



# **ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA – ORIGINS, CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council

NFAHW Forum

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Chief Executive Officer

Animal Health Australia

- A not-for-profit company established by governments and livestock industries in 1996.
- ‘Drivers’ to establish the company:
  - Successful disease eradication campaigns, built on government-industry partnerships – Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign (BTEC) and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
  - Existing cost sharing agreement for exotic animal diseases – between Commonwealth and state/territory governments; but no direct industry involvement
  - Recognition of the benefits of a collaborative, cooperative approach
  - Industry is included in the decision-making process  
*“He who pays has a say...”*

## ■ Members

- Australian Government (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
- All state and territory governments (8)
- Peak councils – livestock industries (16)
- Service providers
  - Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
  - Australian Veterinary Association
  - Council of Veterinary Deans of Australia and New Zealand
- Associate Members
  - LiveCorp
  - National Aquaculture Council
  - Dairy Australia
  - Zoo and Aquarium Association

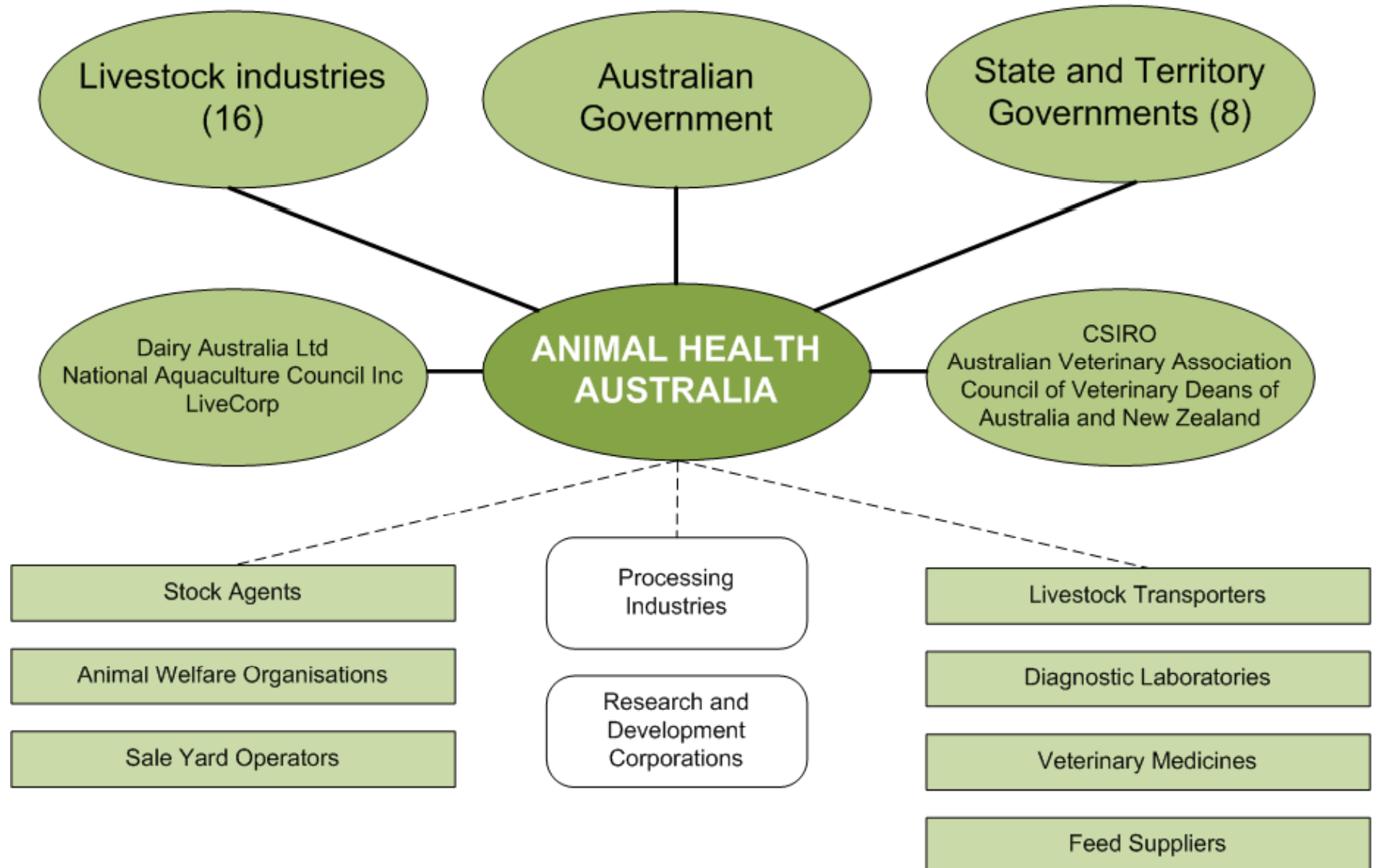
## Livestock Industries

- Australian Alpaca Association
- Australian Chicken Meat Federation
- Australian Dairy Farmers Ltd.
- Australian Duck Meat Association
- Australian Egg Corporation Ltd.
- Australian Horse Industry Council
- Australian Pork Ltd.
- Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
- Australian Lot Feeders' Association
- Australian Racing Board
- Cattle Council of Australia
- Goat Industry Council of Australia
- Harness Racing Australia
- Sheepmeat Council of Australia
- WoolProducers Australia

- Operates under Australian corporate law, with its regulatory and reporting requirements.
- Shareholders (owners) of the company are all governments, national livestock industry councils and other members.
- All full members have equal voting rights, regardless of the size of the organisation.

