

# 2022-23

## Annual Report





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## Welcome to our 2022-23 Annual Report

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# Chair's Foreword

Sharon Starick

As we move into the final two years of our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, the Board has been reflecting on the past three years and the strategic changes that have been required to overcome some of the big challenges thrown our way.

Animal Health Australia (AHA) has undertaken its mid-term review and many of you, our members, have been consulted as part of this process, and we thank you for your frank and open feedback.

As we measure the progress of delivery against our three strategic priorities and the achievements to date, the Board are also ensuring that AHA remains agile and a fit for purpose organisation. We are now well and truly into the restructure of the organisation and the benefits of this are becoming apparent where we are starting to see strong in-person attendance at our member engagement weeks and the continued support of our programs which

require member consultation, input, and promotion.

The increasing biosecurity and climate change threats have remained a major focus area of the Board and just in the past 12 months we have seen our biosecurity and animal health systems challenged, particularly with the threat of foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease in Indonesia and further outbreaks of avian influenza and African swine fever across the globe. Over the past 12 months we have also seen the continuing impacts of climate change, from severe floods to dry weather patterns all of which are impacting on producers and communities across Australia, as well as changing biosecurity risks through the movement of insect vectors.

The team at AHA are responding to these threats by ensuring our emergency preparedness response capabilities remains agile, relevant, and future focussed. The revised and fast-tracked reviews of the AUSVETPLANS are just one example here, along with our ability to service bespoke training

requests. It is also pleasing to see so much engagement and robust discussions around the EADRA 5-year review to ensure that such a critical agreement, revered globally, continues to remain fit for purpose. Our collaborative communications and participation in events has also seen our profile raised within the public arena.

Over the past 12 months we have also seen a strong appreciation and understanding around biosecurity planning on farm and ensuring strong animal health practices within the paddock and the pen.

In driving a future focussed organisation, the Board is also ensuring AHA remains cybersecurity aware and conscious. While we live and breathe biosecurity, we also need to ensure our cyber (digital) systems which house sensitive data and information are adhering to best practice security measures.

The foundation of any good organisation are its staff, and we are fortunate to have passionate and dedicated people undertaking a significant workload to enhance our systems. We acknowledge that



The Board continue to meet and engage with member representatives throughout the year at our member week networking events and offsite board meetings.

this will be unsustainable into the future and prioritisation will be essential to ensure work undertaken has continued impact and remains valued.

And finally, but no means least, we acknowledge Kathleen for her impactful leadership as well as the passion, fearless determination and commitment to animal health and biosecurity as we celebrate her role as CEO at AHA for ten years, which took place in September 2023.

Kathleen has transformed AHA as an organisation, its approach as a member-based organisation and as a critical facilitator and technical expert within the national biosecurity system. Congratulations Kathleen for your inspirational leadership.

I commend this Annual Report to all of you,

**Sharon Starick**  
*Chair*  
Animal Health Australia

# 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 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.

Lucinda  
Corrigan

Malcolm  
Letts

Michelle  
Gorman

Sharon  
Starick (Chair)

Renata  
Paliskis

Dr Len  
Stephens

Stuart  
Crockett



# 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



# Our Strategic Impact So Far... 2020-2023

## Prepared and Ready to Respond



20 types of training activities for the National Biosecurity Response Team



New EADRA signatory added - Australian Duck Meat Association



Fourth EADRA five-year review on track



New clause in EADRA on Transition to Management



Poultry Deed of Agreement on cost sharing of compensation in avian influenza outbreaks



Launched AUSVETPLAN – a new era, leading to 21 AUSVETPLAN manuals reviewed and published in Edition 5 format



Nine AUSVETPLAN response strategies reviewed



Five emergency animal disease exercises undertaken - Razorback T2M, Argonaut, Silk Purse and two for lumpy skin disease



Transitioned through delivering virtual training formats, back to scenario-based activities



25 workshops delivered - Liaison Livestock Industry (LLI), Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) and National Management Group (NMG)



Successful response to multiple avian influenza incidents in Victoria in 2020



Exercise Tiliqua tested the updated NAMP technical manual produced following the external review of the Program



NAMP facilitated the development of the first Australian regional identification manual for *Culicoides* species (female specimens) by the NAMP Reference Entomologist.



A *Culicoides* identification workshop tested the identification keys in the draft manual and provided training to entomologists from across Australia



A screw worm fly entomology workshop improved national capability for its early detection



The national Japanese encephalitis delimiting surveillance in pigs project was delivered



# Our Strategic Impact So Far... 2020-2023

## Better Biosecurity and Animal Health Systems



New Sheep EAD App was launched with 1500+ downloads to date



More than 300,000 unique users to the Farm Biosecurity site visiting 630,000+ pages



Farm Biosecurity email audience of more than 3000+ subscribers



New three-year Farm Biosecurity strategy 2022-2025 underway



Collaborated with SA to produce a Farmers Guide on cattle diseases, which adds to its already existing sheep and goat disease guides



Key engagement with non-member industries such as ratites and ALMA/saleyards



Successfully completed a number of key smaller projects – Sheep Pneumonia Survey, Goat Pain Relief Review, Lamb Feedlot Health, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation Biosecurity Planning and first phase of the Northern Beef Business Biosecurity project



# Our Strategic Impact So Far... 2020-2023

## Connecting Systems for Stronger Biosecurity



2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium undertaken with more than 400 delegates in attendance



The 2022- 2027 National Animal Health Surveillance Plan was drafted



AusPestCheck® project to develop a new database system to replace the ageing Central Animal Health Database is progressing



The Animal Health in Australia report remains a keystone document to maintain Australia's market access



Decade of Biosecurity campaign launch and implementation underway



The emergency animal disease (EAD) hotline review completed and the operation of the Hotline has been strengthened



The Australian Animal Pathology Standards Program (AAPSP) supported continuing education through the annual roadshow and a series of webinars



# Our Strategic Impact So Far... 2020-2023

## Enhancing company health and member value



Establishment of AHA's Member value team and reinvigorated and well attended member engagement weeks



Clean audit with no management queries for 3 years running



Establishment of a new project management framework and governance structure



Building our communication products and channels to further reach our members and livestock producers directly – including a brand-new Animal Disease Alert to support members with trusted and factual information on disease outbreak concerns within and near to Australia

# CEO Report

## Kathleen Plowman

As we report on Year 3 of our five-year Strategic Plan (2020-2025), this annual report will focus on AHA's performance and results over the past three years – tracking our progress against our strategic priorities and commitments to ensure we are delivering value to our members, and the animal health and national biosecurity system. The 2025 Strategy is our blueprint for the future and sets AHA's direction until 2025. This mid-term review allows us to celebrate our successes and make modifications to better reflect the

changing and complex environment we operate in so that we can deliver on our commitments.

In 2019, AHA commissioned the report "Megatrends, opportunities and challenges facing Australian livestock industries". At the time, this report was quite forward thinking and future focused and helped shape our strategic plan and priority areas.

One of the megatrend scenarios in this report looked at the 'triple whammy



event' the idea that Australia would experience simultaneous outbreak threats to our livestock industries (in this case it was foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever and avian influenza), and if such a scenario were to happen, the system would be under enormous stress and the livestock sector would be brought to a standstill.

Little did we know that as we launched our new Strategic Plan, a human health pandemic was on the horizon. In addition, AHA did face two serious emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreaks (avian influenza in 2020, an EAD response that occurred in a period of lock down and Japanese encephalitis in 2022), and the threat of additional diseases including African swine fever, lumpy skin disease and foot-and-mouth disease, were and are still extremely close to our borders.

These threats would change the way we operate forever. The pandemic made us rethink and reevaluate some of our programs to ensure continued delivery of outputs, but it certainly didn't make us stop. The continued threat of exotic diseases at our borders has also coined a new phrase in our system 'the pre-response phase' and

sees us working with our members in new ways to ensure protection from disease threats.

