

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2020

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: 10 September 2020

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NSDIP COORDINATOR REPORT 2020 – QUEENSLAND

RECOMMENDATION

That the NSDIP Advisory Committee

1. **NOTE** that Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) training for Queensland veterinarians intended for March 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19.
2. **NOTE** the NSDIP Advisory Committee funding for ADI training in 2019-20 (scheduled March 2020) has been carried forward to fund ADI training in 2020-21 (COVID permitting)
3. **NOTE** that the laboratory investigations by the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory of 156 disease incidents in Queensland investigated by private veterinary practitioners were partly funded (22%) by the NSDIP.

BACKGROUND

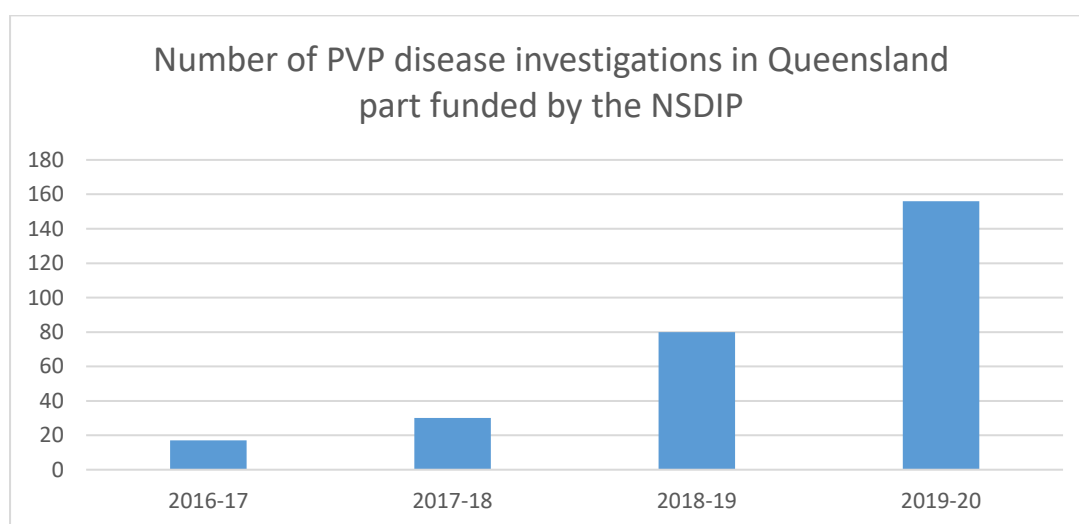
1. As of June 2016, the project activities of the National Significant Disease Investigation Program has included section 4.3 Funding for disease investigation training of private veterinary practitioners (PVPs).
2. Queensland's plans to deliver Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) Training in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria in March 2020 were cancelled due to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic and introduction of travel restrictions .
3. Queensland provides subsidies for laboratory investigations for ~2,000-2,500 PVP and 400-500 government officer submissions to BSL. Approximately 70% of Queensland submissions are cattle – consistent with the significance of the cattle industry to the Queensland economy. A thorough laboratory investigation of an incident involving cattle (necropsy sample set) typically costs ~\$1,500 per beast.
4. The laboratory component of Queensland's passive surveillance program budget is ~\$4 to 5 million, of which the NSDIP contributes <\$20K (<0.5%).
5. 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*'. The EPS is expected to increase the generation of public value NND exclusion data by both government and PVP submitters by at least 10 fold within 1-2 years.

DISCUSSION

6. The NSDIP budget approved for ADI training has been carried forward into 2020-21 in the hopes that progress with the COVID pandemic will enable us to safely deliver ADI Training, in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria, in the fourth quarter of 2020-2021.

7. The number of laboratory investigations by PVPs of potentially significant disease incidents that were partly funded by the NSDIP has increased considerably over the last 3 years (2016-17 = 17, 2017-18 = 30, 2018-19 = 80, 2019-20= 156), see Figure 1.
8. As the quantum of NDSIP funding for disease investigations has remained more or less constant (~\$45 - \$25K ADI = \$20K for lab investigation) – a progressively smaller proportion of actual laboratory investigation costs has been funded by the NSDIP relative to the contribution from Qld government (100%, 62%, 31%, 22% respectively) and this trend is expected to continue. This indicates that Queensland is progressively increasing the leveraging of NSDIP funds to generate public value as part of the broader Queensland Passive Surveillance Program.
9. In 2019-20, the NSDIP contributed \$24,650.00 (GST excl.) towards the laboratory investigations of 156 investigations that cost \$111,651.27 (22%) as part of the broader \$4 to 5 million laboratory budget for passive animal disease surveillance (<0.5%).
See Table 1 for characteristics of 156 NSDIP supported disease investigations.

