia in sheep.	Successful sampling of affected carcasses across four different abattoirs and four seasons and found that Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae was a significant pathogen in causing this disease.	
Sheep Footrot Resistance Genetics	Validation of breeding values in Australia and eventually provide ram buyers with information to assist them select rams that are more resistant to footrot.	Project near completion and awaiting final report. Data from two different cohorts of sheep challenged with footrot submitted to Sheep Genetics for consideration.	
Liver Fluke Project	Investigate the prevalence and typical infestation levels of liver fluke in kangaroos which co-habit livestock grazing environments endemic to liver fluke.	UNE research completed and findings included that livestock farms hosting macropods pose further challenges to liver fluke control given their potential to harbour liver fluke and for cross-species transmission.	



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK





3

Connecting systems for stronger biosecurity

Delivering cross-sectoral outcomes that improve the status and integrity of regional, state and national biosecurity systems, contributing to the protection of current market access pathways and the identification of new opportunities.





Overview

Biosecurity systems are interdependent – animal, plant, environment, pest/weed, aquatic and human. We will engage with the biosecurity collective to foster new partnerships, opportunities and outcomes which clearly drive an ‘all of Australia’ biosecurity focus. A key step in connecting systems for stronger biosecurity will be the integration of animal biosecurity with plant industries and the natural environment.

Key 2021–22 Highlights



National strategies and plans

- Supported and contributed to the development of National Biosecurity Strategy and Animalplan. Supported progress of the National Wild Dog Action Plan which received further government funding.



2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium launches a Decade of Biosecurity

- The 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium saw 400+ delegates congregate on the Gold Coast and launch 2021-2030 as the Decade of Biosecurity in collaboration with all Governments and founding partners, Plant Health Australia, Invasive Species Council, Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, NRM Regions Australia, National Farmers Federation, Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network.



Delivering market access through key surveillance programs

- Coordinated National Surveillance Programs such as NAMP which continues to ensure Australia remains free of key diseases and delivered the 2021 Animal Health in Australia publication published in May 2022.





Outlook for 2022-23



Support the delivery of a Decade of Biosecurity particularly through building a network of biosecurity champions and developing additional awareness raising resources.



Build stronger cross sectoral connections across the biosecurity collective.



Explore opportunities to enhance future surveillance outcomes and systems, drawing on the Transformational Change to Surveillance Workshop and NAHS Plan initiative.



Participate in the Animalplan steering committee.





Image supplied by Wool Producers Australia



The program aims to ensure a biosecurity system ready for 2030. So that every individual Australian, business and organisation recognises and understands their role and the important contribution they can play in creating a stronger and more resilient biosecurity system.

The Decade of Biosecurity builds momentum

The Decade of Biosecurity is a collaborative initiative that seeks to engage all Australians in a stronger biosecurity system. The initiative began as an outcome of the 2019 Australian Biosecurity Symposium to future-proof Australia's biosecurity system and was officially launched in May this year.

The program aims to mobilise a 25 million strong mass movement, secure sustainable investment in biosecurity, foster innovation and create a formal partnership between government, industry and the community.

This initiative is being advanced by the Biosecurity Collective founding partners on behalf of the National Farmers' Federation, Landcare Australia, National Landcare Network, and NRM Regions Australia. All jurisdictional and federal governments have also led their support and backing.

Through the Decade of Biosecurity, we seek to put industries, businesses and community members at the centre with governments so that together we can achieve a stronger biosecurity system to better protect our economy, environment and way of life.

The program aims to ensure a biosecurity system ready for 2030. So that every individual Australian, business and organisation recognises and understands their role and the important contribution they can play in creating a stronger and more resilient biosecurity system.





NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

Connected Resilient Shared

Australia's first National Biosecurity Strategy

The release of Australia's first National Biosecurity Strategy by Minister Watt completes the first step of the Biosecurity Collective's five-point plan and Animal Health Australia was pleased to play a major role in the delivery of this Strategy as part of the writing group and consultation processes.

The release of the strategy in July of this year is a big step towards ensuring the biosecurity system is up to scratch – with several large scale pest and disease threats close to our border – and it is excellent to see a sustainable investment plan as one of the priority areas.

The Strategy, which will guide the work of government, industry and community for the next decade and beyond will be reviewed after five years.

"We've been calling for a national strategy for many years, which includes a strong plan for long-term and sustainable investment in the system. Our members have been actively involved in the Strategy's development, and with foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and other threats now closer than ever, the time is right to ensure that this strategy is implemented effectively, properly and collaboratively, and receives the funding it needs and deserves," Kathleen Plowman said.



Core Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Collaborative Disease Investigations	Increase engagement with private veterinarians. Deliver tailored programs with the aim of increasing the quantity and quality of livestock and wildlife disease investigations reported nationally.	The program continued to provide valuable support to improve veterinary investigations of significant diseases of livestock and wildlife. The program assists veterinarians with the investigation of complex cases through financial support of veterinary investigations and training of veterinarians.	
National Animal Health Laboratory Coordination	Support the development and delivery of the National Diagnostics Business Plan, including delivering on AHA commitments in the business plan. Participate in the Animal Health Committee (AHC) subcommittee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards (SCAHLs) Support initiatives for improving laboratory and diagnostics outcomes. Provide a means for industry concerns to be heard at SCAHLs.	AHA continues to play an important role in SCAHLs, strengthening animal health diagnostics in Australia, which is fundamental to an effective surveillance system.	

Cont'd

**PROJECT TRACKER****COMPLETED****ON TRACK****NOT ON TRACK**



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Supporting Market Access	<p>Provide governance for the collation, analysis and reporting of an agreed national surveillance dataset.</p> <p>Maintain an online database of national animal health information which is accessible to governments to support trade negotiations and market access.</p> <p>Manage the production of agreed national surveillance publications.</p>	<p>AHA has continued to manage the agreed animal health surveillance dataset and database, and to publish summary surveillance reports such as Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly and Animal Health in Australia Annual Report.</p> <p>AHA has also been actively evaluating the trial of Auspestcheck for animal health surveillance data - an updated surveillance data management system.</p>	
Surveillance Support	<p>Participate in the development, delivery and evaluation of national animal disease surveillance initiatives including the National Animal health Surveillance Plan and its supporting activities.</p>	<p>AHA has been leading the finalisation of the National Animal Health Surveillance Plan.</p>	



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK





Other Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
Biosecurity 2030	<p>Develop a platform and resources to connect government, industry and community to pave the way for transformational change over the next decade - a biosecurity mass movement.</p> <p>Meet challenges and future-proof Australia's biosecurity system to protect our economy, environment and way of life.</p>	The 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium was held in May 2022 and was a major success. It saw the 2021-2030 Decade of Biosecurity launched and collaboratively supported by governments and key stakeholders.	
Supporting National Veterinary Pathology Expertise	Enhance national veterinary pathology diagnostic and expert knowledge capabilities by providing pathology training, continuing education and quality assurance programs.	This program continues to maintain and enhance national veterinary diagnostic capability, which is a crucial element of animal health surveillance.	
Biosecurity RD&E Strategy	<p>Promote and identify cross-sectoral, collaborative RD&E opportunities where gaps exist, including identification of funders and providers.</p> <p>Identify and reduce duplication of RD&E to increase the efficiency of resource allocation and use.</p>	The Animal Biosecurity Investment Showcase was delivered at the end of 2021 where collaborative discussion sessions identified a list of priority animal biosecurity RD&E which were further prioritised by the Steering Committee to present for funding.	
National Wild Dog Action Plan	Support the coordination and roll out of the newly endorsed National Wild Dog Management Action Plan.	AHA continues to be part of the steering group to support the deliverables of this national action plan as well as part-fund the national coordinator role.	

