

FOR INFORMATION

NAHIP Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Oct 2024

Agenda Item ##

Last updated: 9 December 2025

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Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) Report (2023-2024)**RECOMMENDATION**

- a. That the NAHIP Advisory Committee NOTE the relevant activities the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) are currently involved with.

BACKGROUND

NAQS, within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), conducts an animal disease surveillance program to help address the unique biosecurity risks associated with Australia's extensive and sparsely populated northern coastline.

This surveillance program aims to provide early detection of exotic and emerging pests and diseases of significance to agriculture, public health and the environment. While pest and disease detection ('early warning') is the primary objective of NAQS surveillance, NAQS also contributes disease exclusion data to support Australia's claims of freedom for a number of pests and diseases.

DISCUSSION

2. NAQS animal health surveillance program includes the following component activities:
 - a. Targeted surveillance
 - i. Feral animal surveys across northern Australia
 - ii. Domestic animal surveys in Torres Strait/Northern Peninsula Area, Queensland
 - iii. Wild bird surveys at several sites across northern Australia
 - iv. Sentinel/serosurveillance cattle herds at several sites across northern Australia
 - v. *Culicoides* midge trapping at several sites across northern Australia
 - vi. Adult screwworm fly trapping in Northern Peninsula Area, Queensland
 - vii. Mosquito trapping in Northern Peninsula Area, Queensland
 - b. General surveillance
 - i. General biosecurity awareness program: Biosecurity Top Watch!
 - ii. Syndromic surveillance in Indigenous communities in northern Australia
 - iii. Disease-specific public awareness campaigns for emerging risks (e.g. African swine fever)
 - iv. Postmortem training for rangers and pastoralists
3. NAQS also supports the 3 northern jurisdictions to conduct disease investigations arising from NAQS planned surveillance activities or in response to reports from third parties (e.g. Indigenous rangers).
4. Details of NAQS surveillance activities delivered in 2023-2024 FY are found in Attachment A.
5. NAQS acknowledges the difficulties with extracting and submitting data to NAHIP and eWHIS.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

DAFF funds the delivery of NAQS surveillance activities. Some costs associated with delivery of NAQS sentinel herd and *Culicoides* midge trapping surveillance are recovered through the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP).

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

N/A

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

N/A

Attachment A: Detailed description of NAQS Animal Health surveillance activities planned and completion status in 2023-2024

Attachment B: Routine pest and diseases tested and reported for NAQS routine animal health surveillance activities

FEEDBACK

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NAHIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				

Q2 My organisation is satisfied that the outputs of NAHIP, such as the Animal Health in Australia report are Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly, are credible and robust.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				

Q3 The format and protocols in place for uploading and transferring national surveillance data are fit for purpose.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				

Q4 NAHIP satisfies national surveillance data and reporting requirements. (Please outline any requirements not being met).				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				

Attachment A

Detailed description of NAQS Animal Health surveillance activities planned and completion status in 2023-2024

Locality/ State	NAQS Risk Area/ NAMP Zone	Activity	General Vicinity	Number of activities delivered			%(delivered/ planned)
				Planned	Ad hoc	Total	
QLD	Q5a	Avian Influenza - Ranger	Cooktown Commercial	1	0	1	100.00%
QLD	Q1aQ1bQ2Q3	Avian influenza survey	Torres Strait	12	0	12	70.59%
WA	W7b	Avian influenza survey	Broome	6	1	7	75.00%
QLD	Q3	Avian influenza survey	NPA	6	0	6	85.71%
EXT	EAR	Avian influenza survey	Ashmore Reef	1	1	2	100.00%
EXT	ECI	Avian influenza survey	Christmas Island	1	0	1	100.00%
EXT	IOT	Avian influenza survey	IOT	0	1	1	100.00%
NT	N10	Avian influenza survey	Humpty Doo	0	1	1	100.00%
NT	N2b	Avian influenza survey	Nhulunbuy waste water ponds	0	1	1	100.00%
NT	N9	Avian influenza survey	Darwin	11	0	11	100.00%
NT	N9	Avian influenza survey	Leanyer/Sanderson waste ponds	3	1	4	100.00%
QLD	Q5a	Avian influenza survey	Hopevale	1	0	1	100.00%
QLD	Q5a	Avian influenza survey	Melsonby NP	0	2	2	100.00%
QLD	Q5a	Avian influenza survey	Princess Charlotte Bay	0	1	1	100.00%
WA	W1	Avian influenza survey	Kununurra	3	1	4	100.00%
QLD	Q335	Culicoides trapping - NAMP	Seisia	12	0	12	57.14%
NT	N7	Culicoides trapping - NAMP	Tiwi Island	12	0	12	60.00%
NT	TI21	Culicoides trapping - NAMP	Gunbalanya	12	0	12	60.00%

