

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2021

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: 16 March 2022

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NSDIP COORDINATOR REPORT 2020-21 – QUEENSLAND

RECOMMENDATION

That the NSDIP Advisory Committee

1. **NOTE** that Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) training for Queensland veterinarians intended for Oct 2020 and March 2021 did not proceed due to COVID-19.
2. **NOTE** the NSDIP Advisory Committee approved funding for ADI training in 2020-21 has been carried forward to fund ADI training in 2022-22 (COVID permitting)
3. **NOTE** that laboratory investigations for by private veterinary practitioners of 188 disease incidents were partly funded by the NSDIP.
4. **NOTE** that the NSDIP contributed \$49K (GST excl.) towards the laboratory investigations, being (~1%) of Queensland's broader ~\$ 5 million laboratory budget for passive animal disease surveillance

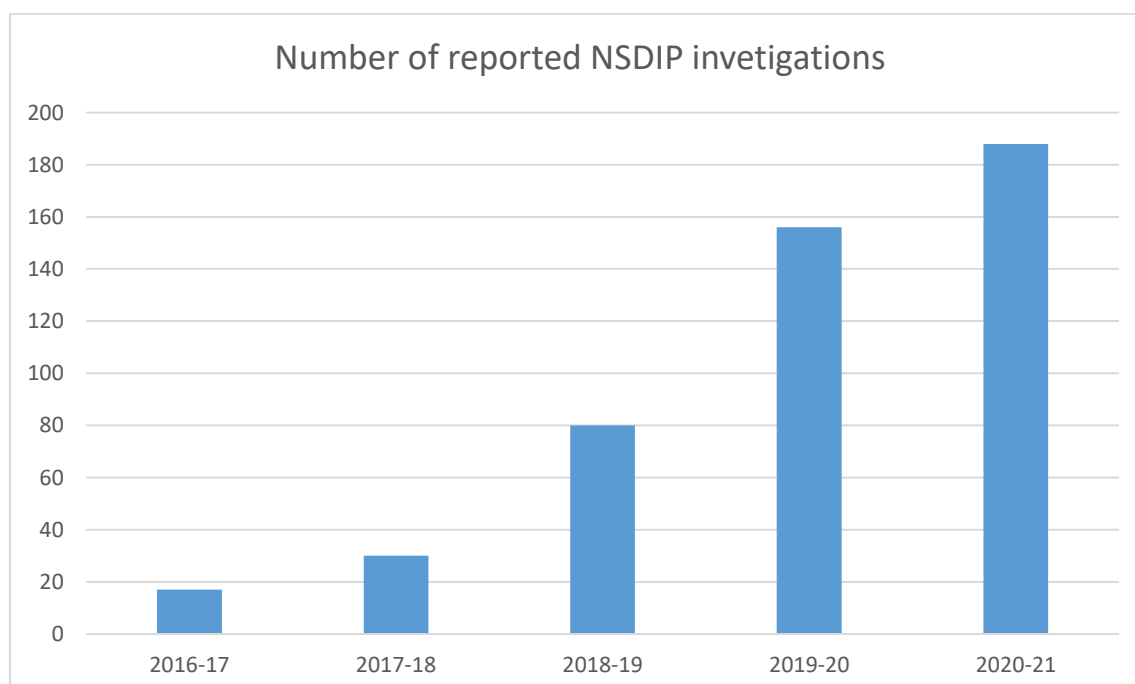
BACKGROUND

1. Queensland was allocated ~50K in NSDIP funding for 2020-21.
In addition, ~28K was accrued from the 2019-20 budget that could not be used for ADI training due to COVID-19 in expectation ADI training would resume in 2020-21.
2. Plans to deliver Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) Training in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria in March (and again in Oct 2021) were cancelled due to risks associated with ongoing COVID--19 pandemic and travel restrictions.
3. Queensland provides subsidies for laboratory investigations for ~2,000-2,500 PVP and 300 government officer submissions to BSL. Approximately 70% of Queensland submissions are cattle – consistent with the significance of the cattle industry to the Queensland economy. Given the very high (nationally highest) number of PVP submissions for government laboratory investigation in Queensland, the relatively small amount of NSDIP funds is not used to pay PVPs incentives for submission.
4. Queensland is implementing a program to enhance passive animal diseases surveillance, in particular to get more 'public value' from cases/incidents which are '*clinically consistent with an nationally notifiable disease (NND), such that the NND/s is/are a plausible but unlikely differential diagnosis*'.
5. Via the EPS, both the number and diversity of NND exclusions has increased - including reporting exclusions of trade significant NNDs for which Queensland has not previously reported surveillance data (e.g, AHS, LSD, Rift Valley fever).

