

FOR INFORMATION

SWFSPP Annual Meeting 2025

Agenda Item **4.2**

Last updated: 1 September 2025

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QUEENSLAND COORDINATOR REPORT 2024-25**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the SWFSPP Steering Committee **NOTE:**
 - a. This report on SWFSPP activities undertaken by the Biosecurity Queensland during the 2024-25 financial year.
 - b. Queensland has undertaken additional communication and engagement initiatives this year, resulting in increased SWF passive surveillance.
 - c. Queensland has successfully reported 24/25 Q3 and Q4 data into CAHD in accordance with the new DMU policy and using the updated workbook.
 - d. Queensland welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with the committee and DAFF to progress work on assessing incursion risk, pathways, and surveillance sensitivity.

BACKGROUND

1. This report discusses SWFSPP activities undertaken by Queensland during the 2024-2025 financial year.

DISCUSSION**2. ADULT FLY TRAPPING**

- Biosecurity Queensland continued to conduct adult SWF trapping at six sites near the Port of Townsville for each trapping event.
- Of the 6 collections across these sites scheduled for the 24/25 financial year in Queensland, 5 collections were carried out. Trapping occurred in Aug, October, December, March and May. A combination of staffing shortages in January and a significant rain event in Townsville in February meant that trapping didn't commence until March, which put us behind schedule and allowing for only two trapping events prior to June 30 2025.
- A total of 31 submissions of flies were made to Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory (BSL). This included a repeat trapping submission due to a zero trap yield 2 in August 2024.
- 30 samples were examined morphologically, with no samples undergoing SWF PCR due to consistently low trap yields.
- Following the introduction of the new DMU policy and updated workbook, BSL are now entering the count of flies of size (stout-bodied Diptera) and the total trap yield (in weight) into the LIMS and reporting this on Queensland laboratory reports. This has made reporting against the new DMU much easier.

- BSL carried out testing using the multiplex PCR for NAQS on a single submission from 15 traps collected from the Northern Peninsula Area from 13 to 23 December 2024.
- Operational field staff have suggested a review of Townsville site 4 due to ongoing poor yields – total of only 18 flies of size were trapped during 24/25 (see below) – and safety concerns (The environmental reserve site is often overgrown with vegetation, which makes access difficult and increases the risk of tripping or encountering snakes).

Site code	No. flies of size
Trap 4	18
Trap 2	50
Trap 9	51
Trap 1	60
Trap 8	72
Trap 10	302
Grand Total	553

3. TARGETED MYIASIS INSPECTIONS

- Biosecurity Queensland had no national commitments for active targeted myiasis inspection.

4. DESCRIBE AND ASSESS PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

- Recognising the value in passive surveillance for SWF, Qld DPI continues to actively engage with our stakeholders, particularly those in the north, to encourage maggot submissions (see communication below).
- During 24/25, Queensland received a total of 6 maggot submissions for passive surveillance. SWF was excluded in all cases.

YEAR	MONTH	HOST SPECIES	LGA	OUTCOME
2024	November	Cattle (1-day old calf)	Western Downs	1 x <i>Chrysomya rufifacies</i> *, >100 unidentified eggs
2024	December	Dog	Cassowary Coast	7 x <i>Chrysomya</i> sp., 1 x <i>Lucillia</i> sp. larvae
2025	April	Koala (joey in pouch)	Scenic Rim	2 x <i>Lucillia</i> sp.
2025	May	Koala	Gold Coast	7 x <i>Calliphora</i> sp.
2025	May	Dog	Unknown, NT**	16 x <i>Chrysomya saffranaea</i>
2025	June	Echidna	Gold Coast	2 x <i>Chrysomya megacephala</i> , 5 x <i>Calliphora</i> sp.

* *Chrysomya rufifacies* also known as the hairy maggot blowfly, is a common species of forensic and agricultural importance in Australia. It is largely considered a secondary carrion fly, however, in northern areas it may behave as a primary species.

