



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources

Animal health in Australia



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Australia's animal health status

Australia is free of all major epidemic diseases of livestock

- Geographical isolation
- Sound biosecurity and quarantine procedures
- Surveillance programs
- Whole-of-government approach to animal health
- Well-developed preparedness and management programs
- Previous national disease eradication programs

Significant to Australia

- primary industries underpinned by international trade in live animals and animal derived product.

Australia's animal health status

Australia has official OIE recognition for freedom from:

- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
- BSE (Negligible Risk Category)
- PPR
- African horse sickness
- Classical Swine Fever



Australia is also free from many other diseases including:

- Scrapie
- Sheep Pox
- Bovine TB
- *Brucella melitensis*
- *Brucella abortus*
- Haemorrhagic septicaemia (septicaemia exotica)
- Vesicular stomatitis
- East Coast Fever (*T. parva*)
- Mediterranean Coast Fever (*T. annulata*)
- Bluetongue serotype 8



Australian Constitution

- Australia is a federation of states and territories
- Commonwealth and state governments have specific responsibilities



Commonwealth Government

Defence

Foreign Affairs

International trade

Taxation

National Coordination

National Budget

National infrastructure

Biosecurity (imports, international travel, Exotic agent diagnostics)

National Disease Status (OIE)

State Government

Education

Human Health

Police

Livestock health

- Endemic disease
 - Control (regulation)
 - Distribution, status (Property of Origin Cert.)
- Exotic disease
 - Detection, eradication (national coordination)
 - Veterinary chemical regulation (HGP)

Animal Welfare

Dept. Agriculture and Water Resources

Responsibilities defined by legislation

Imports

- Quarantine Act 1908 (Biosecurity Act 2015 from 16 June 2016)
- Imported Food Control Act 1992

Exports (Livestock/meat/germplasm)

- Export Control Act 1982
 - Certification of livestock for export
 - Australian standard for Export of Livestock (ASEL)
 - Registered Premise registration and audit
- Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997 (AMLI Act)
 - Licensing of Australian exporters

Other Commonwealth Agencies

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

- Drug registration and use (HGP)

Australian Marine Safety Authority AMSA

- Navigation Act 1912 (Shipping)
- Marine Orders Part 43 Cargo and Handling – Livestock (Shipping)

Organisation of animal health

Commonwealth government

- Biosecurity – imports/border controls
- International animal health (OIE)
- Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL,CSIRO)
- Registration of veterinary Chemical
- Residue monitoring
- National coordination (Animal Health committee member)

State and Territory governments

- disease surveillance, control and eradication
- animal welfare
- veterinary chemicals
- National coordination (Members of Animal Health Committee)

Animal Health Australia (AHA)

- Deliver and evaluate national programs
- liaison with industry bodies on behalf of Industry, commonwealth and state and territory governments.
- National Coordination (Member of Animal Health Committee.)

Commonwealth - biosecurity

Strict biosecurity import policies

Strict regulation

Good control of international points of entry

Fundamental in protecting Australia's favourable animal disease status

Commonwealth - OIE

Australia strong supporter (provide framework for international trade)

Australian CVO –Currently vice president will become next President of OIE
(World Assembly of Delegates)

Australia's animal health status – reported through OIE

Coord. Animal Health Committee

Mechanism for:

Membership -Chief Veterinary Officers, AAHL, AHA (commonwealth secretariat)

- prioritizing animal health issues
- coordinating a nationally consistent policy approach
- collaborating with Animal Health Australia in the delivery of national animal health programs
- Laboratory technical coordination/standard setting

Provides strategic scientific and policy advice to government and Industry

Animal Health Australia (AHA)

- Animal Health Australia (AHA) is a not-for-profit public company
- Implements animal health programs (for Gov. and Industry)
- Objectives
 - protect animal health
 - Promote sustainable Australia's livestock industry

- Members:

Government

- Commonwealth, state and territory governments

Industry

- Cattle Council
- Sheep meat
- Goat Industry
- Wool producers
- Duck meat
- Chicken meat
- Australian pork
- others

Animal health surveillance systems

- National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (bluetongue, Akabane and BEF) (AHA)
- Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (northern coast surveillance) (Commonwealth)
- Wildlife Health Australia (Commonwealth core funding)
- Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Freedom Assurance Program (AHA)
- National Significant Disease Investigation Program (AHA)
- Screw-worm Fly Freedom Assurance Program (AHA)
- National Sheep Health Monitoring System (AHA)
- Information management (National Animal Health Information System) (AHA)
- Animal Health in Australia Report (AHA)

Animal Disease preparedness

State and territory disease control legislation

Emergency response planning (all emergencies fire, flood, exotic disease)

Emergency disease preparedness plan (AUSVETPLAN)

- disease specific (exotic disease)

Emergency disease funding mechanism (EADRA)

- Pre agreed funding mechanism (rapid response)
- industry and government legally enforceable agreement

National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) lifetime traceability

- cattle, sheep, goat & pigs

National Livestock identification System

Objective

Lifetime traceability of Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs from property of birth to slaughter (Host species for FMD)

Reason

exotic disease control/eradication

endemic disease control cattle, sheep, goat & pigs

residue tracing

Cattle – unique, electronic, property of origin, individual ID

can also be used to record production information

large numbers of animals can be accurately counted

Sheep, goat and pigs – non electronic, property of origin.

Summary

Protecting Australia's Animal Health Status

Border controls

Livestock disease surveillance

Emergency response

Improving Australia's animal health (endemic disease)

Regulation

Collaboration Industry Government

International trade

Underpins Australia's primary industries

Accurately presenting Australia's animal health status

Active members of OIE

Meeting trading partners requirements – export health certification