

NAMP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

FOR DECISION

Date: 14 Aug 2020

BTV ZONE MAP CHANGE PROPOSAL

Purpose

1. To **NOTIFY** the NAMP Technical Committee that bluetongue virus transmission is confirmed in an unexpected location.
2. To seek **ENDORSEMENT** from the NAMP Technical Committee for a proposed change to the bluetongue virus zone map.
3. To seek **ENDORSEMENT** from the NAMP Technical Committee for the proposed text to be used in the email alert notification.

- To seek ENDORSEMENT for EXPANSION of the BTV transmission zone in NSW in the northern tablelands region (west of Tamworth and south of Inverell) and corresponding text for the email alert notification (see below).

Description (to be accompanied by the proposed amended zone map(s) as attachment(s))

- BTV transmission has been detected near Inverell in an end of season serosurvey sample (N357). While this herd is in the transmission zone the detection requires expansion of the zone.
- BTV transmission has been detected at Tamworth (N349). This herd is located in the BTV transmission free zone and requires an expansion of the zone westwards.

Testing Results

- Inverell (N357) was sampled 10/7/2020. Due to the drought a sentinel herd was unable to be recruited for this location so an end of season serosurvey was undertaken. 1/15 animals were seropositive by BTV ELISA. This animal was also viraemic as detected by PCR. BTV 1 was detected by type specific real-time PCR. Seven animals were seropositive for Simbu virus group antibodies.
- At Tamworth (N349) a BTV seroconversion was detected in 1/10 animals at the end of season sampling conducted on 28/7/2020. This animal was also viraemic as detected by PCR. Serotype is to be confirmed. All 10 animals seroconverted for the Simbu virus group when sampled on 4/5/2020.

Protocols (as per the Operations Plan)

Please check the box that applies and provide an explanation below for incomplete protocol steps.

Sample	Yes	No
Test results confirmed	X	☐
Sample identification confirmed	X	☐
Additional livestock testing	☐	X
Animal status confirmed	X	☐

Notification	Email	Phone	No
State/Territory CVO	X	☐	☐
Biosecurity Australia	☐	☐	X
Livestock Exporters Association	☐	☐	X
AHA NAMP Manager	X	☐	☐

Details

- N357 (near Inverell) is within the BTV transmission zone and the result is not unexpected with the last seroconversion in 2014 (noting that it has been intermittently difficult to get end of season samples at this site due to drought).
- Detection of BTV near Tamworth (N349) has been uncommon but has been previously detected. Activity was last detected in 2014 in a serosurvey sample.
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Issues for Discussion (if applicable)

- I think standard application on the 50 km transmission and buffer areas will result in a narrow strip of free zone north-west of Tamworth bounded north and south by buffer areas. I propose that we 'smooth' this to end up with something like Attachment A.

Email alert notification (proposed text)

Dear NAMP BTV Zone Map user,

This is an automated message to notify you that the Australian bluetongue virus transmission zone has been updated. Please go to the zone map website to view or download a current version of the map.

During routine monitoring, evidence of bluetongue virus infection has been detected in a survey herd located near Inverell and a sentinel herd located near Tamworth. These detections have resulted in an expansion of the bluetongue virus transmission zone in this region of NSW. There is no evidence of clinical disease associated with these infections.

Although bluetongue viruses are present in northern and eastern Australia, clinical disease has never been reported in cattle and rarely observed in sheep.

Bluetongue virus transmission surveillance and zoning is conducted under the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP), managed by Animal Health Australia. Further information about NAMP can be found on the program [webpage](#) at Animal Health Australia.

Recommendations (responses to be made on out-of-session paper provided)

That the NAMP Technical Committee:

1. **ENDORSES** the proposed change to the bluetongue virus zone map as shown in Attachment A and available on NAMP-*Info*.
2. **ENDORSES** the proposed text to be used in the email alert notification.

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Author

- Deb Finlaison