Cont'd

**PROJECT TRACKER****COMPLETED****ON TRACK****NOT ON TRACK**



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)	AHA to work with members and stakeholders to deliver a range of outputs relevant to NLIS business rules and SAFEMEAT initiatives.	Contributed to the NBC National Livestock Traceability Enhancement Working Group. This WG addressed two of the SAFEMEAT/NBC recommendations relating to governance of the livestock traceability system as well as individual ID for sheep and goats.	
Alpaca Traceability	Work with the Australian Alpaca Association to develop and implement a traceability system for alpacas and llamas.	Project still delayed due to not being able to include alpaca movement functionality in to the NLIS database. This issue is being resolved with our partners at Integrity Systems Company.	
Industry Forums	Provide a forum for industry discussion on issues relating to animal health, welfare and biosecurity.	IF Working Group has developed three project proposals from its 20-21 workplan. Two of these project proposals have subsequently been endorsed by Animalplan for consideration of future government funding.	



PROJECT TRACKER



COMPLETED



ON TRACK



NOT ON TRACK



Customer, strategy & operations

Customer, Strategy & Operations (CSO) comprise the Customer Value, Communications, Project Management Office and Finance functions. These teams work collaboratively internally and externally to ensure that AHA project activities are grounded in customer and member need, delivered efficiently with robust governance and support. CSO through the Board, its Committees and Chief Executive maintain the infrastructure, systems, business support and services for AHA staff, members, customers and related entities.

CSO assist the company meet its strategic objectives by:

- implementing effective human resources, IT and governance systems
- dedicating resources and capability toward partnerships with members and customers
- providing an efficient and mature project delivery capability
- producing timely and robust financial and project reports.

Communicating effectively across a breadth of audiences and platforms to support AHA's contribution to members and the animal health and biosecurity system more broadly providing members with opportunities to engage with the broader AHA membership and contribute to the advancement of solutions for complex cross sectoral issues.

Achievements and insights



Organisational Transformation

AHA undertook a restructure during 2021-2022, moving to a new operating model which better positions the organisation to fulfil the increasing demands placed upon it within the animal health and biosecurity system. This work has been supported by a new employee engagement and HR processes, and investment in developing better horizontal linkages across AHA teams aimed at improving collaboration and information sharing.



Implementation of new functions

AHA is in the later stages of implementing a new capability to understand our member and customers and increasing our project delivery and maturity. The establishment of these capabilities supports better informed and governed project investment decisions, more efficient utilisation of AHA resources and their linkage towards meeting member and customer needs.



Cost sharing modelling

AHA's finance team continues to support AHA's contribution to EAD preparedness and cost sharing scenarios for various EAD scenarios. During the year the team provided modelling support to various EAD related cost proposals, whilst continuing to ensure that AHA's board, governance and systems remained robust during a time of significant organisational change.



Committee Representation

Animal Health Committee (observer)

Animal Health Disease and Defect WG

Animal Industry Anti-Microbial Stewardship Steering Committee (observer)

Animal Welfare Task Group (observer)

Australian Strategic & Technical Advisory Group on AMR

ABARES General Surveillance Project Steering Committee

Beef Sustainability Framework Consultative Committee

Biosecurity and Agricultural Emergency Network (observer)

Cattle Council of Australia Biosecurity Task Group

CSIRO Health and Biosecurity Advisory Committee

Environment and Invasives Committee (subcommittee of NBC) (observer)

FMD Vaccine Bank Contract Advisory Committee

FMD Ready Project Governance Committee

FMD Ready Project Steering Committee

Live Export Animal Welfare Advisory Group

Livestock Communication Network Group

National Animal Health Surveillance Business Plan Implementation Task Group (of Animal Health Committee)

National Animal Health Training Reference Group

National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) (observer)

NBC Waste on Land Working Group

National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network (subcommittee of NBC) (member)

National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network behaviour change research working group (member)

National Biosecurity Response Team Advisory Group

Sub-committee Animal Health Laboratory Standards (of Animal Health Committee, observer)

National Livestock Traceability Enhancement Working Group

National Primary Industries Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy Committee (observer)

National Biosecurity Website Working Group

National Biosecurity Strategy Writing Group

Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework Implementation Committee

Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework Reference Group

Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance Working Group

NSW collaborative pig group

Q Fever Steering Committee

QLD Animal Biosecurity Market Access Liaison Group

SAFEMEAT Partners (observer)

SAFEMEAT Advisory Group (observer)

SAFEMEAT National Feed Standards WG

SAFEMEAT NVD WG

South Australian Livestock Research Council (associate member)

Wildlife Health Australia Coordinator Group

Wool Industries Australia Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Working Group

WoolProducers Animal Health and Welfare Committee





Communications & media highlights

Animal Health Australia drives delivery and impact of more than 50 national programs through a strategic communications program which includes media, social media and digital media products to promote and enhance awareness.

Media engagement

605 media items (across online, print and broadcast media) = advertising value equivalent of **\$1.55 million**. Major topics include livestock health, biosecurity and EAD alerts.

Social media engagement

- **687 posts** to **11,905 followers** (growth of 8%) via Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.
- Post reach = **300,000 accounts**, showcasing strong amplification.
- Video content achieved excellent results.
- Our average engagement rate* across our platforms was at **3.4%** (where the industry standard is between 1-2%), showcasing strong interest in our content.
- LinkedIn was our most engaged platform with a **5.3% engagement rate** alone.

Websites

AHA delivers animal health information through our AHA and collaborative Farm Biosecurity website. These websites provide preparedness, response and program information from AHA, along with on farm biosecurity and disease management resources.



165,048
Pageviews

61,069
Users



202,817
Pageviews

104,518
Users

Publications and downloads

- PDF publications downloaded **116,808 times**.
- AUSVETPLANs the most downloaded documents, along with the EADRA.
- The JEv response strategy was downloaded **1,719 times**, with FMD a close second at **1,404 times**.

