

National Animal Health System

Strategic Framework for 2007 – 2012

SEPTEMBER 2007

Version 3 of the National Animal Health Strategic Framework

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ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

On behalf of:

Australian Government - State of New South Wales - State of Victoria - State of Western Australia - State of Queensland - State of South Australia - State of Tasmania - Northern Territory - Australian Capital Territory - Australian Chicken Meat Federation - Australian Egg Corporation - Australian Dairy Farmers Limited - Sheepmeat Council of Australia - Australian Horse Industry Council - WoolProducers Australia Ltd - Australian Lot Feeders Association - Cattle Council of Australia - Australian Pork Limited - Australian Honey Bee Industry Council - Goat Industry Council of Australia - Australian Racing Board - Australian Harness Racing Council - Alpaca Association of Australia - Australian Veterinary Association - Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

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National Animal Health System

Strategic Framework 2007 – 2012

The National Animal Health System

The National Animal Health System includes all organisations, government agencies, commercial companies and individuals that are involved in the livestock production chain. This document describes the various elements of the System, identified risks to the System and the strategies to address those risks.

The document lists the strategic priorities for improving animal and human health, market access, food safety and quality, animal welfare, livestock productivity, biosecurity and the level of protection against emergency diseases, in the national interest.

The primary focus is on production of food and fibre from terrestrial livestock species, together with the use of horses for recreation, competition and work.

INTRODUCTION

Australia's favourable animal health status has underpinned the development of valuable overseas and domestic markets for a wide range of livestock and livestock products; it is crucial in maintaining market access and strengthening our competitive position. The proven animal health status gives domestic and overseas consumers assurance about the quality and safety of those products. Our high animal health standards also contribute to improved livestock productivity, animal welfare and biosecurity.

In the Australian context, it is important to recognise that:

- Australia is a federation, with the Australian Government having constitutional responsibility for international trade and quarantine, while state and territory governments have responsibility for animal health matters including regulation, surveillance and emergency animal disease (EAD) responses within their boundaries.
- Much of Australia's livestock industry comprises predominantly broad-acre low intensity enterprises where management generally focuses on the flock or herd rather than the individual animal.
- As a consequence of Australia's geography, animal health services are dispersed and often cover large areas, compared to many other major agricultural countries.
- Intensive animal production usually is characterised by a more frequent use of animal health services.

The National Animal Health System is focused mainly on the production of food and fibre from terrestrial livestock species, and has five key areas of activity:

- **Coordination** of animal health related activities of a broad range of government agencies and industry stakeholders, and clarification of their respective roles and responsibilities in achieving agreed outcomes.
- **Identification and prioritisation** of opportunities to improve the performance of the National Animal Health System and the effective deployment of available resources.
- **Definition, communication and mitigation** of the biosecurity risks that need to be managed to maintain market access and sustainable livestock industries.
- **Communication** to domestic and international consumers that Australia has a coordinated, national approach to animal health management.
- **Evaluation** of the performance of key participants, using the National Animal Health Performance Standards that have been developed to establish benchmarks against which the capability of Australia's animal health services can be assessed and improvement measured.

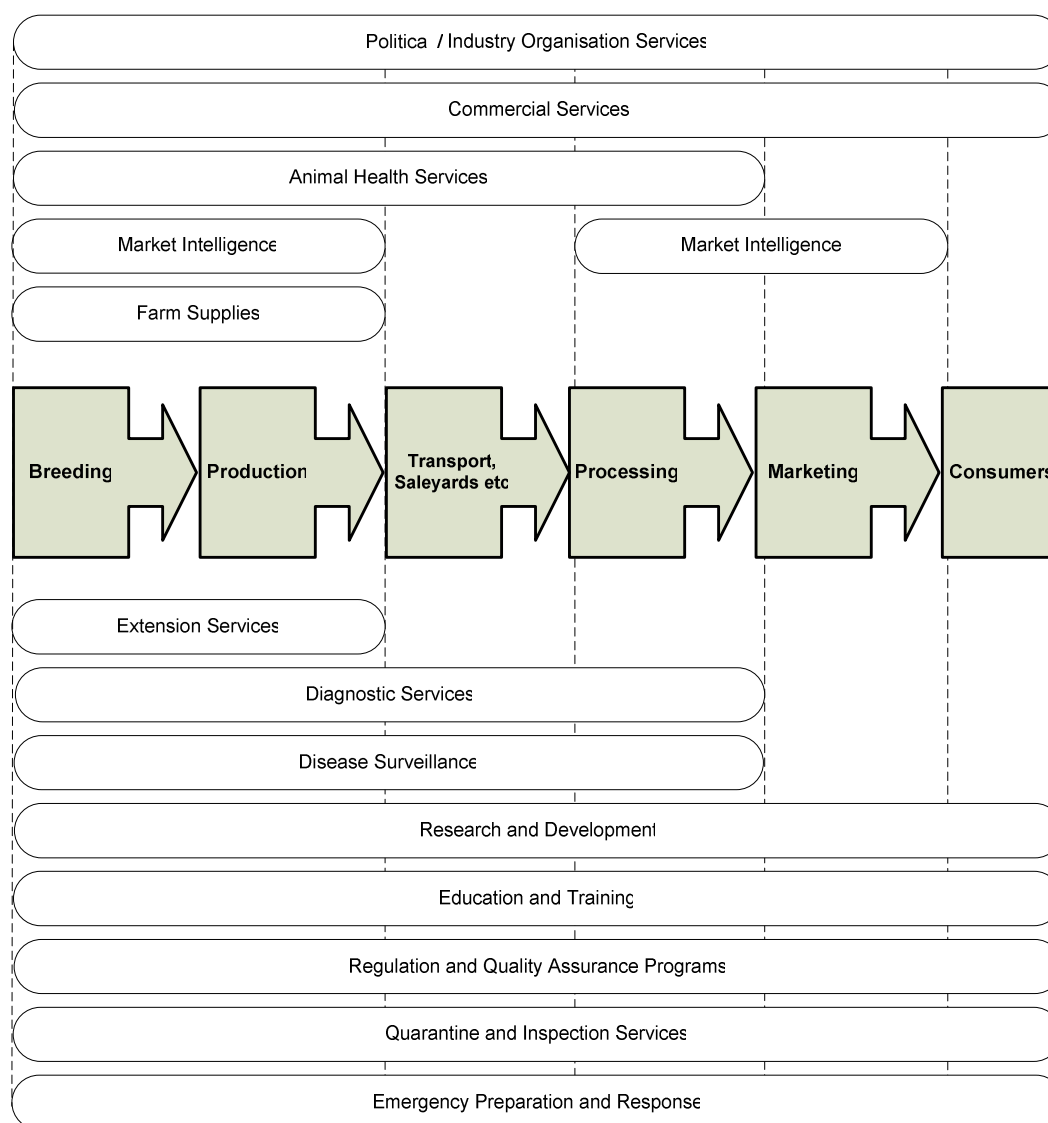
The activities within the National Animal Health System are set within a strategic framework that also lists agreed priorities. For each of these priorities, various actions and responsibilities will be allocated, and achievements reported each year.

