

FEBRUARY 2006

# aquaplan

2005-2010

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## AQUAPLAN Stakeholder Workshop

Australia's National Strategic Plan for Aquatic Animal Health : AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 has now been in place for almost a year. The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (AG-DAFF) is therefore hosting the first AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 Stakeholder Workshop.

To be held in Melbourne from the 4-5th April 2006, this is the first of a series of annual joint industry/government workshops that will be conducted to help steer progress and prioritisation of AQUAPLAN projects.

**These workshops are your opportunity to ensure that AQUAPLAN addresses the issues of priority for your industry.** AG-DAFF is keen to have stakeholder input to the implementation and progress of

AQUAPLAN from the perspective of Australia's aquaculture and related industries.

All those involved in aquaculture production, aquatic animal disease research and management, and the fisheries and aquatic wildlife sectors are encouraged to attend this workshop.

**The success of a national strategy such as AQUAPLAN relies on the input of all of its stakeholders. So please come along to the workshop, have your say and make AQUAPLAN work for you.**

Attendance at the workshop is free, however we do ask that you RSVP by 10 March 2006 for catering purposes - . Participants are asked to pay their own

accommodation and travel costs, however AG-DAFF has secured a limited offer on rates at the workshop venue of \$110 per night, just mention you are attending this workshop when you book. The venue also offers a free courtesy bus to and from the Airport.

In conjunction with the workshop, AG-DAFF will host a dinner on the night of the 4th April. Workshop participants are invited to attend the dinner (free) as part of their participation.

**Venue details:** Airport Motel and Convention Centre (03) 9333-2200, 33 Ardlie Street Attwood, VIC 3049  
[airportmotel@bigpond.com](mailto:airportmotel@bigpond.com)

## Aquatic Animal Health Committee Report

The Aquatic Animal Health Committee (AAHC) held its 8th meeting, a teleconference, on 15 November 2005. The teleconference provided an opportunity for members to discuss progress on ongoing business and any new developments since the Committee's face-to-face meeting in June 2005. The key discussion items related to AAHC contributions to the development of several important national initiatives that cut across a number of plant and animal industry

sectors, including the aquatic animal health sector.

AAHC has contributed to the development of the Australian Biosecurity System - Primary Production and the Environment Component (BIOSEC). BIOSEC will bring together a number of activities to provide for greater national collaboration on biosecurity issues within and across jurisdictions and with key stakeholders in the primary production and natural resource management sectors. BIOSEC will

address the risks to primary industries and natural resource management from agricultural, aquatic and environmental pests (including weeds) and diseases. BIOSEC is to be a major part of the National Biosecurity Strategy and AAHC has worked to ensure that aquatic animal health issues are appropriately represented. A joint natural resource management / primary industries steering group has been established to further the development of BIOSEC including the development of a work plan. AAHC will

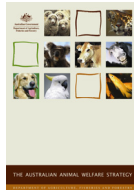
## AAHC report continued.

advise the Steering Group on the key aquatic animal health issues that should be included in the BIOSEC work plan.

AAHC has also contributed to the National Animal Health Surveillance Strategy (NAHSS), which is a framework for consideration of Australia's animal health (including aquatic animal) surveillance requirements. The focus of the NAHSS is on diseases considered to be of national or international significance in terms of human health, food safety, animal productivity, market access and the environment. The strategy is consistent with BIOSEC and will incorporate surveillance activities for aquatic animal health. AAHC has provided advice to the NAHSS secretariat to ensure that aquatic animal health surveillance priorities are

addressed appropriately and in a manner consistent with the objectives of AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 Strategy 1.

In September 2005, several AAHC members represented the interests of aquatic animal industries at the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) Implementation Workshop. The AAWS is a strategic national framework to deliver the vision that "the welfare of all animals in Australia is promoted and protected by the development and adoption of sound animal welfare standards and practices". The Strategy covers animals used in research and teaching, animals used for the production of food and fibre and other



products, companion and guide animals, animals used for recreation, entertainment and display, native and introduced wildlife and feral animals.

At the implementation workshop, working groups were established for the following six key animal sector working groups.

At the implementation workshop, working groups were established for the following six key animal sector working groups.

- Livestock/production animals;
- Animals in research and teaching;
- Aquatic animals;
- Companion animals;
- Animals used for work, sport, recreation, or on display; and
- Animals in the wild.