Popular publication downloads



1066

Animal Health in
Australia Annual
Report 2019-2020



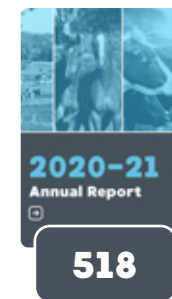
893

Animal Health in
Australia Systems
Report



852

NAMP Annual
Report 2020-21



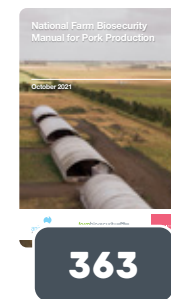
518

AHA Annual Report
2020-21



465

AHA AOP
2021-22



363

Pork Biosecurity
Manual (updated)

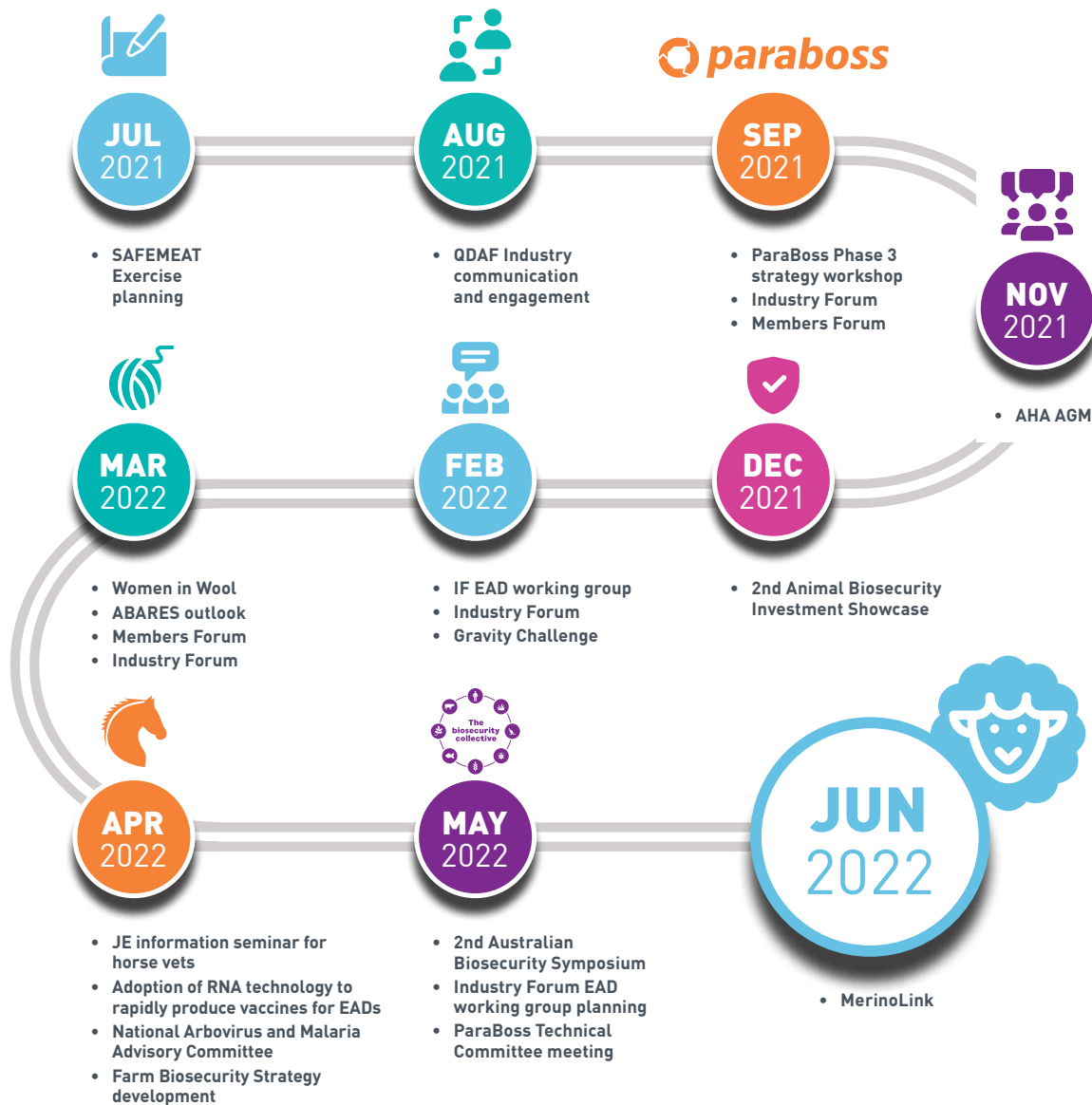
*Engagement rate is measured by dividing the number of reactions, shares and comments by the reach.





Event highlights

Through key events, webinars and workshops Animal Health Australia engaged more than 700 key stakeholders directly through our membership. Below highlights a sample of key events where AHA staff played key roles.



The 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium – bringing events back with a bang!

Following the resounding success of the inaugural Australian Biosecurity Symposium in 2019, over 400 of the country's leading innovative minds and influential players converged on the Gold Coast to network, brainstorm and unite under a common purpose to accelerate biosecurity reform.

The 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium provided an opportunity to share research outcomes, explore outside-of-the-box thinking and exchange knowledge and ideas across the biosecurity collective – agriculture (animals and plants), pest animals, weeds, wildlife, aquatics, humans and the environment.

The Symposium's theme, 'a decade of biosecurity: turning a moment into a movement', provided the ideal platform to explore how to transform Australia's biosecurity systems to better protect our economy, environment and way of life.

The Symposium continues the work of the Biosecurity Collective – a shared initiative consisting of Animal Health Australia (AHA), Invasive Species Council (ISC), Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) and Plant Health Australia (PHA), to define and influence the direction of Australia's biosecurity system towards 2030, particularly in engaging all Australians in building a stronger biosecurity system and building a mass biosecurity movement.



106 presentations
showcasing
**4 thought provoking
keynote sessions**

Representatives from across **8 sectors**



Livestock



Plants



Aquatics



Human



Environment



Pests



Wildlife



Weeds

99%

of delegates rated
the Symposium as
excellent, very good
or good

98%

of delegates rated
the program and
presentations highly

12

supportive sponsors
and exhibitors

1.48
million

reach across
news platforms
and social media



“Networking - such an unusual, wonderful opportunity to have representatives from so many parts of the biosecurity system & different perspectives present.”

What did we learn?