The national management of animal health is an evolving partnership that relies on constructive collaboration between Australian governments, livestock industries and other stakeholders involved in the production chain. See Appendix A for an overview of the development of the National Animal Health Strategic Network.

The strategic framework for the National Animal Health System is designed to complement broader strategies covering other components of Australia's biological asset base. This strategy is linked to, and consistent with, the Australian Biosecurity System for Primary Production and the Environment (AusBIOSEC), and recognises the critical linkages with other areas including human health and food safety.

NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH SYSTEM

The various elements of the National Animal Health System that contribute to the livestock production chain are shown in the figure below. The system also includes activities related to the use of horses for recreation, competition and work.



The major contributors, their responsibilities and commitments to the National Animal Health System are:

Livestock producers – Responsible for the health and welfare of the animals in their care; they are the frontline for animal health management, disease surveillance and enterprise biosecurity.

Governments – Australian, state and territory governments are key participants, with the following responsibilities:

Australian Government

- Pre-border and border quarantine
- International trade and market access issues
- International reporting on animal health matters
- Specialist EAD response support services.

State and territory governments

- Regulation of animal health activities
- Regulation of internal and interstate movement of livestock
- Internal quarantine
- Surveillance and diagnostic services
- Animal health advice and support to producers.

Shared by all governments

- Development and implementation of animal health policy
- EAD response planning and implementation
- Research and development services
- Contributions to research and development funding
- Livestock, livestock product and livestock production process certification for trade and market access purposes.

Private animal health service providers – Contribute to the delivery of services, support and advice to livestock producers and others in the production chain. They also supplement government surveillance activities.

Livestock production chain participants – Have responsibility for the maintenance of animal health, welfare and biosecurity during production, transport, selling, processing, storage, distribution and marketing of livestock and livestock products.

Animal Health Australia – A partnership of governments and livestock industries that initiates and manages collaborative programs to improve animal and human health, food safety and quality, market access, animal welfare, livestock productivity and national biosecurity.

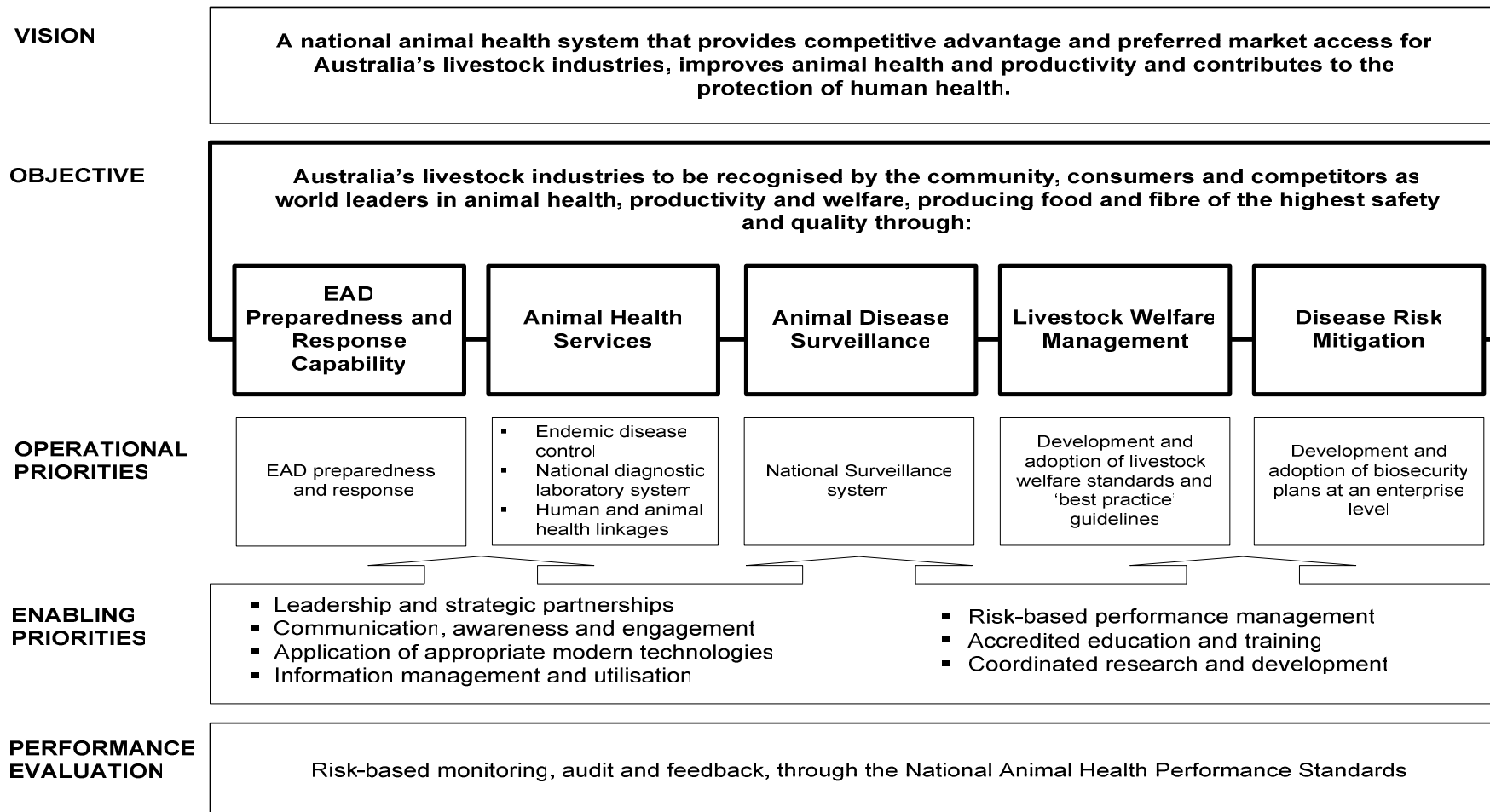
Teaching and research institutions – Contribute through the development and delivery of appropriate education and training courses, the conduct of relevant research and the extension of research findings to producers and other participants in the national animal health system.

