

AUSPestCheck™ Trial: Update and Overview 2021

AUSPestCheck™ Reference Group November 2021

About this document

The *AUSPestCheck™ Trial: Update and Overview 2021* is a living document which provides a point-in-time overview of the AUSPestCheck™ initiative. It is provided by the AUSPestCheck™ Reference Group as a support for users in the trial and will be regularly reviewed by the project team. Animal Health Committee (AHC) members may provide comments on this document to the project team.

Background to the AUSPestCheck™ trial

AUSPestCheck™ is a data sharing and coordination software system initially developed for plant pest surveillance, managed by Plant Health Australia (PHA). The Proof of Concept (PoC) system was developed by PHA through a Commonwealth funded grant in 2014 and was subsequently improved/enhanced through other state and Commonwealth contributions.

In 2018, PHA received funding from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to trial the use of AUSPestCheck™ as part of the Australian Government's Animal Biosecurity and Response Reform program and the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper—the government's plan for stronger farmers and a stronger economy. The project's purpose is to provide a version of AUSPestCheck™ that is modified to facilitate the sharing, collation and presentation of animal health surveillance data. Benefits to stakeholders are expected to include faster and improved uploading and data management processes, more streamlined reporting including improved outputs for all stakeholders, and improved access to national intelligence that supports decision making.

Objectives of the AUSPestCheck™ trial

The objectives of the AUSPestCheck™ trial are to:

- ✓ Test the system and provide feedback with a view to providing users enhanced surveillance information for the management of animal health diseases, infections and infestations.
- ✓ Develop and test a version of AUSPestCheck™ that facilitates the efficient and structured provision/sharing, collation and presentation of animal disease surveillance data.
- ✓ Through the trial, generate examples of how AUSPestCheck™ can benefit participants including streamlined data handling and reporting.

Participation in the AUSPestCheck™ trial in 2021

A new enhanced version of AUSPestCheck™ was provided to animal health stakeholders in 2021. Building upon feedback from animal health surveillance teams, a "Production" version of AUSPestCheck™ was released in April 2021. This version is similar to the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) version used in the trial up to this point, however the "Production" version enables processes to run faster and provides other support features including provision of two factor authentication (2FA).

The project was extended in May 2021 to allow the trial to continue until July 2023 with provision to continue to (a) support ongoing operationalisation of the system, (b) provide ongoing feature enhancement as determined by jurisdictions and the project Reference Group and (c) implement training and workshops to support improved provision and utilisation of national data.

2021 Timetable

During 2021, participants can continue to provide input into the project to ensure that already established benefits of the system are enhanced and maximised for all users. A GovTeams AUSPestCheck™ site enables issues, feature enhancements and documents to be shared between project stakeholders. Please contact DAWE for access to this site.

Training is provided for all current Participant and Program Administrators and ongoing support is available from PHA.

The system is only available to registered users. Biosecurity personnel in the jurisdictions, DAWE, Animal Health Australia (AHA) and PHA are currently registered as Participants.

Information sharing is managed by each Participant Administrator and Participants are only connected to programs in which they are involved. Users are managed by the Participant Administrators from each jurisdiction. All users are required to agree to Terms of Use upon registration, (Figure 1).

The current trial also aligns with existing agreed arrangements and protocols which outline, in principle, national animal health surveillance data and information sharing such as the *Protocol on Biosecurity data and Information Sharing between the Commonwealth, state and territory biosecurity agencies (2018)*.

Data standards

To facilitate the provision of surveillance information for users, documented data standards are used in AUSPestCheck™ to provide Participants and Users the correct fields required for a particular program, (e.g. National Notifiable Animal Disease [NND]). These data standards are easily implemented in AUSPestCheck™ using a menu system. One of the useful and innovative features of AUSPestCheck™ is that surveillance data standards can be customised to meet the needs of difference surveillance programs. Three initial data standards and Programs have been established AUSPestCheck™ for use by jurisdictions, namely:

- ✓ National Notifiable Diseases Program (trial)
- ✓ Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (in final preparation)
- ✓ *Ehrlichia canis* Targeted Surveillance Program

Data standard specifications can be developed and modified to meet the needs of stakeholders as required.

Map overlays can also be uploaded to AUSPestCheck™ to provide additional vector or background distribution information to aid surveillance data interpretation and decision making.

The Reference Group invites each jurisdiction to continue to participate in the project by:

- ✓ Selecting and uploading at least two animal health surveillance data sets of their choice (including but not limited to existing National Animal Health Information System [NAHIS] programs). Historical and/or contemporary data may be used.
- ✓ Completing the tasks provided in Annex 2 including updating at least three times the data sets they choose, at intervals of around one week, or more frequently if they choose.
- ✓ Providing access to AUSPestCheck™ (via their Participant Administrator) for a minimum of five staff (three staff for smaller jurisdictions) involved in surveillance activities within their jurisdiction.
- ✓ Provide feedback to improve the system via the GovTeams site.

