

FOR INFORMATION

NAHIP Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Oct 2024

Agenda Item 1.1

Last updated: **18 October 2024**Prepared by *T. Fitzwater & G. Weerasinghe***Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) Report (2023-2024)****RECOMMENDATION**

- a. That the NAHIP Advisory Committee NOTE the relevant activities the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) are currently involved with.

BACKGROUND

NAQS, within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), conducts an animal disease surveillance program to help address the unique biosecurity risks associated with Australia's extensive and sparsely populated northern coastline.

This surveillance program aims to provide early detection of exotic and emerging pests and diseases of significance to agriculture, public health and the environment. While pest and disease detection ('early warning') is the primary objective of NAQS surveillance, NAQS also contributes disease exclusion data to support Australia's claims of freedom for a number of pests and diseases.

DISCUSSION

2. NAQS animal health surveillance program includes the following component activities:
 - a. Targeted surveillance
 - i. Feral animal surveys across northern Australia
 - ii. Domestic animal surveys in Torres Strait/Northern Peninsula Area, Queensland
 - iii. Wild bird surveys at several sites across northern Australia
 - iv. Sentinel/serosurveillance cattle herds at several sites across northern Australia
 - v. *Culicoides* midge trapping at several sites across northern Australia
 - vi. Adult screwworm fly trapping in Northern Peninsula Area, Queensland
 - vii. Mosquito trapping in Northern Peninsula Area, Queensland
 - b. General surveillance
 - i. General biosecurity awareness program: Biosecurity Top Watch!
 - ii. Syndromic surveillance in Indigenous communities in northern Australia
 - iii. Disease-specific public awareness campaigns for emerging risks (e.g. African swine fever)
 - iv. Postmortem training for rangers and pastoralists
3. NAQS also supports the 3 northern jurisdictions to conduct disease investigations arising from NAQS planned surveillance activities or in response to reports from third parties (e.g. Indigenous rangers).
4. Details of NAQS surveillance activities delivered in 2023-2024 FY are found in Attachment A.
5. NAQS acknowledges the difficulties with extracting and submitting data to NAHIP and eWHIS.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. *[Provide information as to cost and any financial implications, including how it will be funded; whether it is within or outside of the AOP scope (e.g. service Agreement; levy-funded; unapplied funds etc.). If this is not relevant or applicable at this stage, then state this.]*

DAFF funds the delivery of NAQS surveillance activities. Some costs associated with delivery of NAQS sentinel herd and *Culicoides* midge trapping surveillance are recovered through the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP).

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

7. *[If consultation has occurred (or is planned), identify what consultation has occurred (or planned) in the process; which members/stakeholders have responded and whether they support the matter, including relevant comments. Identify any future consultation needed and whether or not wider communication of the outcome/decision is needed and the mechanism to achieve this. If consultation and/or communication is not required/ appropriate, state this.]*

N/A

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

8. *[Briefly describe proposed next steps or actions. If none are proposed or required, state this].*

N/A

Attachment A: *Title of attachment in full*

Attachment B: *Title of attachment in full*

FEEDBACK

9. *[Please respond to the questions below in assessing the performance of the NAHIP over the 2023–24 year, and use this as an opportunity to offer feedback and suggested changes for continual improvement.]*

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NAHIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				

Q2	My organisation is satisfied that the outputs of NAHIP, such as the Animal Health in Australia report are Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly, are credible and robust.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				

Q3	The format and protocols in place for uploading and transferring national surveillance data are fit for purpose.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				

Q4	NAHIP satisfies national surveillance data and reporting requirements. (Please outline any requirements not being met).			
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				