

## NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES PRIVATE VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS TRAINING PROPOSAL

---

### Project Overview

Throughout 2022-2023, NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Animal Biosecurity, in conjunction with Animal and Plant Health Laboratories at Elizabeth McArthur Agriculture Institute (EMAI), Local Land Services (LLS), Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and industry experts provided training workshops to private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) on emergency animal diseases - to better prepare them for a response and to highlight their role in prevention. The workshops were a big success - most sessions were fully subscribed, and widespread positive feedback was received. The feedback from these sessions indicated that PVPs valued practical learning opportunities, networking, and the ability to undertake free CPD. In addition to this, the workshops were an excellent platform to promote initiatives and build industry and government collaboration toward a common goal.

NSW has an extensive network of government veterinarians who provide disease investigation and other livestock services to producers. However, this is often restricted to cloven-hooved livestock and PVPs perform the vast majority of disease investigations in equids. While attending the AVA Annual Conference in May 2023, DPI Animal Biosecurity team members received multiple requests for more resources, training and engagement with mixed and equine veterinarians.

The proposed equine-specific disease investigation workshops will be delivered to private veterinary practitioners working in mixed and equine practices. The aim is to provide training in the detection and diagnosis of significant and zoonotic equine diseases. It will focus primarily on diseases that may present with neurological clinical signs including Hendra virus disease, Japanese encephalitis, Murray Valley encephalitis, West Nile virus disease including Kunjin variant and other arboviral diseases. NSW proposes the development and dissemination of a supporting 'equine significant disease investigation guide' to participants in order to enhance the workshop's effectiveness and impact.

### Objectives and scope

The objectives for this workshop are to:

- Increase the knowledge, skill and confidence of private veterinarians in:
  - Obtaining thorough case histories and collecting appropriate epidemiological information.
  - Clinical examination, diagnosis and making a risk assessment in the field
  - Collecting and submitting appropriate samples to EMAI

- Result interpretation and diagnostic limitations, in partnership with EMAI
  - Understanding reporting requirements and processes for notifiable and significant diseases
  - Appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
- Improve awareness of the NSDI program and available laboratory funding among PVPs.

The objectives of this proposal are consistent with NSDI Program Objectives:

1. Improve the quality and increase the quantity of livestock significant disease investigations conducted by non-government veterinary practitioners in collaboration with governments.
2. Promote effective collaboration between non-government veterinary practitioners and governments in livestock disease investigations.

### **Outcomes**

The intended outcomes from this training include:

- Enhanced understanding of equine significant disease investigation techniques in PVPs, and consequently an increase in the number of appropriate disease investigations, submission of appropriate samples to EMAI and notifications to NSW government veterinary authorities by the participants.
- Improved engagement and collaboration between equine PVPs and NSW government veterinarians and pathologists.

### **Outputs**

Key deliverables from this training will include:

- Four workshops in locations across NSW, in collaboration with LLS, EMAI and industry.
- Equine significant disease investigation guides.

### **Methods**

An organising committee will be developed with relevant partners.

Four on-site training interactive 3.5-hour evening workshops will be provided for an identified cohort of PVPs. The structure will focus on promoting facilitated discussion and providing ample opportunity for PVPs to raise questions or concerns.

The proposed workshops will include:

- Presenter led discussion on:

- descriptive analysis of submissions from equids with neurological clinical signs in NSW
- risk assessment in the field
- diagnostic sampling requirements and interpretation of results, in partnership with EMAI
- Demonstrator led practicals on:
  - clinical examination of neurological equids and discussion on differential diagnoses
  - diagnostic techniques
  - appropriate use of PPE

### **Timeframe and schedule**

| <b>Activity</b>                               | <b>Date completed by</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Training proposal to AHA for funding approval | September 2023           |
| Organise workshop                             | October 2023             |
| Promote workshop                              | November 2023            |
| Enrol PVPs for workshop                       | November 2023            |
| Training workshop 1                           | January 2023             |
| Training workshop 2                           | February 2024            |
| Training workshop 3                           | March 2024               |
| Training workshop 4                           | April 2024               |
| Obtain feedback                               | May 2024                 |
| Prepare workshop report                       | May 2024                 |

### **Key stakeholders and responsibilities**

| <b>Stakeholder</b>          | <b>Responsibilities</b>                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NSW DPI Animal Biosecurity  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• project management</li> <li>• advertisement development</li> <li>• technical input</li> </ul> |
| Local Land Services         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technical input</li> <li>• workshop promotion</li> </ul>                                      |
| EMAI                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technical input</li> </ul>                                                                    |
| Equine Veterinary Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• workshop promotion</li> </ul>                                                                 |

## Budget

| Activity or item                                | Estimate costing (in-kind)             | Estimate costing (funding sought) | Reporting                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Workshops                                       | \$13000<br>(organising and presenting) | 4x \$7000 =<br>\$28,000           | Workshop report<br>Receipts |
| Consumables<br>(including PPE kits)             | 0                                      | \$500                             | Receipts                    |
| Equine significant disease investigation guides | \$5000<br>(development)                | \$5000                            | Workshop report<br>Receipts |
| Workshop catering – dinner and refreshments     | \$0                                    | \$2,500                           | Receipts                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>\$18,300</b>                        | <b>\$36,000</b>                   |                             |

## Evaluation and reporting

The workshop will be reviewed by both the organising committee and participants via an evaluation form. NSW DPI will undertake a review after the completion of all workshops and present the outcomes in a report to the NSDIP Advisory committee.