

## African swine fever stakeholder update

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**Committee:** | African Swine Fever Stakeholder  
Weekly update

**Meeting Date:** | 21 February 2020

Item #	Item Name	ASF preparedness update	Major outcomes, recommendations, actions
1	<p><b>Australian Pork Limited</b></p> <p><b>Ms Margo Andrae</b></p>	<p>Australia remains ASF free.</p> <p>The Hon David Littleproud has replaced Bridget McKenzie as Minister for Agriculture along with a few other changes in government, biosecurity continues to be a strong focus.</p> <p>Minister Littleproud announced Dr Heather Channon has been appointed as Australia’s first national feral pig management coordinator. Dr Channon will coordinate and work collaboratively on the ground with landholders, the states and territories to manage feral pig numbers and risks of disease spread.</p> <p>The Industry ASF Technical Committee is continuing to work with the State/Federal Governments on disease preparedness. The joint CVO/Industry ASF taskforce met on 21<sup>st</sup> February to review working group disease response activities and recommendations for Animal Health Committee.</p> <p>The Valuation and compensation (pig section) and the ASF AUSVETPLAN manuals continue to undergo review by industry and government.</p> <p>Industry continues to engage and work with stakeholders and government participating in a small holder ASF focused meeting in Launceston, Tas on 13<sup>th</sup> February and upcoming forums Canberra, ACT on 12<sup>th</sup> March and in Perth, WA on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Upcoming ASF producer meetings include 28<sup>th</sup> February Tanunda, SA and 17<sup>th</sup> March Bendigo, Vic.</p>	
2	<p><b>Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment update</b></p>	<p>On 6 February, Greece confirmed the first detection of ASF in its borders in domestic pigs.</p> <p>Planning has commenced for targeted activities onshore to check that products brought into Australia for sale aren’t fraudulently labelled.</p> <p>Increased alert caps focussing on ASF risk flights are continuing to be deployed. Due to coronavirus and travel restrictions on travellers from China, the risk</p>	

		<p>associated with travellers on China flights may have been temporarily reduced.</p> <p>The ASF simulation exercise planning team met on 6 February 2020 to discuss options for mini simulation exercises. There will be two workshops in early May 2020 – one on movement controls and the other on destruction and disposal. A scenario will be written for each workshop group and the groups will consist of jurisdictional and industry representatives. A larger two day exercise is being planned for June 2020, which will practise the functional application of Australia’s emergency animal disease response arrangements in the later stages of a simulated outbreak of ASF. It will also cover any issues arising from the one day workshops and will look at feral pig and product recall concerns.</p> <p>The department wrote to Singapore on 23 January 2020 about ASF zoning proposal, and is awaiting their response.</p>	
3	<b>Animal Health Committee update</b>	<p>AHC continues to be on track to finalise all policy and procedure developments as far as possible at the AHC37 face-to-face meeting (3-5 March 2020).</p> <p>In NSW in late January, Exercise Warratah (a rapid risk assessment using ASF as a focus) was run over three days. This exercise provided useful skills for future rapid risk assessments. NSW also ran a high-risk waste site project that targeted council rubbish tips around the state. Around 80% of state sites were inspected and audited and there was mapping against EPA-registered sites for comparison, which will allow overlay of feral pig density and pig holding location data.</p> <p>Western Australia is working with a key abattoir (processes 95% of WA pigs) on their business case to enhance truck wash-down facilities.</p> <p>The Northern Territory is canvassing a second pig exercise potentially in May 2020.</p> <p>AAHL is working on ASF feral pig projects – validating a specimen collection and transport protocol to allow safe transport of samples by air without needing to follow International Air Transport Association (IATA) biological transport protocols (will be IATA exempt, because the material is inactivated). They are validating this approach for ASF virus.</p>	
4	<b>Industry question</b>	<p>Question: Is our Ag Department using its connections in Indonesia to encourage a best practice response and are any special measures being put in place for tourists given our visitor traffic to Bali (over 1.2 million pa with 415,000 of those from WA)?</p> <p>Response: There has been increased intervention on flights from Indonesia since 18 December 2019. Similarly the department has been liaising with cruise ship companies that frequent Bali to assess risk and improve awareness. Australia has previously assisted</p>	

		Indonesia under the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Emerging Infectious Diseases Animal Health Program (AIEID). The assistance provided through this program means Indonesia should be much better placed to follow best practice as it deals with ASF.	
5	<b>Next report</b>	The next report will be distributed on Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2020.	All stakeholders are welcome to continue sending through or asking questions, or raising their concerns with both Ms Margo Andrae or Dr Lechelle van Breda.