Now, as we move into this 'new normal', a COVID-19 world where we are more digitally connected, adapted to the hybrid working environment and as a nation, are much more aware of human and animal related biosecurity threats, our results from three Annual Operating Plans of our 2025 Strategy are still showcasing that while the risk of a triple threat is evident, our agility as an organisation to adapt and deliver is stronger than ever.

What I am proud of is that AHA is showcasing our powerful impact, which reflects our sphere of influence. AHA expertise was called on to participate in and present at numerous roundtables, forums and webinars and not only did we service these requests, we also fast-tracked the reviews of a number of our AUSVETPLANS to ensure that they were up to standard and remained fit for purpose. We also developed and released a new 3-year strategic plan for the Farm Biosecurity program which we lead in collaboration

Our results and evaluation processes to date are indicating that **AHA is on course to achieving the delivery of our strategic outcomes by 2025** and that AHA continues to ensure our animal health and biosecurity systems remain fit for the future.

with Plant Health Australia to better support on-farm biosecurity.

For a small organisation, we continue to deliver above and beyond and this is due to the dedication, commitment and passion of all the staff who work at AHA and the support and strategic guidance of our Board of Directors. I particularly want to also acknowledge and thank my General Managers, Dr Samantha Allan and Adam Pate, for their support and continued guidance and implementation of our strategic and company priorities.

There have been so many notable achievements for our organisation over the past three years and the results of our mid-term review are also strong, with the analysis highlighting that of the 24 intermediate

outcomes and 60 complementary monitoring indicators, our four end-of-program outcomes are tracking on or above target. These continue to be showcased in the monitoring and evaluation section of this report, and the 3-year impacts graphic at the start of this section.

Our results and evaluation processes to date are indicating that AHA is on course to achieving the delivery of our strategic outcomes by 2025, and that AHA continues to ensure our animal health and biosecurity systems remain fit for the future.

**Kathleen Plowman**

*CEO*

Animal Health Australia

# CEO's Highlights

AHA continues to showcase our powerful impact, which reflects on our sphere of influence to drive change and provides direct value for our members. We are on track to deliver against our four end-of-program outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us rethink and reevaluate some of our program areas to ensure continued delivery of outputs, but we have relished the opportunity and continued to deliver strongly against our strategic priority outcomes.



## Political Engagement

Federal Agriculture Minister Murray Watt photographed with Kathleen at the 2023 Federal budget breakfast, where he announced new measures towards implementing sustainable funding for the biosecurity system (image supplied by CropLife).



## Member Engagement

Kathleen and the AHA Board meet with members of the Australian Horse Industry Council (Mark Burnell and Jamie Dowling) while in Melbourne for the February 2023 Board Meeting.



## Stakeholder Engagement

Kathleen, along with PHA CEO, Sarah Corcoran presented to the National Biosecurity Forum on how to enhance partnerships within Australia and on an international scale, using the Deeds as a model of shared responsibility.

# Financial Overview

Ashley Turner FGIA CPA  
AHA's Company Secretary & Head of Finance

Even as the challenge to both Australia's human and animal health and biosecurity systems has grown significantly, Animal Health Australia (AHA) was well positioned to manage what the 2022-23 financial year (FY 22-23) had in store. An uncertain economic outlook dominated by global inflation placed significant strain on the cost base of AHA, but offered improved investment returns to partially offset these increases. AHA, like many of our Members,

struggles to fully pass on inflationary cost increases to customers, and this challenge requires ongoing focus to continue to deliver for members.

The net operating result of a \$2.7 million surplus primarily reflects industry levy income over industry levy expenditures of \$2.7 million, a \$0.4 million increase in the unrealised valuation of investments and a \$0.5 million write-down of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine bank.



## Income

Subscription income received from government, non-levy industry, and associate members was \$3.2 million. Revenue from non-subscription programs of \$3.9 million was up on the prior year by \$0.4 million as non-levy funded programs across training and biosecurity utilised prior year underspends to fund expanded programs over the 2022-23 financial year.

Levy income was on budget and up on the prior year by \$0.1 million primarily as a result of the activation of the EADRA levy, both for laying and meat chicken industries for the 2020 Victorian avian influenza (AI) response. The EADRA levy was collected and subsequently returned to the Commonwealth as per Priority 3 section 4.5.a of the Australian Animal Health Council (Livestock Industries) Funding Act 1996 (AAHC Act). Sheep and lamb levies were up on budget as their flock rebuild progressed, but levies from cattle were down due to the rebuilding of the cattle herd being at a less advanced stage.

Other income was down on the prior year as the biennial Biosecurity

Symposium, which generated a majority of the prior year's other income, was not held during 2022-23.

A strong recovery in interest rates and financial markets saw the return on AHA investments increase from the prior year and against budget across the AHA portfolio. The impacts of a strong recovery in domestic and global markets have seen the valuation of AHA's medium and long-term investments measured at their fair value and subsequently marked-to-market by \$0.4 million at 30 June. Throughout FY 22-23, the Board retained conservative AHA investment settings.

## Expenditure

Subscription program activity of \$5.7 million was over budget by \$0.2 million as a result of additional resourcing to assist with strategic priority one programs, such as the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and the AUSVETPLAN, following members' agreement to provide an increase of 2.5% to core subscriptions, supporting ongoing services. Non-subscription program activity of \$6.6 million was down on budget and the prior year, as AHA

prioritised subscription activity and experienced a material reduction in the cost of laboratory testing, reducing the volume and expenditure of laboratory testing post-COVID.

After a challenging FY 22-23 with recruitment and talent sourcing in a very tight Canberra labour market, AHA was able to recruit into a majority of budgeted roles within the organisation, returning the organisational headcount to approximately pre-COVID levels. This resulted in an 8% increase in total employee benefits expense but a 12% decrease in the reliance on consultants. 2022-23 saw other material increases in the EADRA repayment costs, as discussed above, and staff and non-staff travel.

## Balance Sheet

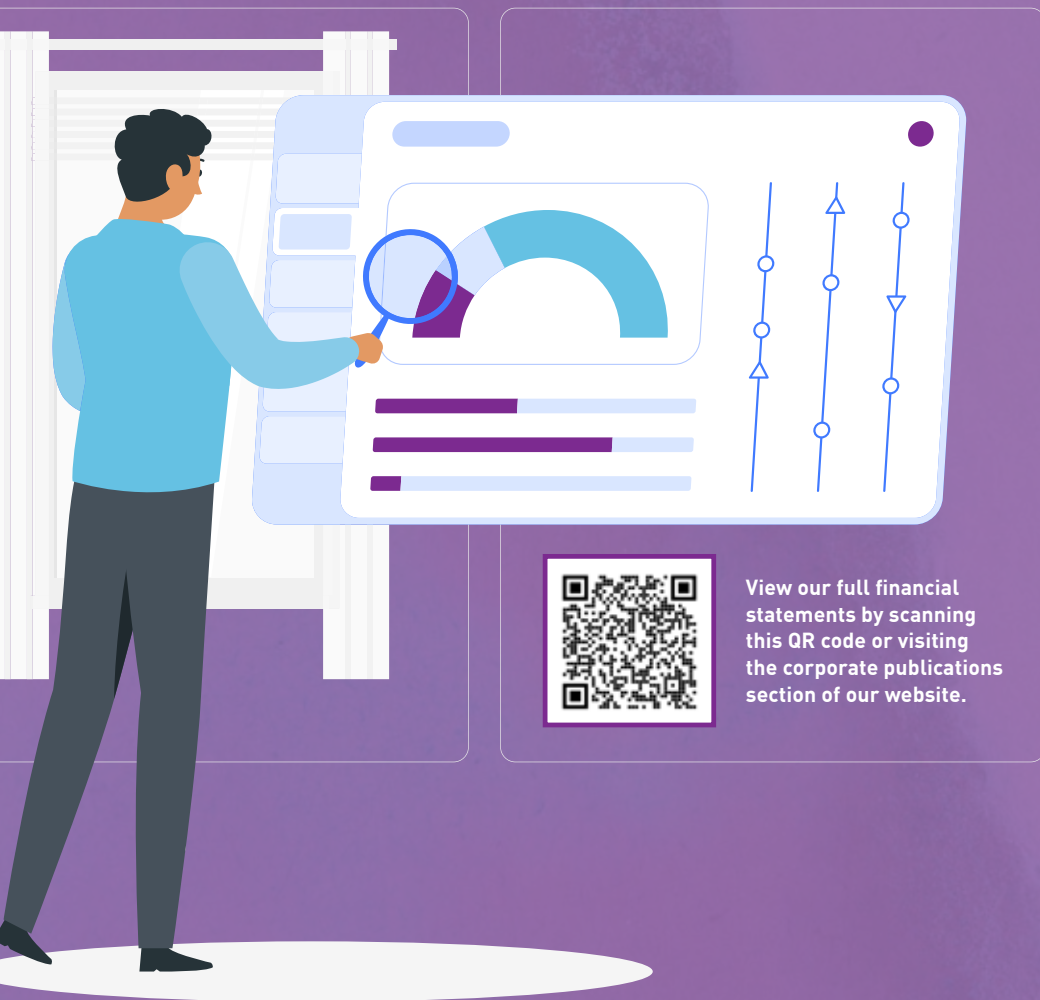
The increase in equity of \$2.7 million is reflected in a \$2.3 million increase in total assets (\$2.5 million increase in cash & investments less a \$0.5 million write-down of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) Vaccine bank) and a \$0.5 million decrease in total liabilities (\$0.6 million in contracted liabilities offset by a \$0.1 million increase in trade payables and employee benefits).

