



Member Engagement Week

Program

2-5 March 2026
Vibe Hotel, Canberra

Welcome

Welcome to the first Member Engagement Week for 2026!

Thank you for joining us and for making time to be part of this important week of connection, collaboration, and shared purpose.

Member Engagement Week brings our members together to strengthen partnerships, share insights, and collectively shape our national approach to animal health and biosecurity.



Throughout the week, our Industry and Government members will participate in their respective forums, we'll host a focused EADRA session, and all members will join our Members' Forum to discuss key priorities for the year ahead.

I look forward to hearing your perspectives, ideas, and contributions over the coming days.

Dr Samantha Allan
Chief Executive Officer,
Animal Health Australia

Day 1 • Monday, 2 March 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
12:00–1:00pm	Registration Room: Outside CBR 1	Lunch Room: Helix Bar
	Industry Forum Room: CBR 1	
1:00–3:00pm	Session 1	
3:00–3:30pm	Afternoon tea Room: Outside CBR 1	
3:30–5:00pm	Session 2	
3:30–5:00pm	Government Forum Room: LAX	

Day 2 • Tuesday, 3 March 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:00–8:30am	Member registration Room: Outside CBR 1
	EADRA Workshop Room: CBR 1 and 2
8:30–8:35am	Welcome and introduction
	Dr Therese Wright Head of Program Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement, AHA
8:35–10:00am	Session 1: Guidance on categorisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on updated draft of new guidance document • Table discussions
10:00–10:30am	Session 2: Review of definition of an EAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on proposed amendments to the definition of an EAD • Facilitated discussion
10:30–11:00am	Morning tea Room: Outside CBR 1
11:00–11:30am	Session 3: Guidance on containment and eradication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on new guidance document • Facilitated discussion
11:30am–12:00pm	Session 4: Clause 14 – Biosecurity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on proposed amendments to clause 14 • Table discussions
12:00–12:20pm	Session 5: EADRA workplan update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on updates to the workplan • Facilitated discussion
12:20–12:30pm	Session 6: Workshop wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other business, next steps and wrap up
12:30–1:30pm	Lunch Room: Helix Bar
	Members' Forum 1 Room: CBR 1 and 2
1:30–1:35pm	Welcome, acknowledgment of country and introductions
	Dr Sally Cook General Manager, Member Engagement and Technical Services, AHA
1:35–1:40pm	AHA Board Chair address
	Malcolm Letts Board Chair, AHA
1:40–1:50pm	AHA CEO address
	Dr Samantha Allan Chief Executive Officer, AHA
1:50–2:10pm	Two Countries, One Threat: Strengthening Avian Influenza Preparedness Across Australia and Japan
	Mr Takuto Watanabe Director of Research, Japanese External Trade Organisation (JETRO) - Sydney Office
	Melinda Hashimoto Chief Executive Officer, Egg Farmers of Australia

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TIME	ACTIVITY	
2:10–2:30pm	Global EAD outbreaks	Dr Beth Cookson Australian Chief Veterinary Officer
2:30–3:00pm	AHA AOP update	Dr Samantha Allan Chief Executive Officer, AHA Jane Brooks General Manager, Corporate Services, AHA
3:00–3:30pm	Afternoon tea Room: Outside CBR 1	
3:30–4:10pm	Panel discussion: Future of animal health in Australia <i>Panel members:</i> Dr Beth Cookson Australian Chief Veterinary Officer Melinda Hashimoto Chief Executive Officer, Egg Farmers of Australia Dr Allison Crook General Manager Animal Biosecurity and Welfare and Chief Veterinary Officer, Biosecurity Queensland Michael Lancaster General Manager - Policy, Australian Lot Feeders' Association Inc. (ALFA) Dr Samantha Allan Chief Executive Officer, AHA	Facilitator: Jackie Poyser Adviser to Chief Executive Officer, AHA
4:10–4:15pm	Pulse point	Dr Sally Cook General Manager, Member Engagement and Technical Services, AHA
4:15–4:30pm	Screw-worm Fly Surveillance and Preparedness Program update	Dr Heather Richards Head of Program - Surveillance, AHA Sheazaz Sakur Surveillance Coordinator, AHA
4:30–4:40pm	Industry Forum update	Tanya Pittard GM Policy and Industry Engagement APL, Industry Forum Chair
4:40–4:45pm	Government Forum update	Dr Skye Fruean Chief Veterinary Officer at Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
4:45–4:50pm	Animal Welfare Group: Update on key areas of concern and projects	Adam Dawes General Manager, WoolProducers Australia Ltd
4:50–4:55pm	Summary report from Intensives Industries meeting	Melinda Hashimoto Chief Executive Officer, Egg Farmers of Australia
4:55–5:00pm	Wrap up and close	Dr Sally Cook
5:00–7:30pm	Member networking event Room: Helix Bar	

Day 3 • Wednesday, 4 March 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	
8:00–8:30am	Member registration Room: Outside CBR 1	
Members' Forum 2 Room: CBR 1 and 2		
8:30–8:35am	Welcome and introduction	Dr Sally Cook General Manager, Member Engagement and Technical Services, AHA
8:35–8:45am	AHA AOP & Charter follow up discussion	Dr Samantha Allan Chief Executive Officer, AHA Jane Brooks General Manager, Corporate Services, AHA
8:45–8:55am	Central Animal Health Database update	Dr Sally Cook
8:55–9:10am	National Biosecurity Reform agenda	Christie Sawczuk First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform, Biosecurity, Operations & Compliance Group, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
9:10–9:40am	Veterinary Vaccines: Technologies, Considerations and Real World Examples	Dr Kristie Jenkins Leader, Immune Resilience Future Science Platform, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
9:40–9:45am	Pulse point	Dr Sally Cook
9:45–10:05am	AHA exercises	Dr Jane Owens Head of Program, AUSVETPLAN, AHA
10:05–10:30am	The story behind the success: Australian Biosecurity Award winner - Producer of the Year award 2025	Jamie Heinrich Ella Matta Pastoral
10:30–11:00am	Morning tea Room: Outside CBR 1	
11:00–11:15am	AUSVETPLAN update	Dr Jane Owens

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TIME	ACTIVITY	
11:15–11:30am	An update on AADIS modelling projects in Australia and overseas	Associate Professor Richard Bradhurst Chief Investigator, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA) and Centre for Environmental and Economic Research (CEER), University of Melbourne
11:30–11:45am	A Next-Generation Plant Health Feasibility of Eradication Tool	Dr James Camac Program Manager, Biosecurity Commons Program / Chief Investigator, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA), University of Melbourne
11:45am–12:10pm	Surveillance... what's the point?	Dr Debbie Eagles Director of the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
12:10–12:30pm	An update on the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy	Leanne Mundy Director, Plant and Live Animal Exports, Welfare and Regulation Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
12:30–12:35pm	Pulse point	Dr Sally Cook
12:35–12:55pm	H5 HPAI and Australian wildlife – update	Rupert Woods Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Health Australia (WHA)
12:55–1:00pm	Wrap up and close	Dr Sally Cook
1:00–2:00pm	Lunch Room: Helix Bar	
2:00–5:00pm	NMG training exercise Room: CBR 1 and 2	AHA training team

Day 4 • Thursday, 5 March 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
8:30am–4:00pm	NMG training exercise (cont'd) Room: CBR 1 and 2	AHA training team