DISCUSSION

6. The NSDIP budget approved for ADI training has been carried forward into 2021-22 in the hopes that high rates of protective vaccination against COVID-19 both Queensland and Victoria for will enable to safe delivery of ADI Training in Victoria, in the 3rd-4th quarter (March- April-May, dates are under discussion with Ag Vic) of 2021-22.
7. The laboratory component of Queensland's passive surveillance program budget is ~\$5 million, to which the NSDIP contributed ~\$50K (~1%).
8. The number of laboratory investigations by PVPs of potentially significant disease incidents that were partly funded by the NSDIP has increased over the last 4 years (2016-17 = 17, 2017-18 = 30, 2018-19 = 80, 2019-20= 156, 2020-21 = 188), see Figure 1.
9. In 2020-21, the NSDIP contributed \$49K (GST excl.) towards the laboratory investigations of 187 investigations that cost \$118K (41%), i.e leveraging of NSDIP funds in in 2020-21 was \$1 NSDIP: \$1.432 Qld govt, see Table 1.
10. The proportion of NSDIP contribution per NSDIP reported case was (41%) in 2020-21 was higher than in the last 2 years because more funds were available for disease investigations due to the carryover of funds not used for ADI training and 2019-20, and because a review of histology billing in late 2020 has resulted in a substantial reduction in the cost of disease investigations per case. See Figures 2a and 2b.
11. Performance metrics for 188 NSDIP supported disease investigations in 2020-21 are shown in Table 1.
12. This distribution of NSDIP investigations per species is shown in Figure 3. All the NSDIP funded dog investigations included exclusion of *Brucella suis* of significance to the commercial pig industry. The single case of myiasis in a cat excluded old and new world screw worm fly – of significance to both livestock, other domestic animal, wildlife and human health. Consequently, all NSDIP funded cases related to investigating of diseases in of significance to trade sensitive species.
13. Seven NSDIP funded dog cases also included exclusion of *Ehrlichia canis*.

Figure 1 Increasing use of NSDIP funds to support PVP disease investigations



Leveraging of NSDIP funds to support laboratory investigation of PVP submissions

Figure 2a Proportion of laboratory costs funded by the NSDIP (of NSDIP funded investigations)

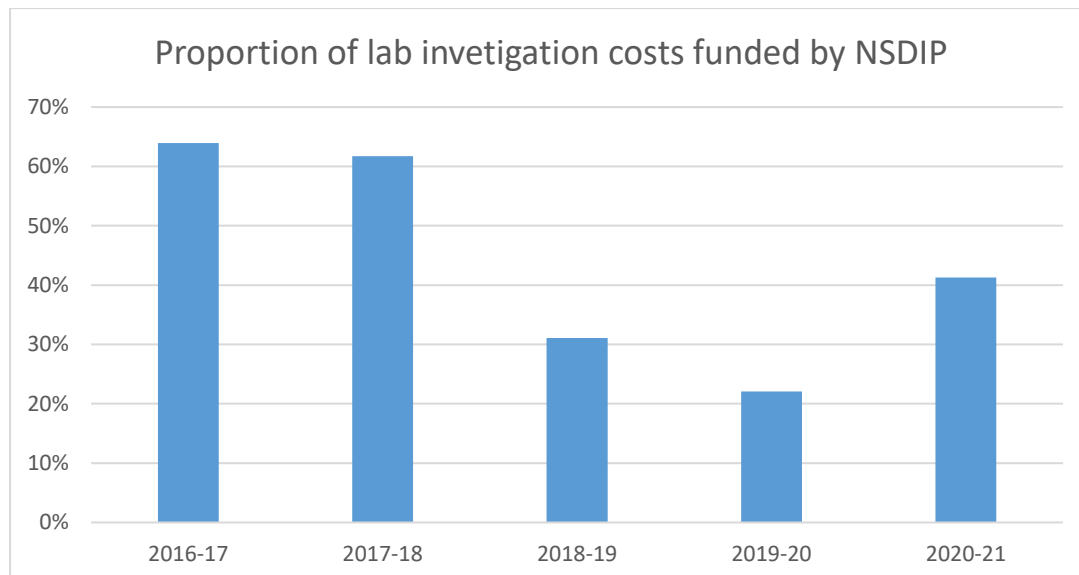


Figure 2b Quantum of laboratory costs funded by the NSDIP versus Queensland government