** In making investigations into why this sample was sent to BSL, it appeared that the submitted had used a 'got maggots' kit that was distributed with a QLD SAS inside.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The overall cost to Biosecurity Queensland of contributing to and delivering on the SWFSPP (field and laboratory work and coordination) is higher than the payments available for SWF trapping. However, Biosecurity Queensland is a strong supporter of the national program and believes that the program makes a significant contribution to Australia's capacity to credibly claim freedom from SWF and to detect an incursion of SWF.

6. CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

• Promotion of SWF awareness –

○ PVP Workshops

Biosecurity Queensland undertook two private veterinary practitioner (PVP) workshops in August 2024 (Townsville) and March 2025 (south-east Queensland). SWF awareness was promoted at both workshops. Communication material and SWF sample kits were also distributed at the Townsville workshop to all attendees.

○ Wildlife hospitals/clinics

In early April 2025, Qld DPI emailed 6 large wildlife clinics across the state with information on the SWFSPP requesting their cooperation in passive SWF surveillance. This email was followed up with the delivery of 1 or 2 'got maggots' collection kits. We quickly received samples from the 2 larger wildlife hospitals in SE Qld (RSPCA and Currumbin) and so dispatched an additional 6 kits each to these hospitals. This communication activity has been very successful.

• Internal CVO communique

An article on the SWFSPP appeared in the Aug/Sep edition of the Queensland CVO's communique to all AB&W staff. See appendix 1.

• SWF multiple PCR publication

A scientific paper titled "A novel real-time PCR for New World Screwworm Fly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and its application in a non-destructive multiplex PCR for efficient detection of screwworm flies describing the multiplex PCR" was submitted by BSL to the Journal of Medical and Veterinary Entomology on 30 Jun 2025 and is currently under review.

7. NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

- SWF information available to external stakeholders via our webpage [Screw-worm fly | Business Queensland](#) is current, however we are always considering options for further targeted communication activities. SWFSPP promotional materials have been sent for the BQ stall at the Indigenous Rangers Forum in Burketown from 1-5 September 2025.
- Once the duplex PCR paper is published, Queensland will share this paper and confirm AHA is able to distribute copies of the ID manual more widely.

FEEDBACK

Q1 My organisations needs and expectations of the SWFSPP are being met.

Strongly agree

Agree

Undecided

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Comments: The existence of the SWFSPP creates and drives incentives for SWF awareness, surveillance and preparedness activities that would otherwise not occur. The program is a very effective framework for bringing together and maintaining effective relationships between national experts

Q2 The outputs of the SWFSPP such as the brochure, poster and annual report in the Animal Health in Australia report are credible and robust.

Strongly agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: Happy to hear what other jurisdictions are doing with stakeholder engagement to see if similar activities may be useful in Queensland. Need to check on which lab form is in kits being provided at multi-agency events (such as NABSnet).

Q3 The SWFSPP satisfies the surveillance data and reporting needs of my organisation (e.g. contributes to and/or supports policy development and decision making).

Strongly agree **Agree** Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: Queensland welcomes the outcomes of the work on assessing incursion risk, pathways, and surveillance sensitivity to further inform policy development and decision making in Queensland.

Q4 Animal Health Australia is managing the Screw Worm Fly Surveillance and Preparedness Program effectively/satisfactorily.

Strongly agree **Agree** Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: Biosecurity Queensland acknowledges the national coordination via AHA as valuable.

APPENDIX 1

Screw worm fly surveillance

Biosecurity Queensland continues to play a crucial role in the national Screw Worm Fly Surveillance and Preparedness Program (SWFSPP). A summary of Queensland's activities for the SWFSPP and other national animal health surveillance programs, together with 'Got Maggots' sampling kits, was provided to private veterinarians at the recent PVP training workshop in Townsville by our Principal Veterinarian (Surveillance) and recently appointed SWFSPP coordinator, **Selina Ossedryver**. The coincidental timing of collection of adult flies from our six trap sites located near the Port of Townsville meant that Selina was able accompany our local operations staff, **Rod Robertson and Alice Banfield**, on a field trip to check traps. Thank you to our national surveillance program coordinators and operations staff for their continued efforts in supporting these critical programs. Coincidentally, **BSL will be hosting** the national screw-worm Fly Surveillance and Prevention Program Annual Meeting this week.

