

FOR INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION

NAMP Technical Committee Annual Meeting 2019

Agenda Item 2.1

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REQUIREMENTS OF CURRENT TRADING PARTNERS AND FOR ACCESS TO NEW MARKETS**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NAMP Technical Committee note and discuss the content provided as information about the trade support function of NAMP

BACKGROUND

2. *One of the functions of NAMP is to provide a mechanism to allow market access to countries concerned about the transmission of bluetongue virus through trade (livestock and livestock reproductive material). NAMP is also part of a contingency mechanism, should virulent bluetongue cause disease outbreaks affect livestock, maintaining market access from the bluetongue virus transmission free zone. While the focus of the program is on bluetongue virus transmission the expertise and surveillance system developed through the NAMP may be applicable to provide information in support of preparations ahead of spreading arboviral threats in the region including African horse sickness and lumpy skin disease.*

DISCUSSION

3. *The impact of covid 19 on the live trade can be observed in the statistics but trade continues to be surprisingly strong. While international passenger air travel has been curtailed there are still significant numbers of animals and reproductive material being exported by air.*
4. *The detection of clinical bluetongue in Queensland in separate incidents created concern and impacted some market access agreements for animal commodities where Australia provides certification about the absence of clinical disease nationally. These individual certificates have been updated on a bilateral basis and there were minimal impacts to trade. The clinical disease incidents in Queensland will be reported in the Australian OIE six monthly report due to be lodged with the OIE in October 2020. It is not expected that there will be further trade impacts. The occurrences have already been presented in the Animal health Surveillance Quarterly that is a publication that is assessable to trading partners.*
5. *The continued expansion of lumpy skin disease in the region has raised concerns that ultimately the disease could impact countries that neighbor Australia. The epidemiology of the disease is not fully understood and transmission pathways require further research. While local spread by mechanical insect transmission is regarded as the most important source of transmission, spread to a Taiwanese island near the Chinese mainland was attributed to weather borne vectors. If a biological vector capable of travelling large distances and effectively transmitting the virus is found, the potential threat to Northern Australia may be considered more significant than currently believed.*
6. *The Chinese continue to prohibit the direct export of breeding cattle from the temporary bluetongue transmission zone imposed in North Eastern Victoria in October 2017.*
7. *It may be worth considering modelling the expected extension of the bluetongue infected zone with predicted changes in climate, this will assist the NAMP program plan for the future.*
8. *There have been ongoing discussions held at a few NAMP technical meetings about how simbu group (Akabane, Aino) and epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus transmission zones can be more precisely*

mapped in support of trade. It is probably hard to justify in the current trading environment however if North America and Mexico became market access possibilities again it could be worth some further thought.

9. *the Import Risk Assessment of conditions for bovine semen and in-vivo prepared embryo are being reviewed and are almost to the point of release for public comment. With regard to bluetongue viruses Australia has proposed that testing will be applied rather than accepting seasonal freedom certification provided by trading partners except perhaps New Zealand.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. *The NAMP budget has remained fairly static for many years, emerging regional arboviral disease threats, climate variability and changing vector distribution and the continuing importance of arbovirus surveillance in support of trade need to be considered in at least maintaining NAMP funding in real terms. It may be worth carrying out some disease modelling to see where the BTV zone of transmission will likely expand in the next 10-20 years.*

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

11. Next steps actions to be determined during discussion at the NAMP technical meeting.