

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Nov 2025

Agenda Item 1.1

Last updated: **13 November 2025**

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NSDIP COORDINATOR REPORT 2024-25 - QUEENSLAND

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee NOTE:
 - a. The activities undertaken, and use of funds provided, against the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) during the 2024-25 financial year in Queensland (Queensland).

BACKGROUND

2. The Queensland government subsidises the cost of laboratory testing of all disease incidents in commercial production animal species, with non-government veterinary practitioners (and in-turn, producers) incurring no laboratory fees to investigate clinical disease in these species at the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory (BSL). NSDIP funding contributes towards a small portion the cost of this testing in cases meeting the criteria of 'significance'.
3. Laboratory investigations of significant disease incidents in Queensland wildlife are also subsidised by the Queensland government. This is occasionally supported by NSDIP funding. Application for NSDIP funds for eligible wildlife submissions is facilitated through Queensland's WHA coordinator with administration provided by Wildlife Health Australia (WHA).
4. A portion of Queensland's 2024-25 NSDIP budget was allocated to support the delivery of bi-annual Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) training of private veterinarians to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence in investigating and reporting on emergency and significant disease events in livestock.

DISCUSSION

5. Application of the NSDIP in Queensland for the 2024-25 financial year supported the state's animal disease surveillance capacity via financial contribution to the comprehensive suite of laboratory testing for eligible significant disease incidents submitted by non-government veterinary practitioners from across the state.
6. During 2024-25, Queensland's jurisdictional laboratory, Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory conducted testing for 1913 disease investigations in production animal species, of which 1667 (87%) were submitted by non-government veterinary practitioners (Figure 1). Submissions from cattle (1024) comprised the majority of PVP submissions, with fewer submissions for investigation of disease incidents in equids (353), poultry (108), pigs (96), goats (42), sheep (33), and others (11).

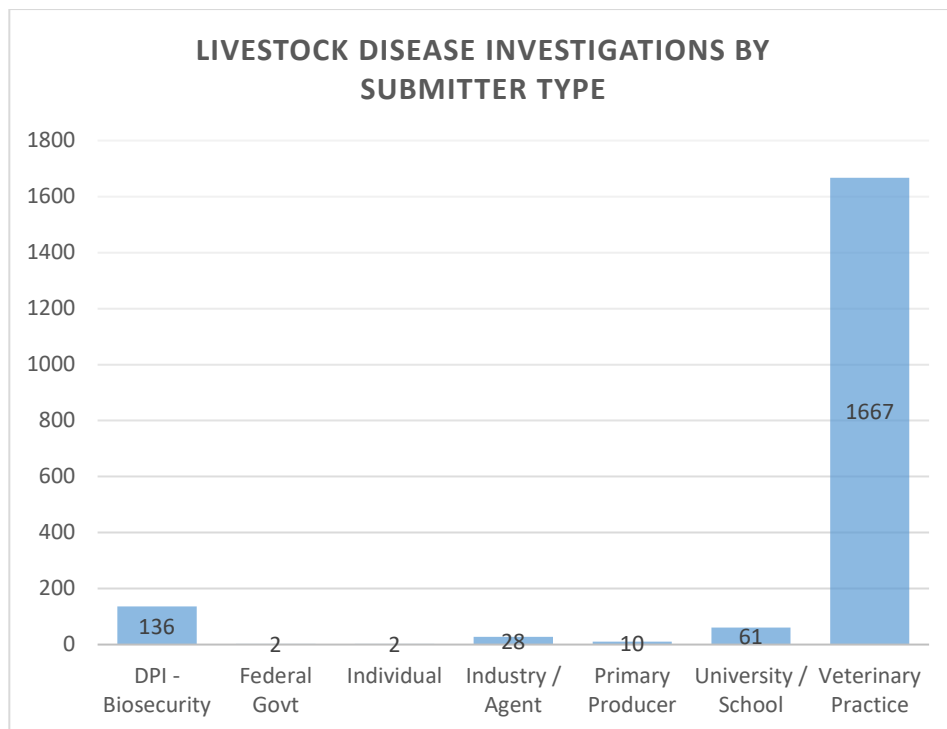


Figure 1 – Total number of production animal species disease investigations by submitter type

7. Of the 1667 production animal submissions received from private veterinarians, laboratory testing of 44 significant disease events were claimed against NSDIP funding. The count of NSDIP jobs by animal species and the number for which one or more notifiable disease was excluded (52% of jobs) are presented below (Figure 2). A total of 15 different notifiable diseases were excluded from 23 disease events. There were further eligible cases which were funded solely by the Queensland government and not represented here.