Please note:

Apart from members of AHA, Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) and the PHA project team, no parties external to government will be granted access to AUSPestCheck™ as part of the trial.

- All participants and users in the trial must operate within existing agreements for national data sharing and within the Terms of Use for AUSPestCheck™ (see annex 1). This includes (but is not limited to) that each Participant *“must respect the rights of other Participants and must not share, publish or distribute the data of another Participant, unless your organisation has the other Participant’s explicit consent.”*
- Participant administrators must not grant access to any users who do not work for their organisation.

Governance arrangements for the AUSPestCheck™ trial

Governance of the AUSPestCheck™ trial is provided by the AUSPestCheck™ reference group. All jurisdictions invited to provide a representative for the group. Other parties involved in the project are shown in the table below.

Participant Administrators are appointed by each jurisdiction to manage their data and user access.

Short-term working parties will be established by in 2021 on an “as needs” basis, for example to assist in the development of data standards or provide feedback on surveillance programs. These working groups will report to the reference group and be coordinated by PHA and DAWE.

Figure 1. Example Diagrammatic Representation of AUSPestCheck™ Program and Participant Structure

Table 1: AUSPestCheck™ trial governance arrangements

Role	Organisation	Responsibilities	Assignee/s
Reference Group	Various	Project Strategic Oversight	Laura Macfarlane-Berry, DAWE Greg Hood, DAWE Yuko Hood, DAWE Samantha Allan, AHA Emily Sears, AHA Claire Harrison, Department of Primary Industries, NSW Jane Owens, Primary Industries and Regions, SA Emma Watkins, DPIWWE Tasmania Erin Kelly, DPIRD, WA Julia Sarandopoulos, AgVic Joanne Mollinger, QDAF
Project Sponsor	DAWE	Project Oversight DAWE	Laura Macfarlane-Berry
Project Manager	PHA	Project oversight and management, PHA	Nicholas Woods, Manager, AUSPestCheck™
Project Leader	PHA	Project Oversight PHA	Jessica Arnold, National Manager, Risk and Resilience
Other project team members	PHA	IT management, subcontractor liaison; AUSPestCheck™ operations and stakeholder comms.	Tony Macintyre, IT Manager David Gale, Manager, Digital Systems
IT	Consultants/ Contractors	Software design and development, and system implementation and maintenance	MTP Services
Working parties (ad hoc)	Various	Data standard development	To be advised

AUSPestCheck™ – next steps

The current pilot program provides a funded opportunity for stakeholders from jurisdictional and the Commonwealth governments, together with AHA, to contribute to the development of the system and provide input on new tools designed to enhance the national animal health surveillance system and support decision making by all key government stakeholders.

An interim point has been reached and the Commonwealth is currently consulting with AHC on the suitability and use of AUSPestCheck™ as a potential alternative to the National Animal Health Information System (NAHIS) for reporting of nationally notifiable disease investigations (NNDI).

Additional information and/or work may be required to support this outcome. For example, the trial NNDI data standard may need to be reviewed and/or standard reports developed. This current consultation does not include a broader discussion around governance and funding or using AUSPestCheck™ for other surveillance programs, opportunities that are expected to be facilitated by Plant Health Australia as the trial continues in 2021-23.

A decision has also been made to extend the trial to July 2023 with an expanded scope to enhance and modify AUSPestCheck™ to support jurisdictions and industry to enhance the functionality of other current national surveillance databases such as NAMP, TSEFAP, aquatic reportable disease, etc and other systems.

Annex 1: AUSPestCheck™ Terms of Use

Compliance with law

All use of AUSPestCheck™ by you or your organisation, including provision of data to AUSPestCheck™ and use of data obtained from AUSPestCheck™, must be done in accordance with these terms of use and all applicable Commonwealth, State and Territory laws, including laws relating to biosecurity, privacy and intellectual property.

Access to AUSPestCheck™

Access to AUSPestCheck™ is restricted to authorised Users, who will be determined at the sole discretion of the System Administrator and/or AUSPestCheck™ Governance Steering Committee. PHA may suspend or terminate you or your organisation's access to AUSPestCheck™ at its sole discretion and at any time.

Access and use by Administrator

You and your organisation consent to the Administrator accessing, downloading and/or uploading your organisation's data, and managing it, including reformatting it, as required to conform to the policies, procedures, styles and formats of AUSPestCheck™.