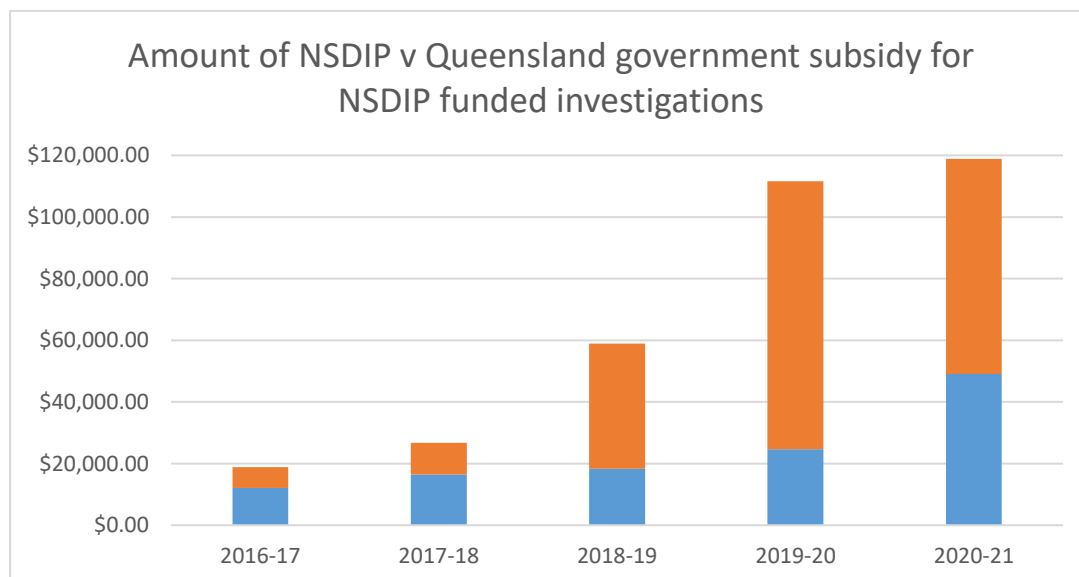


Figure 3 Number of investigation per species partly supported by NSDIP funds – Queensland 2020-21

