



# Member Engagement Week

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## Program

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**2-5 March 2026**  
**Vibe Hotel, Canberra**

# Welcome

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## 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.

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**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
<b>Industry Forum</b> Room: CBR 1		
1:00–1:05pm	Welcome, introductions and apologies	<b>Tanya Pittard</b> GM Policy and Industry Engagement Australian Pork Limited (APL) Industry Forum Chair
1:05–1:10pm	Industry Forum 52 minutes and action items	<b>Tanya Pittard</b>
1:10–1:25pm	Matters for decision relating to Industry Forum (IF) governance and priorities (in-camera) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IF strategic priorities and deliverables, risks and opportunities</li> </ul>	<b>Tanya Pittard</b>
1:25–1:30pm	IF Chair to attend World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)	<b>Tanya Pittard</b>
1:30–2:30pm	Key industry updates – whip around	<b>All</b>
2:30–2:45pm	AHA CEO and Chair Update	<b>Dr Samantha Allan</b> Chief Executive Officer, AHA <b>Malcolm Letts</b> Board Chair, AHA
2:45–3:00pm	Update – Animal Health Committee (AHC)	<b>Dr Beth Cookson</b> Australian Chief Veterinary Officer
3:00–3:30pm	Afternoon tea Room: Outside CBR 1	
3:30–3:50pm	APVMA discussion – issues and challenges	<b>Tanya Pittard</b>
3:50–4:00pm	LLI project survey outcomes	<b>Geraldine Wickham</b> Training Manager, AHA
4:00–4:30pm	Crisis Management Plan project update and next steps	<b>Rob Barwell</b> Head of Program, Biosecurity, AHA
	Crisis Management Training – the need and the want is there – how, who and when	<b>John Falkenhagen</b> President, Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA)
4:30–4:50pm	LLI insurance requirements – who and how do industries pay	<b>Tanya Pittard</b>
4:50–5:00pm	Other business and meeting close	<b>Tanya Pittard</b>
3:30–5:00pm	<b>Government Forum</b> Room: LAX	

# Day 2 • Tuesday, 3 March 2026

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

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

# Day 3 • Wednesday, 4 March 2026

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

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TIME	ACTIVITY	
11:15–11:30am	An update on AADIS modelling projects in Australia and overseas	<b>Associate Professor Richard Bradhurst</b> 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	<b>Dr James Camac</b> 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?	<b>Dr Debbie Eagles</b> 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	<b>Leanne Mundy</b> Director, Plant and Live Animal Exports, Welfare and Regulation Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
12:30–12:35pm	Pulse point	<b>Dr Sally Cook</b>
12:35–12:55pm	H5 HPAI and Australian wildlife – update	<b>Rupert Woods</b> Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Health Australia (WHA)
12:55–1:00pm	Wrap up and close	<b>Dr Sally Cook</b>
1:00–2:00pm	Lunch Room: Helix Bar	
2:00–5:00pm	NMG training exercise Room: CBR 1 and 2	<b>AHA training team</b>

## Day 4 • Thursday, 5 March 2026

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