Community engagement

- We are choosing the story we want to tell, the legacy we want to leave
- Engaging rural producers is central to the shared responsibility approach
- Shared responsibility has been a cornerstone of biosecurity since 1996, now it is time for collective accountability
- Understand barriers and enablers
- Connect locally with local issues and priorities

Diversity and culture

- Bring diverse people to the table – relinquish power, engage traditional owners, and think about not just who but how
- Create a culture to care and protect and be inclusive
- Mix up the structure and formality
- Empower and collaborate with Indigenous rangers
- There are cultural and institutional norms which form barriers

Taking action

- Courage is what connects us. Step forward. Speak up. Look challenges in the eye
- Learn from failure
- Communities will save us – when they change, politics follow
- Data collection helps create actionable information that can be delivered to stakeholders
- Need to do more in terms of preparedness, education and training and surveillance

Innovation and collaboration

- The world is not the same... we must change with it
- We require transformational change through system connectivity, shared responsibility and innovation in science and technology
- We are only as prepared as our neighbours – international collaboration is key
- Build connections and have conversations
- Connect to community activists without driving a wedge
- Create parliamentary friends and connect with local journalists
- Leverage new technology



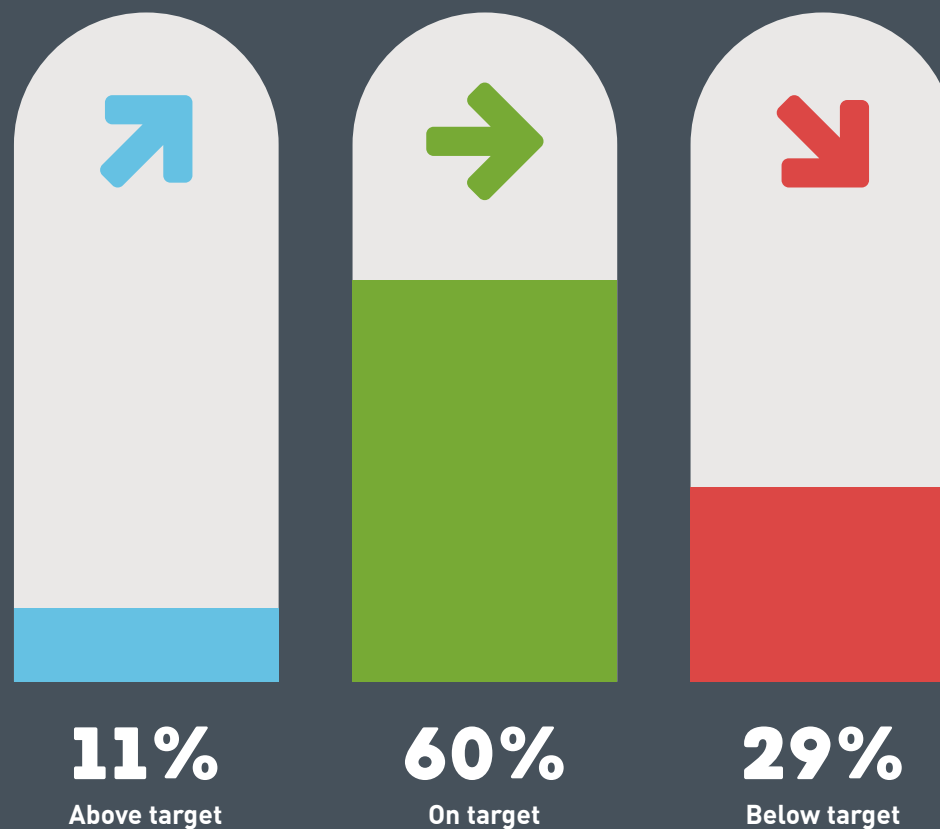
Overall outcomes

35 M&E INDICATORS*

Monitoring and evaluation report

Our second year of M&E as aligned to our new Strategic Plan has seen us continue to embrace our results-based culture, allowing us to learn and grow from our successes and challenges and improve our performance and deliverables to our members.

Our three high-level outcomes, which align with our strategic priorities, have been closely monitored and reflected on, allowing for modification to our business practices and reporting on our findings, leading to full accountability to our members.



*AHA's M&E indicators are used to measure the company's progress towards outcomes in key business areas, which are directly aligned with AHA's broader strategic priorities.





1

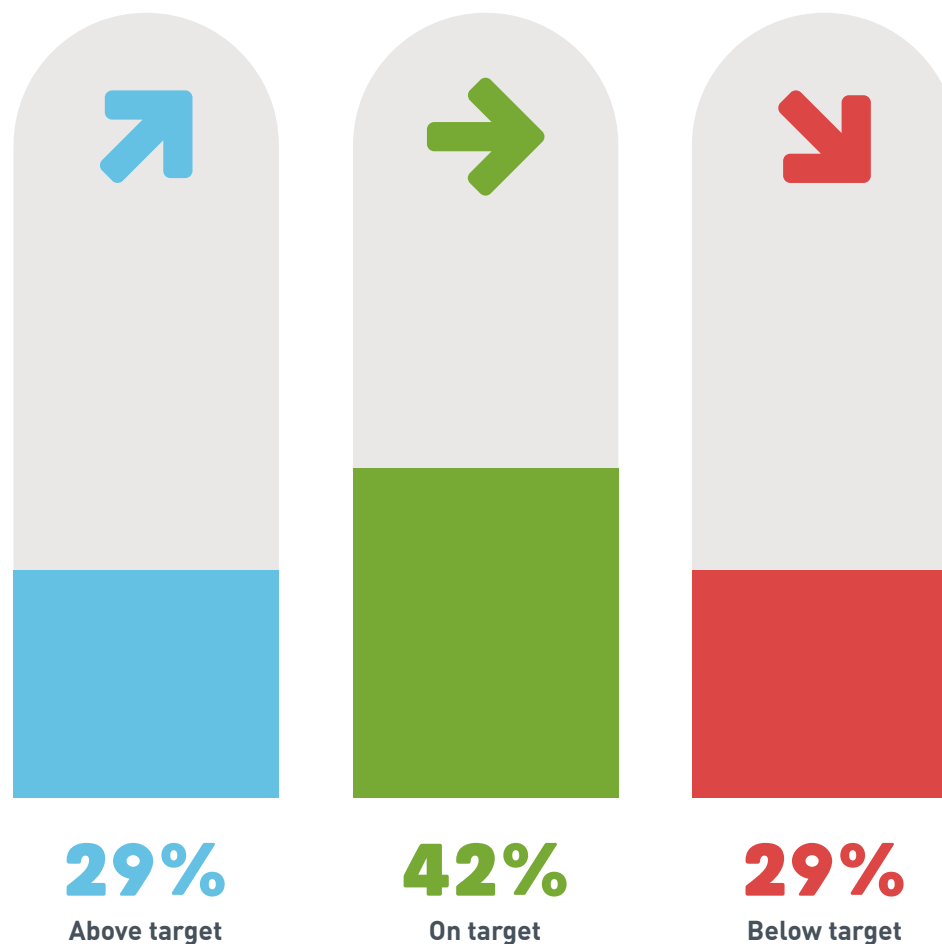
Prepared
and ready to
respond

High level outcome



Biosecurity threats are
detected promptly, and we
are prepared to respond.

