

SCREW-WORM FLY SURVEILLANCE AND PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING RECORD OF MEETING

TUESDAY 10TH – WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024 | Brisbane, QLD

In attendance:

Participant	Organisation
Mikhaila Nye	AHA – Chair
Bronwyn Hendry	AHA
Emily Sears	AHA
Sheaaz Sakur	AHA
Michele Byers	NAQS – proxy
Kathleen Moylan	NT (Tuesday only)
Selina Ossedryver	QLD. Gov
Jo Mollinger	Qld. Gov - Observer
Will Janson	WA Gov
Eliz Braddon	NSW – Southern jurisdictions representative
Geoff Brown	Qld. Gov, Reference Entomologist

Apologies:

Participant	Organisation
Mike Darby	Cattle Australia – livestock industry representative
Guy Weerasinghe	NAQS

1. Arrivals and Introductions

- The Chair gave an acknowledgement of country, welcomed Steering Committee (SC) members to the 2024 annual meeting and thanked Queensland for hosting the meeting.

2. Program status and year in review

2.1 Progress on 2023 meeting action items

- M Nye referred to the Action Register provided.
- Action Item 2:* The SC reflected on the containment breach in Panama and the importance of modelling, including any differences between Old World Screw Worm Fly (OW SWF) and New World Screw Worm Fly (NW SWF) movements, and the role of wild dogs in potential spread. Agreed to close the action item, noting the need for a literature review (including any grey literature) on SWF risk profile and pathways, modelling and an analysis of surveillance sensitivity. Outcomes should inform decision making and assessment of current surveillance.
- Action Item 3:* The SC noted that they were not aware of any further requirements for positive material now the duplex PCR has been implemented. Agreed to close.
- Action Item 16:* Information from DAFF indicated a range of countries have conditions for SWF, primarily focused on declarations of country freedom (see below). Given that there would be no biosecurity risk outside live animals it is unlikely that many/any protocols are affected. While a smaller program, it was noted that there are market access implications.

Country	Market
Vietnam	- buffalo slaughter - buffalo feeder - cattle slaughter - cattle breeder - cattle feeder
Canada	- goat breeder - sheep breeder - new world camelids
USA	live horses
New Zealand	live horses
Qatar	- cattle Slaughter - sheep slaughter
Kuwait	sheep slaughter
Solomon Islands	cattle feeder

- *Action Item 25:* Qld confirmed that the PCR procedures had been shared with WA, and contact made with NT. Qld queried whether the diagnostic manual needed to continue to be outwardly facing, noting that if it was temporarily internal facing (and made available on request) this would allow the current update of the manual to include the PCR procedures (*Action Item 27*). Once the PCR protocol work has been formally published by the Qld team (into the relevant scientific journal), then it could return to an outwardly facing resource.
- *Action Item 36:* SC discussed the benefit of an AHA member report for all funding parties, and the potential for a short communique or infographic to be developed from this for the broader public.

Conclusion

The Committee accepted the action item update as provided, agreeing that items 2-3 could be closed noting the need for literature review and sensitivity analysis, and that this work is being planned.

Action/s

1. Subgroup (Qld, NSW, AHA, Ref Ento) to be formed to identify questions and areas of focus for the literature review, risk profile and pathways, analysis of surveillance sensitivity and modelling planned for 2025.
2. AHA to include the PCR procedures within the current update of the SWF Diagnostic Manual and list the manual as available on request until the PCR procedures have been formally published.

2.2 Program Report

- M Nye referred to the paper provided.
- SC members noted that as per routine operations, AHA would be requesting requirements for equipment and materials for the year ahead following the meeting.
- Discussion on entomology training tentatively scheduled for 2025 was deferred to Item 5.1.
- Noted a decline in passive myiasis investigations, following the peak in 2017-18. Reflected on the mass distribution of kits in 2017-18, and subsequent disruptions, and potential competing priorities likely contributing to the decline. Discussed ongoing promotion of SWFSPP with NABSnet and key contacts within the northern regions. Reflected on the

challenges in tracking a submission that may have potentially come from a maggot collection kit, and that despite ongoing engagement and kit placement, limited samples are being returned. Queried potential logistics and postal challenges, ethanol evaporation, and turnover in staff in clinics and health centres.