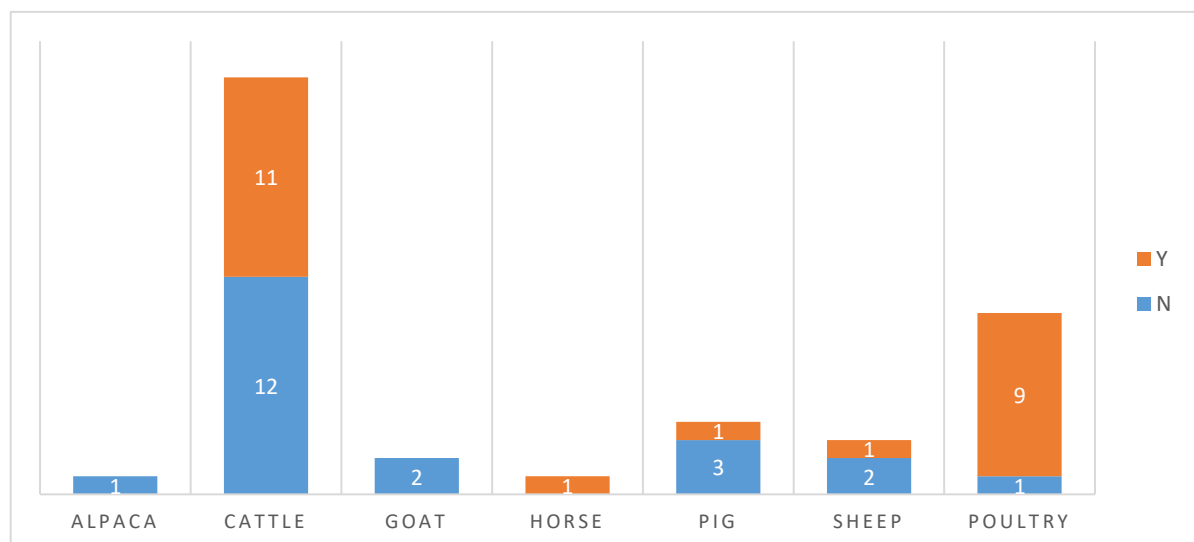


Figure 2 – Number of claimed NSDIP events by animal species and proportion with notifiable disease exclusions testing (orange)

8. During 2024-25, three significant disease investigations in wildlife were eligible under the NSDIP. Please refer to WHA's report for further details. Queensland thanks WHA for their continued support of this program for events in Queensland wildlife.

9. Queensland undertook two private veterinary practitioner (PVP) workshops in August 2024 (North Qld) and March 2025 (SE Qld). A final report (Attachment A) summarising the activities and learnings was submitted to AHA in June 2025 and is included here, noting:
 - a. The workshops provided refresher training for PVPs in mixed and large animal practices, focusing on significant disease investigations (SDI) and emergency animal diseases (EADs) like foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, African swine fever, and African horse sickness.
 - b. Topics covered included the role of PVPs in EAD responses, diagnostic testing, laboratory submissions, disease diagnosis, national surveillance programs, and zoonoses.
 - c. Day 2 of each workshop featured hands-on practical sessions on post-mortem examination, sampling, infection control, personal protective equipment, and entry/exit procedures for EAD and zoonotic investigation
 - d. A total of 55 PVPs attended the two-day workshops, which included networking dinners and access to comprehensive reference materials.
 - e. Feedback confirmed the workshops were highly successful, enhancing PVPs' knowledge, skills, and confidence in disease investigation and promoting collaboration between PVPs and government.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. As per the 2022-25 NSDIP Business Plan, Queensland's funding allocation for 2024-25 was \$50,005.00 (ex GST). Invoices submitted against Queensland's budget (as detailed below) totalled \$49,994.02, plus \$5,755.62 that was carried over for 2023/24 submissions due to a delay in reporting and invoicing.
 - a. \$28,100.00 = laboratory testing expenditure
 - b. \$15,272.02 = PVP workshop 1 (August 2024)
 - c. \$6,622.00 = PVP workshop 2 (March 2025)

