

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee

Out of session paper

Last updated: **1 September 2023**

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Commonwealth update**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee **NOTES** the final report '*Scoping of a Southern Australia Surveillance Network for Emergency Animal Disease Investigations*' will be presented to AHC at the F2F meeting on 5-7 September for discussion and consideration of next steps.
2. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee **NOTES** the Commonwealth's update on the AUSPestCheck® (APC) Animal Project.

BACKGROUND

1. The report '*Scoping of a Southern Australia Surveillance Network for Emergency Animal Disease Investigations*' was commissioned by DAFF to identify stakeholder needs and potential gaps in the current significant disease investigation process, and to design options to improve the general surveillance system in southern Australia. The final report was delivered in May 2023.
2. DAFF, Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia are progressing the delivery of the AUSPestCheck® (APC) Animal Project, which will establish the APC system as a replacement for the Central Animal Health Database by the end of this year. The new system will support a range of national animal health surveillance programs including NSDIP.

DISCUSSION

3. Based on the findings of scoping report, several policy options will be put forward for discussion at AHC, including a possible 2-year pilot of a Southern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance Network (SABSnet) program.
4. The AUSPestCheck® (APC) Animal Project is on track, with work currently focused on completing necessary IT developments to the APC system and developing documentation to support data sharing on the system (e.g. a data sharing agreement). A data sharing agreement and data standards for each program operating on APC are being developed in close consultation with jurisdictions. The project team are currently working through the feedback and input provided by jurisdictions on these documents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2. N/A.

FEEDBACK

3. Commonwealth feedback on the performance of the NSDIP is that metrics on SDI numbers over time, for each jurisdiction (e.g. over a five year period) should be included in annual status reports, to facilitate evaluation of the program and to contribute to the provision of accurate information on Australia's general surveillance system.