- Identified a potential collaboration with AMRIC as a valuable organisation working within remote communities as an additional important passive surveillance point, in addition to ongoing engagement with vet schools (WA and Qld) and the AVA regional groups.
- Reflected on the value of messaging about evidence of absence and early detection, in addition to a case definition to assist in awareness of the difference between traditional flystrike and screw worm fly myiasis.

Conclusion

The SC noted the program report and performance for 2023-24 and discussed areas of focus including communications and additional potential collaborations to strengthen passive surveillance.

Action/s

3. AHA to work with its communications team to include metrics on location and access to SWF resources hosted on the AHA webpage as part of future annual reports to the SC.
4. AHA to continue investigating the development of an internal report for members and an external communique/infographic for broader dissemination.
5. AHA to explore partnering with AMRIC to increase SWF awareness and surveillance in remote communities.

3. Australian Government report

3.1 Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) report

- M Byers referred to the paper provided, noting feral animal surveillance and survey work with Indigenous rangers.
- The SC noted a number of current challenges in submissions in fly trapping in the NPA and that the current surveillance plan activities were not being met.
- The SC reflected on the importance of surveillance in the NPA considering the potential risk pathways through the Torres Strait and discussed potential mechanisms to support activities to be undertaken as planned in the coming period.
- Members discussed that the underperformance of surveillance activities needs to be captured in the program risk register and queried whether there may be any alternative capacity through the NAQS Indigenous rangers or Qld to support. Members agreed that AHA, on behalf of the SC, would write to senior officials within Aus Gov, noting the importance of the NAQS activities in the NPA as part of the national program and to obtain further insights on a timeframe for likely resolution.
- Discussed samples from a crocodile and the potential for a broader range of species than just warm-blooded animals to be susceptible, noting that tortoises have been observed with SWF in Africa.
- Flagged updates in the poster to streamline instructions and support health clinics to submit samples from humans. Also flagged potential for producers, ag retailers and agents to be provided with maggot collection kits. Parks and wildlife agencies and animal welfare inspectors may also be an additional player in passive surveillance for myiasis.

Conclusion

The SC noted the challenges in delivery of activities undertaken by NAQS during the 2023-24 year and discussed the importance of surveillance in the NPA region, including strategies to support activities to be undertaken as planned in the coming year.

Action/s

6. AHA to prepare a letter to senior NAQS staff noting the value of the national program and importance of NAQS surveillance activities in the NPA region. Update to be sought on the plan by the end of the calendar year.
7. AHA to review the risk register to ensure underactivity and gaps in surveillance reflect the current situation in the NPA.

3.2 International focus

- M Byers referred to the paper provided.
- The SC reflected on changes in global incidence of OW SWF and NW SWF, although noted that this was not affecting Australia's immediate neighbours.
- Noted that key scientific literature updates in the SWF space would be further discussed under Item 5.1.

Conclusion

The SC noted the summary of international developments and activities relating to SWF during the 2023-24 financial year.

Action/s

8. AHA to circulate the International Developments Paper to the SC.

4. Coordinator reports

4.1 Northern Territory Report

- K Moylan referred to the paper provided.
- Noted that generally flooding of traps hasn't been an issue during the wet season, and the use of a bin lid/saucer cover helps to keep the trap contents drier.
- Outlined that flies are not counted from trap catches, and that catches are only screened for presence or absence of SWF. Identification of species can periodically be used to support assessment of trap sensitivity.
- Discussed the targeted myiasis inspection activities, reflecting on observations of low wounding rates of cattle passing through export yards and sensitivity of surveillance.
- The SC discussed connections with community health centres, noting that SWF is not notifiable in humans which may lead to an incomplete dataset. Maintaining relationships with community health centres and human health colleagues would be valuable in raising awareness of SWF in the context of One Health and zoonotic disease both locally and nationally.

Conclusion

The SC noted report on SWFSPP activities undertaken by the NT in the 2023-24 year, including two submissions from private vet clinics in the Darwin region.

Action/s

9. AHA to reach out to the Interim CDC on potential synergies and appetite to include SWF on the human health notifiable disease list.

