

Exotic Disease

Animal Health

Anthrax

99 Oct GC That the Association oppose any move to restrict the use of vaccines for anthrax in NSW.

Industry Quarantine

Australian Animal Health Laboratory

07 Oct EC That the Association:

- a) Reaffirm opposition to live FMD virus in AAHL;
 - b) Meet with the new Federal Government with a view to examining CSIRO's funding of AAHL and to ensure that core responsibilities of AAHL are fully funded; and
- Seek that money be made available for Australian scientists to research live FMD virus overseas in cooperation with overseas facilities.

98 Oct GC That the Association reaffirm its opposition to the importation of live Capripox viruses into Australian Animal Health Laboratories (AAHL) and urge AAHL to strongly pursue the development of a diagnostics test.

Cattle

AC 94 The Association seeks that the minimum requirements for importation of embryos from high risk countries should involve implantations, full gestation period and testing of calves at Cocos Island Animal Quarantine Centre.

FMD

EC March 09: That the Association as a matter of urgency seek a moratorium on the introduction of live FMD virus at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong.

01 May GC That the Association support the activities of relevant authorities to minimise the risk of introducing Foot & Mouth Disease to Australia through:

- (a) increased auditing of piggeries to ensure compliance with the ban on swill feeding;
- (b) ensuring aircraft and boat waste is adequately managed and controlled when disposed of;
- (c) ensuring council garbage tips are fenced appropriately (ie. stock proof) and in accordance with local government legislation; and
- (d) ensuring feral pigs in areas adjoining council garbage tips are controlled appropriately.

Grain

AC 96 That the Association totally oppose the transport of imported grain up-country until it has been treated to a standard that no longer poses any threat to the Australian grain industry and meets protocol 1 requirements, ie screened and heat treated at the seaboard.

AC 97 That the Association totally oppose the import of grain from Karnal Bunt infested states and continents and oppose the transport up-country of imported grain from other areas until it has been treated to a standard which no longer poses any threat to the Australian grain industry.

AC 96 That the Association call for:

- (a) the suspension of all imports of used farm and earthmoving machinery from Karnal Bunt infested countries until decontamination procedures are proven successful; and
- (b) strict inspection standards to be imposed on fertiliser imports to ensure grain residues are not present.

The Association seeks a statutory minimum 28 day period between the date for an application to import grain and the date on which a licence may be granted by AQIS. During this period all interested parties should be notified and allowed to make submissions in relation to the application.

Horticulture

AC 95 That the Association express continuing concern at the prospect of AQIS allowing horticultural products into Australia with the potential for the introduction of exotic pests and diseases.

AC 95 That the Association express criticism of AQIS for allowing horticultural products into Australia without the displaying the will or capacity to monitor residues of pesticides in compliance with Australian MRL (Maximum Residue Levels).

99 Oct GC That the Association reaffirm its policy on prohibiting the import of apples from New Zealand because of Fireblight particularly in view of AQIS's impending decision on this matter.

NFF

05 Oct EC That the Association seek to have NFF employ a veterinary adviser to:

- (a) advise on all quarantine and biosecurity matters; and

NFF

(b) source and provide strategic information on quarantine and animal welfare issues on a regular basis.

06 Oct EC That the Association require NFF to have policy that ensures under no circumstances are Australia's quarantine standards compromised in order to facilitate trade.

Pork

AC 98 That the Association request that AQIS be held wholly responsible for any disease outbreak due to any pork imported and AQIS to pay full compensation.

Quarantine Risk

AC 94 The Association recommends that AQIS assist in the prevention of importing domestic animals, either exhibiting, or carrying known congenital disorders by framing import protocols to cover this as well as infective agents.

Resourcing

02 Feb EC That the Association seek through the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, Cattle Council of Australia, Sheepmeat Council of Australia and WoolProducers that Animal Health Australia renegotiate the Deed of Agreement to achieve the removal of FMD and BSE from the Deed and a special arrangement be made with the Federal Government to assume full financial responsibility for these two diseases.

04 Apr EC That the federal government be fully liable for the costs of managing a pest or disease incursion where:

- (a) the incursion can be reasonably attributed to imported produce, and
- (b) the relevant industry had made a credible case that the produce's entry was likely to lead to such an incursion.

99 Oct GC The Association believes that the liability of growers to contribute compensation in an horrific outbreak should be limited and that the limitation should be spelt out in the legislation and or contractual arrangements between the parties. The Association insists on seeing this before agreeing to the proposal.

AC 01 That the Association lobby Governments to ensure that Foot and Mouth Disease is categorised as a fully-government compensated disease, and that exotic disease outbreaks generally be regarded as a national disaster and that the cost of eradication and compensation for loss of stock and future income be funded by Federal Government.

99 Oct GC That the Association endorses the following broad principles concerning the future arrangements for the funding of emergency animal disease outbreak:

Changes to Category 1.

That the Association proposes that four diseases be added to Category 1. These are:

- (a) Foot & Mouth Disease;
- (b) Morbillivirus (Hendra Virus)
- (c) Exotic strains of Newcastle Disease; and
- (d) Screwworm fly.