The aquatic animal working group includes several AAHC members and will be responsible for developing an action plan for the aquatic animals sector. The action plan will outline key components such as responsibility, resources, funding, national coordination, and monitoring and evaluation of progress. The action plan will be developed in line with the AAWS National Implementation Plan and Strategy 5 of AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 and will be implemented in consultation with key aquatic animal industry stakeholders. Copies of AAWS can be downloaded (free) from [www.daff.gov.au/aaws](http://www.daff.gov.au/aaws).

## Minor Use Permit Initiative for Veterinary Medicines in Aquaculture

The Veterinary Medicines in Aquaculture Working Group (VMA-WG) is currently seeking the views of Australian aquaculture industries and sectors on priority veterinary medicines.

Tasked by the Aquatic Animal Health Committee to work towards achieving the AQUAPLAN objective of "ensuring the availability and safe use of veterinary medicines for cultured aquatic animals in Australia" (Strategy 6), the working group believes that the best way to achieve this objective

through obtaining Minor Use Permits (MUPs) for a range of selected veterinary medicines; noting that for some, full registration may be more appropriate.

The working group has recently contacted Australian aquaculture industries and sectors inviting them to nominate priority veterinary medicines that should be targeted for MUP applications, as it feels that a collaborative approach by various sectors of the aquaculture industry to obtaining MUPs offers significant

advantage to all.

Once nominations have been received from industry, the working group will provide a facilitating role for this initiative, however aquaculture industries, coordinated through the National Aquaculture Council, will be responsible for nominating priority veterinary medicines and funding collaborative MUP applications for those priorities.

Participants in the initiative will gain improved access to priority veterinary medicines which are approved for use

by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority through the issue of MUPs.

The VMA-WG, is comprised of representatives from government, aquaculture industries and the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA). For further information on this initiative please contact the VMA-WG secretary, Ingo Ernst ([ingo.ernst@daff.gov.au](mailto:ingo.ernst@daff.gov.au)).

## Surveillance Stocktake

### Funded by Australian

### Government

The Australian Government is funding a surveillance stocktake under its Budget Initiative *Securing the Future – Protecting our Industries from Biological, Chemical and Physical Risk*.

Dr Paul Hardy-Smith has been appointed to undertake the stocktake, which forms part of Strategy 1 of AQUAPLAN 2005-2010

The first part of the project is the development of a report describing existing surveillance for aquatic animal health in each Australian State and mainland Territory. Following this, Dr Hardy-Smith will work to describe and explain the current and predicted future surveillance needs for five specific aquaculture industry sectors, namely the prawn, salmon, tuna, edible oysters and pearl oysters sectors.

Got a story for the newsletter? Or something you'd like to see covered in a future edition? Whether it's an industry profile, a story on current research, or an article seeking the view of aquatic animal health stakeholders, we can include it in the AQUAPLAN newsletter. Simply contact the aquatic animal health unit at [aah@daff.gov.au](mailto:aah@daff.gov.au) or on 02 6271 6300.



**AAHC Executive Officer Dr Ingo Ernst**

## Aquatic Animal Health Committee

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The Aquatic Animal Health Committee (AAHC) was established by the Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) in September 2002 and is the primary industry/government interface for policy, communication and awareness related to aquatic animal health issues.

AAHC members represent the Australian, State and Northern Territory government departments with responsibility for aquatic animal health, the capture and recreational fishing industries, finfish, mollusc, and crustacean aquaculture industries, and the ornamental fish industry.

The policy work of AAHC is underpinned by the sound scientific and technical advice provided to the Committee by the National Aquatic Animal Health Technical Working Group (NAAH-TWG).

The role of AAHC is to:

- Review and refine national aquatic animal health policies and programs;
- Provide national co-ordination on identified emerging aquatic animal health issues and make recommendations for policy development and management, and facilitate the co-ordination role across the States and Territories through existing processes;
- Actively respond to identified resource requirements of national aquatic animal health policies and programs;
- Provide advice on international quarantine and import risk assessments as required;
- Provide advice and submit recommendations to the PISC and other stakeholders on those issues;
- Report on strategic issues and submit recommendations relating to AQUAPLAN and its implementation to PISC and other stakeholders;
- Provide strategic guidance on the development of aquatic animal disease diagnostics, disease emergency management planning, and disease emergency management training and incident simulation; and
- Review communication and extension strategies on aquatic animal health issues and facilitate implementation of those strategies.

## AAHC Member details

Member	Constituency	Contact
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