- Board of Directors (7) is skills-based, not representative
- ‘Core funded’ projects are aimed to benefit all members; ‘special’ projects are funded only by those members who are identified as beneficiaries.
- [An equivalent company, Plant Health Australia, was established in 2000 for the plant industries.]

# Animal Health Australia – collaborative partnerships



# **Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)**



Provides a national framework for

- Responding to high-risk emergency diseases (65 listed)
- Rapid identification of emergency incidents, with incentives for prompt reporting
- Development and conduct of a response to an emergency incident
- Funding a response, including compensation
- Sharing the costs of response

- **Participation and cooperation** – nomination of (trained) industry representatives
- **Risk management** – development and implementation of biosecurity plans
- **Early detection and response** – maintaining capability (especially government agencies)
- **Training** – for personnel who will participate in an emergency response

**Cost sharing of a response** is based on the following principles:

- Equitable contributions (fairness)
- Contributions are ‘capped’
- Cost sharing is linked to category of the disease (impact on industry, public health)
- **“He who pays, has a say ...”**

- Legally-binding agreement
- Australian Government underwrites industry's share of response costs – immediately
- Industry share is repayable over 10 years
- Australian Government requires 'watertight' funding arrangement – options for industry
- Cost recovery mechanism – usually a levy (tax)
- Can be zero-based – no money paid until an emergency occurs



- National response plan for control and eradication of exotic animal diseases.
- The basis for emergency response planning under the EADRA.
- The basis for defining emergency training requirements and roles, including Industry Liaison Officers (ILOs).

URL: [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au)

# Equine influenza outbreak - 2007

- Serious, significant impact on industry, governments and the wider community
- Rigorous test of national emergency disease preparedness
- Important lessons were learned.

Advertisement



Australian Government  
New South Wales  
COVID-19

## EQUINE INFLUENZA HELP STOP THE SPREAD IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Horses in New South Wales have tested positive for equine influenza. Whether you have horses or not, you need to be aware of what this means for you.  
**THERE IS NO HEALTH RISK TO HUMANS.**

The disease represents significant costs to the industry and all horse owners. Economic impacts include large veterinary bills, loss of business and employment. Equine influenza can also seriously affect foal mortality rates. If we do not work together now to eradicate the disease there will be additional costs for the horse industry and horse owners to bear for many years to come.

Equine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory disease, so it is important to prevent your horses having any direct contact with other people's horses.




It is important you follow good hygiene practices to prevent the further spread of this disease.

Under a nationally agreed response, the Australian Government and the New South Wales Government are working hard to control this disease in New South Wales, with support from industry, veterinarians and other organisations, but your day-to-day assistance is just as important.

Please adhere strictly to the movement restrictions as they apply to your area, and do not move your horses off your property unless you have the necessary permit or permission.

### CAUTION - People and equipment spread the disease

- Don't move (or ride) any horses from your property
- Keep horses as far away from your boundary with other horse properties as possible.
- Prevent all non-essential vehicles and visitors from entering areas of the premises that hold horses.
- After horses, the biggest risk of spreading influenza is people. Wash all exposed skin with soap and water.
- Always decontaminate yourself and your vehicle before leaving your property. Do not go near any horses on other properties.
- Change your clothes, including hat and footwear, immediately after handling horses, and decontaminate them. Use hot water, soap, disinfectant, detergent or household bleach.
- Remember, you are protecting everyone else's animals as well as your own.



Australian Harness Racing Council Inc.  
Australian Racing Board Ltd.  
AUSTRALIAN HORSE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

For more information phone **1800 675 888** or visit **[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/equine-influenza](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/equine-influenza)**

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra

- Currently responsible for the coordination and management of >50 national animal health and welfare programs and projects (with 20 staff).
- Five-year strategic plan, with agreed national priorities.
- Small organisation, with the ability to respond and adapt quickly (e.g. importation of equine influenza vaccine).
- Good technical and professional credibility

- Robust and trusted consultative mechanisms, including regular member forums and project reference groups
- Largely removed from political interference/influence
- Legal status as an independent corporate entity, provides greater flexibility in the management of members' funds.
- Three 'subsidiary' companies established to manage industry funds – with greater accountability.



- Confusion about AHA's 'identity' – government? industry? advocacy? lobbying?
- Financial pressures on all AHA members, particularly government agencies
- Complacency, and loss of corporate memory amongst key decision-makers
- Merging of animal, plant, aquatic and environmental biosecurity activities within government agencies
  - ➔ increased risk of loss of focus, and 'dilution' of animal health resources.

- Successes have led to increased expectations amongst our members.
- Need to demonstrate value for members' investments – based on sound economic analysis.
- Difficulties in discarding 'low priority' activities, with limited resources.
- Effective communications, to various levels of industry and government (with limited resources).

# Thank you – questions?