4.2 Queensland Report

- J Mollinger referred to the paper provided, noting the transition of Qld agency coordinator and SC representation to S Ossedryver going forward.
- Qld thanked the SC for its prompt consideration of financial implications around the PCR testing. Qld noted that they have been providing PCR services to NAQS, and queried if there was potential to streamline invoicing and finance arrangements.
- Noted that the PCR would be discussed under Item 7.1.
- Discussed the potential incorporation of inspections for wounds and myiasis during tick inspections, particularly in terms of restricted premises, could be considered depending on the outcomes of the planned assessment of surveillance sensitivity. Areas of consideration would include determination of numbers of animals required, protocols and data capture. Noted that myiasis inspections on National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP) herds would significantly increase time taken on site.

Conclusion

The SC noted report on SWFSPP activities undertaken by Qld in the 2023-24 year and the PCR support that BQ have been providing.

Action/s

10. AHA, Qld and NAQS to consider financial arrangements for PCR testing referred from NAQS to Qld.

4.3 WA Report

- Noted that paper was pending internal approvals and would be shared following the meeting.
- Outlined WA trapping operations and updates to internal reporting templates to support project manager oversight of surveillance activities and understanding of factors during a particularly trapping activity. WA has updated their internal trap reporting sheet to better support capture of each activity rather than attempting to do this as part of the 3-monthly national reporting cycle.
- Reflected on the periodic value in confirming the presence of Sarcophagidae and Calliphoridae type flies as an indicator of trap function (e.g. flies of appropriate size are trapped and confirming performance of the lure).
- Discussion on details within SOPs and internal data collection, noting value in general understanding of species trapped, however some information that could be sourced externally such as weather is not required to be duplicated.
- Reflected on challenges in myiasis inspection with a period of reduced cattle movements following significant rainfall and closure of the bridge at Fitzroy Crossing for a period due to damage.
- Awareness activities have been incorporated with activities under NACN and the NABSNet. WA are also in the process of updating their webpage for SWF.
- Brief discussion that surveillance sensitivity work should also include consideration of whether there are optimum times of the year/season for trapping in some locations or if the current plan spread across the year is sufficient.

Conclusion

The SC noted update on SWFSPP activities by WA, some of the access challenges, and work on communications and reporting improvements in the 2023-24 year.

Action/s

11. WA to share new internal trapping detail form with the SC.

4.4 Southern Jurisdictions

- Discussed that SWF was generally lower on the priority list for southern jurisdictions, despite all jurisdictions contributing financially to the program.
- Reflected on an increase in awareness and engagement activities through the NSW District Vet Conference. There are plans to also raise SWF during the upcoming Vet Expo in October 2024.
- Consideration of potential risk of returning travelers and connections with small animals such as dogs. The Committee re-emphasised the importance of linking with AMRIC.
- Discussion on potential consideration on myiasis surveillance and possibly synergies for cattle tick inspection teams, including data capture pathways if there are no wounds and no myiasis. If increasing need for surveillance, further consideration of data capture location (SWFSPP v NAHIP NND) is needed. Further discussion on opportunistic myiasis was discussed under Item 9.1.

Conclusion

SC members noted the verbal update on discussion of SWF with other southern jurisdiction and the awareness activities in NSW.

Action/s

Nil

4.5 Industry priorities and recommendations

- The Committee noted the apology from the industry representative.
- The Chair outlined that the AHA Industry Forum (IF) Executive have asked for a written brief following the SWF meeting to share at their upcoming IF meeting. Flagged that the proposed communique and infographic may support wider industry awareness on the program.

Conclusion

The SC noted the importance of continued industry engagement, and that IF have sought an update on the meeting.

Action/s

Nil

4.6 Surveillance Plan

- The SC discussed that the surveillance plan should reflect the outcomes of the planned literature review and surveillance sensitivity analysis, and that the insights from these activities would underpin future consideration of the surveillance plan and understanding of risk. It was suggested that depending on timing, the 2025-28 SWFSPP Business Plan may commence with the current surveillance plan, and then be subsequently updated to reflect the outputs of the review.
- The SC noted that there may be some adjustments required for NAQS sites to reflect adjusted sentinel cattle locations, including the closure of the sentinel herd at Seisia,

however, trapping should broadly remain the same in the interim. Alternative options to support coverage through the NPA through BQ were also revisited in this item, pending further advice from NAQS.