Overall outcomes

14 M&E INDICATORS





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
1. Members and partners actively engage in training and other AHA programs	Level of AHA member attendance in training and their satisfaction with this training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85-90% satisfaction rating. Positive qualitative assessment. At least three different member representatives attend each group training session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five subscription workshops (CCEAD, NMG and LLI) delivered to 48 government, 53 industry, and 5 NGO participants. 91% average satisfaction rating. Resources continually reviewed ensuring they are fit for purpose to changing needs and demands. 	
	Description of opportunities identified by AHA to improve member/partner understanding of biosecurity response arrangements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive qualitative assessment. Opportunities identified with issues as they arise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AUSVETPLAN project completed 4 major reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the pork industry and artificial breeding centres enterprise manuals (two), - the porcine epidemic diarrhoea response strategy (new), - the resource document on managing insect (Culicoides) vectors during an emergency animal disease response. A major shift was taken in the prioritisation of the AUSVETPLAN work plan, to focus on the major reviews of the LSD and FMD response strategies as high-priority. 	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET







ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
1. Members and partners actively engage in training and other AHA programs	Proportion of members and partners identifying their surveillance information requirements (exotic and endemics) and proportion with their requirements met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All NAHIP members identify short and medium-term surveillance information requirements. 100% of short-term requirements met. Plan developed to meet medium-term needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting current needs in substantiating Australia's animal health status claims and supporting trade negotiations. Medium term needs are being planned for via the National Animal Health Surveillance Plan, national policy work, and evaluation of the AusPestCheck trial. 	
2. Significant disease events are investigated early	Level and coverage of priority national notifiable disease exclusions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline maintained with 80% of cattle, sheep, pig and poultry production areas recording at least one investigation by species sector quarterly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jurisdictions meeting targets in relation to investigation of livestock diseases and exclusion of priority nationally notifiable diseases, which supports Australia's claims of disease status. 	
3. Surveillance data and analyses are available and shared in real-time	Proportion of jurisdictions developing or engaged in agreed, national real-time surveillance data sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAHIP addresses timeliness of all surveillance information requirements as recommended in writing by members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All report requirements met. Working closely with PHA to assess the suitability of AusPestCheck in relation to the requirements of the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP). Bringing our partners in surveillance together to create a pathway to resolve some long-standing surveillance policy issues, such as data sharing between the states and Commonwealth. 	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET






ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
4. Members and others in the supply chain are capable and prepared to respond to biosecurity threats	Proportion of EADRA signatories who review performance standards for animal health services annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance standards for animal health services reviewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's veterinary services were assessed in 2015 by the World Organisation for Animal Health. Government signatories have since used the internationally recognised Performance of Health Services to assess individual jurisdictional performance. Several Industry Parties have used a bench-marking tool developed for industry. 	
	Proportion of EADRA signatories who report on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least half government and half industry reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement on a timeline and frequency of reporting on obligations and responsibilities under the EADRA, including biosecurity, normal commitment, animal health performance standards and EAD training has not been achieved. Obstacles to reaching agreement will be identified and explored as part of the EADRA five year review process which has commenced this year. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development and implementation of performance standards for animal health services 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meeting their normal commitments for animal health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major review of normal commitments for animal health services conducted once per five years. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the implementation of their biosecurity strategies/ statements (Government Parties) and biosecurity plans (Industry Parties). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least half government and half industry reporting. 		

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET






ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
4. Members and others in the supply chain are capable and prepared to respond to biosecurity threats	Proportion of EADRA government signatories who review their biosecurity strategies/ statements every five years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8/9 Governments have a strategy or an up to date statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/9 jurisdictions have biosecurity statements. 6/9 jurisdictions have a biosecurity strategies. A National Biosecurity Strategy released in August 2022. NSW has created a new strategy for 2022-30. Victoria is also doing preliminary work before developing their strategy. Tasmania has been implementing a Biosecurity Act and more recently Regulations. 	
	Description of gaps/ opportunities identified by AHA to improve the understanding and implementation of the EADRA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively propose 1-2 items for the EADRA workshop. Formal EADRA review in 2022. Action lessons learned from AI response in 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 EADRA five-year review plan drafted. Nominations for a working group to consider issues identified by the review have been circulated to the Animal Health Committee and the Industry Forum. 	
	Description of aquatic industry participation in surveillance, risk management, biosecurity planning, improving EAD preparedness and response arrangements and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of the Commonwealth with aquatic stakeholders to resolve the Aquatic Deed. Develop support programs that will help sectors uptake adoption and implementation of biosecurity plans, planning and risk mitigation strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts have been focused on core business relating to emergency preparedness for EADRA signatories. It is envisaged that this focus will continue in the medium term until an aquatic deed is signed. 	



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET



ON TARGET





BELOW TARGET

Cont'd





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
5. Livestock enterprises have business continuity plans for biosecurity emergencies	Proportion of AHA industry members and other supply chain participants with business continuity plans that are tested and current.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHA initiates the development of industry draft BCPs (supply chain wide) through consultation with the PICs (representing supply chain participants i.e. producers, saleyards, processors, exporters) that integrates them with AUSVETPLANS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHA continues to work with jurisdictions and state farming organisations to help them make change at the enterprise level. The Farm biosecurity website maintains good quality biosecurity planning manuals available for all sectors. 	
6. National response arrangements to biosecurity emergencies are effective and efficient	List of national exercises/workshops undertaken and the status of previous exercise recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support members and stakeholders to address recommendations - help shape the national conversation through influencing/ providing strategic direction on the implementation of recommendations. These are captured and recorded in a database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise Network final report release (a virtual exercise with the NBRT establishing and operating within an MS-Teams-based environment). Jurisdictions planning and implementing activities to enhance their respective virtual response capabilities, the recommendations will be revisited during 2022-23 to reassess and address priorities appropriate for the Program. 	



