



July 2009 Achievements

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Collaboration

A **Locust Workshop** was held in **Canberra** on **8 July**. BioSIRT Administrators met with locusts **experts** from the **Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC)**, and rangers from the **NSW Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA)**. The purpose of the workshop was to gather information for the specification of a **BioSIRT template** for the management of a response to the **Australian Plague Locust**. The workshop was a success and a draft template is expected to be completed by the end of September.



The **NBC (National Biosecurity Committee) Information Needs Working Group** held a teleconference on **1 July**. They developed a comprehensive principles document to underpin a **national biosecurity information management framework** which was endorsed by the NBC on 30 July 2009.

The **BioSIRT Projects Workshop** was held in **Canberra** on **21 July**. **Tom Aldred** (Executive Manager, **Partnerships—Biosecurity Services Group**) and **Carol Cribb** (A/g General Manager, **Partnerships—Biosecurity Services Group**) made an appearance. BioSIRT's **priority structure**, projects, events and activities for the year ahead were discussed. The **National Coordination Team (NCT)** are **optimistic** about the future of BioSIRT and will tackle upcoming challenges with zest!

Consistency

The revised **Classical Swine Fever (CSF)** template was released for review on **21 July**.

CSF is a **highly contagious** viral disease of pigs affecting both domesticated and feral pigs. It does not affect humans. CSF is designated as a **List A disease** by the **Office International des Epizooties (OIE)**; an outbreak would have major effects on trade of pigs and pork products.

CSF spreads rapidly in faeces, urine and other bodily secretions and can also be **transmitted** on contaminated pens, pig crates, trucks & clothing, and via uncooked garbage. The **incubation period** is 6-11 days.

Piglets are most seriously affected; **death** can occur within 1-3 weeks. Less virulent isolates result in **poor reproductive performance** or **failure to thrive**.



Symptoms include fever, constipation followed by diarrhoea, gummy eyes, coughing, blotchy discolouration of the skin, abortion, stillbirths and weak litters, and **weakness** of hindquarters. Clinically indistinguishable from **African Swine Fever**; rapid laboratory diagnosis can be made within 2-3 hours.

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Swine Influenza Response in NSW



Swine influenza was diagnosed in a **NSW piggery** in late July. A **Local Control Centre (LCC)** was established in **Dubbo**, with **NSW LHPA** and **NSW DII** staff. A **Swine Influenza** template was set up in **BioSIRT** to record the operational activities. The response **evolved** its own activities, including a **telephone survey** and the requirement for **inspections** of delayed-slaughter finishers. These activities were configured into **BioSIRT** to allow **LCC** staff to enter **their records directly**. This also eliminated the use of a paper-based system for communications. As new **AOIs (properties at risk)** were added to the response, they were displayed on a **map** by status type.

CSF has been **eradicated** from Australia previously. However if an outbreak was to occur today it would require huge **resources** and may prove impossible to eradicate due to Australia's large **feral pig population**.

The Team Leaders for the **Standards Committee Working Groups (SWGs)** met on **9 July** in **Canberra**. They discussed the specification for the development of a **Generic Disease template** that could be used for Animal, Plant and Aquatic/ Marine Diseases.

The generic template for **Diseases** will be reviewed at the next face to face meeting of the **NBSC** (National BIOSIRT Standards Committee) scheduled for **15 October 2009** in **Adelaide**. Timelines for the remaining generic templates and specific SWGs were discussed and are aiming to be achieved as detailed in the table below.

<i>Expected Date Due</i>	<i>Animal Templates</i>	<i>Plant Templates</i>	<i>Aquatic/ Marine Templates</i>	<i>Generic Templates</i>
21 Aug 2009	CSF (revised)	KBU	AVG	
17 Sep 09	AHB	BBR	AGM	Disease Disease Pest
15 Oct 09	BTV	HLB	WSD	Disease with vector
12 Nov 09	VMB	KHB	CMC	Pest Species

The Application

Ian Miller from Spatial Vision will be presenting a 1 Day **Reports/Mapping Workshop** for database experts on **24 September 2009** in **Melbourne**. The NCT will be arranging a follow up workshop for representatives from all jurisdictions to attend.

Version 2.0 is currently being tested and due for release in September.

Training

The next scheduled National **Administrator Training** will be held at the **NSW DPI offices** in Cronulla, **Sydney** on **15-17 September 2009**.

BioSIRT's current position on... Administrator Training...

Administrator training is divided into two sections, - General and Advanced. All Administrator training is provided by the BioSIRT National Coordination Team (NCT).



Training is hosted by a jurisdiction that provides the appropriate facilities. The trainee's jurisdiction provides travel and

accommodation. The NCT provides the **Training Server** and router connections by wireless and a limited number of wired connections. Currently, all training is provided by the **National Senior Administrator**.

General Administrator Training

Training covers all aspects of the **Template Build Process**, including Primary Analysis, Template Build and Implementation. Training runs over three full days—Day one covers standard User Training, Days two and three cover Administrator template delivery. Sessions are held approximately **quarterly**. On completion of the General Administrator Training students are then considered to be **Level 1 Administrators**.

Advanced Administrator Training

Training covers the implementation of **mapping** as applied to templates, **reports** as applied to templates and administration of **Administrator access** to BioSIRT. Training runs for one full day. Sessions are held approximately **annually**. To be eligible to undergo advanced Administrator training, the trainee has had to have completed general Administrator training, worked on a Standards Committee Working Group (SWG) and had an emergency template approved by Standards Committee, qualifying them as **Level 2 Administrator**. Trainees completing the Advanced Administrator Training are then considered to be **Level 3 Administrators**.

ABIN Communiqué

An **ABIN (Australian Biosecurity Intelligence Network)** Communiqué that included an update from the ABIN CEO was released on 20 July. ABIN was established with Commonwealth investment in 2008 to address one of Australia's strategic infrastructure priorities—the need for a **Networked Biosecurity Framework**. ABIN aims to create virtual web-delivered services enabling effective **communication** and **data sharing**, act as a resource for **training** and **scientific knowledge**, and develop **analytical tools** to support biosecurity, through ABIN's assortment of **Proof of Concept Projects**, **Test Site** activities, and **partnerships** with other NCRIS initiatives and IT providers. The ABIN Board has identified potential "gaps" in the



sectors and categories of data input and is **calling for proposals** from the human and plant biosecurity sectors. Initial proposals are required by **1 September 2009**. For further information visit www.abin.org.au