30 YEARS
animalhealth
AUSTRALIA

Member Engagement Week

Program

14–17 September 2026
Mercure Canberra, Belconnen



Welcome

Welcome to our second Member Engagement Week for the year!

Thank you for making the time to be part of this important opportunity to connect, collaborate and contribute to our shared goals.

Across the week, members from government and industry will participate in forums, workshops, and training sessions designed to foster meaningful connections and drive practical outcomes. There will be opportunity to share insights, strengthen partnerships, and contribute to building a biosecurity system that's future-ready and resilient.

This Member Engagement Week is also particularly special as we celebrate Animal Health Australia's 30th Anniversary. The anniversary social event provides an opportunity to reflect on three decades of partnership and achievement, while recognising the people and organisations that continue to shape our success.

I look forward to hearing your perspectives, ideas and contributions throughout the week.

Dr Samantha Allan
Chief Executive Officer,
Animal Health Australia

Agenda

Day 1 • Monday, 14 September 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
12:00–1:00pm	**Member Registration** Room: Bar 59 **Lunch** Room: Bar 59	
1:00–2:00pm	**Industry Forum** Room: Galambary	
2:00–2:30pm	**Afternoon tea** Room: Bar 59	
2:30–5:00pm	**Industry Forum (cont'd)** Room: Galambary	
3:30–5:00pm	**Government Forum** Room: Ngunnawal Boardroom	

Day 2 • Tuesday, 15 September 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
8:00–8:30am	**Member Registration** Room: Bar 59	
	Members' Forum Room: Galambary	
8:30–8:35am	**Welcome, acknowledgment of country**	**Dr Sally Cook** General Manager, Member Engagement and Technical Services, AHA
8:35–8:40am	**AHA Board Chair address**	**Malcolm Letts** Board Chair, AHA
8:40–8:55am	**AHA CEO address**	**Dr Samantha Allan** Chief Executive Officer, AHA
8:55–9:30am	**FMD preparedness in action – perspectives from the vaccine bank**	**Dr Audrey Guibal** Head of Bank and Tender Management Boehringer Ingelheim
9:30–10:00am	**Permitting Emergency Disease Responses**	**Mr Scott Hansen** CEO, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)
10:00–10:30am	**Beyond Birds: Responding to HPAI in Livestock**	**Dr Megan Scott** Chair SCEAD HPAI Livestock Task Group /Principal Veterinary Officer, Lead-Emergency Animal Disease, Agriculture Victoria
10:30–11:00am	**Morning tea** Room: Bar 59	
11:00–11:50am	**AHA project planning and funding discussion continued**	**AHA Executive**
11:50am–12:10pm	**National biosecurity reform update and next steps**	**Christie Sawczuk** First Assistant Secretary Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division, DAFF
12:10–12:20pm	**Pulse Point**	**Dr Sally Cook**
12:20–12:30pm	**AUSVETPLAN Agility**	**Dr Andrew Larkins** Head of AUSVETPLAN, AHA
12:30–1:30pm	**Lunch** Room: Bar 59	
1:30–1:50pm	**Australia's H5N1 Outbreak: Understanding the Risk for Non-Avian Animal Industries**	**Dr Frank Wong** Senior Research Scientist at CSIRO's ACDP

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TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
1:50–2:10pm	**Exercise Peacetime**	**Rachael O'Brien** Manager - Feedlot Industry Biosecurity, Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA)
2:10–2:30pm	**Maintaining stakeholder social licence to support EAD responses – communications framework**	**Olivia Gardner** Public Information Manager – H5 Bird Flu, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Primary Industries
2:30–2:40pm	**Pulse Point**	**Dr Sally Cook**
2:40–2:50pm	**Central Animal Health Database (CAHD) Update**	**Dr Sally Cook** General Manager, Member Engagement and Technical Services, AHA **Emily Sears** Head of Technical Services, AHA
2:50–3:20pm	**Afternoon tea** Room: Bar 59	
3:20–3:40pm	**AHA LLI program evaluation 2022-2025 outcomes and Supporting industry LLI programs**	**Narelle Jones** Training Manager, AHA **Justin Toohey** Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity Advisor Australian Dairy Farmers
3:40–4:00pm	**One Health and AMR: a primer for the Australian livestock industries**	**Dr Rachel Iglesias** Principal Veterinary Officer – One Health
4:00–4:10pm	**Pulse Point**	**Dr Sally Cook**
4:10–4:35pm	**mRNA vaccine technology and research progress**	**Dr Peter Kirkland** Manager, Virology Laboratory, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
4:35–5:00pm	**Wrap up and close**	**Dr Sally Cook** General Manager, Member Engagement and Technical Services, AHA
5:00–7:30pm	**AHA 30th Anniversary Networking Function** Room: Bar 59	

Day 3 • Wednesday, 16 September 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
8:00–8:30am	**Member registration** Room: Bar 59	
8:30–10:30am	**EADRA Workshop** Room: Galambary	**Dr Therese Wright** Head of Program Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement, AHA
10:30–11:00am	**Morning tea** Room: Bar 59	
11:00am–12:45pm	**EADRA Workshop (cont'd)** Room: Galambary	**Dr Therese Wright** Head of Program Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement, AHA
12:45–2:00pm	**Lunch** Room: Bar 59	
2:00–3:30pm	**CCEAD Training** Room: Brindabella	**AHA training team**
3:30–3:45pm	**Afternoon tea** Room: Bar 59	
3:45–5:00pm	**CCEAD Training (cont'd)** Room: Brindabella	**AHA training team**

Day 4 • Thursday, 17 September 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
8:30–10:30am	**CCEAD Training (cont'd)** Room: Brindabella	**AHA training team**
10:30–10:50am	**Morning tea** Room: Bar 59	
10:50am–12:10pm	**CCEAD Training (cont'd)** Room: Brindabella	**AHA training team**
12:10–1:00pm	**Lunch** Room: Bar 59	
1:00–2:45pm	**CCEAD Training (cont'd)** Room: Brindabella	**AHA training team**
2:45–3:00pm	**Afternoon tea** Room: Bar 59	
3:00–4:00pm	**CCEAD Training (cont'd)** Room: Brindabella	**AHA training team**

Delegate information

Venue

Mercure Canberra Belconnen, 59 Cameron Avenue, Belconnen, ACT 2617

Registration and event sessions will be held on Level 11. Please entry through the glass doors to the left of the hotel reception to access the lift.



Accommodation

Guests can book directly using the link below:
Mercure Canberra Belconnen

Alternatively, guests can visit ALL.com, search for "Mercure Canberra Belconnen", select their dates, and enter the '**BGRE**' code in the Preferential Code field to access the discounted rate.

For in-house guests the parking is $15 per day with multiple entries.

Book Now

Travel and parking

Travel from Canberra Airport to Belconnen can take up to 60 minutes during peak periods. Please allow sufficient travel time.

Parking is available at the venue for $9 per entry via Edmonstone Place. Paid public parking is available on levels 2, 3, and 4. To validate your parking ticket, visit Bar 59 located in the event lunch area before exiting.

Facilities

A range of dining options is available within walking distance of the venue. Lake Ginninderra is also located nearby, offering delegates the opportunity to enjoy a walk around the lake during their visit.

