

## African swine fever stakeholder update

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<b>Committee:</b>	African Swine Fever Stakeholder Weekly update
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	1 May 2020

Item #	Item Name	ASF preparedness update	Major outcomes, recommendations, actions
1	<b>Australian Pork Limited</b>  <b>Ms Margo Andrae</b>	<p>Australia remains ASF free.</p> <p>Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud and Foreign Affairs Minister Senator Marise Payne are taking a whole-of- government approach to tackle ASF in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Minster Littleproud acknowledged that Australia has mobilised biosecurity, logistics and communications experts to distribute ASF awareness messages to the Torres Strait and northern Australia. PNG’s Chief Veterinary Officer is also being provided with remote technical and laboratory assistance to support PNG’s quarantine agency’s ASF response. Minister Payne stated the Australian Defence Force, Australian Federal Police and Department of Home Affairs are all working closely with PNG to establish checkpoints to reduce the spread of ASF and manage import controls.</p> <p>Industry is working with government to support Animal Health Committee recommendations by identifying any gaps or constraints to the adoption of proposed endorsements. In response to this APL has put out a Call for Tender to support ASF preparedness research projects in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• truck washing and disinfection,</li> <li>• on-farm decontamination,</li> <li>• mass euthanasia, and</li> <li>• mass disposal.</li> </ul> <p>Research applications close 14<sup>th</sup> May and intend to underpin AUSVETPLAN principles as appropriate and provide practical and plausible recommendations achievable by Industry.</p>	<p>APL continues to respond to the rapidly evolving impact of COVID-19, for more information visit <a href="http://www.australianpork.com.au/covid-19">www.australianpork.com.au/covid-19</a>.</p>
2	<b>Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment update</b>	<p>In the fortnight to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 there have been no reports of new countries becoming affected by ASF.</p> <p>Novice detector dogs commenced training in March 2020 and three graduated on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020. An additional four novice dogs commenced training on 20<sup>th</sup> April. In light of reduced passenger numbers, the training of detector dogs has been revised to ensure new dogs can commence mail screening immediately on graduation.</p>	

		<p>Increased interventions now apply to all flights from PNG that arrive into Cairns and 100% intervention applies to flights to Horn Island within the Torres Strait.</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>NAQS is reviewing and strengthening its operations in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.</p> <p>Monitoring and education will continue as the primary strategies for managing any biosecurity risks associated with traditional visitor arrivals from PNG.</p> <p>NAQS is continuing to deliver surveillance for feral animals in northern Australia, with a focus on feral pigs, using a modified approach to appropriately address COVID-19 risks.</p> <p>The Department is continuing to work closely with other agencies and the PNG government to provide support for their ASF response.</p> <p>A survey by PNG authorities indicates that active infection is still present in the Southern Highlands region, new field teams were deployed on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to undertake additional surveillance and set up controls.</p> <p>On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020, an ASF liaison officer role was contracted to APL as part of the ASF response package. The liaison officer will facilitate improved knowledge transfer between government and industry and will talk to commercial pig producers about issues that may arise during an ASF outbreak in Australia.</p>	
3	<b>Animal Health Committee update</b>	<p>The AUSVETPLAN ASF Response Strategy has been published as a working draft using bracketed and greyed text to indicate sections still under review. It will be updated as new content becomes available.</p> <p>AHC continues to closely monitor the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on EAD resourcing and capacity.</p>	
4	<b>Next report</b>	<p>The next report will be distributed on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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>