- Some minor corrections were noted to close out archived trapping sites in the list of active sites in both the business plan and work instructions for NAQS.
- Reflected that the current trap placement is based on an expected prevalence of 2%, designed to detect SWF in the first 12 months. The basis of this was from the latest incursion/establishment risk review that occurred around 2013. Elements such as climate change, as per the Hosni, et al., 2020 paper in Nature may need to be factored into the planned reassessment of surveillance sensitivity.
- The SC discussed the need to consider movements of SWF through weather events such as cyclones. The recent Ausvet work that considered potential vectors for the establishment of LSD assumed that multiple flies would need to bite an individual animal to initiate an outbreak. Members noted that this is not directly translatable to an assessment of SWF incursion risk by windborne pathways as the underpinning assumptions are different, with SWF only requiring one gravid female to initiate an incursion and potential subsequent spread. It was queried whether the SWFSPP could however leverage and build off the surveillance analysis and modelling from LSD, particularly the climatic components, with an adjustment in assumptions to consider one gravid female fly as the basis of an incursion event.
- The SC flagged the potential use of Biosecurity Commons and other decision support tools to inform risk assessment and modelling, with SWF flagged as a possible animal case study.

Conclusion

The SC discussed the surveillance plan for the coming year, with no major changes proposed to the surveillance strategy, and potential support to get the NPA activities back on track. The SC reconfirmed the need to review the sensitivity of the system in the face of increased risk of incursion (environment, insect patterns, effectiveness of trap, vector movements).

Action/s

12. Qld, NAQS and AHA to assess support required to progress NPA activities dependent on further updates from NAQS.

5 Entomology expertise

5.1 Reference entomologist update

- G Brown referred to the paper provided.
- The SC noted the need to maintain a watching brief on ivermectin resistance in NW SWF, and any potential challenges with resistance in OW SWF.
- Members discussed the potential applications and benefits of establishing a genomics database in advance of any potential incursion with populations of OW SWF from neighbouring countries such as PNG, Timor Leste and Indonesia. A genomics library would support prompt identification to better inform SIT population establishments and an advance understanding of any potential chemical resistance challenges. Mitochondrial DNA was suggested to be used for genomics work, noting that it can support differentiation of populations and is relatively slow to change over time. The initial cost to set up the genomics work including sourcing samples and running the plate would likely be the more input-heavy part of such a project. Members reflected on the importance of the correct fly population to support establishment of SIT.

- Noted new incursions internationally, including OW SWF in Senegal. Noted the small shift in the extent of distribution from previously observed.
- Discussed entomology ID training, tentatively scheduled for 2025. NT noted that there had been a change in personnel and that they would benefit from ID training. Qld commented that training would generally be a refresher for their team. WA indicated that their primary staff member continues to perform SWF IDs but were unsure on the availability of a backup. A potential alternative option, depending on how soon other jurisdictions require training, may be to arrange for them to travel for training to BSL in the interim. Alternatively, Qld indicated that they were happy to support any sample identifications as needed.
- The SC discussed different sample transport and storage mediums, noting that 80% ethanol, propylene glycol and hand sanitiser are most commonly being used, with no detrimental impacts to IDs, despite some logistics challenges.
- Noted that the update to the diagnostic manual is in progress and will now also include the addition of the new PCR protocol.

Conclusion

The SC noted the update on diagnostic resources and international publications, with a potential genomics project. The SC confirmed their support for training to be held in 2025 in the NT, noting Qld is available to support identification of specimens in the interim if required.

Action/s

13. Qld to explore cost and opportunity to expand understanding of international genomics on SWF using near neighbour samples.

6 Awareness and communications materials

6.1 Update on brochure and poster

- The SC reflected on earlier discussions on a revised poster focusing on key steps for submission of samples from animals and humans.
- Thanked WA for sharing some of their practical and interactive materials to promote SWF awareness. AHA indicated that they may explore sourcing additional materials such as a large maggot plush toy or model.
- The SC discussed continuing to develop connections with local and state based public health and community health workers for opportunities to raise awareness of SWF.
- Discussion of a potential approach to raise awareness directly with producers, farm suppliers and insecticide companies. These were identified as a valuable avenue for awareness, and distribution of maggot collection kits. It was suggested that livestock industry members be consulted regarding representation and connections in this space.
- Members noted that in follow up to the meeting and as part of normal operations AHA will be doing a call for materials for the year ahead in the coming weeks. The updated video was also noted, with thanks to the NT for their involvement in the production of it.
- Wildlife carers, Ranger groups, WHA and their sentinel clinic network were also identified as important groups to work with to raise awareness.

