

FOR INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Oct 2024

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: **18 October 2024**Prepared by *E. Watkins***2023-24 NSDIP Coordinator Report Tasmania****RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee **NOTE:**
 - a. The report on Tasmania's National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) 2023-24

BACKGROUND

2. In Tasmania's laboratory information management system (LIMS) NSDIP is allocated as a charge code for all significant disease investigations by private veterinary practitioners, that receive Tasmanian government support. Events that satisfy program criteria are claimed through NSDIP
3. Other significant disease investigations, including EAD exclusions, aquatic disease investigations or companion animal events, have laboratory testing costs supported through a separate NRE fund.

DISCUSSION

4. Significant Disease Investigations undertaken in Tasmania in 2023-24 are summarised in Figure 1 below.
5. The most common presenting sign for NSDIP-funded cases was sudden death or increased mortality rate (8/14) followed by oral lesions (3), lameness and respiratory or skin signs.
6. Eight private veterinary practices were engaged for investigations, with a good geographical spread - two practitioners located in the northern region of the state, four in the north-west and two in southern Tasmania
7. 12 nationally notifiable diseases were excluded by laboratory test, including for foot and mouth disease, vesicular stomatitis, lumpy skin disease, avian influenza and Newcastle disease. Nationally notifiable diseases were excluded in 7 out of the 14 cases subsidised.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Tasmania did not quite utilise all available NSDIP funding during 2023-24. It can be challenging to balance funds throughout the financial year to support suitable cases and maintain sufficient funds for cases that emerge at the end of the period.
9. Expenditure during 2024-25 is tracking higher as of October 2024, possibly due to an increase in support for poultry investigations due to increased awareness of the H5N1 HPAI threat.
10. NSDIP funding provides essential support to Tasmania's passive surveillance capacity vital to early detection of significant disease events.

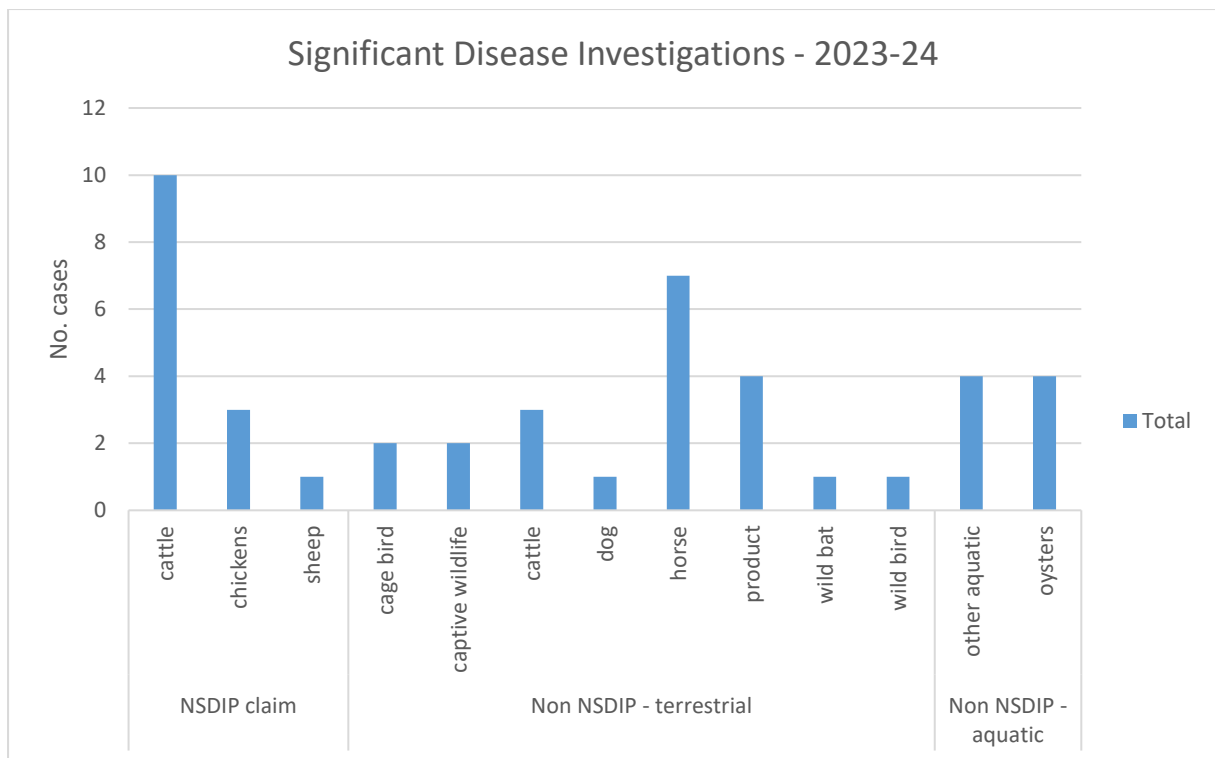


Figure 1 Significant Disease Investigations - Tasmania 2023-24

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

11. Not applicable

FEEDBACK

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The NSDIP funding provides important capacity for NRE Tas to support quality investigations of significant disease events by private practitioners. The program during 2023-24 reached practitioners in all regions. It is valued by practitioners, although feedback is still received that subsidies do not go far towards offsetting the cost of a large investigation.				

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
Tasmania did not use NSDIP funding directly for training. However, the relationship between private practitioners, veterinary pathologists and regional veterinary officers provides a supportive framework for				

quality investigations, increasing the skill of the veterinarian. One FMD exclusion supported through this program was investigated by a new graduate veterinarian in her first week of practice!

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
Most of the notifiable diseases excluded here would have been less likely to proceed without subsidy – the program is a strong driver of the relationship between NRE Tas and private veterinarians in Tasmania.				