Industry research and development service organisations – Identify and fund animal health research and development programs, promote sound biosecurity planning and animal health management practices to producers, and promote the quality of Australia's livestock and livestock products in domestic and overseas markets.

Livestock industry associations – Contribute to the development of animal health policies and strategies, the development and implementation of industry biosecurity plans, the promotion of sound animal health management practices to members.

Agribusiness companies and organisations – Contribute by supplying a range of goods and services to producers and the advocating sound animal health and biosecurity management practices.

National Animal Health Strategic Framework 2007-2012



DRIVERS – OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

The opportunities and risks that have driven the development of this Framework are:

Animal disease

- Incursion of disease due to failure of quarantine and surveillance, which would threaten Australia's favourable animal health status and have implications for trade.
- The increasing worldwide occurrence and spread of emerging and exotic animal diseases.
- Possible failure of EAD reporting and management arrangements.
- The significance and cost of endemic animal diseases.
- Lack of awareness and understanding of biosecurity, especially at an enterprise level.

Trade and economic

- The significant dependence of many of Australia's livestock industries on export markets.
- The growing expectations of consumers (both domestic and international), competitors and regulatory authorities with respect to food safety, disease freedom and animal welfare.
- Comprehensive and demanding requirements for surveillance to prove animal health status.

Organisation and Management

- The changing nature of government involvement in animal health management.
- Maintenance and recruitment of competent experienced staff in specialist disciplines.
- Maintenance of effective communications – including the coordination of media management in the event of an EAD outbreak.
- The ability of livestock producers and their representative organisations to contribute to policy development and participate in animal health programs, by personnel with leadership skills and technical expertise.

Political

- Level of resourcing of animal health programs from the public purse.
- Maintenance of the national animal health government/industry 'coalition'.
- The dispersed accountability for animal health management under Australia's constitution.
- The focus of international consumers, competitors and regulators on performance at a national level.
- Politically-expedient decisions which may have an adverse impact on trade and market access.

Technological

- Opportunities to apply new and innovative technologies to animal health management.
- The routine management practices applied in Australia's extensive livestock production systems, which might be regarded as unconventional, compared to those of overseas trading partners.
- Ability to capture and use relevant information/data.

Social

- The increasing disconnect between urban communities and those involved in the livestock production chain.
- Heightened community concern about animal welfare issues, and the growing influence of extreme welfare viewpoints.
- Increased awareness, knowledge and expectations regarding food quality and dietary issues.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

The further development of the National Animal Health System will be based on the following principles:

- Processes for the development and enhancement of the System need to provide effective mechanisms for participation of industry and government stakeholders, including agreed decision-making mechanisms.
- A nationally harmonised approach to animal health and welfare management across Australia that achieves consistent, clearly-understood outcomes.
- Full engagement of livestock producers and everyone along the production chain, with roles and responsibilities of all participants clearly defined.
- Objective assessment of performance by evaluating outcomes rather than inputs.
- Application of risk-assessment processes to the allocation and management of available animal health resources.
- Compliance with international standards, including commitments to OIE, Codex etc.
- Shared accountability for minimising the risk of disease incursions, determining the appropriate response to an incursion and sharing the costs involved.
- Open and transparent communications within and across industry and jurisdictions.
- Commitment to nationally accredited education and training systems, to ensure appropriate capabilities.
- Development of technical expertise within stakeholder organisations to assist in animal disease control.
- Sufficient flexibility to address changing circumstances and priorities.