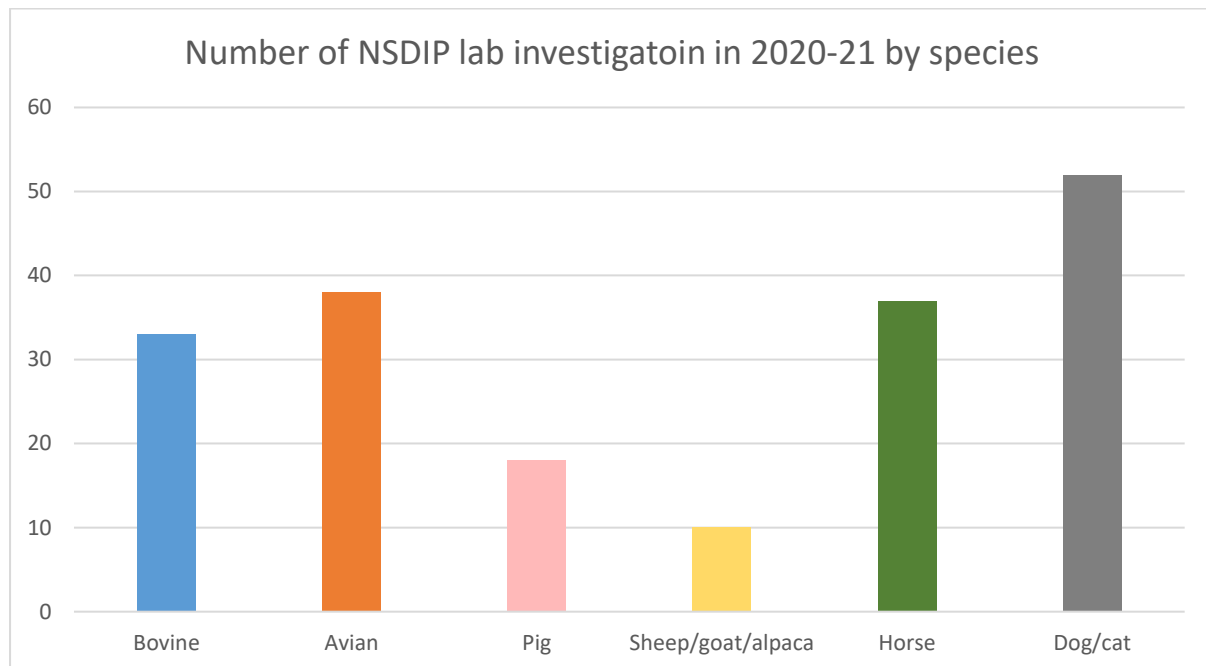


Table 1 Public value metrics – Queensland 2020-21

Public value measure	Queensland
Proportion of reported NSDIP funded cases for which NND detection/exclusion was generated ¹	100%
Proportion of reported NSDIP funded cases for which a diagnosis was reached ²	59%
Number of reported NSDIP funded cases for which the reported clinical syndrome was 'no clinical signs' ³	None
Leveraging of NSDIP funds against Queensland funds (NSDIP funded cases).	1 : 1.42

¹ NND detection exclusion data provides public benefit by clarifying the presence or absence of clinically consistent diseases of national significance. The proportion of NSDIP funded cases generating NND data is a direct measure of the public benefit derived from NSDIP funds.

² Determining a diagnosis in the face of and NND exclusion/s increases confidence in the NND exclusion and thoroughness of the investigation, increasing confidence in Australia's freedom from significant diseases.

³ The NSDIP funds *disease* investigation. No investigation in animals without clinical signs should be funded by the NSDIP.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. Not applicable

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

15. Not applicable

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

16. ADI training for PVPs to be scheduled in 2021-22 – timing yet to be determined by COVID context.
17. The enhanced passive surveillance program is underway.

FEEDBACK

18. Queensland provides the following responses to the questions below to assess the performance of the NSDIP over the 2018–19 year and to offer feedback and suggested changes for continual improvement

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The option to fund training via the NSDIP is a meaningful contribution to enhancing PVP surveillance in the context of existing Queensland programs and is providing a considerable value add to surveillance in Queensland. Unfortunately, we were unable to conduct training in 2020-21 due to COVID-19, and are in discussion with Ag Vic to resume training in 2022. While the amount (\$49K) available to subsidise laboratory investigations in 2020-21 for PVP disease investigations is insignificant (~1%) in comparison to the subsidies available from the Queensland Government, this support is appreciated. Queensland strongly supports continuation of project activities ○ 4.2 Subsidy for Laboratory Investigation ○ 4.3 Funding of disease investigation training ○ 4.4 Funding for WHA sentinel veterinary clinic surveillance.				

Q2 The National Significant Disease Investigation Program has provided opportunities to private veterinarians for gaining the necessary knowledge and skills to investigate and report on disease events.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The option to use the NSDIP to fund animal disease investigation training of private veterinary practitioners has enable us to provide knowledge and skills that enhance investigation and reporting of disease events that would not otherwise be available in Qld.				

Q3	The National Significant Disease Investigation Program has helped to improve the level of notifiable disease investigations through effective engagement with private veterinarians and assisting in funding investigations that may not have progressed otherwise.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Using the NSDIP to fund animal disease investigation training adds meaningfully to effective engagement with private veterinarians. The quantum of funds available for funding investigations is far too small (~50K of a ~\$5 million budget = ~1% to have a meaningful impact on funding investigations that may not have otherwise been done, particularly in so large a state where time and distance are significant barriers/costs. That said, the reporting and invoicing process has enabled comparisons to be made better the strategies and performance of jurisdictions and has helped Queensland to look more critically at the nature of the animal disease investigations being done in Queensland and helped inspire Queensland's Enhanced passive surveillance' program (EPS). The EPS has improved the 'level' (number and diversity) of notifiable disease investigations.				

Queensland notes jurisdictions are no long being asked to report/comment on what was a forth question in the annual report.

Q4 Animal Health Australia is managing the National Significant Disease Investigation Program effectively/satisfactorily.