

# MEETING REPORT

## African Swine Fever Stakeholder Teleconference

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<b>Committee:</b>	African Swine Fever Stakeholder Teleconference
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Friday 22 November 2019

Item #	Item Name	Discussion summary	Major outcomes, recommendations, actions
1	<b>Welcome</b> <b>APL CEO</b>	<p>Ms Margo Andrae opened the teleconference at 10:00am. Australia remains ASF free.</p> <p>Ms Andrae commended the Queensland Government for the appointment of a biosecurity project officer for Torres Strait, providing better protection from pest and disease threats within the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This new position is part of the Queensland Government's commitment to support the roll out of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Biosecurity Strategy,</li> <li>• The Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of pests and diseases moving through the Torres Strait to the mainland, and from the mainland to the Torres Straits and Northern Cape York.</li> <li>• <a href="http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2019/11/20/new-indigenous-biosecurity-officer-on-front-line-in-torres-strait">http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2019/11/20/new-indigenous-biosecurity-officer-on-front-line-in-torres-strait</a></li> </ul> <p>Ms Andrae delivered a refresh of APL's ASF response activities. This information formed the ASF status and impact report supplied to the APL Board at the 12 November 2019 Board meeting.</p> <p>A full-time ASF Co-ordinator was appointed within APL providing one point of contact for producers &amp; stakeholders. Dr. Lechelle van Breda is temporarily assigned to co-ordinate APL activities in relation to ASF. Dr Ross Cutler is providing technical veterinary advice to support engagement activities with jurisdictions.</p> <p>National African swine fever stakeholder teleconferences commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> October to provide an industry with a single point of accurate information, with the ability to raise issues/questions. This reaches key stakeholders including select producers, SFO's (to assist in extending the updates to smaller producers), Government senior officials, AHA and State CVO representatives.</p> <p>A National response activity opportunity to test CCEAD &amp; NMG preparedness is to be held on 5 December. A Full response exercise will be held mid 2020. These provide an opportunity to test CCEAD and NMG preparedness.</p> <p>Within APL, research and development activities have been reviewed. The AHA evidence of absence surveillance project has extended with the possible inclusion of feral pigs.</p>	