BENEFITS

The National Animal Health System aims to achieve improvements in:

- **Disease incidence, prevalence and severity** – The number and nature of the significant animal diseases that occur in Australia are key indicators of our animal health status; zoonotic diseases are of particular significance.
- **EAD response capability** – The ability to assist in the prevention of incursions and to rapidly detect and effectively respond to incursions of emergency animal diseases.
- **Food safety and quality of livestock products** – Protection of human and animal health, together with market access and expansion.
- **Animal health regulation and management** – Improved quality of animal health regulatory and management systems, including effective quarantine arrangements.
- **Animal health services** – Enhanced availability, accessibility, coverage and quality of the nation's private and public animal health services.
- **Livestock welfare** – The achievement of acceptable welfare outcomes is a fundamental precept of livestock production, with significance for domestic and international markets.

PRIORITIES

The priorities for the National Animal Health System are:

a) Enhanced EAD preparedness and response capability

Australia's EAD preparedness strategy is well developed and managed. The continuing threat of incursions and the potential impact of an incursion on a key sector of the national economy demand that EAD preparedness and response capability be an on-going priority.

The August 2007 Equine Influenza outbreak has highlighted the critical importance relating to the prevention of incursions, effective detection, response and communication capabilities for the management of exotic disease incursions. The continuing emphasis on preparedness activities among all stakeholders and support for the cooperative management mechanisms of the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) will be continually pursued.

b) Effective management of endemic diseases

Australia has achieved some outstanding successes in the control and management of animal diseases, including the eradication of bovine brucellosis, pleuropneumonia and tuberculosis.

The surveillance for endemic diseases is closely linked to EAD preparedness and the timely identification of emerging diseases.

The establishment of effective endemic disease management and control programs will also underpin food safety and quality and public health; improve livestock productivity through the provision of feedback to all stakeholders regarding the animal health status of individual animals, herds and flocks; improve biosecurity through an enhanced understanding of the occurrence and prevalence of disease; and to meet enhanced international reporting requirements that confirm Australia's favourable animal health status.

Endemic disease management can be very resource intensive and planning and implementation of control programs must be based on a clear understanding of all the relevant factors and the appropriate application of risk assessment processes.

The development and implementation of effective regional, industry and enterprise biosecurity plans are key factors in controlling the spread of both emergency and endemic animal disease.

c) Animal disease surveillance

Development and implementation of the National Animal Health Surveillance Strategy is a high priority, notably the availability of up-to-date national and international information about current and emerging animal diseases and pests that present risks to Australian livestock industries. Effective surveillance programs also provide accurate, credible reports of Australia's

animal health status to domestic and international consumers, the wider community and policy makers.

It is important that surveillance for exotic diseases and monitoring of endemic diseases be based on credible risk assessments, with participation of a wider cross-section of the national animal health system in the acquisition and reporting of surveillance information.

d) National diagnostic laboratory capability

The ability to reliably and rapidly diagnose disease and identify the causal agent is an integral part of the national surveillance effort. The National Animal Health Laboratory Strategy recognises a range of benefits that can flow from closer collaboration between laboratories. The implementation of the Strategy, including a detailed work plan, will involve a broad group of stakeholders including government, CSIRO, university and private sector laboratories that provide a wide range of animal health diagnostic and research services.

e) Human health and animal health linkages

There is growing recognition of the important linkages between human and animal health, and the incidence of human and animal diseases. Cooperation by government officials and professionals in both sectors is increasingly important in areas such as awareness, research, surveillance, diagnosis and response.

For the National Animal Health System, there is an opportunity to develop a wider base of strategic and operational networks and relationships with state and national human health groups and professionals, using conduits such as Animal Health Australia and the Australian Biosecurity CRC to improve animal health, human health and food safety.

f) Livestock welfare

Australian livestock production systems are acknowledged as reflecting the best in modern husbandry methods, and this country has taken a leadership role in encouraging the development of improved international welfare standards. Changing community attitudes to animal welfare together with increased emphasis in international forums, present opportunities and challenges to Australian livestock producers to review management practices and maintain continuous improvement in livestock welfare outcomes.

The review process for the current Animal Welfare Codes of Practice and the commitment to convert current Codes into Standards and Guidelines that will be uniformly implemented in legislation in all Australian jurisdictions will be continued and form the basis for the improvement of animal welfare outcomes in the production and recreational animal sectors.

g) Biosecurity planning and management

The development and adoption of biosecurity plans at an enterprise level is of crucial importance in mitigating the risk of diseases, both endemic and exotic. It is also an important commitment of signatories to the EAD Response Agreement.

h) Leadership and strategic partnerships

Australia's capability to plan, manage and respond to local and international challenges to the national animal health system requires effective leadership in all sectors; heightened awareness of the important biosecurity and animal health issues amongst stakeholders and the effective engagement of all participants who are able to contribute to an enhanced national animal health status.

The ongoing development and implementation of appropriate strategic planning procedures for the national animal health system requires the input of all stakeholders and Animal Health Australia, in conjunction with jurisdictional and livestock industry Members, is well positioned to coordinate this critical activity.

One aspect of leadership that is particularly important to Australia's livestock industries, given the reliance on exports, is the standing of Australia in key international forums and regulatory bodies, such as OIE and Codex. Carriage of this aspect for the national animal health system rests with the Australian Government with input from Animal Health Australia and all affected stakeholders.

i) Communication, awareness and engagement

Australia's ability to manage and maintain the country's favourable animal health status relies on effective communication between all stakeholders. The National Communication Network (NCN) provides the mechanism for the management of communication arrangements during emergency disease incidents and it is critical that preparedness activities and appropriate training are maintained. The inclusion of affected industry participants in the NCN is also a critical component for the effective management of emergency disease incidents.