## Summary

After several years of generally favourable farming conditions, 2023-24 is looking more challenging for AHA members and AHA. As producers position themselves for less favourable conditions, AHA expects its outlook for levy income to moderate with those actions. However, even as production conditions may tighten, the demand for AHA services is set to continue to grow rapidly. This continues to challenge AHA to maintain sustainable funding to meet growing expectations and demands throughout the agricultural and economic cycle. The risk and awareness for emergency animal disease remains elevated; however, it is foreseeable that participants across the animal health and biosecurity system, many of them AHA members, will start to exhaust the 'surge' resourcing and activity of the past 18 months. Global inflation continues to dominate the outlook for financial markets and investment returns and income. Despite the potential risks and less favourable outlook than in recent seasons, AHA remains well-positioned to respond to the challenges it faces and continue its material contribution to Australia's national animal health and biosecurity system.



# Financial Snapshot



## 15.6m

Total Revenue

## 7.4m

LEVIES

## 7.1m

SUBSCRIPTION AND NON  
SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM INCOME

## 0.9m

INTEREST / DISTRIBUTIONS

## 0.2m

OTHER INCOME

## 13.3m

Total Expenditure

## 6.6m

NON-SUBSCRIPTION  
PROGRAM ACTIVITY

## 5.8m

SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM  
ACTIVITY

## 0.5m

ASSET WRITE-DOWNS

## 0.4m

EADRA COMMONWEALTH  
LEVY REPAYMENT

# 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 three of the five year plan. A mid-term review of the Strategic Plan has been undertaken.



**Prepared and ready  
to respond**



**Better health and  
biosecurity practices**



**Connecting systems for  
stronger biosecurity**

# 1 Strategic Priority



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

# 2022-23 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 Highlights



The second exercise for lumpy skin disease (LSD) was undertaken and the AUSVETPLAN *Response strategy: Lumpy skin disease* was updated accordingly and endorsed in October 2023.



Six AUSVETPLAN manuals received major updates: African horse sickness response strategy, foot-and-mouth disease response strategy, valuation and compensation operational manual, wild animal response strategy, meat processing operational manual and dairy enterprise manual.



Variations to the EADRA were signed off in December 2022 and included a new clause relating to intellectual property that had been under negotiation since 2018.



The fourth EADRA five-year review commenced in July 2022 and is on track to be completed in early 2024.



Improved member understanding of the purpose and function of national EAD response roles and national arrangements through numerous CCEAD, NMG, Liaison-Livestock Industry (LLI) and EAD training courses.



AHA provided advice to DAFF to assist them in reporting relevant information to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Australia has maintained its negligible bovine spongiform encephalopathy status and freedom from classical scrapie status.

# Outlook for 2023-24



Completion of the fourth EADRA five-year review including endorsement of the final report by signatories and coordination of annual variations to keep the EADRA current.

Completion of activities to coordinate and progress the request to recategorise lumpy skin disease.

AHA-led exercise to test the effectiveness of the milk movements section of the updated foot-and-mouth disease response strategy.

Ongoing development, maintenance and stakeholder consultation around online courses and training resources.

NMG, CCEAD and LLI annual calendar of workshops available to view on website.

Complete a desktop audit and an exercise of the FMD vaccine bank, and provide a report with clear recommendations on any improvements required to ensure that the bank will effectively support a response to an FMD outbreak.

Begin the recontracting process to secure an FMD vaccine bank for Australia from 2025-2029.



## Technical expertise is at the core of the AUSVETPLAN program

The AUSVETPLAN Technical Review Group (TRG) plays a key role by providing technical review of all manuals assisting in, prioritising the workplan and ensuring AUSVETPLAN remains fit for purpose and contemporary.

The TRG is led by AHA's Emergency Preparedness staff and is made up of technical experts from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, each of the state and territory governments and the CSIRO-ACDP.

The TRG met several times during the FY including in Launceston in February 2023 to discuss and prioritise the manual reviews moving forward.

# Core Projects

Title	Purpose	Impact Statement	
<b>Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) Operation and Integrity</b>	Ensure the EADRA remains a nationally agreed, contemporary and legally binding Deed that enables a rapid, effective and efficient response to EADs.  Ensure all EADRA signatories understand their shared obligations and legal responsibilities as well as their benefits under the EADRA.	Variations to the EADRA were signed off in December 2022. These included a new clause relating to intellectual property that had been under negotiation since 2018.  The 2022 EADRA five-year review commenced in July 2022 and is on track to be completed in early 2024. The review will use lessons from the last five years to enhance the operations of the EADRA. The initial consultation phase was completed in 2022 with over 300 comments from stakeholders recorded and grouped into 22 themes.	
<b>Informing Emergency Animal Disease Responses</b>	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.	The AUSVETPLAN <i>Response strategy: Avian influenza</i> was updated to incorporate 2021 updates from the World Organisation for Animal Health and learnings from the after action review of the 2020 Victorian HPAI outbreaks.  The second exercise for lumpy skin disease was undertaken and the AUSVETPLAN <i>Response strategy: Lumpy skin disease</i> was updated accordingly and endorsed by AHC in October 2023.  Exercise Milky Way, a desktop exercise to test raw milk movement controls during an FMD outbreak was completed.  The AUSVETPLAN 2023/24 workplan was endorsed by Animal Health Committee.	

Cont'd



Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track



Title	Purpose	Impact Statement	
<b>Increase Response Capacity and Capability</b>	Deliver tailored training and education that builds the response capability of AHA and our members.	Increased member understanding of the purpose and function of EAD response roles and responsibilities through various face to face and virtual EAD preparedness workshops from 2022 and 2023.  Developed EAD awareness resource kits for several members, and published the just in time LLI video pack and CCEAD and NMG Information Guide.	



Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track







## Government and industry incident management training

The “CONT2BER: Control a Level 2 incident” workshop focused on different aspects of incident control and management, and each participant had the chance to develop their incident management, public information, planning, operations, logistics, and finance and administration skills.

The workshop was coordinated by Animal Health Australia in collaboration with Tocal College and Phoenix Resilience; assistance was provided by the Little Kingfisher Group, P2R2 and Turning Point Crisis Management.

Thirteen jurisdictional and one industry representative came together in February 2023 in a week-long training session designed to simulate real-time incident management scenarios.