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET



ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





2

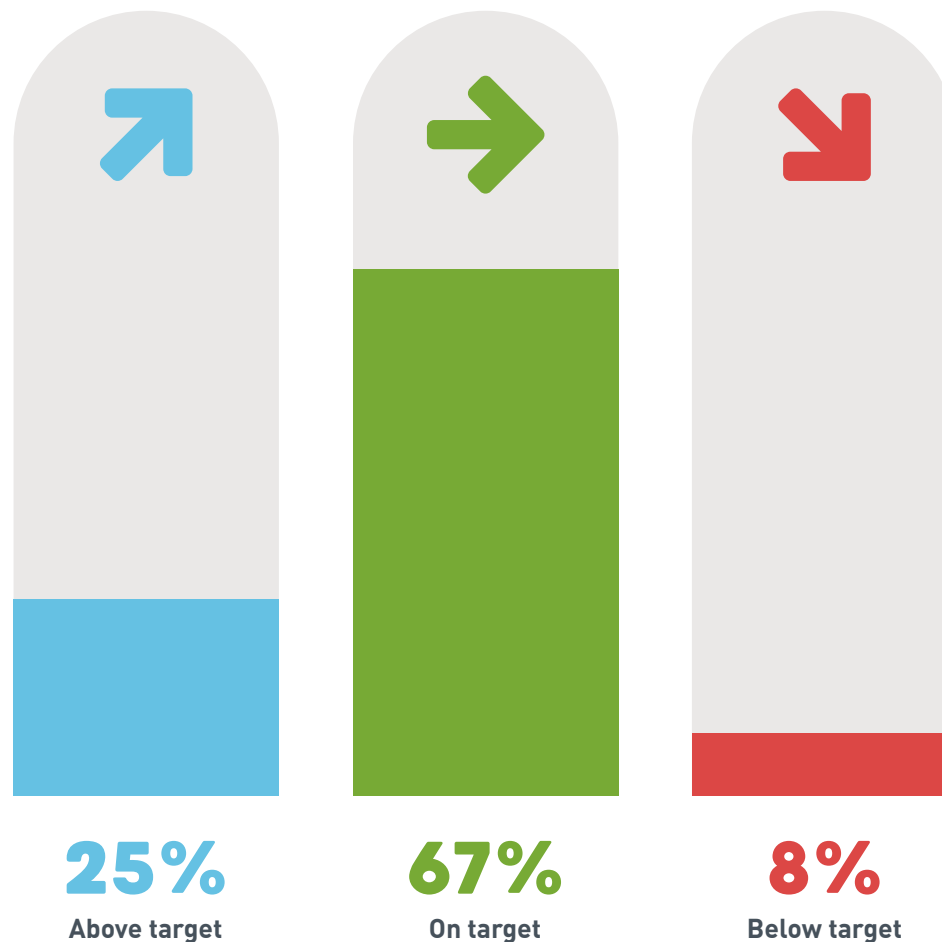
Better health and biosecurity practices

High level outcome



Livestock production and
products meet customer
expectations

Overall outcomes

12 M&E INDICATORS





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
7. Use intelligence from our databases/projects/networks (influence activity)	Description of opportunities identified by AHA (through analysis of its networks/projects/databases) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of biosecurity tools, systems, policy and research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive qualitative assessment. Identification of opportunities as situations arise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHA has contracted the South Australian abattoir to reinstate abattoir animal health data set to begin in the 22/23 FY. Integrity Systems Company have committed to a rebuild of the Livestock Data Link system which will match sheep health data against other datasets like BOM, carcass yield and Meat Standards Australia. This will build on analysis and reporting that AHA has already commenced. 	
8. Members and partners actively engage in biosecurity education	Description of activities where AHA has proactively created/tailored biosecurity/extension resources to assist members and partners promote biosecurity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three new AHA / co-branded resources developed per quarter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHA resources were used to assist pork producers and horse owners managing on farm biosecurity during the JE response in March 2022. A new VR tool to support identification of FMD was developed in collaboration with PIRSA and Think Digital and released in August 2022. A number of producer workshops held, including with Gundagai Meat Processors promoting sheep health and better biosecurity practices on farm. New video series developed on best practice lamb marking which will be released in 22/23 FY. AHA worked continuously with our members to support development of livestock specific EAD resources with links back to AHA and Farm Biosecurity resources. 	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET



ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
9. Biosecurity plans and industry QA/verification programs are in practice across supply chains	Proportion of industries with current (less than five years old) biosecurity plans/manuals in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/13 (92%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/13. ALFA have done a preliminary review of the National Biosecurity Manual for Beef Cattle Feedlots. There were also additional biosecurity planning resources for pig producers added to the Farm Biosecurity website. 	
	Summary of industry biosecurity initiatives promoted by industry and government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive qualitative assessment - stories of what AHA did to influence progress. At least one new industry or government initiative per quarter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity was strongly promoted by all AHA's government, red meat and pork industry members including through various roundtables, committees and forums, especially with the occurrence of JEv, and then LSD then FMD in Indonesia. 	
	Proportion of producers in each industry (including aquatics) implementing biosecurity plans (by jurisdiction).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective has proved very difficult to assess qualitatively or quantitatively for some industries (especially aquatic industries which we are excluding until the Emergency Aquatic Deed is signed). The majority of sheep, cattle, goat producers are now required to have a biosecurity plan as part of the LPA program (approximately 180,000 properties). Some industry QA programs now require a biosecurity plan as well. 	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET






ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
9. Biosecurity plans and industry QA/verification programs are in practice across supply chains	Number of industry and related supply chains with animal welfare incorporated into industry sustainability frameworks/ compliance/verification schemes or checklists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once poultry S&Gs are finalised there could be opportunity to work with ADMA on creating checklist. Achievable – 11/15 (ADMA). Pigs underway. Positive qualitative assessment - stories on what AHA has done to influence members incorporate welfare into verification systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in this period but 10/15 industries have this in place. 	 
10. Effective policy and incentives support traceability requirements of QA programs (e.g. market mechanisms)	Status of industry traceability initiatives/ systems (including industry-government interconnectivity and advancement toward jurisdictional consistency).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look into whether we can use LPA data, including for non-compliance data for biosecurity. Broker consultations between MLA/ISC, other livestock members, and jurisdictions that moves Australia's traceability QA programs toward a more transparent reporting framework that demonstrates disease management responsiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHA was a participant in the National Biosecurity Committee National Livestock Traceability Enhancement Working Group. A final report was delivered for the possible governance of the national traceability system. AHA continued to work with the Australian Alpaca Association of access to the NLIS database for alpacas and llamas. 	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET






ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
11. Endemic diseases are managed effectively	Description of endemic disease reporting (including timeliness) and the extent and nature of its use on-farm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35% of sheep slaughtered are inspected. All feedback provided via Livestock Data Link (LDL) or other electronic means. Five workshops (or webinars if COVID prevents F2F session) with producer groups. Case studies of producers and service providers using the data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrity Systems Company has committed to improving Livestock Data Link (rebuild) as well as an adoption plan for it, which AHA will work with them on. 	
12. Good health and welfare on farm is demonstrated	Description of government and industry member satisfaction with reporting on disease surveillance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members satisfied with national reporting on disease surveillance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements made to consistency in information being reported. Ongoing work is planned to enhance surveillance publications and communications to continue to demonstrate good animal health and the system underpinning this. 	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET





ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
12. Good health and welfare on farm is demonstrated	Description of government and industry member satisfaction with reporting on AMU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present at least one project concept to the Animal Industry Antimicrobial Stewardship (AIAS) Steering Committee and co-invest in at least one joint project through the AIAS. • • Initiate a partnership approach to at least one livestock health priority with Animal Medicines Australia. • Promote the existence of the AIAS to our membership, our role in the working group and outputs from initiatives of the working group to lift member satisfaction on reporting of AM use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHA participated in the Animal Industry anti-microbial resistance (AMR) RD&E Strategy Steering Committee which has been active in promoting current RD&E through the biennial conference, as well as developing new project ideas. • AHA participated in a project led by ATSE looking at future innovative ideas for AMR for human and animal health. 	 