Locality/ State	NAQS Risk Area/ NAMP Zone	Activity	General Vicinity	Number of activities delivered			% (delivered/ planned)
				Planned	Ad hoc	Total	
QLD	Q145	Culicoides trapping - NAMP	York Downs	12	0	12	85.71%
NT	T080	Culicoides trapping - NAMP	Garrithiya	12	0	12	92.31%
NT	T123	Culicoides trapping - NAMP	Cobourg Peninsula	12	0	12	92.31%
NT	N9	Disease investigation	Darwin	0	2	2	66.67%
NT	N9	Disease investigation	Leanyer/Sanderson waste ponds	0	3	3	100.00%
NT	W5	Disease investigation	Theda Station, Kalumburu Road	0	1	1	100.00%
QLD	Q2	Disease investigation	Torres Strait	0	1	1	100.00%
QLD	Q1aQ1bQ2Q3	Domestic animal survey	Torres Strait	1	0	1	100.00%
NT	N11	Feral animal survey	Point Blaze to Fitzmaurice Rvr	1	0	1	0% Rescheduled
NT	N5N6	Feral animal survey	King River to Cobourg Peninsula	1	0	1	0% Merged with N5N8aN8b survey
NT	N7N9N10	Feral animal survey	Tiwi Islands	1	0	1	0% Rangers unavailable at time for fuel deployment
QLD	Q3Q4aQ4bQ5aQ6c	Feral animal survey	Port Stuart - Lockhart - Skardon River	1	0	1	0% Postponed due to later in year
QLD	Q3Q6c	Feral animal survey	NPA- Skardon Rvr	1	0	1	0%

Locality/ State	NAQS Risk Area/ NAMP Zone	Activity	General Vicinity	Number of activities delivered			% (delivered/ planned)
				Planned	Ad hoc	Total	
							Merged into larger survey
QLD	Q6a	Feral animal survey	Aurukun	1	0	1	0% Road flooded out - rescheduled
WA	W5	Feral animal survey	West Bay to Walcott Inlett	1	0	1	0% Merged with W3 W4 W5 W6a survey
WA	W6a	Feral animal survey	Buccaneer Archipelago	1	0	1	0% Merged with W3 W4 W5 W6a survey
WA	W9	Feral animal survey	Fitzroy Crossing region	1	0	1	0% Rescheduled due to logistical constraints
NT	N3N4	Feral animal survey	Cape Wilberforce to Howard Island - King Rvr	1	0	1	100.00%
NT	N5	Feral animal survey	Cobourg Peninsula	1	0	1	100.00%
NT	N5N8aN8b	Feral animal survey	Mary River, KNP, Oenpelli to Malay Bay	1	0	1	100.00%
NT	N6	Feral animal survey	Cobourg	1	0	1	100.00%
NT	N8aN8b	Feral animal survey	survey	1	0	1	100.00%

Locality/ State	NAQS Risk Area/ NAMP Zone	Activity	General Vicinity	Number of activities delivered			% (delivered/ planned)
				Planned	Ad hoc	Total	
NT	N8aN8bN9	Feral animal survey	Western Border of KNP to Cox Peninsula	1	0	1	100.00%
NT	N8b	Feral animal survey	Requalification and sampling	0	1	1	100.00%
NT	NT	Feral animal survey	Nitmiluk NP	1	0	1	100.00%
QLD	Q5a	Feral animal survey	PCB	1	0	1	100.00%
QLD	Q6a	Feral animal survey	Kowanyama - Karumba	1	0	1	100.00%
QLD	Q6b	Feral animal survey	Mapoon/Napruanum	1	0	1	100.00%
WA	W3W4W5W6a	Feral animal survey	Yampi peninsula to King George Sound and Gibb River	1	0	1	100.00%
QLD	Q5c	General surveillance - training/engagement	Cairns	12	2	14	77.78%
QLD	Q5b	General surveillance - training/engagement	Cooktown Pig Hunt	1	0	1	0% Cancelled NAQS involvement
NT	N10	General surveillance - training/engagement	Outer Darwin	1	2	3	100.00%
QLD	Q3	Mosquito trapping	NPA	13	0	13	59.09%
QLD	Q3	Screw worm fly trapping	NPA	4	0	4	50.00%
NT	T121	Sentinel herd	Gunbalanya	12	0	12	75.00%
NT	T080	Sentinel herd	Garrihiya	12	0	12	92.31%
QLD	Q145	Sentinel herd	York Downs	12	0	12	100.00%
WA	W012	Sentinel herd	Kalumburu	2	0	2	100.00%

Attachment B:

Routine pest and diseases tested and reported for NAQS routine animal health surveillance activities

Activity	Routine pest and disease testing	Data reporting (surveillance program)	Surveillance program
Avian influenza survey	Avian influenza	eWHIS	National avian influenza in wild birds (NAIWB) program
<i>Culicoides</i> trapping - NAMP	Species identification for detection of bluetongue virus vectors	NAMP	National arbovirus monitoring program (NAMP)
Domestic animal survey	African swine fever (pigs) Aujeszky's disease (pigs) Classical swine fever (pigs) <i>Ehrlichia canis</i> (dogs) Japanese encephalitis (pigs, horses) Surra (<i>Trypanosoma evansi</i>) (all mammals)	NAHIS	National animal health information program (NAHIP)
Feral animal survey and Post mortem training	African swine fever (pigs) Aujeszky's disease (pigs) Classical swine fever (pigs) Japanese encephalitis (pigs) Surra (<i>Trypanosoma evansi</i>) (all mammals) Lumpy skin disease	NAHIS (routine tested animals) eWHIS (disease investigations)	NAHIP

Screw worm fly trapping	Species identification to rule out screw worm fly (Old and New World)	NAHIS	Screwworm fly surveillance and preparedness program (SWFSPP)
Sentinel / serosurveillance cattle herd blood collection	Bluetongue virus Surra (<i>Trypanosoma evansi</i>)	NAHIS	NAMP + NAHIP