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

11. The Queensland NSDIP coordinator regularly consults internally with Queensland's WHA coordinator, laboratory staff and the EAD Preparedness team on matters relevant to the program.
12. The NSDIP Program Evaluation Survey was shared with various animal biosecurity program areas within the Department. Queensland's response represented the combined feedback from staff in the areas of policy, veterinary operations, EAD preparedness, veterinary laboratory (BSL), those previously involved in delivery of PVP training and QLD's WHA coordinator.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

13. Refinement of the proposal on the future application of the NSDIP in Queensland, including the assessment of the proportionality of funds to PVP training vs. reimbursement of laboratory expenses is continuing.
14. Queensland has temporarily paused its PVP EAD/SDI workshops after completing three years of bi-annual training to evaluate and refine the program. Future workshops' format, timing, and location will be guided by the findings of a study led by Dr Connar McShane, funded by the Northern Australian Coordination Network (NACN), which aims to identify factors influencing PVPs' participation in Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) response training.
15. Based on feedback from AVA advocacy officers about financial challenges posed by courier costs for PVPs submitting EAD exclusions, Queensland introduced a sample transport subsidy pilot (Attachment B). Courier and laboratory costs for these submissions are to be covered using Queensland's annual NSDIP budget. The outcomes of this pilot will be reported to the NSDIP committee in the 2025–26 coordinator's report.

Attachment A: Queensland Private Veterinary Practitioner Significant Disease Investigation Refresher Training Workshop Report 2024-25

Attachment B: EAD Sample Transport Subsidy Information for veterinarians

FEEDBACK

2. Queensland provides the following responses to the questions below to assess the performance of the NSDIP over the 2024–25 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
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes: <i>NSDIP contributes towards the delivery of a fully subsidised animal disease surveillance system, with funding going towards those disease investigations deemed 'significant'. It is noted that while the goals of the program are clearly articulated in the NSDIP Business Plan, there is sufficient room for the jurisdictions to deliver the program in a flexible manner.</i>				

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
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes: <i>The NSDIP provides essential funding to support training activities for PVPs. This funding creates valuable opportunities to strengthen collaboration between government and PVPs, which is critical for the program's success. By facilitating training, the government not only enhances the knowledge and skills of PVPs but also improves the quality of disease investigation submissions. This partnership ensures a more effective and coordinated response to significant disease events, aligning with the core objectives of the NSDIP.</i>				

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
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes: <i>While the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) provides valuable support for private veterinarians (PVPs) through training and limited funding for laboratory testing, its impact on improving the level of notifiable disease investigations in Queensland is mixed.</i> <i>The Queensland Government already fully subsidises laboratory testing for disease incidents in commercial production animal species, meaning producers and PVPs do not incur laboratory fees for investigating clinical diseases in these species. As a result, the limited NSDIP funding allocated to laboratory testing does not appear to provide additional incentives for producers or PVPs to undertake investigations.</i> <i>However, the use of NSDIP funding for PVP training is well received by the veterinary industry and helps build capacity and collaboration between PVPs and government. Despite this, there has not been a noticeable</i>				

increase in the number of notifiable disease investigation submissions in Queensland, and the quality of submissions remains difficult to assess.

It is worth noting that NSDIP funding for significant disease investigations in wildlife has led to an increase in laboratory testing submissions and enabled a broader range of tests that might not have been conducted otherwise. Additionally, the EAD sample transport subsidy pilot, funded through NSDIP, has the potential to further encourage investigations by removing the financial barrier of sample transport costs.

While the program has made strides in certain areas, its overall impact on notifiable disease investigations in Queensland remains unclear, and further evaluation is needed to assess its effectiveness.