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)

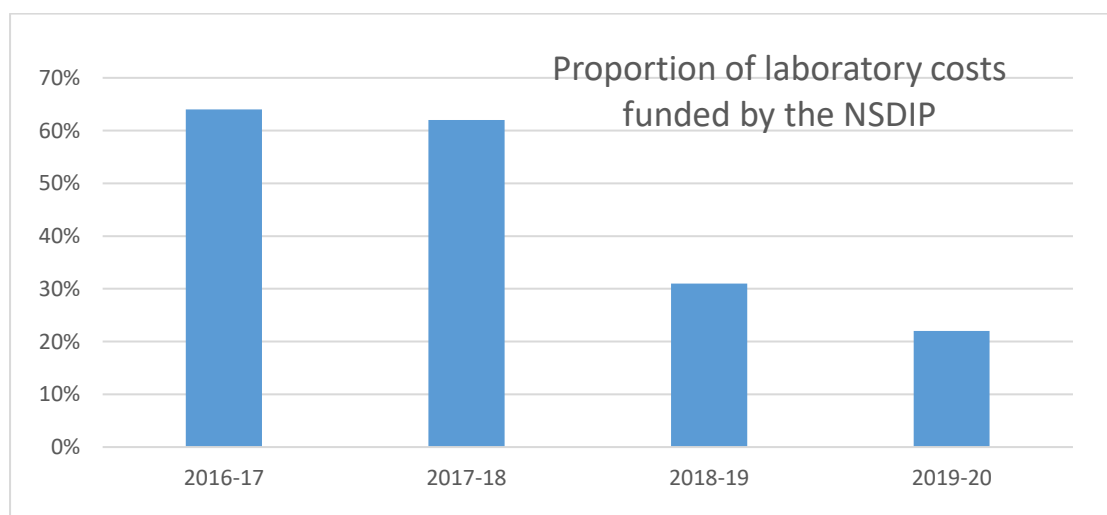


Figure 2b Quantum of laboratory costs funded by the NSDIP versus Queensland government