Your organisation's rights as a Participant

As a Participant, your organisation:

- will be entitled to have a secure login to AUSPestCheck™ for one or more specified individuals (who will have individual logins to allow tracking of system access and use).
- will continue to own all rights in respect of the information it provides.
- may nominate pest or surveillance program level permissions for each record provided to AUSPestCheck™ (noting that the default position, which will apply if you do not make a nomination, is that data can be seen by all users).
- may set publication conditions on the use of its data by other parties.
- will be entitled to view surveillance data uploaded to AUSPestCheck™ and download reports for surveillance programs in accordance with the permissions granted to your organisation.
- may complete a pest nomination form for new pests.
- may notify the Administrator regarding new pest profile nominations.
- may request the deletion of records uploaded to AUSPestCheck™ by your organisation or by the surveillance program to which your organisation belongs, provided that your organisation provides a reason for the deletion request.
- may edit its existing records, which must be done by:
 - updating the existing records (without modifying the unique record identifier) and re-uploading the updated record to AUSPestCheck™; or
 - requesting deletion of the record (using the above procedure) and re-uploading a modified data record.

Your organisation's obligations as a Participant

As a Participant, your organisation:

- will be responsible for the quality of all data provided to AUSPestCheck™.
- must ensure that each nominated user keeps their AUSPestCheck™ login details confidential and does not share them with other parties.

- must accept that the Administrator, or in the case of a dispute, the Steering Committee, can determine all matters related to access permissions.
- must respect the rights of other Participants and must not share, publish or distribute the data of another Participant, unless your organisation has the other Participant's explicit consent.
- must ensure that data records provided by your organisation conform to applicable legislation, AUSPestCheck™ policies and procedures and national biosecurity governance processes.
- must inform the Administrator of its surveillance program level permission preferences using the AUSPestCheck™ Participant Request for Access form.
- must make personal details (name, email address, contact number) of the individual who will be granted access to AUSPestCheck™ available to the Administrator and, if necessary, a contracted AUSPestCheck™ software support provider to allow for account administration, to ensure the security and/or accuracy of AUSPestCheck™ and to assess eligibility for access to AUSPestCheck™.

Acceptable use policy

You and your organisation agree that you and it:

- must use AUSPestCheck™ in a manner that does not infringe the rights of or inhibit the use of the system by any third party. This includes a prohibition of any conduct which is unlawful or which may harass or cause distress or inconvenience to any third party, and of the transmission of obscene or offensive content or disruption to any part of the website.
- must not use text or information provided via AUSPestCheck™, including datasets or data it contains, in a manner that misleads or is incorrect, that supports a criminal or illicit activity, or in any application, or in any other ways to defame any person.
- must not do anything that has an impact on the performance of AUSPestCheck™ nor interfere with the operation of AUSPestCheck™ or the display of information on AUSPestCheck™. This includes attempting to gain unauthorised access to the secure areas of AUSPestCheck™. The inclusion of any email addresses on AUSPestCheck™ does not consent from that person to receiving unsolicited commercial electronic messages or SPAM.

Your organisation's account

You and each other user in your organisation agree to:

- be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of your account and password.
- accept responsibility for all activities that occur under your account or password.
- only use your own account and password when accessing the AUSPestCheck™. If you become aware of unauthorised access to your account, you must notify PHA immediately on:
 - 02 6215 7700
 - apc@phau.com.au

Website access

You and your organisation acknowledge that access to AUSPestCheck™:

- may not be continuous or uninterrupted at all times; and
- may be interfered with by factors or circumstances outside of PHA's control. If you experience problems with AUSPestCheck™ not related to your PC or other device, communications line or internet service provider, please contact PHA immediately on:

- 02 6215 7700
- apc@phau.com.au

Internet connection

PHA accepts no liability for any interference with, or loss or damage to, your organisation's computer system, software or data (including loss from viruses, disabling codes, worms or other devices or defects) occurring in relation to your organisation's internet connection or use of AUSPestCheck™.

Privacy

Please refer to the privacy policy in relation to access, use and storage of any personal information you provide when accessing and using AUSPestCheck™. This policy is available on the Latest Updates page on AUSPestCheck™.

Notwithstanding the terms of the privacy policy, you agree to PHA:

- making a record each time you visit AUSPestCheck™ and logging the following information: browser search engines, hosts, pages viewed, number of visits, information uploaded or downloaded, usernames used, queries lodged, access paths and platforms used; and
- using the information supplied by your browser for analysing usage of AUSPestCheck™ and monitoring or investigating security breaches, provided that the information is not disclosed without your consent (except if the Administrator is required by law to disclose the information).

The Administrator will, upon request, give you access to any information which it has collected about you through AUSPestCheck™ in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988.

Downloadable documents

If PHA allows you to download particular material from AUSPestCheck™ and you download that material, you and your organisation agree to:

- comply with the terms of the copyright applying to that material, if any;
- conduct such virus scanning and take appropriate and adequate precautions (including up-to-date firewall and anti-virus software) as may be necessary to ensure that the downloaded material is free of viruses or other contamination and will not corrupt or damage your property (including damage to software, hardware or data) or that of any other person; and
- only provide the downloaded material to a third party if appropriate to do so and permitted by law.