During 'peacetime', communication networks must be maintained and Animal Health Australia through its Protect Australian Livestock Campaign and its linkages with jurisdictional and industry awareness and biosecurity programs, will maintain a coordinating role for the communication, awareness and engagement program for the national animal health system.

j) Application of appropriate modern technologies

To optimise the use of available animal health resources and ensure consumer confidence in livestock products, it is important that modern technology is employed to best effect, consistent with assessed risks and relevant to particular animal health management systems.

k) Information management and utilisation

A comprehensive, credible and flexible National Animal Health Information System is critical to the achievement of many of these priorities, in particular the surveillance and EAD response capabilities. The availability of current and reliable animal health information will enhance the ability of all participants in the System to fulfil their roles and carry out their assigned responsibilities.

l) Risk-based performance management

The development of risk assessment processes as the basis for biosecurity planning and animal health resource allocation has been accepted as a key pre-requisite for a coordinated approach to determining operational priorities.

The commitment of governments and livestock industry organisations to comprehensive, risk-based performance standards and the regular assessment of performance against these standards is pivotal to the successful consolidation and integration of a national animal health system. Appropriate performance standards and assessment processes provide a sound basis for stakeholders, individually and collectively, to identify their contribution to the national system, to determine their performance against the standards and to address any deficiencies.

m) Accredited education and training

All personnel directly involved in the national animal health system – animal health professionals, para-professionals, livestock managers, service providers or industry participants in EAD response and decision making – should be educated, trained and accredited to standards that are consistent across all jurisdictions.

Nationally-consistent training allows personnel who are accredited in emergency response roles to be readily deployed across jurisdictional boundaries to fill appropriate roles in the EAD response as required. It also assists in ensuring that Australia's national animal health training and education arrangements are recognised and accepted by international parties with an interest in the performance and credibility of Australia's animal health system.

It is recognised that the plant and animal industries have many common interests in relation to emergency disease preparedness and response. Some of these interests are also shared with civil emergency response organisations. Where appropriate, integration of emergency response training into these wider national networks will enhance the resources available to the animal health sector.

n) Coordinated research and development

The importance of Australia's livestock industries to the national economy, the unique nature of many livestock management practices employed in Australia and the relatively limited research and development resources available, dictate that optimal outcomes will only be achieved if there is effective coordination of the national research and development effort.

It is essential that such coordination is based on sound risk assessment principles.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the inception of the National Animal Health Strategic Framework in January 2005, there has been substantial progress across a range of areas that had been identified as high priorities. A summary of these achievements is presented at Appendix B.

APPENDIX A – DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The initial version of the Strategic Framework was developed by Animal Health Australia from October 2003, after wide consultation within its membership.

The document was intended to serve two main purposes:

- To propose a National Animal Health Strategy for Australia.
- To define the composition and scope of a national animal health system that would, through the combined efforts of its constituents, implement a National Animal Health Strategy.

Managing Animal Health in Australia – an Evolving Partnership

Under the Australian Constitution, the Australian Government is responsible for quarantine and international animal health matters, including disease reporting, export certification and trade negotiation. It also advises and coordinates national policy, and, in some circumstances, provides financial assistance for national animal disease control programs. Australian state and territory governments are responsible for disease control and eradication within their own boundaries.

Government veterinary services in Australia include officers from national, state, territory and local government and critical institutions such as the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) at Geelong in Victoria; a range of state and territory animal health laboratories and an extensive network of private veterinary practitioners throughout the country. Consultative committees ensure that these elements work together to serve the overall interests of Australia.

While under the Australian Constitution the development and implementation of animal health policy in Australia is defined as a government responsibility with the Commonwealth and States and Territories having different roles, there has been a long history of increasing involvement by Australia's livestock industries in a range of animal health initiatives.

Initially the industry contribution was largely by way of funding for particular programs, such as BTEC, and for R&D through levy funded rural research and development corporations. For many years industry representatives have had a role in determining how industry R&D funding is applied and have participated in consultative processes with government officials charged with the determination and implementation of animal health policy.

The establishment of Animal Health Australia in 1996 and the signing of the EADRA in 2002 represent a threshold in the development of a full government and livestock industry partnership for the management of animal health in Australia. As Members of Animal Health Australia, the livestock industries share with government Members responsibility for setting the Company's Constitution, determining its strategic direction and funding its activities.

Similarly, under the EADRA livestock industries share accountability for minimising the risk of disease incursions, maintaining an appropriate capacity to respond to

incursions and determining the timing, nature and extent of the response to any incursion as well as sharing the costs of such responses.

With government resourcing for animal health services changing; the demands of local and international consumers regarding animal health and food safety increasing and livestock producers adopting modern strategies and technology, it can be anticipated that the government and industry partnership in animal health management will continue to evolve and mature.

It should be expected that not only will livestock industries and producers continue to contribute by way of funding and decision-making but also that they will become responsible for biosecurity planning and management at the industry and enterprise level and, enabled by training and new technologies, accredited producers will participate directly in animal health surveillance and disease-freedom assurance programs as well as by making practical contributions to other initiatives.

It should also be anticipated that the partnership will extend beyond livestock producers and their representative organisations to include downstream livestock processing industries and other service providers to the livestock industries.

This framework is built around the expectation that the evolution of this partnership will continue.

