



## APPENDIX 3 - STATE AND FEDERAL RESPONSE ROLES

Section references below are in accordance with their positions in the Qld Horse Council Inc. Emergency Response Plan.

SECTION 5	AUSVETPLAN
SECTION 6	EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE
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SECTION 8	DISEASE CONTROL AND COORDINATION CENTRES
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### 5 AUSVETPLAN

AUSVETPLAN is the resource used by the Government to provide coordination of the scientific, logistic and managerial resources necessary to prepare for, and respond to, an EAD.

A response has four phases: investigation, alert, operational and stand-down.

**5.1 Investigation Phase** - exists while information is collected to exclude or confirm the existence of an emergency animal disease (EAD) and prior to the chief veterinary officer (CVO) declaring an Alert Phase.

In some circumstances, if there is sufficient reason to strongly suspect the existence of an EAD, the Investigation Phase may progress to the Alert Phase before investigations are completed.

**5.2 Alert Phase** - exists when the state or territory CVO declares an alert because there is a reasonably held suspicion of an EAD. In this phase, the CVO ensures that all stakeholders are alerted and key response staff are placed on stand-by.

**5.3 Operational Phase** - exists when the presence of the disease agent is confirmed, when the CVO of the affected state determines that an operational response must begin (irrespective of cost-sharing considerations), or when advised by CCEAD or the National Management Group (NMG).

**5.4 Stand-down Phase** - occurs when the threat from an EAD is no longer present and/or most EAD investigation and operational activities cease.



## **6 EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE (EAD)**

Emergency animal diseases have the potential to cause serious disruption to Australia's livestock industry, the national economy and to adversely affect human health.

### **6.1 WHAT ARE THEY? Emergency animal diseases may include:**

- Foreign (exotic) diseases that do not normally occur in Australia. eg Equine Influenza (EI) and Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM).
- Diseases that emerge without warning with unknown or uncertain causes. eg Hendra Virus.
- Diseases that occur in Australia but could possibly present as a serious epidemic.
- Diseases that do not directly threaten a horse population, but could indirectly lead to restricted movements in order to contain the spread of a disease affecting other livestock.

### **6.2 CONTROL - Most EADs will be controlled by a combination of some or all of the following:**

- Isolation and quarantine
- Movement controls
- Surveillance and testing
- Hygiene, cleaning and disinfection
- Vaccination
- Treatment
- Insect control



## **7 MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE**

When the relevant Minister has declared an emergency disease in horses the appropriate governmental response is initiated following the AUSVETPLAN.

- 7.1 Local Management** – includes horse owners, private veterinarians and DPI&F Officers. It is highly likely that a suspected emergency disease outbreak will initially be reported by a local veterinarian. The property owner should then activate a Risk Mitigation or Biosecurity Plan (see [www.qldhorsecouncil.com](http://www.qldhorsecouncil.com) Biosecurity pages). The local veterinarian and property owner will be under direction of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for the declared outbreak.

The role of the QHC RT is to ensure all affected horse owners and horse businesses are aware of the current situation and to assist affected people to activate Risk Mitigation Plans.

- 7.2 State Management** – under the *Stock Act* the Minister has certain powers that can be implemented such as ordering stock standstills. This can occur even if an EAD is suspected and while waiting for a laboratory test results.

The CVO is responsible for overseeing the establishment of a Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) and a State Disease Control Headquarters (SDCHQ).

The QHC RT will be liaising closely with the LDCC and SDCHQ, predominately via the QHC RM, but also other QHC RT members. QHC ILO's may be required to work at either control centres.

- 7.3 Federal Management** – PI&F Executive, CVO and Chief Inspector of Stock will interact with Federal agencies throughout the response. Federal agencies involved include Commonwealth Minister of Agriculture, Animal Health Australia, Emergency Management Australia and the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD).

If needed the Federal Government will report to international agencies like the World Organisation for Animal Health.



## **8 DISEASE CONTROL AND COORDINATION CENTRES**

### **LOCAL DISEASE CONTROL CENTRE, STATE DISEASE CONTROLS HEADQUARTERS AND NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE.**

#### **8.1 Functions of the LDCC**

The local disease control centre (LDCC) is responsible for operations (eradication and control) in a defined area. The LDCC operates under policies and procedures determined by the state or territory disease control headquarters (SDCHQ), consistent with the relevant AUSVETPLAN manuals and the approved emergency animal disease response plan (EADRP). To carry out field activities, the CVO will appoint an LDCC controller who will report to the SDCHQ director.

#### **8.2 Functions of the SDCHQ**

The state or territory disease control headquarters (SDCHQ) is the centre responsible for state- or territory-wide coordination of all emergency animal disease (EAD) response operations. The SDCHQ helps the chief veterinary officer (CVO) to develop disease control policies and facilitates their implementation in the field by the local disease control centres (LDCCs). The SDCHQ also has operational responsibility for all areas not covered by LDCC responsibility, ie all areas outside of the restricted areas (RAs).

The SDCHQ director is appointed by, and the SDCHQ is established at the direction of, the state/territory CVO.

The SDCHQ collates, assesses and summarises complex information coming from various sources, informs the CVO of significant developments, and advises on strategies, procedures and resource requirements. The CVO must consult with and be supported by the senior management of the response agency.



## **9 NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE**

Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF) fulfils its emergency roles under the DAFF Emergency Management Plan, which focuses on the coordination of the department's areas to ensure an effective input to the national response.

### **9.1 Activation of the NCC**

Application of the DAFF Emergency Management Plan can be triggered by an incident caused by (or suspected to be caused by) an emergency, new or unusual occurrence of an endemic pest or disease, the presence of a causative disease agent, or a contamination beyond permitted levels in animals, plants or aquaculture commodities. The plan may also be triggered by incidents that do not require the establishment of state or territory disease control headquarters (SDCHQs), such as incidents occurring overseas.

In a large or prolonged animal health emergency, DAFF establishes the National Coordination Centre (NCC) at the direction of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO).

### **9.2 The NCC's main roles are at international, national and Australian Government levels.**