# Other Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine Bank Management</b>	Enhance Australia's preparedness for an FMD outbreak by ensuring access to the appropriate FMD vaccines, if required for use in a response.	<p>Australia has an agreement in place with a major international manufacturer of veterinary pharmaceuticals in Europe (UK and France) to provide FMD vaccines within seven working days, to be used as part of an emergency response.</p> <p>The agreement has been reviewed in line with the increased likelihood of an outbreak in Australia.</p> <p>AHA also initiated a desktop audit of the bank to ensure it will effectively support a response in the event of an outbreak of FMD in Australia.</p>	
<b>Anthrax Vaccine Bank Management</b>	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. It has not needed to be used but it is an important tool in Australia's emergency preparedness toolbox.	
<b>Johne's Disease (JD) and Anthrax Reference Laboratories</b>	<p>Provide Reference Laboratory services to support national disease management programs for Johnes Disease and anthrax.</p> <p>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.</p>	The Anthrax and Johne's Disease Reference Laboratories continue to function as centres of excellence in diagnostic services for these regionally important diseases. They also contribute to national and international scientific collaboration.	

Cont'd



Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Maintain Access to Arbovirus Sensitive Markets</b>	Monitor the distribution of economically important arboviruses of livestock such as Bluetongue, and their vectors.	The National Arbovirus Monitoring Program is an invaluable resource for supporting market access for livestock and their products. The <i>Culicoides</i> workshop held in early 2023 supported the development of a draft identification manual for female <i>Culicoides</i> species found across Australia, the first of its kind. (Note: <i>Culicoides</i> are biting midges that can transmit economically important diseases of livestock).	
<b>Enhanced Surveillance for Significant Exotic Diseases of Pigs</b>	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, initiated by the pig industry, continues to encourage veterinarians to submit samples from relevant cases to support Australia's animal health status in relation to major exotic diseases of pigs. In 2022-23, changes were made to allow for pig veterinarians to utilise their professional judgement more fully in relation to numbers of samples collected, and several articles were published in Pork News to promote the scheme.	
<b>National Biosecurity Response Team Program (NBRT)</b>	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.	Delivery of a comprehensive professional development program through face-to-face workshops, webinars, conferences, and eLearning courses.  Development and maintenance of an online NBRT Portal for members.  Joint presentation by NBRT advisory group members to European foot-and-mouth disease (EuFMD) program on virtual control centres.	
<b>National Biosecurity Response Team Cadet Program</b>	Support foundational level biosecurity emergency preparedness and response capability and capacity in each jurisdiction.	Provided foundational biosecurity emergency preparedness and response skills and knowledge and inter-agency networking opportunities to jurisdictional response personnel.	

Cont'd



Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<p><b>Maintain Australia's Freedom from Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)</b></p>	<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>Reporting to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) was completed and Australia maintained its negligible BSE status and freedom from classical scrapie.</p> <p>An external review of the program at the end of the current five-year business plan found it is successfully meeting all objectives and outcomes.</p>	
<p><b>Monitoring for an Exotic Zoonotic Pest</b></p>	<p>Monitor the level of risk of screw-worm fly (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>Australia's surveillance capability for screw-worm fly was enhanced by a successful workshop for entomologists held in Darwin in September 2022.</p>	



Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track





## Building a biosecurity ready workforce

The successful launch of the National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT) Cadet workshops in Tasmania, Queensland and the Northern Territory showcased the programs potential to help lift biosecurity emergency preparedness and response capabilities in each jurisdiction. By maintaining a critical mass of cross-sectoral response-ready personnel, the initiative supports national efforts and assists jurisdictional preparedness, ensuring a robust and well-coordinated response to future biosecurity challenges.

Staff from the Tasmanian Government attend and participate in the NBRT Cadet workshops in February 2023.




## Upskilling members to be primed and ready to ID key insect vectors

The *Culicoides* entomology training workshop, part of AHA's National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP), was led and delivered by AHA's Dr Bronwyn Hendry and Emily Sears, along with the NAMP reference entomologists Dr Glenn Bellis, Dr Birgit Loecker and the NSW DPI Biosecurity Collection staff, at the Orange Agricultural Institute in NSW from 30 January through to 3 February 2023.

The feedback was universally positive, with participants reporting that, in addition to significantly improving their *Culicoides* identification skills, the workshops gave them a valuable face-to-face opportunity to build networks.

Twenty participants from across Australia came together in Orange, NSW, in early 2023 to focus on the identification of species of *Culicoides* species biting midges, which can transmit viruses such as bluetongue virus and Akabane virus.

# Strategic Priority 2



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.

# 2022-23 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 Highlights



Farm Biosecurity site had 244,320 pageviews from 117,735 users and 1,394 aluminium farm gate signs sold and delivered during period. 20 NEW news articles produced and published on the website resulting in 3,962 page views to the site.



A new version of the National Farm Biosecurity Technical Manual for Egg Production was published, and a review of the National Horse Biosecurity Workbook commenced.



More than 70,000 users to the ParaBoss website since its revamped launch in October 2022.



Ten ParaBoss webinars were undertaken reaching 970 real-time attendees, of which 412 were livestock producers.



Just under 10 million sheep were inspected as part of the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project (NSHMP) and three producer workshops were held at one of the participating abattoirs. There were 725 downloads of the NSHMP Annual Report.



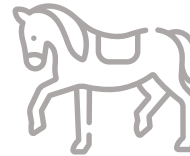
# Outlook for 2023-24



Ongoing delivery of the three-year, four pillar implementation plan of the Farm Biosecurity program covering communications, extension, research and partnerships.



Participate and support in the development of government biosecurity strategies and industry biosecurity planning.



Working with our industry members to develop contemporary biosecurity manuals for horse venues, lot feeding and grazing livestock.



Assist members to incorporate new and immersive tools into their engagement and extension services, which provide direct and tangible outcomes for livestock and livestock producers.



Enhanced promotion of parasite management and other animal health related topics specifically for cattle, goat and sheep/wool producers.



## Champions of Farm Biosecurity

The Farm Biosecurity Program is proud to sponsor the Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year awards as part of the annual Australian Biosecurity Awards and has been since 2017. The awards recognise Australian primary producers, including individuals and organisations, that have demonstrated outstanding on-farm biosecurity practices.

The 2022 winners were Brigid and Owen Price from Price Cattle Company. The central Queensland beef producers are role models in the agricultural industry. They are leading the way in farm biosecurity, innovation, technology, record keeping, environmental sustainability and business transparency.

Owen and Brigid Price pictured receiving the award from Minister for Agriculture, Murray Watt, at the 2023 awards ceremony held in Canberra.

# Core Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Better On-Farm Biosecurity</b>	<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 program team utilised a multi-channel approach to build producer and grower awareness of the benefits of good farm biosecurity. This includes managing the website, producing new content for the website, advertising, social media, newsletters, and articles.</p> <p>Due to our members referring users to the website, during the reporting period the site had 244,320 page views from 117,735 users during (↑FY 20% and ↑12% from previous FY). 1,394 aluminium farm gate signs sold and delivered during period.</p> <p>20 news articles produced and published on the website resulting in 3,962 page views to the site.</p> <p>Six (bi-monthly) newsletters produced and distributed to 3,000+ subscriber base consistently achieving above-average open rates (30-40%).</p> <p>A new version of the National Farm Biosecurity Technical Manual for Egg Production was published.</p>	
<b>Improving Livestock Welfare</b>	<p>Facilitate national solutions that maintain and increase market access through effective partnerships for livestock welfare, policy development and implementation.</p>	<p>AHA developed a new Welfare Statement to define our place in the national welfare space. AHA participated in national welfare committees such as the Livestock Export Animal Welfare Advisory Group, National Animal Welfare RDE Strategy and The Animal Welfare Collaborative.</p> <p>AHA facilitated a meeting between the horse industries and DAFF to talk through relevant issues.</p> <p>The Animal Welfare Standards website was refreshed.</p>	



Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track





## New Cattle Diseases Guide developed

South Australian cattle farmers can now tackle livestock diseases more effectively with the newly launched Cattle Diseases Guide. Developed in collaboration between the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) “Red Meat and Wool Growth Program” and AHA, this guide empowers farmers to take timely action when confronted with common cattle diseases and conditions prevalent in South Australian farms.

Pictured is Tom Cosentino, Fleurieu Peninsula beef producer (and Livestock SA Executive Officer) holding copies of the April 2023 *Cattle Diseases: The Farmers' Guide*.