APPENDIX B – NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
<i>Operational Priorities</i>		
Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness		
EAD Response Agreement	Parties to the EADRA Deed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced EADRA five-year review • Parties provided issues for consideration and Discussion Paper prepared for workshop • Conducted workshop to consider 22 recommendations divided into 3 tiers of importance • Tier 1 issues included – definition of an EAD; categorisation; containment; normal commitments; review of lists of EAD's and pest bees • All issues to be further considered and agreed items to be circulated as variations to the Deed for Parties endorsement • All Parties reiterated commitments to the EADRA and stressed the importance and relevance of the mechanisms contained therein.
EAD Training Programs	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Response Team – 21 new members recruited and inducted. • Australian Veterinary Reserve – maintenance and development program commenced for the 100 members • 31 AVR members attended a specialist AVR workshop conducted as part of AVA Annual Conference • AVR members participated in Exercise Bendigo in Victoria and Exercise Sartorial Goose in South Australia • Industry Liaison Officer training – 100 personnel trained during 2006-07 with a total register of 665 trained ILOs • 22 industry representatives attended CCEAD training • 17 NMG representatives trained • Bee industry preparedness – pilot training course for field surveillance conducted in association with NSW Honey Bee Producers annual conference

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
AUSVETPLAN Management and Coordination	Governments and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 revised manuals published on the AHA website including the new Livestock Welfare and Management manual • Five manuals at endorsement stage • 14 manuals are under active review • Modified review and endorsement process developed
EAD Business Plan	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84 of the original tasks in the EADBP are complete and 24 have been superseded • Agreement achieved to include EADs other than FMD and BSE with avian influenza the first to be added. • Six-monthly reports provided to PISC on EADAP project progress
Animal Disease Surveillance		
National Surveillance Strategy	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Animal Health Surveillance Strategy (NAHSS) endorsed by governments (PISC) and industries • Animal Health Australia to form a NAHSS Reference Group and manage the further development and implementation of the strategy • Specific projects relating to wildlife, significant disease investigations and the AHA disease surveillance program have been initiated
National Animal Health Information System (NAHIS)	Governments and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided timely information/data for the preparation of the Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly (AHSQ) and the annual report Animal Health in Australia (AHIA) • Implemented 'wiki' web technology for greater efficiency in producing collaborative documents • New contacts database developed to allow more useful client analysis which has been undertaken and is ongoing • Database redevelopment has continued to evolve with improvements in functionality for the benefit of all AHA surveillance databases • A database manual describing standard operating procedures and rules has been drafted and is supported by a limited database standard

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program 2 (TFAP2) and TB Surveillance Program	Governments and cattle industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced detailed TB case response manual • Developed TB re-imburement agreements with all jurisdictions and Cattle Council of Australia • Gained endorsement of Australian Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance project • Concluded TFAP2
National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP)	Governments and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated NAMP bluetongue zone map three times as data evolved • Database redevelopment and migration under the NAHIS Central database has continued to evolve with improvements in functionality • Continued roll out of green LED light vector trap technology • Completed funding arrangements review and relevant parties agreed to alter funding arrangements from 2008-09 to reflect beneficiary analysis
Sentinel Hive Program	Governments and bee industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft business plan prepared by DAFF
Animal Health Services		
National Animal Health Performance Standards (NAHPS)	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members completed self-assessment against the NAHPS • Audit guidelines prepared, auditors selected and trained • Individual members' assessments audited • Audit reports provided and feedback workshop held • All Members instituted remedial actions as identified in the audit reports • Further analysis of assessment data is being undertaken in relation to the national animal health system to identify areas requiring improvement • Modifications to the NAHPS and the risk assessment process is planned for 2007-08

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
National Animal Health Laboratory Strategy (NAHLS)	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed NAHL Strategy after extensive stakeholder consultation • NAHL Strategy was endorsed by PISC and industries and Animal Health Australia requested to provide administrative and executive support for the strategy development and implementation • Established interim NAHL work plan for consultation • Participated in workshop on training needs in veterinary diagnostics • Established a training and employment initiative to respond to the most urgent need for the laboratory network • Represented AHA on the Sub-Committee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards (SCAHLs)
Australian Animal Pathology Standards	Governments, universities and private laboratories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established AAPSP website • Commenced digitisation of selected restored case material from the National Register • Delivered two-day workshops on dermatopathology in six locations around Australia • Maintained the pathology proficiency testing program
Capability Enhancement	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two porcine disease incidents resolved through CCEAD • SPF egg availability contingency arrangements endorsed by AHC • 783 non-government veterinarians APAV accredited • Avian Influenza response policies endorsed by AHC • NAHL Strategy specifically addressing capability issues in the laboratory sector
Disease Risk Mitigation		
Biosecurity Planning and Management	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHA has worked with the ALFA to introduce auditable biosecurity standards into the NFAS • Horse Health Guidelines for horse venues have been drafted and are presently under discussion • Work has started to draft auditable biosecurity standards for the extensive livestock sector (includes; beef cattle, dairy cattle, wool and sheepmeat producers, goats and alpacas). These standards will be introduced