Conclusion

The SC noted the updated video and discussed the importance of continued engagement and awareness going forward with multiple channels and avenues, supported by short concise key messaging.

Action/s

14. Jurisdiction coordinators to assess potential networks with drug reps and commercial suppliers.
15. AHA to connect with WHA and their sentinel surveillance clinics to support awareness of SWF and provide kits and collateral.

7 R&D, training and diagnostic resources

7.1 Updates

NAQS Insectocutor Trial

- NAQS outlined a range of risks and practical limitations with the study that have eventuated, including risks with security, theft, weather, access to power, logistics of sample collection, transport and diagnostics. The insectocutor trays have also been found to be shallow and insects have been blown away when attempting to collect samples. The site of the trial is quite remote and getting samples out of the Markham Valley is challenging, even if the sample is staying in country.
- The SC discussed the potential to support building diagnostics capability in PNG if the samples could be transported to the local laboratory. It was suggested that the SWFSPP may extend an invite to PNG to attend the next diagnostic training, increasing regional capability and capacity. Potential upskilling with the new PCR may also support testing of samples if a suitable site can be found in PNG.
- The trial was intended to determine if insectocutors on livestock vessels are effective means of trapping SWF, noting that Lucitrap lure is not suitable for use onboard vessels due to the risk of it attracting SWF on board.
- Shifting to an alternative site within PNG, with better connection to the laboratory at Port Moresby was preferred. Singapore was also discussed as an alternative site, noting likely quarantine requirements for any trapping material to be relocated there.

NW SWF PCR

- Luke Driver and Darren Underwood (BSL) joined the meeting to provide an update on the PCR project.
- A poster on the non-destructive multiplex PCR for detection of NW SWF and OW SWF was shared with the Committee.
- The primers and probe were designed targeting the cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 (COX1). The protocol uses 14g samples of flies which are placed in 50mL of ATL buffer and incubated at 56°C for 1 hour.
- Spiked samples were verified and checked by morphological ID. The assay reliably detected the presence of a single NW SWF and/or a single OW SWF in 1000 flies, with samples able to then be retrieved and confirmed by morphological ID.
- The Committee noted that the publication was undergoing internal review and is on track to be finalised soon.
- BSL staff confirmed that the protocol may be available for the Committee's internal use at this stage, but until the protocol is formally published it is commercially confidential.

Trapping materials

- WA raised that the contents of the dichlorvos pest strips in the latest batch had changed. The new format is not able to be easily broken apart or cut as per the work instructions. A resupply found the same issue, so it seems to be an adjustment with the manufacturer. AHA

agreed to follow up with the supplier, Barmac. Other jurisdictions were not aware of this having become a challenge and noted that they would discuss with their operational teams.

- The SC discussed methods of transferring trap collections from the bucket into sample containers, noting challenges in windy conditions. Possible options include swapping out trap buckets with spares, placing a plastic bag over the bucket and using it to support the transfer of trap contents, or use of a funnel.

Decision support tools

- The SC discussed concerns on the sensitivity and risk analysis throughout the meeting, with work needed to determine the appropriate methods and modelling required to assess risk, spread and impact.

Conclusion

The SC discussed a range of updates in research and development areas, including the insectocutor sensitivity trial in PNG, the new PCR and some operational considerations associated with the trapping materials and procedures.

Action/s

16. NAQS to explore alternative site in PNG with consultation with DAFF and Industry and discuss qRT-PCR capability upskill for NAQIA.
17. AHA to discuss upskilling regional neighbours through attendance at the 2025 diagnostics training with the OCVO.
18. Qld and NT to confirm what they are using in terms of dichlorvos pest strips and how many are left if using the old style.
19. AHA to reach out to Barmac to see if there is a format similar to the older format or an alternative dichlorvos that is suitable and update the trapping procedures as required.