# Other Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>On Farm Biosecurity Extension (SA/NSW)</b>	Provide tools and resources that build awareness and understanding of farm biosecurity practices, resulting in practice change.	AHA's future approach to extension is still to be determined. Therefore, resourcing of this program is on hold.	
<b>Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians</b>	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 2022-23 in support of associated certification programs.	
<b>Australian Government Accredited Veterinarian Training</b>	Provide a contemporary, accessible online learning platform to allow private veterinarians to become accredited to undertake export certification work on behalf of governments.	The online learning platform was maintained throughout 2022-23.	
<b>Cattle Health</b>	Provide the framework for a nationally integrated approach to health conditions and biosecurity within the Australian cattle industry.	Biosecurity and animal health issues were addressed (particularly for Johne's disease).  AHA contributed to development of the Immune Ready Guidelines.	

Cont'd

Project Tracker
 Completed
 On track
 Not on track



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Cattle – Northern Breeding Business (NB2)</b>	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.	Two of the four producer workshops were held in northern Queensland during this period. An immersive biosecurity farm tour website was developed using Indigenous staff from a cattle property in Nth Qld to talk about biosecurity practices carried out on their property. A final report was submitted and accepted by MLA and a new phase planned for extending the project to further Qld properties in 2023-24.	
<b>National Management of Johne’s Disease (JD)</b>	Manage the cross-sectorial issues associated with JD in alpacas, cattle and goats.	As this was an in between year for the International Paratuberculosis Forum (they are biennial), work was minimal for the project, with support provided to the various relevant industry member programs as well as a national working group dealing with JD testing.	
<b>Goat Health</b>	Provide the framework for a nationally integrated approach to health conditions and biosecurity within the Australian goat industry.	A revised Market Assurance Program for Goats (GoatMAP) was launched in August 2022. The refreshed program now contains a caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE) module as well as biosecurity and Johne’s disease modules.	
<b>Prohibited Pig Feed Compliance &amp; Awareness</b>	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.	All compliance reporting was collated and reported back to SAFEMEAT and the PPF Working Group.  A communications campaign for PPF was undertaken.	

*Cont'd*

**Project Tracker**

**Completed**

**On track**

**Not on track**


TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Feedlot Sheep Health</b>	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.	In this MLA Donor Company part funded project, Charles Sturt University completed the 18-month study including animal health surveillance at 10 lamb feedlots. Findings from this study will be included in a communications and extension plan to be led by MLA.	
<b>National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy (NSIBS)</b>	Work with Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) and Wool Producers Australia (WPA) 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.	AHA is reassessing the delivery of extension outcomes and its extension strategy and this has impacted some of the outputs.  'Sheep EAD' – an augmented reality application for Apple, Android, and Microsoft HoloLens app stores – was developed with PIRSA and launched at the end of August 2022. Over 1,500 downloads were made by the end of the financial year.  A virtual workshop was held with SPA and WPA to consider the main biosecurity risks to industry as well as the farm level. Findings will be used for future project planning.  As part of the project, a consultant continued to provide biosecurity extension and monthly disease monitoring reports covering the whole of Tasmania.	
<b>ParaBoss</b>	Expand producer, grower and trusted advisor audience reach and recognition of sheep, goat and cattle parasite management.	The ParaBoss phase 3 program is 2 years into a 3-year project which has delivered a modern producer-centric website and continues to roll out strategic and structured producer communication and extension activities.	
<b>Fit to Lamb</b>	Create a database of existing research and effect of management practices specific to sheep breed, ewe age and production environment on lamb mortality.	Project commenced with the scoping of the new database, while data sharing arrangements were sorted with other participating parties by Murdoch University.	

Cont'd



# Journey Through Success:

## Project Highlights from July 2021–June 2023

### ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION



Delivery of 14 webinars to 903 total attendees (1 out of 3 attendees a livestock producer/grower)



Held a successful pilot WormBoss Sheep Workshop and represented ParaBoss at various events and field days



Delivery of effective, independent, accurate, and objective advice on best practice management of parasites

### INCREASED AWARENESS



Growth between Feb 2022 – Feb 2023 to the monthly Boss Bulletin e-newsletter



Boss Bulletins opened more than 15,000 times



618 online media and social media mentions for ParaBoss products

### BROUGHT EIGHT SEPARATE WEBSITES INTO ONE HOME!



Audited and technically reviewed all web content pages



Clean, simple look across the sites



Fully responsive across desktop, tablet, and mobile devices

### NEW PRODUCER/GROWER FOCUSED CONTENT CREATION



Introduction of the new ParaBoss style guide and brand



Development of ParaBoss merchandise and banners



37 new feature articles published since Feb 2022, generating over 5,500 reads



First time attending a ParaBoss webinar - it won't be the last! Thank you, it was great information.  
– Producer

A goat webinar with some substance! Good to see actual research synthesised and consideration into translational commentary for producers. There's a need for deep dive seminars for producers.  
– Producer

### WEBINAR TESTIMONIALS



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Sheep Health</b>	<p>Provide the framework for a nationally integrated approach to health conditions and biosecurity within the Australian sheep industry.</p> <p>Monitor sheep health and productivity conditions through abattoir monitoring, reporting back to producers.</p>	<p>Just under 10 million sheep were inspected as part of the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project.</p> <p>Three producer workshops were held at one of the participating abattoirs.</p> <p>Quarterly summary reports on the diseases and conditions are sent to interested district veterinarians in NSW. There were 725 downloads of the NSHMP annual report.</p> <p>Sheep health and disease communications were developed and distributed by social media as well as promoted online.</p> <p>AHA collaborated with Integrity Systems Company on the development of their new 'myFeedback' portal, which will launch early next year.</p>	
<b>Cattle Disease – The Farmers' Guide</b>	In collaboration with PIRSA, develop a resource on endemic and priority EADs, as well as biosecurity information for cattle producers.	The Cattle Disease Guide was completed and launched by the SA Agriculture Minister in late April 2023.	
<b>Ratite Industry Biosecurity Manual</b>	In collaboration with AgriFutures and ratite industry members, develop a biosecurity manual for the industry.	A working group of industry members was formed, and work commenced drafting the manual.	
<b>Genetic evaluation of resistance to footrot in Australian sheep</b>	This project sought to generate a base set of data that could be used to demonstrate the variation that exists within Australian sires and to generate information that could contribute to footrot breeding value generation within the Australian context, thus giving producers another tool in managing this disease.	The project successfully demonstrated that there is a large variation in the genetic susceptibility of animals to footrot within the Australian context and was comparable to previous NZ work where they have developed a value. The project was unable to generate an Australian footrot breeding value (due to the limited cohort of sheep in this trial) but was able to set up additional challenge sites and will contribute to the future development of a footrot breeding value for Australian sheep.	

Cont'd



Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track





TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Sheep Pneumonia Survey</b>	A sampling survey during all four seasons of the year in four different abattoirs to determine the cause of pneumonia in sheep.	The sampling survey was completed in previous years, but the final project report was submitted to MLA by Joan Lloyd Consulting in July 2022. The project revealed widespread infection with <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> in Australian slaughter sheep, with 64.4% of abattoir lots testing positive for the bacterium. Recommendations were made for possible future work as well as communications about the project findings.	

Project Tracker

Completed

On track

Not on track





# Strategic Priority



**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.**

# 2022-23 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 Highlights



AHA led the finalisation of the National Animal Health Surveillance Plan 2022-27 which has been endorsed by the national Animal Health Committee.



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.



The Decade of Biosecurity program has developed an agreed implementation plan which was delivered with the support of AHA and other biosecurity collective partners.



Planning is underway for the 3rd Australian Biosecurity Symposium which has been scheduled for August 27th to 29th 2024, on the Gold Coast.

# Outlook for 2023-24



Ongoing support of veterinary investigations and support of jurisdictions in training veterinarians.



Continued delivery of the Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly and Animal Health in Australia Annual Report.



Support increasing the quantity and quality of livestock and wildlife disease investigations nationally.



Planning and delivery of the 3rd Australian Biosecurity Symposium and continued involvement in the Decade of Biosecurity campaign.