		<p>Internally, the industry financial response has been reviewed.</p> <p>The APL Marketing team has increased engagement with pork retailers and food service. The team will be able to deliver prompt communications and messaging via current agreements with media owners.</p> <p>The APL policy area has been working with the Department of Agriculture to ensure zoning arrangements are in place with Singapore and to review current importing country health certificates. The team has also completed a review of PORKSafe to ensure currency and APL staff refresher training completed. APL is working with all jurisdictions on a PigPass review. Combined, these are to ensure trade, traceability and industry response are adequate and covered.</p> <p>The ASF AusVet Plan is being reviewed and fast-tracked to deliver a draft to the AHA industry forum.</p> <p>The Government has significantly increased border security. Increased scrutiny at borders has seen an increase in detection of illegal imported meat products. There has been increased media and support to highlight importance of biosecurity.</p> <p>The joint CVO/Industry ASF taskforce has been very busy, reviewing all disease response activities and requirements. Scenarios have informed on preparedness and gap analysis. The State/Federal Governments are working together on disease preparedness alongside industry.</p> <p>The CVOs are leading joint working groups across a range of topics in the review of disease preparedness, including: infected premises (including decontamination and disinfection); destruction plans (including disposal, euthanasia); export; feed; movement control; product recall; reproduction; testing, surveillance &amp; monitoring, tracing; and training, including agency/industry response. All questions/issues as raised by industry are being received from stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A face to face meeting being was held in Canberra on 7 November, attended by the State CVO taskforce, APL, producers, pig veterinarians and processors.</li> </ul> <p>Valuation, Compensation &amp; Cost Sharing is being reviewed to ensure a correct methodology to support reporting and recovery.</p> <p>APL is increasing promotions for Aussies christmas hams with the slogan “If it is not on the bone it is not one of our own.” Plus, are monitoring import requests for importation of ham. The aim is to minimize the risk of new import market access.</p> <p>On Feral Pig Control, a national co-ordinator role was announced last week. Engagement is occurring with state jurisdictions to discuss feral pig control programs being undertaken and to investigate opportunities to progress. Communications and engagement activities are ongoing. Media focus is successfully raising awareness of ASF with the general public. Industry is requesting Australians adhere to biosecurity requirements and not bring pork into Australia via mail or via travel bags.</p> <p>It is vital that we address all gaps and ensure Australia keeps ASF out.</p>	
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2	<p><b>Border Security</b></p> <p><b>Government Update</b></p>	<p>Dr Narelle Clegg from the federal Department of Agriculture provided a Government update. On zoning activities, the Department is working with the APL policy area to ensure zoning arrangements are in place with Singapore and to review current importing country health certificates.</p> <p><b>ASF Focus</b>  Tasmania completed it's ASF emergency response exercises during the week. All states and Territories have now completed an emergency response exercise. The CCEAD national response exercise will be conducted on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. From this there will be an analysis to identify gaps within the response and the areas within the response plan that need to be reviewed/improved. The government will run smaller response plan exercises in the lead up to mid June national response plan exercise which will focus at the operational level of impact, aimed to improve response planning for processing plants and/or for producers. Notably with review of anticipated movement restrictions and plant downtime periods.</p> <p><b>Border Operation Activities</b>  Border operation activities have been expanded to include non-commercial consignment pathways to ensure that air cargo container contents match to the descriptors of those contents. Pamphlets for disembarking passengers are being printed to warn of the ASF risk, prohibited products in luggage, declaration of pork products. Ms Andrae thanked Dr Clegg for the update and noted the appreciation of industry for the improved biosecurity levels that are being put in place at the borders, and for the response planning preparedness.</p>	
3	<p><b>Feed Biosecurity</b></p> <p><b>Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia</b></p> <p><b>Feed Ingredients &amp; Additives Association of Australia</b></p>	<p>Mr Duncan Rowland addressed stakeholders on behalf of the SFMCA and the FIAA. Feed is supplied for 85-95% of all pigs in Australia via the members of the SFMCA and the FIAAAA. The remaining proportion of pigs are fed by home mixing methods or, by large commercial enterprises, via their own milling and storage facilities which are not accredited with FeedSafe. Integrity systems ensure a quality assured and feed safety/biosecurity focus for this portion of the supply chain. Incorporating: FeedSafe accreditation, FIAAAA code of practice, HACCP principles, GMP and ISO practices. The integrity systems are audited annually by independent auditors. A biosecurity plan for the industry has been developed and is presently out for comment. Consultations are underway at both a national and international level and included a review of international practices and research. ASF forums have been held at State branch level, to: raise awareness of ASF; provide training in best practice; to identify the impacts of an ASF incursion for their part of the supply chain; and risk management. They are working with the Federal government and APL to further reduce risks of disease transmission within their part of the supply chain. Notably from the ASF risk, but also with regard to the impact of the drought on domestic stock feed supplies and more feed likely to be sourced offshore. Activities/measures include:</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• off shore assessments, conducted by the government, ensuring products are clear of disease and able to be imported,</li> <li>• transparency of that assessment criteria to ensure efficient and expedient assessments,</li> <li>• determining if there are additional practices that ought to be implemented to minimise risk.</li> </ul> <p>To date, the industry has changed the way in which feed is brought in to Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bagging for feed is now new/single use, replacing recycled bag usage,</li> <li>• There is wrapping of bagging for surety of packaging,</li> <li>• Processing techniques are being specified,</li> <li>• A temperature matrix for mixtures applies.</li> </ul> <p>The industry made assessments on removal of products from ASF affected countries as imports. Analysis indicated that this would likely increase the cost of feed by 10-15%, a direct flow on to production costs.</p> <p>They have looked at the impact on storage costs should there be a requirement for retaining feed for a greater period of time or for holding feed in larger quantities. Cost implications suggested would be up 10% on existing supply costs depending on the individual's commercial arrangement with their supplier (ie supplier direct to user, ingredients supplied to mill, mill supplied to piggery).</p> <p>International risk assessment research outcomes for feed storage are being weighed/validated with respect to the pathways for which feed enters Australia. Feed spends 28-30 days in transit to reach Australia, and 90% of that time is spent in the tropics, hence time and temperature impacts are at higher levels than for countries identified within that international research.</p> <p>An area of interest for Australia is the processes for disinfection. The US National Pork Board and the US Homeland Security are undertaking research in this area, of which the outcomes will be a useful analysis tool.</p> <p>Ms Andrae thanked Mr Rowland for the industries preparedness activities. There is great importance for managing the ASF risk across the supply chain, including in the identification of gaps and/or where risks can be reduced.</p>	
4	<b>Stakeholder Questions</b>	<p><b>Risk of Disease Transmission via Pallets</b></p> <p>Question: Is there a risk of disease transmission via pallets? Are pallets tested for residues?</p> <p>Response: The Federal Government has rules in relation to pallet usage for all imported goods. The government focuses tightly in this area to ensure that unwanted "passengers" do not enter Australia.</p> <p>In relation to stock feed and additives, the packaging is clean and has not been in contact with animals or manures.</p>	
5	<b>Weekly ASF Updates</b>	In the lead up to Christmas, updates on ASF activities will be changed to a weekly progress update on ASF associated activities that are underway and will be reviewed in mid January.	All stakeholders are welcome to continue sending through or asking questions, or raising their concerns with both Ms Andrae or Dr van Breda.