8 Program documentation

8.1 Work Instructions for adult fly trapping and targeted myiasis inspection work

Trapping Work Instructions

- Discussed the potential need for updates following further exploration of the pest strip challenges (Item 7.1).
- Noted that laboratory contacts should remove reference to fax numbers, as these are no longer in use in both trapping and myiasis work instructions.

Myiasis Work Instruction

- Minor updates to NAQS sites list to remove Seisia Meatworks (Q335), Merepah (Q295), Wolverton Station (Q380), and Bertiehaugh (Q379). Noted that Seisia (SEIS) should continue.
- Additional minor edits were provided via email to the Chair.
- Noted that the work instructions do not mention immersion of specimens in water just off the boil, which is a step in the poster and brochure. Discussed pros and cons of immersing in water just off the boil. Without this step, the specimens can go dark in colour overtime, however it does mean that the tracheal trunks are more likely to require dissection to visualise. The requirement to have water just off the boil was identified as a likely barrier to in-field collection. The SC queried if the specimens could be placed in water off the boil following placement in ethanol, either pre postage or on arrival at the lab.

Myiasis kits

- The SC explored the viability of introducing a numbering system to support follow up and tracing of kits following engagement activities. It was noted that the ethanol often can evaporate after an extended time in storage, and that the numbering system including the year of production may support consideration around this. Suggested to have a sticker with the year and kit number on both the kit and the lab submission form. This may also support the tracing of NAQS branded kits.
- Qld noted that they will be requiring another batch of kits soon.

Conclusion

The SC supported minor updates to the work instructions, noting that further updates may be required pending the outcome of the follow up around the dichlorvos pest strips. The Committee agreed to implement a number system to support insights and follow up of future maggot collection kits.

Action/s

20. Reference entomology to confirm protocol re immersion in water just off the boil and advise AHA of the recommendation and any required updates across the communications and work instructions.
21. AHA to develop a numbering system incorporating year for future maggot collection kits.

8.2 Business Plan 2022–25 (updates for 2025–28)

- The SC discussed the duration of the next plan tentatively as 2025-28. The program business plans are typically a rolling three-year plan with annual reconfirmation, particularly around finance and relevant CPI increases. The outputs of the planned risk and sensitivity analysis work should inform future activities. The Committee identified that these outputs may not be available in time to inform initial development of the next plan, and that once they are available, the activities and surveillance plan should be updated to reflect the outputs.
- Members also noted that the Steering Committee should maintain awareness of the AUSVETPLAN SWF response strategy and flagged that the planned literature review and analysis work may also have implications for this. Until the planned work around incursion and establishment risk and surveillance sensitivity is completed, the Committee was not confident in assessing whether the current surveillance plan remained appropriate for the current level of risk. However, the current surveillance plan should be continued in the interim. These information gaps should be captured in the program risks.
- Members raised that the Steering Committee covers a wide range of technical and strategic matters and has a high level of governance. Members flagged that the current plan would be better supported with more information on quorum requirements, representation and voting rights, processes for handling circumstances where consensus may not be achieved, and any escalation pathways.
- The Committee noted that representatives higher up within their organisations (CVO for government, CEO for industry) approve the contributions to programs under the AHA Annual Operating Plan and budget each year.
- AHA referred to information in the business rules around procurement processes and budget signoff, additional activities, and consultation requirements with funding bodies.
- Members discussed the requirements for having two entomologists in each of NT, Qld and WA and at least two designated reference entomologists nationally. It may be more realistic to consider have one trained entomologist per jurisdiction, with a backup resource who has done appropriate training. It was noted that some jurisdictions were unsure if they were

meeting the current requirements, however, the risk is being mitigated with the option to use one of the other jurisdictional labs and plans in place for additional training. Southern jurisdiction capability and capacity were also discussed, with NSW noting that two of their staff attended the last training, however, EMAI was not noted in the documentation. It was indicated that entomology expertise could extend from northern based labs to support more southern jurisdictions (e.g. Vic, SA, Tas) in the event of an unusual investigation.

- Discussed the role of Aus Gov (through NAQS) and the reference entomologist in supporting horizon scanning discussions. Noted synergies and similarities between the reports and suggested that a joint paper may be more effective in this space.
- Key areas of consideration included surveillance sensitivity, risks, including not having enough information to inform surveillance sensitivity, governance, outcomes, and monitoring and evaluation of the plan.