Working with PHA and DAFF to deliver a new animal surveillance database for the future.



## Australia's enviable animal health systems showcased at world scale

In its 30th year and to coincide with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) 90th Annual General Session in Paris, the Animal Health in Australia (AHIA) Annual Report has been released showcasing how Australia's enviable animal health systems are protecting our \$34 billion livestock industries and world class animal based products.

The report is a collaboration between Animal Health Australia (AHA) and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), and outlines key animal health initiatives and developments undertaken in 2022.

Pictured are Dr Mark Schipp (Australian Chief Vet), and Dr Mary Wu and Adam Dawes (representing AHA's Industry Forum) showcasing the Animal Health in Australia 2022 Annual Report in Paris at the World Organisation for Animal Health General Summit in May 2023 (supplied by DAFF).

# Core Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Collaborative Disease Investigations</b>	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 quality and increase the quantity of veterinary investigations of significant diseases of livestock and wildlife. The program supports effective collaboration between non-government veterinary practitioners and governments through training, and facilitates veterinary investigations of complex cases through financial support.	
<b>National Animal Health Laboratory Coordination</b>	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. A focus of SCAHLs in 2022-23 has been planning for a major laboratory-focused emergency animal disease exercise, to be held in the latter part of 2023.	

*Cont'd*


Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Supporting Market Access</b>	Provide governance for the collation, analysis and reporting of an agreed national surveillance dataset. Maintain an online database of national animal health information which is accessible to governments to support trade negotiations and market access. Manage the production of agreed national surveillance publications.	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.  AHA has also been actively involved in the trial of <i>AusPestCheck</i> ® for animal health surveillance data - an updated surveillance data management system - facilitating discussions with relevant stakeholders to ensure the system meets current and future requirements.	
<b>Surveillance Support</b>	Participate in the development, delivery and evaluation of national animal disease surveillance initiatives including the National Animal Health Surveillance Plan and its supporting activities.	AHA led the finalisation of the National Animal Health Surveillance Plan 2022-27 which has been endorsed by the national Animal Health Committee. AHA also plays an important role in national surveillance initiatives such as the Northern Australian Biosecurity Strategy and the Surveillance and Epidemiology Advisory Group.	





## The Decade of Biosecurity builds momentum

Several members of the Decade of Biosecurity steering committee attended the National Biosecurity Forum in Canberra in April 2023. The Decade of Biosecurity steering committee includes representatives across government, industry and community groups.

To ensure the Decade of Biosecurity can achieve its objectives, a three-year Implementation Plan for the Decade of Biosecurity initiative has been developed. The Plan was developed during the FY 22-23 with extensive consultation with stakeholders representing agriculture (animals and plants), pest animals, weeds, wildlife, aquatics, First Nations, human amenity, and the environment.

Find out more [biosecurity2030.org.au/our-initiatives](https://biosecurity2030.org.au/our-initiatives)

# Other Projects

TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Biosecurity 2030</b>	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.  Meet challenges and future-proof Australia's biosecurity system to protect our economy, environment and way of life.	The Decade of Biosecurity program has developed an agreed implementation plan which was delivered with the support of AHA and other biosecurity collective partners.  This implementation plan is being driven by a steering committee with representatives from government, agricultural and environmental peak bodies and progress is managed through a national coordinator, who is supporting delivery of the campaign objectives.  Planning is now underway for the 3rd Australian Biosecurity Symposium which has been scheduled for August 27th to 29th 2024, on the Gold Coast.	
<b>Supporting National Veterinary Pathology Expertise</b>	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 through initiatives such as the Australian Animal Pathology Standards Roadshow. In June 2023, Dr Karen Dittmer from Massey University, New Zealand presented on bone pathology in five locations across Australia. Excellent feedback was received from participants.	

*Cont'd*


Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<b>Biosecurity RD&amp;E Strategy</b>	Promote and identify cross-sectoral, collaborative RD&E opportunities where gaps exist, including identification of funders and providers.  Identify and reduce duplication of RD&E to increase the efficiency of resource allocation and use.	After a delay in the project for the first half of the year (as there was no dedicated Coordinator), activity picked up for the second half. A new NABRDE Strategy for 2023-28 was further developed and agreed by the Steering Committee.  NABRDES became part of the new cross-sectoral National RDE Strategy Working Group (along with environment, plant and marine equivalent strategies).  Two projects developed by Industry Forum EAD Working Group were considered by the group and one (on industry crisis management plans) received a commitment to part funding from an RDC.	
<b>National Wild Dog Action Plan</b>	Support the coordination and roll out of the newly endorsed National Wild Dog Management Action Plan.	A new 5-year plan and contract was put in place for 2022-27.  All NWDAP commitments were met.	
<b>National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)</b>	AHA to work with members and stakeholders to deliver a range of outputs relevant to NLIS business rules and SAFEMEAT initiatives.	AHA worked with governments and industry bodies on relevant traceability initiatives.	
<b>Alpaca Traceability</b>	Work with the Australian Alpaca Association to develop and implement a traceability system for alpacas and llamas.	AHA worked with AAA on refining the draft NLIS Business Rules for Alpacas and Llamas and progressed them through the various national committees including their endorsement by SAFEMEAT Partners in June 2022. A voluntary system of traceability is now in place for the alpaca industry.	

Cont'd



Project Tracker



Completed



On track



Not on track



TITLE	PURPOSE	IMPACT STATEMENT	
<p><b>Industry Forums</b></p>	<p>Provide a forum for industry discussion on issues relating to animal health, welfare and biosecurity.</p>	<p>The Industry Forum (IF) is meeting regularly, with attendance by most industry members. A key achievement for the year was the participation in a benchmarking exercise to identify the biggest gaps in EAD preparedness, biosecurity and animal health across industries to help inform IF priorities. Eleven of 14 Industry members and 3 associate members have participated so far.</p>	
<p><b>Harvested Rangeland Goat Depot Permit System</b></p>	<p>Develop a robust and regulated tag free movement permit system for the Harvested Rangeland Goat (HRG) sector of the industry to enable movement direct to slaughter or via one registered goat depot, that is consistent across all jurisdictions.</p>	<p>AHA contracted GICA to develop an accreditation manual, SOPs and draft communications plan for the HRG depot system, which was endorsed by SAFEMEAT Partners in June 2022.</p>	

Project Tracker
 Completed
 On track
 Not on track

# Customer, Strategy & Operations

Customer, Strategy & Operations (CSO) comprise the Member and Customer Value, Communications, Project Management & Governance and Finance and Office Management functions. These teams work collaboratively internally and externally to ensure that AHA project activities are grounded in member and customer needs, and delivered efficiently. CSO, through the Chief Executive, Board and its committees, maintain the infrastructure, systems, business support and services for AHA staff, members, customers and related entities. CSO assist the company to meet its strategic objectives by:

- implementing effective human resources, IT and governance systems,
- dedicating resources and capability toward partnerships with members and customers,
- providing efficient 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 and,
- 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

### Modelling for sustainable funding

AHA has completed the first phase of work to ensure that it progresses to a more sustainable funding model for its subscribed and non-subscribed projects.

AHA has directly funded a material component of core subscribed projects and activities in previous financial years. For AHA to continue to deliver, funding and costs need to be strategically evaluated.

### Cyber resilience

As with most Australian companies in the light of major cybersecurity breaches in Australia, AHA has prioritised this topic. After completing a cybersecurity review, AHA has embarked on the early stages of a cyber investment roadmap that will make AHA's IT and cyber environment more resilient.

### Enhancements to the projects and approvals process

As presented at our March 2023 Member Engagement Week, AHA has implemented enhancements for the scoping and approval of new AHA projects. In addition, AHA has implemented a more thorough consultation process for the AOP, holding individual meetings with members to get feedback on subscription funding changes. These changes have been well received by the membership and represent incremental improvements in engagement with members and AHA processes.

