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FOR DISCUSSION

NAHIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2026
Agenda Item 3.1
Last updated: **5 May** 2026
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FUTURE CAHD NAHIP USER WORKSHOP

RECOMMENDATION

That the NAHIS Advisory Committee

- **a.** NOTE the briefing for the upcoming Future CAHD workshop
- **b.** DISCUSS improvements that would support their role and interaction with the platform

BACKGROUND

1. The Central Animal Health Database (CAHD) is Australia's national platform for the management of animal health surveillance and monitoring data. Its purpose is to provide a contemporary, comprehensive, and secure system that supports the collection, collation, analysis and reporting of national animal health surveillance and monitoring information. CAHD supports a range of key national programs including

i) the National Animal Health Information Program (NAHIS)
ii) the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP)
iii) the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP)
iv) the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Freedom Assurance Program (TSEFAP)
v) Screw-Worm Fly Surveillance and Preparedness Program (SWFSPP)
vi) Market Assurance Programs for sheep and goat industries, and related services such as Fit to Lamb.

2. While significant work has occurred through 2025 to stabilise the CAHD infrastructure, the platform and user experience have not kept pace with contemporary expectations. Through the stakeholder engagement process in 2025, a series of strategic principles were identified to guide uplift (see Insights for a modern animal health surveillance platform).

3. AHA are aware that the user interface, reports, filtering and download functionality and connectivity to external systems could benefit from improvements. Several users have also developed alternative methods and reports outside of the CAHD system, to serve as interim solutions to meet international and national reporting obligations, keeping interaction with CAHD limited to uploading and extracting data to meet minimum requirements.

4. AHA has been working with its members to better define and prepare for the progressive uplift of the CAHD system and platform. The vision of the Future CAHD project is to deliver a trusted platform for the collation, analysis, reporting and appropriate sharing of animal health data. This uplift will be guided by the active engagement and collaboration with members to ensure CAHD meets current and future national animal health needs. A draft summary of Future CAHD business requirements is included at Appendix 1**.**

DISCUSSION

5. This workshop is the first in a series designed to help AHA better understand how CAHD is used and key updates needed to the system design, navigation and longer-term reporting and analytics. The session will explore opportunities to improve how CAHD supports key functions for current use cases, focusing on what a more efficient and effective future state could look like.

6. The objective of this workshop is to identify user-centred improvement opportunities originating from real life experiences and explore practical ideas to support a progressive uplift. The session will workshop and explore the real-life experiences and improvements to those processes including:
    a. Data upload – what would meaningfully help in reviewing, confirming while still in a manual process (i.e. before we move to a potential future state with automatic connection and data transfer)
    b. Data extraction and display – filtering, basic queries, maps
    c. CAHD navigation – landing pages, reporting centre navigation.
7. The participants of the workshop are encouraged to think about the roles interacting with the CAHD (e.g., surveillance manager, epidemiologist, and veterinary officer). Participants will be asked to frame their discussion using the following prompt: "*I am a [role] and I have entered CAHD to [use case function]".* Participants will be asked to explore the following: "What would better look like?" for the specific use case function.
8. Drawing on this perspective, participants will help identify future opportunities for improvements.
9. Participants are encouraged to openly share their experience with other databases or platforms.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The Future CAHD Project is a separate AHA funded project in the 2026-27 Annual Operating Plan. AHA appreciates the time and resourcing input from NAHIP Coordinators in considering improvements to support future ease of reporting and outputs.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

11. Consultation has occurred throughout 2025 through a range of mechanisms, including the Accellio Project and directly with members through Member Engagement Weeks.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

12. AHA will prepare an update to CVOs and seek nominations from jurisdictions to support the further development and testing of ideas.

APPENDIX 1

Summary list of Future CAHD Requirements

Below is a summary of requirements to prompt discussion about what "better could look like" for the Future CAHD. These are not solution designs, but rather a set of prompts to support discussion and ideation. This list is not exhaustive and AHA welcomes comments and additions.

1. User Interface and User Experience for a modern, intuitive and accessible experience

- Single CAHD landing page directing users to NAMP, EDIS or NAHIS based on permissions, smoothing navigation through the components
- Role based landing pages (e.g. CVOs, epidemiologists, surveillance officers) with structured workflows that prioritise how different users work (e.g. reports first, upload optional)
- Responsive search boxes and drop-down lists
- Quick access to common actions (data upload, reporting) via tiles/icons
- Consistent menus, language and navigation across components of the platform (e.g. NAMP/NAHIS/EDIS)

2. Reporting and Analytics for trusted, flexible and integrated reporting

- Flexible filtering (species, disease, time, geography)
- Integrated maps within the new reporting centre
- Public facing summaries and visualisations where appropriate
- Exportable reports, data and maps for publications and program reporting

3. Data Uploads and Program Reporting for efficient, high quality data submission

- Automated data ingestion and flow (push and pull where appropriate)
- Workbook based uploads with clear validation feedback that aligns with data standards
- Instant alerts for unusual or new positives (e.g. first detections in new areas)

4. Connectivity, Integration and Interoperability for connected systems and richer insights

- Streamlined international reporting (e.g. WOAH/WAHIS) for authorised users
- Integration with other datasets (AMR, traceability, farm systems, climate) and interface with lab and case management systems
- Scalable architecture to support future national needs (e.g. One Health, antimicrobial resistance).

5. Data Management, Standards and Quality for a fit-for-purpose database now and into the future

- Clear data ownership and editing rights for submitters
- Appropriate data granularity specific for different audience type (jurisdictional vs public reporting)