Conclusion/s

The SC identified several key areas that require review and updating as part of the development the next business plan and agreed that AHA develop an initial draft capturing feedback to start wider discussion.

Action/s

22. AHA to develop an initial draft business plan for 2025-28 for further review with the SC in early 2025.
23. AHA, with input from the SC, to investigate organisations/jurisdictions/consultants to undertake the surveillance sensitivity analysis work.
24. Working group (including AHA, Qld, WA) to consider monitoring and evaluation for the next plan, and consideration of success measures against outcomes and objectives.
25. AHA to share the 2018 cost benefit analysis with the SC.
26. Committee members to provide any additional updates for the 2024-25 plan to AHA.

9 Other business

9.1 SWFSPP Data collation and reporting

- AHA provided an update on the current progress on the database project, noting that the current drafts of the Data Management and Use Policies (DMU) were shared with AHC last week.
- AHA outlined that they have major concerns on the suitability of AUSPestCheck® as a future database to cover all the current national data projects, particularly the ability to accommodate NAMP and Endemic Disease Information System (EDIS), ongoing costs, and the loss of historical data. AHA will be discussing the database at Industry Forum and Government Forum sessions of the September AHA Member Engagement Week.
- The SC noted that critical updates have been made to keep the current CAHD database operational while further discussions and agreement on a plan going forward are finalised.
- Members reflected on the AUSPestCheck® project, noting challenges in data consistency and fitting programs into a certain system mould. It was also stressed that data must continue to be housed in Australia.
- The SC agreed that with the current trapping protocol, the field for trap ID should remain to support reporting across all jurisdictions. Once the surveillance sensitivity and risk analysis work are completed and any subsequent updates in surveillance protocols finalised, the DMUs should be revised to fit any adjustments.

- AHA briefed the committee on discussions at the NAMP TC around establishing new site codes. Generally, where sites in large remote areas are <1km in distance on the same property, then the same site can still be used. An administrative review of site codes under NAMP is in progress, with site codes generally requiring latitude and longitude at a granularity of 3 decimal places. Qld noted that there may need to be some additional granularity for SWF as all their sites are within 20km of the port.
- It was suggested that all committees look at the DMUs with a generic lens (rather than AUSPestCheck® specific) to ensure that reporting fields are designed to meet program requirements and names are meaningful to the project. It was noted that the SWFSPP data fields mostly reflect what is currently reported in the existing system.
- The SC considered whether negative SWF surveillance data could be better captured, particularly inspections that result in no wounded animals being identified. There are minimal myiasis submissions at present and this negative data is not currently being collected. Currently, further consideration of enhanced passive surveillance for SWF is on hold and is a potential area for inclusion in the broader assessment of surveillance sensitivity and risk pathways.
- There was discussion about an appropriate protocol for opportunistic sampling for SWF, with potential inclusion in the myiasis work instructions. The student literature review could potentially consider different surveillance activities beyond what is currently being done, such as abattoir exclusions and tick inspections.
- It was suggested that the current reporting may be able to incorporate opportunistic sampling to strengthen additional evidence of absence either through a site code and/or by adding “opportunistic” as an animal source under the existing STMI project.
- In discussion members flagged that data about weather conditions was more appropriately cross referenced to external sources such as the Bureau of Meteorology.
- The committee also reflected on the existing data fields reported and the benefit of capturing “non-functional trap” under the trap status field in the SCWM project. It was proposed to adjust the sample pool field to reflect yield as either qualitative (low, medium, high as a minimum), or potentially quantitative, as this would better support consideration of surveillance sensitivity and if flies were being captured or not. Members also discussed that there may be benefit in an optional “yes/no” field to indicate if calliphorid species were identified. It was noted that calliphorids as the target species may not always be trapped in a trapping activity, however, this would help to inform trends around target species over time.

Conclusion

The SC discussed concerns with the AUSPestCheck® database and provided a range of refinements to strengthen data reporting and insights for inclusion in a version of the DMU that is database agnostic and meets program needs.

Action/s

27. AHA to develop a database agnostic version of the SWFSPP DMU, incorporating:
 - SCWM: the trap ID field, an option for non-functional trap under trap status (required), changing the sample pool field to yield, adding an optional field to indicate if the target species (calliphorids) were identified
 - STMI: opportunistic surveillance as an animal source option.
28. AHA in consultation with the SC to consider the appropriate protocol for opportunistic sampling for inclusion in the myiasis inspection manual.