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET





ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
12. Good health and welfare on farm is demonstrated	Description of health and welfare research and development (conducted by members and RDCs) that is promoted to producers and other system participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive qualitative assessment. • Reporting from things like NAWRD&ES. • Para boss communications collaboration continues. • Promotion of an R&D story to members twice per quarter. • Positive qualitative assessment – number of stories where AHA has shared/promoted to increase knowledge and possible uptake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Animal Welfare Collective and National Animal Welfare RDE Strategy forum continue to be important for promoting and generating research in this space. AHA has refined its appetite to lead animal welfare related projects, and will be delivering projects in future based on member needs. • The ParaBoss program has been delivering strong communications through Facebook, a monthly newsletter and regular stories in partner magazines. • Monthly ParaBoss webinars were rolled out from February 2022. • AHA has delivered information on emergency animal disease information and farm biosecurity practices through our member and stakeholder organisations and also the media – see the communications and media highlights section. 	
	Description of industry welfare benchmarks.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All producers in LPA (approx. 180,000) need to have a copy of their species-specific Welfare Standards and Guidelines. • A dairy task group was set up but delayed in looking at phasing out the sale of bobby calves to slaughter through various industry initiatives like dairy-beef crosses and growing them out. 	



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET



ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





3

Connecting
systems for
stronger
biosecurity

High level outcome

Systems are connected for
stronger biosecurity

Overall outcomes

9 M&E INDICATORS



33%

Above target

67%




On target

0%

Below target





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
13. We develop, coordinate, maintain and leverage biosecurity collaborations (influence activity)	Description of collaborative activities or approaches which have delivered value to members and other system participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive qualitative assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHA was a key participant in the steering committee of Animalplan. The Biosecurity Symposium saw 400+ delegates attend. AHA involved in writing group of National Biosecurity Strategy. AHA coordinated the Steering group which drafted the National Animal Health Surveillance Business plan. AHA represented at a number of key events discussing biosecurity such as the National Biosecurity Forum and the ABARES outlook symposium. 	 
	Summary of tailored, timely information provided to members and partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive qualitative assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing delivery of relevant and timely information to members throughout ongoing COVID disruption and evolution of biosecurity threats. Timely updates shared with members both verbally and via email, including the delivery of a new Animal Disease e-alert which has received positive qualitative feedback. Distribution of key project information via e-newsletters, media and social media posts, providing project updates to key stakeholders. Other elements of member communication and reporting is under review to deliver tailored and high value output to members. 	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET





ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
14. We identify and prioritise biosecurity threats across sectors, including emerging industries (influence activity)	Number of cross-sectoral partnerships/ collaborations and other opportunities initiated by, or involving, AHA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive qualitative assessment. AHA is involved in at least 10 cross-sectoral partnerships/ collaborations/ activities/events. New relationships and networks with other sectors established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NBRT saw the delivery of activities focusing on team-building and national response arrangements and preparedness activities. AHA has participated in several prospective or current collaborations throughout the year from a wide range of potential partners and will continue to invest in partnerships where they will deliver value to members and the animal health and biosecurity system more broadly. <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decade of Biosecurity campaign - National Biosecurity Strategy development - Gravity Challenge involving an R&D component - CSIRO – antimicrobial use recording by producers - Charles Sturt University – small holder networks - APL – specific disease surveillance to support maintenance of market access. - AHA's EPR and Training teams meet bi-monthly with counterparts in PHA to harmonise the Deeds as much as possible and provide insights to assist each other with common issues. - AHA contributes to quarterly national Environment and Invasives committee (EIC) meetings – a subcommittee of NBC. - AHA contributes to NBC, AHC and NBCEN. - AHA was also involved in the NMG and CCEAD meetings for the JE response. 	 



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET



ON TARGET





BELOW TARGET

Cont'd





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
15. A biosecurity collective is recognised, supported and is active	Summary of national biosecurity processes requiring collective work and evidence of whether it occurred (contributors and support).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meetings are held with animal, plant, environment and human health government (e.g. AHC, PHC, CDNA) and industry (e.g. IF) organisations to explore harmonised approaches to biosecurity and other emergency responses (including AUSVETPLAN).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meetings have been held mainly with plant industry to address inconsistencies between DEEDs and optimise functioning with NBC.	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET





ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
16. Biosecurity champions influence practice change and catalyse change agents	Description of biosecurity mentors/groups/ ambassadors facilitating or presenting at events across sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify current ambassadors and champions e.g. champions involved in One Biosecurity. Positive qualitative assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decade of Biosecurity campaign supported by key stakeholders and governments, which was an initiative of the biosecurity collective. AHA involved in a number of initiatives that have commenced work in this space over the last 12 months. The Biosecurity Awards, Nuffield Scholar award and Biosecurity Symposium event in the next 6 months will help us to identify more biosecurity champions to work with. NBRT program delivered webinar sessions delivered to and by members. The Program also supported several members to attend the Biosecurity Symposium, the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience/AFAC Lessons Management Forum and the Emergency Media and Public Affairs Conference. Each offered and opportunity for members to act as ambassadors for the Program, but also more broadly for the biosecurity sector. SA Extension Manager developed videos for the Enhanced Abattoirs Surveillance Project with Livestock SA and PIRSA. Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year awards were supported by AHA. 	 

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET





ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
17. Cross sectoral collaboration and investment in biosecurity systems is enhanced	Description of cross-sectoral participation/ collaboration in RD&E and prioritisation of cross-sectoral investments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Implementation Committee assists in the production of an RD&E prioritisation tool and at least one cross-sectoral project proposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This financial year has seen the NABRDES promote findings of the snapshot report published in the previous FY, delivery of the highly successful Animal Biosecurity Investment Showcase, delivery of a prioritisation tool and now the development of 2 priority RD&E projects. The NABRDES is also moving from the Implementation phase to more of an operational phase and has developed 2 new committees to drive the project going forward. 	
	Number and description of cross-sectoral biosecurity training exercises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new partnerships are established. Positive qualitative assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHA has been involved in the scoping of a national training hub for online biosecurity training, in collaboration with Qld and PHA. While in its infancy, the project seeks to establish a centralised directory of such training to encourage collaboration and information-sharing. AHA has also been involved in supporting the evaluation of Qld's VCC exercises, the latter half of will continue in 2022-23. 	

Cont'd



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET



ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET





What we do we want to achieve?	How do we monitor this?	Target	Actuals	
18. Animal biosecurity is integrated with biosecurity of the plant industries, the natural environment, and public health	Engagement with strategies in other sectors (e.g. RD&E plant and environmental strategies, biosecurity strategies, etc).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagements with other strategies e.g biosecurity, environment, etc. Positive qualitative assessment. MOU with PHA expanded to include participation in Biosecurity 2030 project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with NECBRDES has increased with an increasing emphasis placed on collaboration between the strategies. Working relationships with WHA have been strengthened and there is a commitment to continuing this into the future. AHA and PHA emergency management teams work hand in glove to facilitate a unified approach to custodianship of our Deeds. AHA was actively involved in the development of a National Biosecurity Strategy. All biosecurity collective partners are involved in the Decade of Biosecurity program and have supplied equal funding. 	
	Evidence of connection/ collaboration with plant, natural environment and public health sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagements with these sectors. Positive qualitative assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful continuation of key cross sectoral initiations across invasives (CISS, ISC), plants (PHA) and wildlife (WHA), this included the establishment of the Decade of Biosecurity which has support from all governments, Landcare, NRM Regions and NFF. Strong collaboration with DAFF across several projects and initiatives during a dynamic and uncertain year. AHA has participated in the human health National Arbovirus and Malaria Advisory Committee and Japanese Encephalitis serosurvey committee, strengthening outcomes for animal and human health through a OneHealth approach. 	



