

## Supporting notes for the National FMD Coordination Framework Chart

The following notes briefly outline the membership and main functions of the major groups that would play a part in making national decisions in the event of an outbreak of FMD. It is envisaged that the main elements of this will be encapsulated in an MOU between governments in Australia which will among other things (see paper paragraph 19) cover how agencies are expected to act in a major FMD emergency.

The following important principles and arrangements underpin the framework:

- The framework caters for national decision making (ie collective decisions involving all levels of government where such decisions are necessary for an effective response)
- The framework augments current arrangements in which States and Territories are the primary decision makers in combating the disease outbreak in accordance with AUSVETPLAN and emergency management arrangements
- The framework addresses coordination of disease control and the national responses to the economic and social consequences of the outbreak
- The framework should be flexible, responsive and allow for rapid decision making. The level at which decisions are made within the framework will depend upon the extent of the FMD outbreak and the particular issue in question. **In practice it is expected that the main national decision making groups will be the High Level FMD Management and Recovery Group and the National Emergency Animal Disease Management Group, with only very high level matters referred to First Ministers and Agriculture Ministers.**
- Communications, under the oversight of the High Level Group, will ensure all relevant information concerning the outbreak and its consequences is obtained from stakeholders, and consistent messages provided amongst stakeholders. This will involve close liaison with all parties.

### COAG

#### *Membership*

- Prime Minister (Chair), State/Territory Premiers/Chief Ministers, President ALGA.

#### *Key Functions in FMD outbreak*

- Endorse any changes to the agreed response frameworks
- As required, make the high level strategic policy decisions on progress on addressing disease eradication and social/economic recovery

### Primary Industries Ministerial Council

#### *Membership*

Commonwealth agriculture Minister (Chair), State/Territory agriculture Ministers

#### *Key Functions*

- As required, make high level strategic policy decisions concerning animal disease control and eradication. Resource decisions would need to be based on prior decisions of Commonwealth and State/Territory Cabinets.
- Receive regular situation reports from the National Emergency Animal Disease Management Group on key issues arising from the outbreak including progress with disease eradication

## **High Level FMD Management and Recovery Group**

*Membership* (Secretary level):

PM&C (Chair) - national whole of government coordination

DTRS - regional policy, monitor efficacy of recovery programs

FACS - social policy,

DOFA - financial considerations

Treasury – economic considerations

DFAT - trade

AFFA (Chair NEADMG) - disease control/eradication

EMA

State/Territory Premiers departments - coordinate State ‘whole-of-government’ response

ALGA

Co-opt others as required (eg Health if human health concerns)

*Key Functions*

- Main conduit/provider of advice/recommendations on policy and strategic resourcing issues for national whole of government response to disease control and social/economic recovery, with action to be taken by respective jurisdictions and COAG
- High level oversight of social, community and business recovery programs and policies
- Consider recommendations from the Cwllth-State Policy Taskforce for social, community and business recovery policies/strategies as required to meet needs arising from the disease outbreak.
- Consider advice/recommendations from NEADMG on major disease control issues that may require Cabinet/COAG consideration
- Make strategic decisions to ensure whole of government approach on communications, especially to the media/public

## **Commonwealth-State Policy Taskforce**

*Membership*

PM&C (Chair)

DTRS

FACS

DOFA

Treasury

AFFA

DFAT

EMA

States/Territory – premiers departments

ALGA

Co-opt others as required (eg AGs for legal matters)

*Functions*

- Provide advice and support to the HLFMRG on social, community, industry, business and economic recovery programs and policies, in particular coordinating and monitoring measures in place.
- As secretariat for the HLFMRG, all papers to the HLFMRG should go via the Taskforce.
- As necessary, make recommendations for social, community, industry, business and economic recovery policies/strategies to meet needs arising from disease control/eradication.
- Consider a national policy response to any legal issues that arise
- Advise communications network on policy matters for purposes of media briefings

## **National Emergency Animal Disease Management Group**

### *Membership*

AFFA Secretary (Chair)

State/Territory agriculture CEO's

Peak livestock industry bodies (eg Cattle Council, Sheepmeat Council, Dairy Industry Conference)

### *Key Functions (noting that operational responsibility rests with the combat State or States)*

- Receive advice from CCEAD on technical issues relating to a disease outbreak
- Make key decisions on disease control/eradication policy matters concerning national aspects of an outbreak
- Make recommendations to PIMC on national level disease control policy matters that cannot be resolved by NEADMG
- Report to PIMC
- Provide advice/recommendations to HLFMRG on any disease control issues that may require Cabinet/COAG consideration

## **Emergency Management Australia**

### *Key Functions*

- Manage the national control centre which receives reports from and liaises with State/Territory emergency operations centres
- Coordinate provision of Commonwealth logistic support to States/Territories for disease control activities
- Advise Commonwealth-State Policy Taskforce on disease control logistical or other emergency management matters, in so far as they affect recovery issues

## **Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD)**

### *Membership*

Commonwealth CVO (Chair)

State/Territory CVOs

Livestock Industry representatives

AAHL

### *Key Functions*

- Provide scientific/technical advice on disease control and eradication to NEADMG
- Make recommendations to NEADMG (eg on vaccination, zoning)

## **Communications**

It is expected that communications will be coordinated by a network of designated media managers for the Commonwealth, each State/Territory and industry. High level oversight will rest with the HLFMRG. The operation of the communication function is to be based on principles which need to be agreed, in particular the need for designated spokespeople in each jurisdiction and the need for close networking and sharing of information in a timely way to ensure a rapid response and a consistent message is delivered to industry, international markets and the Australian public.

### *Key actions would include:*

- Collate operational disease control and recovery information from each affected State through the (to be developed) national information management system
- Maintain close liaison with HLFMRG, NEADMG and other national groups and, through them, the States/Territories/local government and industry
- Provide regular national situation reports to Commonwealth/State/Territory/local government/industry and international organisations (as appropriate) on key developments in disease control/eradication and recovery management

- Prepare national messages for key spokespersons and information for media and coordinate/ensure consistency of messages by the various other spokespersons
- Maintain and update national website

*Potential Spokespersons*

Prime Minister and First Ministers

Agriculture Ministers and their CEOs

CVOs in each jurisdiction

**Note:** It is expected that specialist sub-groups would be formed under the auspices of the Commonwealth/State Policy Taskforce as required. One such group would be a Trade/Market Access Group comprising representatives from DFAT, MLA and other major livestock product marketing agencies, and AFFA. The main functions of this group would be:

- Advise posts and overseas customers on Australia's disease eradication strategies/measures
- Implement/develop strategies to handle product in the pipeline
- Implement/develop strategies to reopen established markets as soon as possible, including from Australian disease-free zones under zoning policy
- Implement/develop strategies to seek new markets
- As necessary, make recommendations to NEADMG and to the HLFMRG.

## GLOSSARY

AAHL	Australian Animal Health Laboratory
AFFA	Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (Commonwealth)
ALGA	Australian Local Government Association
CCEAD	Consultative Committee on Exotic Animal Diseases
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Commonwealth)
DOFA	Department of Finance and Administration (Commonwealth)
DTRS	Department of Transport and Regional Services (Commonwealth)
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
FACS	Department of Family and Community Services (Commonwealth)
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
HLFMRG	High Level FMD Management and Recovery Group
NEADMG	National Emergency Animal Disease Management Group
PIMC	Primary Industries Ministerial Council
PM&C	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Commonwealth)