9.2 Placeholder of other items of business

- Nil

Action/s

Nil

9.3 Date/location of next meeting

- Annual meeting and entomology training to be planned for the week commencing 8 September 2025. Darwin was the preferred location pending confirmation from the NT as the host organisation.
- Meeting closed 11:15.

SWFSPP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 2024 ACTION REGISTER

#	ACTION	WHO	BY
1	Subgroup to be formed to identify questions and areas of focus for the literature review, risk profile and pathways, analysis of surveillance sensitivity and modelling planned for 2025.	Qld, NSW, AHA, Ref Ento	October 2024
2	Include the PCR procedures within the current update of the SWF Diagnostic Manual and list the manual as available on request until the PCR procedures have been formally published.	AHA	December 2024
3	Work with its communications team to include metrics on location and access to SWF resources hosted on the AHA webpage as part of future annual reports to the SC.	AHA	September 2025
4	Continue investigating the development of an internal report for members and an external communique/infographic for broader dissemination.	AHA	November 2024
5	Explore partnering with AMRIC to increase SWF awareness and surveillance in remote communities.	AHA	March 2025
6	Prepare a letter to senior NAQS staff noting the value of the national program and importance of NAQS surveillance activities in the NPA region. Update to be sought on the plan by the end of the calendar year.	AHA	October 2024
7	Review the risk register to ensure underactivity and gaps in surveillance reflect the current situation in the NPA.	AHA	October 2024
8	Circulate the International Developments Paper to the SC.	AHA	October 2024
9	Reach out to the interim CDC on potential synergies and appetite to include SWF on the human health notifiable disease list.	AHA	August 2025
10	Consider financial arrangements for PCR testing referred from NAQS to Qld.	AHA, Qld and NAQS	November 2024
11	Share new internal trapping detail form with the SC.	WA	November 2024
12	Assess support required to progress NPA activities dependent on further updates from NAQS.	Qld, NAQS and AHA	March 2025
13	Explore cost and opportunity to expand understanding of international genomics on SWF using near neighbour samples.	Qld	August 2025
14	Assess potential networks with drug reps and commercial suppliers.	Jurisdiction coordinators	August 2025
15	Connect with WHA and their sentinel surveillance clinics to support awareness of SWF and provide kits and collateral.	AHA	November 2024

16	Explore alternative site in PNG with consultation with DAFF and Industry and discuss qRT-PCR capability upskill for NAQIA.	NAQS	August 2025
17	Discuss upskilling regional neighbours through attendance at the 2025 diagnostics training with the OCVO.	AHA	June 2025
18	Confirm what they are using in terms of dichlorvos pest strips and how many are left if using the old style.	Qld and NT	October 2024
19	Reach out to Barmac to see if there is a format similar to the older format or an alternative dichlorvos that is suitable and update the trapping procedures as required.	AHA	November 2024
20	Confirm protocol re immersion in water just off the boil and advise AHA of the recommendation and any required updates across the communications and work instructions.	Reference entomologist	March 2025
21	Develop a numbering system incorporating year for future maggot collection kits.	AHA	December 2024
22	Develop an initial draft business plan for 2025-28 for further review with the SC in early 2025.	AHA	March 2025
23	Investigate organisations/jurisdictions/consultants to undertake the surveillance sensitivity analysis work.	AHA, with input from the SC	April 2025
24	Working group to consider monitoring and evaluation for the next plan, and consideration of success measures against outcomes and objectives.	AHA, Qld, WA	February 2025
25	Share the 2018 cost benefit analysis with the SC.	AHA	October 2024
26	Provide any additional updates for the 2024-25 plan to AHA.	SC	October 2024
27	Develop a database agnostic version of the SWFSPP DMU, incorporating: - SCWM: the trap ID field, an option for non-functional trap under trap status (required), changing the sample pool field to yield, adding an optional field to indicate if the target species (calliphorids) were identified - STMI: opportunistic surveillance as an animal source option.	AHA	November 2024
28	Consider the appropriate protocol for opportunistic sampling for inclusion in the myiasis inspection manual.	AHA, in consultation with the SC	August 2025