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
TSE Freedom Assurance Program (TSEFAP)	Governments, respective industries and feed manufacturers	<p>into the LPA, Dairy QA and AlpacaQA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Union visited Australia during 2006 to audit Australia's BSE safeguard mechanisms • The OIE recognised Australia's application for "Negligible" status under the 2006 OIE Terrestrial Code. Australia is one of five countries awarded this status – the lowest risk for BSE • All Management and Operational Plans for TSEFAP projects were reviewed to be consistent with international expectations • A review of the TSEFAP was undertaken as directed in the TSEFAP business plan • Both the National Advisory Committee and National Technical Committee meet during this period as required • Australia met all sampling requirements as set out in the NTSESP • Australia met all inspection and audit requirements for the Ruminant Feed Ban • All imported cattle that have lifetime quarantine orders were inspected during the year
Newcastle Disease Management Program	Governments, chicken meat and egg industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiled and analysed vaccine sales and permits and reported to National Newcastle Disease Management Plan Steering Committee • Reviewed the management plan implementation • Commenced development of a renewed plan for 2008 – 2012
Screw Worm Fly Management	Governments and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PISC endorsement of Screw Worm Fly Business Plan • Appointed Queensland DPI as Program Coordinator • Began negotiations for option to lease land for SIT facility; to be completed during 2007
FMD Vaccine Management	Governments and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised MOU for supply of vaccine equipment in the event of an EAD response requiring vaccination • Drafted operating procedures for distribution of vaccine • Distributed vaccine bank audit report

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
EAD Vaccines	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a reserve of Anthrax vaccine funded by jurisdictions and affected industries • Agreed on arrangements to receive, store and distribute EAD vaccines if required in an EAD outbreak
Avian Influenza Management	Governments and affected industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation by all sectors of the poultry industry in the June 2007 AI workshop • Key poultry industry personnel undertook CCEAD and NMG training • Continued project to facilitate approval for AI vaccines registration for use in the event of a need
National Johne's Disease Management Program	Governments and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Dairy BJD Assurance Score currently underpins the state BJD Program (Dairy ManaJD) in South Australia and will form the basis for a State BJD Plan in NSW commencing 1 January 2008. Western Australia and Queensland recognise the Score for trading purposes and have incorporated a minimum requirement for interstate trade • A draft national risk assessment has been agreed for the goat industry as the basis for a national risk-based trading system • The National BJD Strategic Plan was updated and priorities reconfirmed • Industry continues to fund abattoir monitoring for the purpose of maintaining area prevalence and identifying disease in the low prevalence areas of Australia. Data is collected for a range of endemic conditions and industry has commissioned a paper to determine the feasibility of establishing an animal health feedback system. Negotiation continues on a five year plan for the management of OJD • The National BJD Financial and Non-Financial Assistance Package was reviewed and has been extended for a further three years • Technical review of the CattleMAP circulated for comment
Livestock Welfare		
Livestock Welfare Program Development	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Australia developed a Livestock Welfare strategy for the Company that was endorsed by members – the strategy enunciates the level of AHA involvement in livestock welfare issues

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
Implementation of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Australia and its livestock Members participate in the AAWS Livestock Production Sector Working Group • The livestock sector has initiated research into industry quality assurance programs and their applicability in relation to the implementation and auditing of welfare standards • The restructuring of the National Consultative Committee for Animal Welfare (NCCAW) means AHA will no longer be represented. AHA continues to be represented on Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) of PISC • Participated in the DAFF 'consistent implementation of animal welfare systems' project which is linked to standards development
Animal Welfare Code Review and Development	Governments and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Australia developed a Business Plan for the review and restructuring of Animal Welfare Codes of Practice which was endorsed by industries and jurisdictions • Developed the inaugural Land Transport of Livestock Standards and Guidelines • Reassessed timeframe and process required to develop the Land Transport Standards with key contributions by the writing and reference groups • Engaged separate consultants for public consultation and the Regulation Impact Statement • Public consultation process strategy developed and key components such as the website have been tested for the public consultation phase • Other welfare Codes have been prioritised for review by Animal Health Australia and the relevant industries
Livestock Welfare – Industry Issues	Governments and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments, industries and Animal Health Australia have participated as required during animal welfare incidents including preparation for the WSPA campaign on livestock transport
Training		
Training Programs Development and Management	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Training Package Extension (RTE03) containing eleven EAD units of competency nationally endorsed in March 2007 • Jurisdictional trainers and assessors attended in a 'community of practice' workshop at Tocal in October

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
		2006. Working with AHA's partnering RTO, jurisdictional trainers and assessors were developed a common understanding of assessment and skills recognition processes.
EAD Training Services	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed online EAD Foundation Module - designed as a generic introduction to Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) training, the module aims to help government officers, livestock producers, veterinary practitioners and other personnel in the Australian livestock industries who would be called out during an EAD response gain a general understanding of what is involved in working in an EAD response. It introduces the basic principles of an EAD response, and who the main players are. • Piloted EAD module with 20 bee producers in April 2007 and facilitated a bee surveillance workshop with 20 bee producers
APAV Training	Governments and private veterinary profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Committee agreed to transitioning APAV Initial Accreditation Training Program training materials from a distance-based delivery format to an online delivery format • Held Workshop with jurisdictional APAV coordinators • Commenced developing online materials
ILO Training	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained 500 ILOs under the project • Reported to DAFF on ILO training, numbers trained, project and financial constraints
AVR Training	Governments and private veterinary profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVR EAD workshop — held in conjunction with Australian Veterinary Association conference — attended by 32 AVR members and many non-member veterinarians as part of AVR Maintenance and Development Program activities • Planning for an AVR workshop as a regular event at each AVA annual conference • Introduced AVR Intelligence, a fortnightly electronic newsletter on EAD matters nationally and internationally

