

NAHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2025 | Videoconference

Start: 11:00 | Close: 12:16 (AEDT)

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

- Discuss the 2024-25 coordinator reports and AHA status report.
- Receive and discuss any urgent program matters.

 = paper V = verbal P = presentation

PARTICIPANTS

Mikhaila Nye (AHA-Chair)	Callain Howarth (SA)
Sheaaz Sakur (AHA-Record)	Jennifer Voss (Tas.)
Emily Sellens (DAFF)	Julia Sarandopoulos (Vic.)
Adam Robinson (DAFF)	Leander McLennan(WA)
Guy Weerasinghe (NAQS)	Keren Cox-Witton (WHA)
Stacey Carnogoy (NT)	Raymond Chia (APL – <i>Industry Forum representative</i>)
Selina Ossedryver (Qld)	James Watson (ACDP)

Apologies: Geoff Campbell (NSW) and Johann Schroder (SPA)

Welcome and introductions (M. Nye):

- The Chair gave an acknowledgement of country and welcomed participants to the NAHIP Advisory Committee (AC) meeting.

1. 2024-25 update

1.1 2023-24 Coordinator Reports

NSW (G. Campbell)

- Chair noted NSW is an apology for the meeting. The NSW report was taken as written with any comments to be provided to Geoff Campbell out of session.

NT (S. Carnogoy)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Qld noted Stacey's valuable contribution to the syndrome list review working group, particularly in relation to laboratory matters, representing NAHIP/NSDIP. With the review of the national syndrome list nearing completion.
- Report accepted by AC.

Qld (S. Ossedryver)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Acknowledged the collective efforts in updating the DMU policy and workbook. Noted that compiling the annual report was challenging due to the two NNDI/NNDN projects and the existing tabs capturing health testing and exports. Anticipated that future reporting will be more streamlined.
- Nearly completed the review of the national syndrome list (refer to Item 10 in the report). Recognised Keren's valuable contribution to the working group. A draft SCHALS paper has been prepared with the proposed list, marking Step 1 of the data quality project complete. Once endorsed by SCHALS, the list will be implemented within NAHIP and other programs that utilise syndromes for reporting.

- Expressed interest in the data quality subgroup and looking into the diseases DAFF had outlined as priorities at the previous meeting in May.
- Raised the topic of varroa reporting in NAHIS, referencing the SA paper, given the transition to management for varroa. This was discussed under the SA report.
- Reported a significant number of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) detections, attributed to the re-emergence of JE in the state.
- Noted the completion of the ICT project and acknowledged DAFF's contribution, supported through AusPestCheck funding.
- Report accepted by AC.

SA (C. Howarth)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Draft case definitions have been prepared and are currently undergoing internal approval. Once finalised, they will be shared with the NAHIP Committee via AHA.
- With assistance of ACDP, updates were provided by SA through AHC on notable outputs from the planned SA Newcastle Disease Surveillance, which will also be presented at the ACDP Symposium in November.
- *Cysticercus bovis* Detection
 - Cases detected during the period were uploaded into NAHIS, although they were non-clinical and generally identified through abattoir surveillance.
 - These detections were considered important due to public health implications. The committee was asked to advise on their inclusion in the program and the most appropriate reporting location.
 - QLD and NAQS supported inclusion, noting gross pathology is sufficient for a disease investigation. DAFF to take on notice and will provide a response.
- Varroa Mite Reporting in CAHD
 - SA previously sought advice from AHA in 2022; however, this needs review given recent developments. SA proposed that varroa mite surveillance data continue under the Transition to Management Plan and that reporting into CAHD cease. Varroa mite should remain listed in NNDI at the end of AHSQ, with a footnote and link to updated surveillance information.
 - Clarification sought from DAFF regarding reporting requirements. DAFF to take this on notice and provide a response.
 - QLD also noted challenges in Varroa Mite data capture beyond lab confirmations and highlighted the incomplete reporting. Surveillance and disease investigation data are difficult to distinguish.
 - SA confirmed detections through routine seasonal interstate movement but will not report in NAHIP as these are planned surveillance activities, not clinical cases.
 - Qld and SA noted they don't have access to the complete Varroa Mite surveillance reporting, hence reporting in CAHD would be under representative.
- SA noted the inclusion of optional fields will remain inconsistent across quarters due to resource availability. While a model exists to translate raw data into NAHIS format, significant resources are required for cross-checking and ensuring quality prior to upload.
- Report accepted by AC.

Tas (J. Voss)

- Spoke to the report which will be circulated to the AC out of session.
- It was noted that Jennifer Voss is now the coordinator for NAHIP/NSDIP. If unavailable, Emma Watkins is the alternative contact.

- Transition to using Orbit for general animal disease surveillance is underway. Staff training will commence in November as a trial for avian disease exclusions and other investigations. The aim is to establish linkages between laboratory data and spatial mapping prior to full implementation as a comprehensive surveillance system.
- Fish kill screenings are consuming significant laboratory capacity in Tas due to heightened public awareness of algal blooms and farmed fish mortality events occurring in 2025.
- Report accepted by AC.

Vic (J. Sarandopoulos)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Noted during the financial year, two separate avian influenza outbreaks required significant time, capacity, and resources. Appreciation was expressed to AHA for its flexibility regarding data upload timelines.
- Work with the updated data standards has required revising historical data. A key learning identified is that AHSQ reporting should occur before a change in data standards
- Report accepted by AC.

