

FOR DISCUSSION

NAMP Technical Committee Annual Meeting 2021

Agenda Item 4.1

Last updated: 6 September 2021

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REQUIREMENTS OF TRADING PARTNERS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW MARKET ACCESS**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NAMP Technical Committee note the continued importance of NAMP for existing and future market access.

BACKGROUND

2. *Market access work has been focused on maintenance of existing livestock markets rather than the development of new access. This has reflected the needs of industry, identified through the protocol committee.*

Australia's inability to effectively communicate with China along with several agricultural trade suspensions imposed on non-livestock commodities by China in 2020 has highlighted an increased level of risk in this market.

Turkey has been identified as a market for development. BTV has been identified by industry as the biggest limitation in current protocols for breeder and slaughter sheep and cattle.

The Australian Alpaca industry is pushing strongly for access to the European Union. Zoning for BTV has been a limitation in accessing the EU in the past.

DISCUSSION

3. *China does not recognize the entirety of the BTV transmission free zone, instead including a zone in northern Victoria around Echuca that was previously investigated and ruled out as a potential BTV transmission zone in late 2017. Without an open line of communication, Australia has been unable to resolve this issue despite the ongoing surveillance that has occurred through NAMP. In December 2020 the department was contacted by China's GACCC working group, who made enquiries regarding BTV surveillance activities occurring around the ports of Bunbury and Portland. This was followed up with a request for additional NAMP sites by GACC near pre-export quarantine facilities around Portland (Vic), Romsey (Vic) and Bunbury/Benger (WA). GACC was provided with an explanation as to what was currently being done and asked to provide clarity in what they would like NAMP to implement. GACC has not responded to the department since this correspondence.*

Turkey has previously been a large market for Australian cattle. Industry has identified BTV conditions within the protocol (sheep and cattle) as problematic for trade and would like this addressed. In 2018 the department invited Turkish officials to Australia to discuss NAMP and seek recognition of the program so the transmission zone can be utilized as per the OIE recommendations. This invitation was not taken up but Australia's Post has indicated that there is an opportunity to reengage.

Access to the EU has been identified as highly important to the Australian Alpaca industry. This follows Australia's access to the EU via New Zealand being shut down due to NZ's concerns over Q-Fever. Australia has sought access to the EU for several decades, but this was previously refused due to NAMP not being compliant with the OIE at the time. If resources permit, the department plans to progress this issue and seek access to the EU directly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. N/A

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

5. *In January 2021, NAMP technical committee members representing Victoria and WA were contacted to discuss China's requests for additional sites. State members indicated that additional sites were possible to support the Chinese trade but more details as to the expectations of China would be required. China has not responded and progress towards additional sites has not been actioned.*

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

6. If China continues to seek additional sentinel herds be set up around ports of embarkation the commonwealth will discuss possibilities through the NAMP technical committee.