As such the Category 1 list would include:

- (a) Rabies and related lyssaviruses such as bat lyssavirus
- (b) Japanese Encephalitis;
- (c) Western Eastern and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis;
- (d) Nipah Virus
- (e) Foot and Mouth Disease;
- (f) Morbillivirus (Hendra Virus)
- (g) Exotic strains of Newcastle Disease; and
- (h) Screwworm fly
- (i) Any diseases, where the urgency of action and intensity of response to the particular disease incident are determined largely by the known or anticipated human health effects.

Changes to Categories 2 & 3

That the Association seek that Scrapie be moved from category three to category two.

01 May GC That the Association urge peak councils to place the issue of FMD being in Category 2 of the Cost Sharing Agreement back on the agenda with Animal Health Australia and move to have it in Category 1.

00 May GC That the Association seeks a limit on industry financial liability for animal disease outbreaks, and supports setting the limit level at a maximum of 1% of GVP.

Sheep and Goats

00 May GC That the Association supports the importation of ovine and caprine embryos and semen from Canada, the US and the EU subject the following conditions:

- (a) in the case of the importation of embryos the testing for genotype of the progeny before 6 months of age and that they have to be an appropriate homozygous PrP genotype; and
- (b) that with regard to semen, the donor ram be DNA tested in the country of origin and that the semen not be released unless it matches up with the rams DNA.

Sheep and Goats

Quarantine bodies

Certification

01/10/07 That the Association insist that the Federal Government take steps to institutionalise verification of both off shore and on shore certification related to imports.

Container inspection

00 May GC That the Association seek that all containers coming into Australia and moving into rural and regional areas be inspected by AQIS rather than just a sample.

Diagnostic Capacity

07 Mar EC That the Association support Charles Sturt University's initiative of establishing a veterinary pathology diagnostic laboratory and lobby the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for equal access to government funding of laboratory services and existing (DPI) laboratories and encourage other relevant entities to provide further financial resources to the development of the laboratory.

07 Mar EC That the Association in light of declining resources in plant and animal diagnostic capacity, request that governments be requested to maintain an effective response capacity by increasing quality personnel.

AC 01 That the Association lobby State and Commonwealth Governments to provide as a matter of urgency, adequate funds to upgrade veterinary training, along with government quarantine, laboratory and veterinary field staff to combat exotic animal diseases.

Emergency Pest/Disease Plans

AC 96 That the Association make every effort to encourage and assist the Federal and State governments to design and implement a plan of action which can be used to improve the detection, arrest and spread of exotic disease or pest, and achieve the eradication of any foreign insect pests or plant disease which may breach the continental quarantine barrier.

Pre-border Quarantine

09 March EC: That the Association insist that in the case of imports of agricultural products into Australia, targeted sampling is carried out by State or Federal quarantine authorities to verify that import protocols have been effective.

05 Feb EC That the Association supports increased pre-border auditing of certification arrangements between countries.

Quarantine Station

AC 08: That the Association lobby the Federal Government as a matter of urgency not to dispose of the Cocos Island's quarantine station and instead as part of its current revamping of the quarantine system to immediately re-commission the station so that it can fulfil its intended role in keeping Australia free of exotic pests and diseases.

Resourcing

01 May GC That the Federal Government fund increased vigilance by AQIS at all entry points, for the prevention of disease entry, in the interest of the public benefit.

That the Association lobby the Government to make it a mandatory obligation for incoming overseas aircraft to display the AQIS quarantine penalties video.

AC 01 That in the light of the recent exotic disease outbreaks in Europe and elsewhere, the Association lobby Australian Governments to seek the immediate imposition of the following measures:

- (a) a substantial increase in the level of fines able to be imposed for quarantine breaches including the deportation of overseas tourists;
- (b) a significant increase in the level of funding of AQIS;
- (c) a substantial upgrading of entry-point surveillance by AQIS inspectors;
- (d) a dramatic tightening of all AQIS import regulations, and
- (e) increased monitoring of food waste disposal and piggeries to ensure no illegal swill feeding occurs.

AC 94 That due to the threat imposed on the Australian livestock industry by "boat people" landing on Australia's shores undetected, the Association demand the implementation of an infallible 24 hour, 7 day a week coastal surveillance/monitoring program.

Review

05 Oct EC That the Association seek in respect to AQIS & Biosecurity Australia:

- (a) That scientific appraisal of the risks of importing animals (including fish), animal products, plant material and

Review

foodstuffs is not impaired by the decisions for “free trade”;

(b) That scientific appraisal is conducted in a practical hands on manner and not totally reliant on a paper trail supplied by the exporting country;

(c) That more suitably qualified personnel be provided to carry out the increased number of inspections;

(d) That a proactive HACCP approach be developed before allowing importation of any product biological or otherwise, to ensure that unwanted pests and diseases such as fire ants, wood borers, exotic fruit fly and citrus canker do not inadvertently enter Australia with the product or its packaging or accompanying soil; and

(e) That a review be carried out to determine the suitability or otherwise of present and future Biosecurity Australia personnel to adequately protect Australia from exotic pests and diseases.