# Committee Representation

Animal Health Committee (subcommittee of NBC) (observer)

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Animal Health Committee Subcommittee on Emergency Animal Diseases (SCEAD)

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Animal Health Disease and Defect Standard WG

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Animal Industry Anti-Microbial Stewardship Steering Committee (observer)

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Australian Strategic & Technical Advisory Group on AMR

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ABARES General Surveillance Project Steering Committee

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Beef Sustainability Framework Consultative Committee

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Biosecurity and Agricultural Emergency Network (observer)

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CSIRO Health and Biosecurity Advisory Committee

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Decade of Biosecurity Steering Committee

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

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FMD Vaccine Bank Contract Advisory Committee

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Intergovernmental Emergency Animal Disease Taskforce (member)

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Live Export Animal Welfare Advisory Group

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Livestock Communication Network Group

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National Animal Health Training Reference Group (chair, secretariat, member)

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National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) (observer)

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

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

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National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network digital working group (member)

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National Biosecurity Response Team Advisory Group (secretariat, member)

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

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

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Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework Implementation Committee

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Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework Reference Group

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Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance Working Group

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NSW Collaborative Pig Group

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QLD Animal Biosecurity Market Access Liaison Group

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Red Meat Statistics Working Group

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SAFEMEAT Partners (observer)

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SAFEMEAT Advisory Group (observer)

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SAFEMEAT National Feed Standards WG

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SAFEMEAT NVD WG

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Southern Australian Livestock Research Council (associate member)

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Wildlife Health Australia Coordinator Group

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Wool Industries Australia Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Working Group

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WoolProducers Health and Welfare Committee

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## Australia's biosecurity communication powerhouse

Animal Health Australia is a member of the National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network (NBCEN), of which the group navigates complex communication issues during outbreaks both in and out of Australia, including the varroa mite response, and as foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease hit Indonesia. The group meets monthly (virtually) and twice a year for face-to-face meetings. This image was taken at our September 2022 meeting in Adelaide hosted by PIRSA.

# 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

Animal Health Australia was mentioned in 2,564 media items (across online and broadcast media) resulting in an estimated advertising value equivalent of \$4.9 million. Major topics focused on biosecurity planning, disease outbreaks in Indonesia, and Australia's preparedness activities.

## Publications and Downloads

Our publications (i.e. PDFs) on the AHA website were downloaded 175,319 times. Top downloads of recent publications include:

- 2,352** Animal Health in Australia Annual Report 2021 (released May 22)
- 1,786** AHA AOP 22-23 (released June 22)
- 1,257** AHA Annual Report 21-22 (released November 22)
- 1,020** NAMP Annual Report 21/22 (released Mar 22)
- 725** NSHMP Annual Report 21/22 (released November 22)



## Websites

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



**275,471**  
pageviews

**111,735**  
users



**244,320**  
pageviews

**117,007**  
users



**205,640**  
pageviews

**70,881**  
users (since Oct 2022)

## Social Media Engagement

AHA sent out **1,142 posts** across our Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn pages to **15,035 followers** (growth of **23.7%**). Through sharing and strategically boosting our posts we impressed upon **936,354 accounts** (2.5 times higher than 2021/22 FY).

Our average engagement rate is at **4.6%** (where industry average sits at **2%**), showcasing strong interest in our content. LinkedIn is our most engaged platform with a **5.9% engagement rate**.

Overall, we received **11,927 click throughs** from our posts to our content.

## Digital Campaigns and Downloads

Several digital communication campaigns were undertaken to support program awareness, uptake and value, which included media training all key program staff and developing a new AHA promotional video.

Key program campaigns advertised included:

### Producer EAD awareness campaign: July 2022

**142,625**  
impressions

**1,232**  
post clicks

### Short interviews with AHA program leads: Oct 22-Mar 23

**18,871**  
views

### Pig swill feeding awareness: Dec-Mar 23

**201,950**  
impressions

### Lamb marking pain relief: April 23

**30,571**  
impressions


**342**  
link clicks



# Our Members and Stakeholders getting social with AHA


**Jo Coombe** · 2nd  
Policy Lead, Dairy Australia / Secretariat of the Animal Industries' Antimicrobial Stewardship Strategy / Member of Australian Strat...  
3h · Edited · 🌐

I was very proud to represent Dairy Australia at Animal Health Australia Members' Engagement Week this week in Canberra. A great opportunity for industry and government to come together for the betterment of animal health and emergency animal disease preparedness  
Pictured here with Justin Toohey who was representing Australian Dairy Farmers and AHA CEO Kathleen Plowman



**Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF)**  
1,226 followers  
20h · Edited · 🌐

After two busy and productive days with Animal Health Australia, our CEO Mary Wu is now at Parliament House with Sky News discussing industry's AI preparedness.



with Mary Wu

**Asif ahmed** · 3rd+  
Postdoctoral fellow, Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP), CSIRO-Geelong  
6d · 🌐

Great to attend NAMP (National Arbovirus Monitoring Programme) funded workshop on Culicoides identification and servillance at Orange Agricultural Institution, NSW.

It is a honour to represent CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) as a stockholder of NAMP and meet with Culicoides (Biting Midges) Researchers from Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD), Animal Health Australia, Agriculture Victoria, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Queensland) personnels.

#agriculture #australia



12

Like Comment Repost Send

**Senator Murray Watt**   
@MurrayWatt

Our joint Govt-industry partnership is vital to keep Aus foot & mouth disease-free. Pleased to join over 1,000 Aussie farmers last night with @redmeatcouncil @NationalFarmers & @animalhealthAUS to discuss our strong biosecurity measures & what more we can do together.



9:22 am · 21/7/2022 from Brisbane, Queensland · Twitter


**Meat & Livestock Australia** @meatlive... · 20s

After a wet summer, there is increased risk of liver fluke pick-up and subsequent summer infections!

This may lead to a peak output of infective cysts, necessitating treatment in April and May.

Read more [bit.ly/3LAcT0D](http://bit.ly/3LAcT0D)

#parasite #paraboss #animalhealth



National Sheep Health Monitoring Project sheds light on top conditions affecting the industry

Visit [www.bsca.com.au](http://www.bsca.com.au)


**Shaina Berry** · 2nd  
Senior Biosecurity Officer (Preparedness) at Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
32m · 🌐

A fantastic opportunity to undertake Incident Controller training surrounded by such experience. Thank you to Animal Health Australia, Tocal College and Phoenix Resilience delivering and sharing your knowledge and expertise! #animalhealth #emergencypreparedness #training #incidentcontrol