WA (L. McLennan)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Work is underway to improve efficiency in transitioning to laboratory-level reporting. The planned change to the new LIMS system has been delayed; efforts are focused on ensuring data fields align correctly.
- ICT investment update: MAX has been utilised for wild bird reporting, though it is not integrated into WA's standard system it has been found useful for passive wild bird surveillance.
- Approval for negative case definitions is still pending.
- Report accepted by AC.

NAQS (G. Weerasinghe)

- Spoke to the report which will be circulated to the AC out of session.
- Noted NAQS has been busy, with detections of JEV in clinically healthy feral pigs around the Western Cape region and the Daly region in the Top End of NT. These detections relate to the 2024–25 strain, and there is interest in further exploring the virus's movement.
- HPAI surveillance continues to require significant resourcing.
- The surveillance system project is progressing well. One area of interest is the use of Python scripting to extract data from PDFs linked to laboratories, as not all labs have API capabilities for data sharing. Scripts can be shared with any committee members who are interested.
 - Future plans include integrating this process with an AI model to improve data screening and ultimately enable data to be uploaded where required.
 - A challenge remains that NAQS data is split between eWHIS and NAHIS, complicating integration.
- Report accepted by AC.

WHA (K. Cox-Witton)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- A project is underway to build a new database for targeted AIV data from the National Avian Influenza Wild Bird (NAIWB) Surveillance Program, scheduled for completion by mid-2026. This will be separate from eWHIS, as the data format differs. General surveillance of sick and dead wildlife will continue to be reported in eWHIS.

- The sentinel surveillance program currently has 27 partners (10 major zoos, 10 sentinel clinics and 7 universities).
- Discussions are ongoing with AMRRIC (a non-profit providing animal health and management services to remote Indigenous communities) to explore incorporating them into the WHA surveillance program.
- An online reporting form for wildlife disease events has been developed, replacing the previous email/word document process. This has increased reporting from the public. Significant events are referred to relevant jurisdictions via the WHA Coordinator, with state agencies responsible for follow-up.
- QLD expressed thanks to Keren for consolidating all information in one place via the coordinator report, broken down by quarter, as a valuable snapshot, and noted the high number of investigations. Correction required for Figure 1: last column to be 2024-25 instead of 2025–26 financial year.
- Report accepted by AC.

Conclusion:

The Committee accepted the coordinator reports as written. Discussions focused on the updated DMU policy and workbook data standards, highlighting their positive impact—making future reporting more streamlined once fully adopted. The AC remains engaged with the Data Quality Subgroup, which is scheduled to resume in May 2026 when more resources are available at AHA to support.

Action item/s

1. DAFF to review the inclusion of *Cysticercus bovis* and varroa mite reporting in NAHIP offline and provide advice back to the Committee.
2. AHA to circulate TAS and NAQS report to the AC with the draft minutes

1.2 2024-25 Status Report (M. Nye)

- M. Nye spoke to the report provided.
- Item 4: Financials for 2024–25 – noted outstanding accruals that AHA will follow up on.
- Budget performance was strong throughout the year, with slight underspend in program management and administration due to movements within AHA and meetings coming in under budget.
- All deliverables and performance targets were achieved as planned
- Extranet Update – recent IT backend updates have caused some delays, but rollout is expected soon
- AHA have supported several enquiries to DAFF regarding animal health status.
- Operational challenges remain in clarifying data project requirements and achieving national consistency. Data standards have been revised, with further work planned for May 2026 (following appointment of the new AHA Head of Program). Noted data quality improvements remain a priority for the Committee.
- Noted that data has been split across various projects, making report compilation difficult. Jurisdictions were asked to reach out if any discrepancies are identified in the report data.

Conclusion:

The Committee accepted the report as written.

1.3 Other Business

- Qld highlighted the value of having annual information consolidated in one place. Asked whether jurisdictions could access functionality to export data from CAHD for multiple jurisdictions over defined periods.
 - Chair noted: Functionality exists on the NAHIS homepage (pre-login) to access previous data, which is publicly available and endorsed through AHC (high-level, not granular). Recent database updates have focused on security. Plans are in place to improve reporting capabilities for jurisdictions. Jurisdictions are encouraged to advise AHA of any particularly useful summary reports so AHA can work with database contractors to prioritise short-term improvements.
- Qld queried the file size limits on the extranet to allow document sharing. AHA to take this on notice and inform AC. NAQS to check if their IT security allows for access to the extranet.
- NAQS also discussed the future capability of enabling jurisdictions to build custom reports integrating historic data. The Chair noted this has been raised in the past, but its priority is unclear; will flag with the technical services team within AHA.
 - Post meeting note: AHA notes that this functionality is unlikely to be implemented due to challenges with managing data access levels and security constraints. However, it is possible that a comprehensive data report can be provided with extensive filtering options, allowing users to customise and adapt the report to their needs.

Action item/s

3. AHA to confirm current file size limits on the extranet and advise the Committee.

NAHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 2025**ACTION REGISTER**

#	ACTION	WHO	BY	STATUS
1	DAFF to review the inclusion of <i>Cysticercus bovis</i> and varroa mite reporting in NAHIP offline and provide advice back to the Committee.	DAFF	JAN 26	
2	AHA to circulate TAS and NAQS report to the AC with the draft minutes	TAS & NAQS	NOV 25	COMPLETE
3	AHA to confirm current file size limits on the extranet and advise the Committee.	AHA	DEC 25	