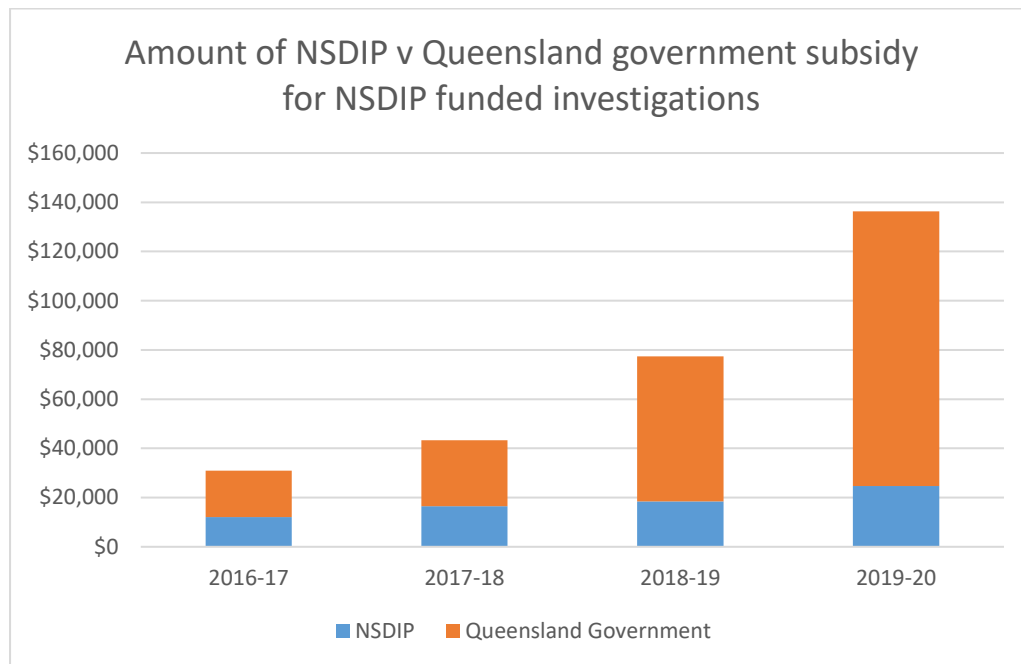


Figure 3 Number of investigation per species partly supported by NSDIP funds

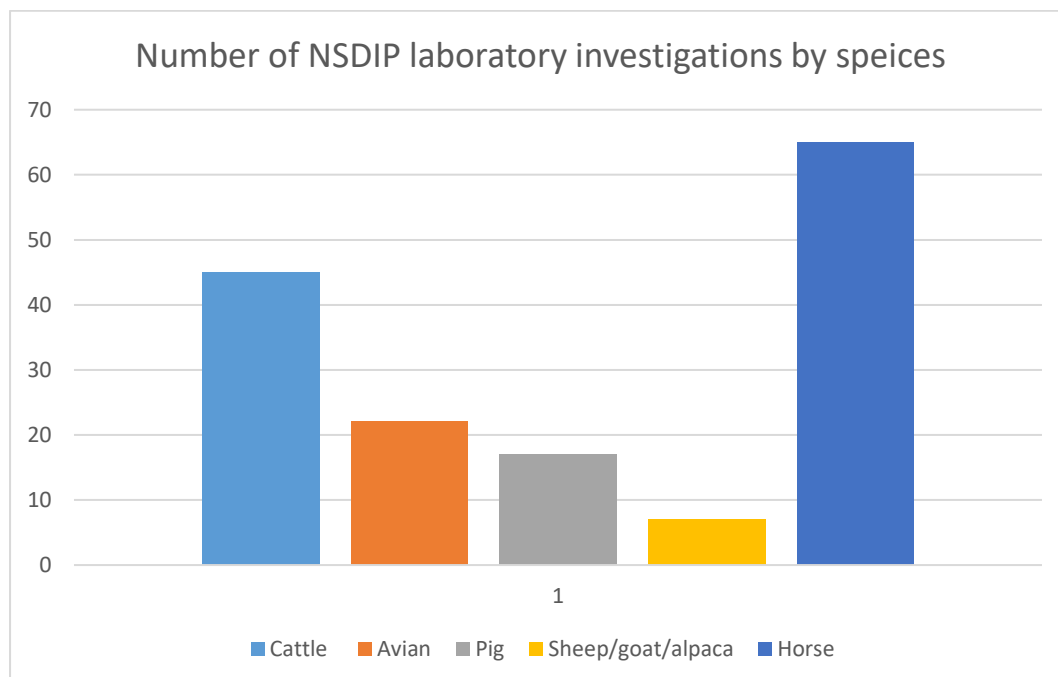


Table 1 Characteristics of 156 NSDIP supported disease investigations in Queensland during 2019-20

Note – does not include cattle or sheep disease investigations supported by TSEFAP incentive payments or horses in which only HeV was the only NND excluded.

Species	Number partly funded by NSDIP	Public value (Percent of funded investigations that included an NND exclusion)	Excluded NNDs include
Cattle	45	100%	• Anthrax • Bluetongue virus (BTV) • Bovine Viral Diarrhea – Type 2 (BVD-2) • <i>Brucella abortus</i> • Foot and mouth disease (FMD) • Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) – wildebeest • Vesicular stomatitis virus • Mycobacterium para tuberculosis (JD) • Mycoplasma spp
Avian (chickens and other poultry e.g. guineafowl)	22	100%	• Avian infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) • Avian Influenza (AI) • Duck enteritis virus • Duck hepatitis virus • Mycoplasma spp. • Newcastle disease virus (NDV) • Salmonella spp.
Pig	17	100%	• African swine fever (ASF) • Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) • Classical swine fever virus (CSF) • Mycoplasma spp. • Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (EU and US), • <i>Brucella suis</i> • Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) • <i>Salmonella</i> spp • Transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE)
Sheep/goat/alpaca	7	100%	• Anthrax • Bluetongue virus (BTV) • Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) • Mycobacterium paratuberculosis
Horse	65	100%	• Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV), known variants • Equine encephalitis viruses (EEEV, VEEV, WEEV) • Equine herpes virus (EHV-1, EHV-4) • Equine infectious anaemia virus (EIA) • Hendra virus (HeV) – in combination with other NND exclusions • Japanese encephalitis (JE) • West Nile virus (WNV-KUN)
Total	156	100%	

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Not applicable

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

11. Not applicable

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

12. ADI training for PVPs to be scheduled in 2020 – timing yet to be determined by COVID context.
13. The enhanced passive surveillance pilot is underway.

FEEDBACK

14. 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 NSDIP provides funding and a framework for addressing gaps in jurisdictional passive surveillance programs. While the amount (\$20-25K) available to subsidise laboratory investigations for PVP disease investigations is insignificant in comparison to the subsidies available from the Queensland Government, this support is appreciated. The introduction of the option to fund training via the NSDIP is a more meaningful contribution to enhancing PVP surveillance in the context of existing Queensland programs and is providing a considerable value add to surveillance in Queensland. Similarly, provision of funding directly to WHA (for wildlife investigations and wildlife sentinel veterinary clinic surveillance network) more effectively addresses enhancing wildlife surveillance than the previously tortuous verion via the jurisdictions. 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
In particular 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 (<\$20,000 of a >\$4-5 million budget = <0.5% 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 ADIs being done in Queensland and helped inspire Queensland's Enhanced passive surveillance' program (EPS). The EPS is expected to increase the volume of public value national notifiable disease (NND) by orders of magnitude (more than 10 times) within 1-2 years.				

Q4	Animal Health Australia is managing the National Significant Disease Investigation Program effectively/satisfactorily.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The AHA management team (Ian, Emily and Mikhalia) provide excellent support to the Queensland coordinator. The annual project status report and meetings are informative and have helped to develop concepts for the EPS. Queensland cautions against substituting all NSDIP F2F meetings with Zoom versions. While very cost effective, there is a limit to the capacity for such meeting to build relationships and a shared understanding and common purpose by a committee in which the representatives frequently change. Clearly a combination of occasional F2F and more frequent Zoom-type meetings would allow the committee to work even more effectively at low cost.				