Intellectual Property

All intellectual property rights in material made available through AUSPestCheck™ remain the property of the owners of that material. You are licensed to use material made available through AUSPestCheck™ only for the purposes permitted by these terms of use. You and your organisation agree that the provision of access to AUSPestCheck™ does not confer any intellectual property rights (other than the above licence) on you or your organisation and that you and it will not act in a manner which infringes those rights.

Notification service

PHA will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in notifications and alerts provided are accurate and up to date. However, events may occur that delay the transmission of notifications and alerts or otherwise cause the information in those notifications and alerts to be inaccurate or out of date. Accordingly, PHA makes no guarantee that notifications and alerts will be accurate or received in a timely manner.

DISCLAIMER

Warranties

The information available on AUSPestCheck™ is made available for information purposes only and has been provided without warranties of any kind either express or implied. You and your organisation acknowledge and agree that you must exercise your own skill and care with respect to your use of the AUSPestCheck™ and carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance of information on AUSPestCheck™.

PHA does not warrant or make representations about any of the following:

- uninterrupted or error free transmissions to and from AUSPestCheck™
- the accuracy, currency, reliability or integrity of material available from AUSPestCheck™ or the sites of any third parties
- the security of your organisation's computer when accessing AUSPestCheck™
- uptime (continuity) and security of AUSPestCheck™ or any linked site.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, PHA expressly excludes all terms and warranties expressed or implied by legislation, the common law, equity, trade, custom or usage, including but not limited to implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose which might otherwise apply to you or your organisation's use of AUSPestCheck™.

Liabilities

To the maximum extent permitted by law, PHA excludes liability for any loss caused by or arising directly or indirectly from you or your organisation's use or reliance on the data contained within AUSPestCheck™.

External websites

When AUSPestCheck™ provides links to external websites, PHA does not endorse that external website and does not warrant that it is accurate, authentic or complete. PHA does not control and accepts no liability for the content of external websites or for any loss arising from you or your organisation's use or reliance on those websites. Use by you or your organisation of any external website is governed by the terms of that website and you and your organisation are responsible for being aware of, and ensuring compliance with, any terms of use or privacy statements related to the external websites. The provision of a link within AUSPestCheck™ to an external website does not authorise you or your organisation to reproduce, adapt, modify, communicate or in any way deal with the material on that external website.

Annex 2: AUSPestCheck™ Tasks for July – November 2021

Administrative

1. Provide access to AUSPestCheck™ (via their Participant Administrator) for a minimum of five staff (three staff for smaller jurisdictions) involved in surveillance activities within your jurisdiction.
 - Did you find any bugs during this process?
 - Are there any additional features you would like in the admin portal?
 - Do you have any other suggestions?

Data upload

2. Select and upload at least two animal health surveillance data sets of their choice (including but not limited to existing National Animal Health Information System [NAHIS] programs). Historical and/or contemporary data may be used.
3. Update at least three times the data sets of your choice, at intervals of around one week, or more frequently.
4. Share data using the API (optional)
 - Did you find any bugs during this process?
 - Are there any additional features you would like to make data uploads easier?
 - Do you have any other suggestions?

Dashboard

5. View the dashboard and click on the links
6. Create a disease, infection or infestation of interest
 - Did you find any bugs during this process?
 - Are there any additional features or information you would like on the Dashboard?
 - Do you have any other suggestions?

Programs

7. Click on the links on this page
 - Did you find any bugs during this process?
 - Are there any additional features or information you would like on the Program page?
 - Do you have any other suggestions?

Disease and hosts

8. Explore the Disease, Infection or Infestation and hosts menus.
 - Did you find any bugs during this process?
 - Are there any additional features or information you would like for these menus?
 - Do you have any other suggestions?

Search

9. Search for E.canis active and passive surveillance over the past three months
 10. View E.canis data on a map. Add a map layer
 11. Export your data to Excel.
 12. Create 4 search queries of your choice
- Did you find any bugs during this process?
 - Are there any additional features or information you would like to be able to search on?
 - Do you have any other suggestions?

Surveillance Centre

13. Subscribe to an E.canis alert in your state
 14. View the Outbreak alert for E.canis
- Did you find any bugs during this process?
 - Are there any additional features or information you would like for the Surveillance Centre?
 - Do you have any other suggestions?

Latest updates

15. View the latest updates page
- Did you find any bugs during this process?
 - Are there any additional features or information you would like on the Latest Updates page?
 - Do you have any other suggestions?

Reports

16. What reports would you like to be generated for all users?
17. What customised reporting would you like?

Other

18. Do you have any other suggestions, feedback or ideas to improve the system

Please provide all feedback on the GovTEAMS site:
<https://govteams.sharepoint.com/sites/auspestcheck/>