PROJECT TRACKER



ABOVE TARGET



ON TARGET



BELOW TARGET



Corporate Governance

IN ADDITION TO CORPORATIONS LAW REQUIREMENTS AHA IMPLEMENTS THE FOLLOWING:

Appointment of AHA's Board of Directors

AHA's constitution prescribes the selection criteria for Directors of the Board and the composition of an independent selection committee with member representatives from the Commonwealth, State/Territory and Industry, and a representative of the National Farmers Federation and the AHA Chair or director nominee, which recommend appointments for members' approval at the Annual General Meeting.

Board charter

Responsibilities and activities of the Board are covered in detail in the Board charter. The charter sets out the responsibilities and role of the Board, the Chairperson, the CEO and the Company Secretary and addresses all aspects of Board appointments, activity and performance. Directors have the right of access to all company information and to the company's Executive and, subject to prior consultation with the Chairperson, may seek independent professional advice at the company's expense. The Board meets in person at least five times during the year, and additionally via teleconference or through consideration of out-of-session papers as required.

Conflicts of interest

Directors declare at each Board meeting any changes to their statement of interests, which are prepared annually affirming that they have no specific interests that will impact on their ability as a director and that any potential or perceived conflicts of interest will be declared to the Board.

Legal compliance

Both the People Culture and Performance Committee (formerly known as the Corporate Governance Committee) and the Audit and Risk Management Committee are charged with different aspects of monitoring assurance systems. The Company Secretary manages compliance, reporting to both committees, which in turn provide advice and recommendations to the Board. The responsibilities of the committees are set out in their respective charters. Membership comprises at least three Directors. The committees meet at least twice each year. Auditors are provided notice of general meetings of members and are invited to present to the Audit and Risk Management Committee when annual financial statements are considered.

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Financial policies and procedures

Comprehensive practices are established and included in the company's policy and procedure manuals such that all unbudgeted expenditure and commitments require prior Board approval; financial exposures are controlled; investment of funds is governed by a specific investment policy; work health and safety standards and management systems are monitored and reviewed; and business transactions are properly authorised and executed.



RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Member consultation and communications

The Board aims to ensure that all members are informed of all major developments affecting the company.

Company General meetings

The Board encourages full participation of members at the AGM. Full participation is also encouraged at a general meeting held by the company in June each year at which the AOP is presented and core subscription levels are formally agreed on by members for the upcoming financial year.

Code of conduct

The Board Charter contains a Directors' Code of Conduct with which each Director is expected to comply. In addition, the company has documented standards that each manager and employee of the company is expected to operate within. The requirement to comply with these ethical standards is communicated to all employees. Directors, managers and employees are expected to strive at all times to enhance the reputation and performance of the company.

RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Risk management

Monitoring of corporate and program risks is a specific responsibility of the Audit and Risk Management Committee. The company's process of periodic risk assessment and review covers the business environment, work health and safety, property, financial reporting and internal control. Internal audit reviews are undertaken periodically at the direction of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

ENHANCEMENT OF PERFORMANCE

Board performance evaluation

The Board is committed to the ongoing development of both individual Directors and the Board as a whole. Evaluation regularly involves the engagement of independent external expertise.

Company performance evaluation

AHA uses a monitoring and evaluation framework to report on key deliverables as outlined in the *2020-2025 Strategic Plan* to members.

Staff performance evaluation

All staff have performance discussions every 90 days as part of their employment with AHA. These discussions form the basis of employee expectation setting and regular performance measurement across the organisation. The performance of the CEO is formally evaluated by the Board on an annual basis, with ongoing performance feedback provided regularly throughout the year.

FAIR AND RESPONSIBLE REMUNERATION

Directors' remuneration

The remuneration payable to Directors is approved at a general meeting of the company as stipulated in the constitution. There are no schemes for retirement benefits, aside from statutory superannuation.

Employee remuneration

The remuneration of the CEO is set by the Board and reviewed annually as part of the CEO performance review. The remuneration of all other staff is set and reviewed by the CEO as part of their annual performance review.





Abbreviations

AHA	Animal Health Australia	CCEAD	Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases
AAHC	Australian Animal Health Council	CDNA	Communicable Diseases Network Australia
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Science	CEO	Chief Executive Officer
ADMA	Australian Duck Meat Association	CISS	Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
AFAC	Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council	CSO	Customer, Strategy and Operations
AHC	Animal Health Committee	DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
AIAS	Animal Industry Antimicrobial Stewardship	EAD	Emergency Animal Disease
AM	Member of the Order of Australia	EADRA	Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement
AMR	Anti microbial Resistance	eDNA	environmental DNA
AMU	Anti microbial use	EI	Equine Influenza
AOP	Annual Operating Plan	EIC	Environment and Invasives committee
APL	Australian Pork Limited	EPR	Emergency and Preparedness Response
ASF	African Swine Fever	FMD	Foot-and-mouth disease
ATSE	Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering	ID	Identification
AUSVETPLAN	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan	IF	Industry Forum
AWI	Australian Wool Innovation	ISC	Invasive Species Council
BCP	Business Continuity Plan	JD	Johne's disease
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies	JEv	Japanese encephalitis virus
		LDL	Livestock Data Link
		LLI	Liaison Livestock Industry





LPA Livestock Production Assurance

LSD Lumpy skin disease

M&E Monitoring & Evaluation

MLA Meat and Livestock Australia

MS Microsoft

NABRDES National Animal Biosecurity Research, Development and Extension Strategy

NAHIP National Animal Health Information Program

NAMP National Arbovirus Monitoring Program

NAWRD&ES National Primary Industries Animal Welfare Research, Development and Extension

NBC National Biosecurity Committee

NBCEN National Biosecurity Communication and Engagement Network

NBRT National Biosecurity Response Team Program

NLIS National Livestock Identification Systems

NMG National Management Group

NSIBS National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy

NSW New South Wales

PCR polymerase chain reaction

PHA Plant Health Australia

PHC Plant Health Committee

PIRSA Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

QA Quality Assurance

R&D Research and Development

RD&E Research, Development & Extension

RDC Research and Development Corporation

SA South Australia

SCAHLs Subcommittee Animal Health Laboratory Standards

SWF Screw worm fly

TSE Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

UNE University of New England

VCC Virtual Control Centre

VR Virtual Reality

WOAH World Organisation for Animal Health





© Australian Animal Health Council Ltd 2022
ACN 071 890 956

Animal Health Australia contact details:
PO BOX 5116
Braddon ACT 2612
+61 2 6232 5522
aha@animalhealthaustralia.com.au
animalhealthaustralia.com.au

-  AnimalHealthAustralia
-  animalhealthaus
-  animalhealthaus
-  Animal Health Australia