**Animal Health Australia**  
5,190 followers  
1w · 🌐

CONT2BER 2023 was a success! 🎉

Read more <http://bit.ly/3Jfzrwf> ...see more

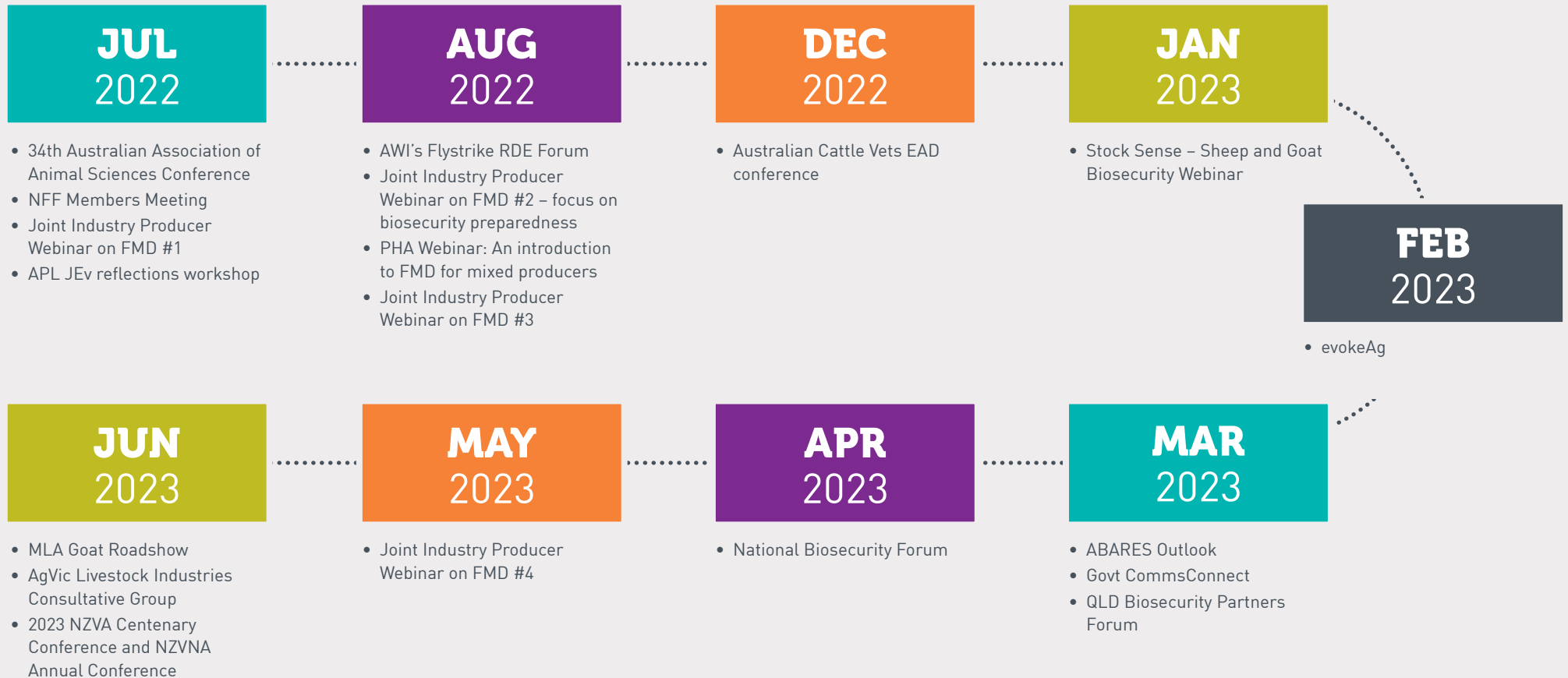


**CONT2BER Sydney 2023**

animalhealth PHOENIX RESILIENCE Tocal COLLEGE

# Event Highlights

Through key events, webinars and workshops, Animal Health Australia engaged more than 5000 key stakeholders directly through our membership. Below highlights a sample of key events where AHA staff played key roles.





## Member Engagement Weeks come back stronger

We have been so pleased to receive such strong engagement and positive reviews of our new and revitalised Member Engagement Week activities led by our Member Value team.

Post COVID-19 lockdowns and travel bans, we have achieved a strong attendance from almost all our government and livestock industry members, along with a strong showing from associate members.

The week provides an opportunity to network with other members across government and industry and purposefully engage in discussions on a national biosecurity and emergency preparedness system that is fit for the future, as well as participate in forums, workshops and training sessions.



# Monitoring & Evaluation Progress

Our third year of monitoring and evaluation progress against the *AHA 2020-2025 Strategy* has seen us continue to achieve strong results amidst a busy period, allowing us to learn and grow from our successes and challenges and improve our performance and deliverables to our members.

Our three high-level external 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. The charts below showcase our high level results of the past 12 months against each of the strategic priorities, while the next section provides an overview of progress for the past 3-years – marking our half way point and a mid-term review of the Strategy.



# Mid-term Review of AHA 2020-2025 Strategy – Summary of Results

The AHA 2020-2025 Strategy is now at its halfway point. A *Mid-Term Analysis of Monitoring and Evaluation Results* report has been undertaken by a consultant providing an overview of the total AHA Monitoring & Evaluation data for the period 2020 to mid-2023. All Board Directors, staff and members have been engaged during the review process.

The M&E indicators have been collected against four end-of-program outcomes:

- **Strategic plan end-of-program outcome one:** Biosecurity threats are detected promptly and we are prepared to respond.
- **Strategic plan end-of-program outcome two:** Livestock production and products meet customer expectations.
- **Strategic plan end-of-program outcome three:** Systems are connected for stronger biosecurity.
- **Company health end-of-program outcomes:** Assessment against governance, financial, operational and wellbeing factors.

It has been noted that the reporting period took place during a period of upheaval, including the COVID-19 pandemic, EAD outbreaks, threat of additional disease outbreaks, and an organisational restructure and relocation.

Despite this period of disruption, mid-term M&E results show that 19 out of 24 intermediate outcomes are tracking on-or-above target, indicating that AHA is on course to achieving the effective implementation of strategic and company health outcomes by 2025.

## End of program mid-term results

### Strategic Priority 1

- Two indicators above target
- Two indicators on target
- Two indicators below target



ON TARGET

### Strategic Priority 2

- Three indicators above target
- One indicators on target
- Two indicators below target



ABOVE TARGET

### Strategic Priority 3

- Six indicators above target



ABOVE TARGET

### Company health end of program outcomes

- Two indicators above target
- Three indicators on target
- One indicators below target



ABOVE 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 Governments and Industry, and a representative of the National Farmers Federation and the AHA Chair or director nominee, which recommend appointments for members' approval at a 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, 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 (PCPC) and the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) are charged with different aspects of monitoring assurance systems. The Company Secretary manages compliance and 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 of 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 ARMC 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 subscription funding is 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 ARMC. 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 ARMC.

## 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

Each staff member is employed under an employment contract that specifically calls for performance reviews every 90 days as part of our employee engagement cycle which is measured by the staff member's manager. The performance of the CEO is evaluated on the same basis by the Chairperson and Board.

## 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

<b>AAPSP</b>	Australian Animal Pathology Standards Program	<b>DAFF</b>	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
<b>ABARES</b>	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics Sciences	<b>EAD</b>	Emergency Animal Disease
<b>ACDP</b>	Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness	<b>EADRA</b>	Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement
<b>AGM</b>	Annual General Meeting	<b>FY</b>	Financial Year
<b>AHA</b>	Animal Health Australia	<b>FMD</b>	Foot and Mouth Disease
<b>AAHC</b>	Australian Animal Health Council	<b>GICA</b>	Goat Industry Council Australia
<b>AHC</b>	Animal Health Committee	<b>HPAI</b>	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
<b>AHiA</b>	Animal Health in Australia	<b>IF</b>	Industry Forum
<b>AOP</b>	Annual Operating Plan	<b>JD</b>	Johne's Disease
<b>APL</b>	Australian Pork Limited	<b>JeV</b>	Japanese encephalitis virus
<b>ARMC</b>	Audit and Risk Management Committee	<b>LLI –</b>	Liaison - Livestock Industry
<b>AUSVETPLAN</b>	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>AWI</b>	Australian Wool Innovation	<b>MLA</b>	Meat & Livestock Australia
<b>BSE</b>	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	<b>NABRDES</b>	National Animal Biosecurity Research, Development and Extension Strategy
<b>CAE</b>	Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis	<b>NAMP</b>	National Arbovirus Monitoring Program
<b>CCEAD</b>	Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases	<b>NB2</b>	Northern Breeding Business
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer	<b>NBC</b>	National Biosecurity Committee
<b>CSO</b>	Customer, Strategy and Operations	<b>NBRT</b>	National Biosecurity Response Team

**NFF**

National Farmers Federation

**NLIS**

National Livestock Identification System

**NMG**

National Management Group

**NSHMP**

National Sheep Health Monitoring Project

**NSIBS**

National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy

**NSW**

New South Wales

**NWDAP**

National Wild Dog Action Plan

**NZ**

New Zealand

**NZVA**

New Zealand Veterinary Association

**PCPC**

People Culture and Performance Committee

**PDF**

Portable Document File

**PHA**

Plant Health Australia

**PPF**

Prohibited Pig Feed

**PIRSA**

Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

**QLD**

Queensland

**RDE**

Research, Development and Extension

**SA**

South Australia

**SCAHLs**

Subcommittee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards

**SOPs**

Standard Operating Procedures

**SWF**

Screw-Worm Fly

**SPA**

Sheep Producers Australia

**T2M**

Transition to Management

**TRG**

Technical Review Group

**WOAH**

World Organisation for Animal Health

**WPA**

Wool Producers Australia





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