

African swine fever stakeholder update

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Committee:	African Swine Fever Stakeholder Weekly update
Meeting Date:	17 April 2020

Item #	Item Name	ASF preparedness update	Major outcomes, recommendations, actions
1	Australian Pork Limited Ms Margo Andrae	<p>Australia remains ASF free.</p> <p>The Chief Veterinary Officers/Industry ASF Technical Committee met on 17th April to discuss how to progress recommendations supported by Animal Health Committee (AHC) and the next steps required to operationalise these outputs and AUSVETPLAN.</p> <p>APL, AHA and state government representatives continue to review and update African swine fever AUSVETPLAN manual and the pig section of the Valuation and compensation AUSVETPLAN manual.</p>	<p>APL continues to respond to the rapidly evolving impact of COVID-19, for more information visit www.australianpork.com.au/covid-19.</p>
2	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment update	<p>In the week to 17th April 2020 there have been no reports of new countries becoming affected by ASF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Papua New Guinea (PNG) there are now unofficial reports that up to 1500 pigs may have died in an ASF outbreak in the southern highlands (up from 396 reported previously). The Department, along with other areas of the Australian Government are providing remote assistance to PNG and continue to assess the situation. At this stage active infection appears to be limited to the Southern Highlands region, with no clear evidence of further spread. PNG is continuing to investigate the outbreak. <p>Due to the international travel ban from 14th March 2020 to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, there has been a significant decrease in passenger arrivals at all international airports. Detector dogs have now been removed from all international airports and redeployed to the mail pathway.</p> <p>Where airports are still operating, measures to manage the biosecurity risk of ASF are in place and supported through regular communication to biosecurity officers.</p> <p>A community service announcement was aired on community radio in Torres Strait (from the first week of April 2020), and will be distributed throughout mainland northern Australia over the next month.</p> <p>Electronic public noticeboards in local supermarkets throughout Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area,</p>	

		<p>Queensland (from the first week of April 2020) are being used to deliver ASF awareness messages.</p> <p>Social media content was distributed to key stakeholders in Torres Strait, and will be distributed throughout mainland northern Australia over the next month.</p>	
3	Animal Health Committee update	<p>AHC continues to meet weekly by teleconference and is closely monitoring the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on EAD resourcing and capacity.</p> <p>The QLD government set up an (incident management team) IMT in April 2020 as a preparedness exercise for ASF; Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) is participating in fortnightly meetings of the QLD IMT.</p> <p>The AHC Chair recently discussed the outcomes of the ASF-related work from AHC37 with APL.</p>	
4	Next report	<p>The next report will be distributed on Friday 1st May 2020.</p>	<p>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.</p>