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
RRT Training	Governments and veterinary profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysed training needs identified in RRT evaluation reports • Forty RRT members attended the RRT Professional Development (RRTPD) workshop in May 2007 • Planning undertaken for Exercise Wild Boar to be held in Darwin in late 2007
Market Assurance Program (MAP) Training	Governments, private veterinary profession and respective industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and reporting of veterinarians completing on line MAP training for veterinarians.
Biosecurity Training	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a producer animal health risk management training workshop. • Training information session convened for company members and registered training providers.
AAVet Training	AQIS and private veterinary profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAVet online training course 'went live' in November 2006 • 135 private practitioners enrolled and 105 completed the training to meet AQIS requirements for export veterinarian accreditation • Achieved self-funding program status, with each veterinarian paying an enrolment fee to cover online support and maintenance costs
Communications and Information Management		
Corporate Communications	Animal Health Australia and Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced and distributed a range of corporate reports including AHA 2005/06 Annual Report and Animal Health in Australia 2006 report • Produced and distributed communication material for national programs • Supported key animal health issues through the distribution of media releases
Protect Australian Livestock Campaign (PALC)	Animal Health Australia, Members and stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed spot the risks materials through member networks and at selected rural events • Targeted campaign of national and regional media releases promoting good farm biosecurity using key industry spokespeople

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted market research on livestock producers' understanding and perceptions of biosecurity across all industry sectors and jurisdictions • Completed a national tender process for a communications company to work on the 2007/09 Protect Australian Livestock Campaign
Stakeholder Engagement	Animal Health Australia, Members and stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive level bi-lateral meetings and regular Board and staff contact with members and key stakeholders contributed to the AHA strategic planning process and program development and delivery • Supported DAFF in implementation of online OIE consultation process • Received positive feedback about the changes to the National Animal Health Consultative Group meeting format which allowed greater member participation • Delivered NMG, CCEAD and media interview training
Knowledge and Information Management	Animal Health Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audited company IT system (hardware and software) and necessary changes made • Upgraded company IT system in June 2007
EAD Communications	Animal Health Australia and Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted five media training workshops for senior industry representatives • Participated in the further development and implementation of the National Communications Network (NCN)
<i>Enabling Priorities</i>		
Leadership Awareness and Engagement		
Strategic Planning	Animal Health Australia and Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Australia managed the strategic planning process for the National Animal Health System with input from all Members and other stakeholders • The National Animal Health Strategic Framework 2006-2011 endorsed by all Members • Animal Health Australia reported on the outcomes of the operational and enabling priorities for the NAH Strategic Framework to all Members

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Animal Health Performance Standards (NAHPS) audit and risk assessment process identified leadership as a critical issue for the National Animal Health System
Industry Forum	Animal Health Australia and livestock industry Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The livestock industry Members of AHA meet biannually to consider a range of issues impacting the National Animal Health System The Industry Forum has made a significant contribution to the development of agreed common positions for major livestock industries regarding animal health issues The Industry Forum has interacted with the Members Forum (all AHA Members - jurisdictional and industry) to advance animal health matters of mutual concern
National Animal Health Consultative Group (NAHCG)	Animal Health Australia and all Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NAHCG meets biannually in September and March – involving senior representatives from all Members The meeting identifies and considers priority strategic issues for the National Animal Health System in September – as input to the finalisation of the National Animal Health Strategic Framework – and in March considers the draft AHA Annual Business Plan which proposes action plans for the implementation of the operational and enabling priorities for the NAH System
Application of Appropriate Technologies		
National Livestock Identification System	Governments, sheep and cattle industries, MLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) exercise Cowcatcher II and successfully met the project objectives relating to achievement of the relevant performance standards for traceability The sheep industry conducted Sheepcatcher I to test the traceability standards applicable to the sheep industry on a flock basis Animal Health Australia had key role in the development and continued operation of NLIS in cattle, sheep, goats and pigs Recommendations regarding NLIS and its implementation in the cattle, sheep, goats and pig industries will be implemented during 2007-08 Funding arrangements for NLIS Cattle for 2007-08 and beyond will include contributions from the Cattle

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
		Disease Contingency Fund (CDCF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing funding for the NLIS program is being actively pursued by all participants
Abattoir surveillance	Sheep industry, AQIS, meat processors and State governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abattoir monitoring of sheep for ovine Johne's disease has been expanded to include a number of other endemic conditions in some States • Sheepmeat Council of Australia and WoolProducers Australia have requested that the feasibility of feedback to individual producers be examined
Improved Information Management		
Information and knowledge management	Governments and Animal Health Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to champion the increased use of information technology to enhance collaboration and communication within the national animal health system • Animal Health Australia has used online technologies such as wikis and forums to assist with collaboration in selected projects such as the Animal Health Australia Surveillance Quarterly and chapters of the Animal Health in Australia Report 2006. • Greater use of these technologies will be made due to the efficiencies they provide in delivering program outcomes
Risk-based Performance Management		
Risk Assessment Management Tool	Governments and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Australia has developed a web-based risk assessment tool for the use of Members to use in the assessment against the National Animal Health Performance Standards • The tool is also available for Members to use in their own management processes relating to animal health issues
Risk based management at Animal Health Australia	Animal Health Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Health Australia utilises the risk based assessment tool to evaluate both Corporate and Program risks confronting the Company and institutes remedial actions as required
Accredited Education and Training		

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRESS 2006-2007
Accredited training	Government and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Training Package Extension (RTE03) containing eleven EAD units of competency nationally endorsed in March 2007 • Partnering relationship established with Tocal College, a Registered Training Organisation and part of NSW DPI. Relationship provides umbrella for provision of EAD training programs by AHA
Coordinated R & D		
Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases (AB CRC)	AB CRC, researchers and AHA Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AB CRC continued to fund a range of research projects concentrating on the development of cost effective tools and systems for disease detection and surveillance and to expand knowledge regarding potential for emerging infectious disease threats to establish and spread in Australia • The AB CRC has developed targeted communication, education and transfer technologies to ensure the uptake of appropriate technologies by the National Animal Health System