

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

