

The National High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (H7) Eradication Program - Victoria

PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule

Parties	Commonwealth Victoria
Duration	<p>This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2026.</p> <p>For the purposes of Clause 10 of the <i>Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness Programs</i>, this Schedule also expires on completion or termination of the National High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) (H7N3 and H7N9) Victorian Response Plan (the Response Plan), as determined by the National Management Group (NMG). However, in those circumstances this Schedule still allows for the processing of any payments for milestones met up to termination.</p>
Purpose	This Schedule will support the delivery of the Response Plan to contain and eradicate HPAI (H7N3 and H7N9) as quickly and cost effectively as possible.
Project Elements	<p>The Victorian response to the HPAI outbreaks of H7N3 in the Golden Plains Shire and H7N9 in the Corangamite Shire will deliver the actions as detailed in version 6.0 of the Response Plan. Version 6.0 of the Response Plan was approved by the NMG on 11 July 2024.</p> <p>The project elements for the Eradication Program are:</p> <p>(a) Treatment: Eradicate Avian Influenza using <i>stamping out</i> through destruction, disposal, and decontamination activities.</p> <p>(b) Surveillance: Initial surveillance activities will be aimed at identifying new cases, with a focus on premises in the Outside Area (OA) and Control Area (CA); delimiting the extent of the disease and demonstrating HPAI (H7) is not present in the CA and OA. This includes commercial poultry farm(s), wild birds and rare / valuable animals and will confirm the presence of any susceptible species.</p> <p>Surveillance activities will align with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2024, Article 10.4.28.</p> <p>(c) Community engagement: Development of a public information communications strategy incorporating use of social media to keep the community well informed of updates including declared area movement restrictions.</p>

	<p>An engagement plan will be implemented to encourage poultry owners, veterinarians, and other livestock industry service personnel to undertake high level biosecurity practices and report any disease suspicion.</p> <p>(d) Science: Epidemiological assessment focusing on commercial poultry farms monitoring health records and sampling dead birds where available.</p> <p>(e) Containment: Implementation of Biosecurity Controls including housing requirement, quarantine of Infected Premises (IP) in conjunction with the declaration of Control and Restricted Areas. Depopulation and disposal of poultry on IPs and instigation of IPs site security.</p> <p>(f) Policy and planning: The Victorian eradication program will be conducted under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA). Activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 and related legislative provisions. The program strategies are aligned with the AUSVETPLAN AI Response strategy (v5.2, 2003).</p> <p>(g) Support services: The National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Surveillance Program collects surveillance data for Avian Influenza (AI) virus and includes exclusion of AI virus from mass mortality and morbidity events in wild birds. A Wild Bird Advisory Group has been established and will assist Agriculture Victoria establish the role of wild birds aiding in determining potential for dissemination of disease.</p> <p>Engage with a compost consultant to assess risk and provide advice on requirements to ensure AI virus inactivation.</p>												
<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to Victoria of up to \$45.29m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p>The agreed maximum financial contribution for the National HPAI (H7N3 and H7N9) Eradication Program-Victoria is outlined in Table 1 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 2. All payments are exclusive of GST.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="347 1514 1501 1798"> <thead> <tr> <th>Table 1 (\$ million)</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Australian Government</td> <td>30.196</td> <td>30.196</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Industry Contributions*</td> <td>15.098</td> <td>15.098</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory</td> <td></td> <td>45.294</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* The poultry industries share of the total response budget will be split between Australian Chicken Meat Federation, Australian Duck Meat Association and Australian Eggs Limited. Compensation costs are being confirmed, the industry split will be finalised once this is determined.</p> <p>Note: See clause 2.3 for information on payment arrangements relating to industry contributions.</p>	Table 1 (\$ million)	2024-25	Total	Australian Government	30.196	30.196	Industry Contributions*	15.098	15.098	Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory		45.294
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p>1. The Program will be conducted as a EADRA response.</p>												

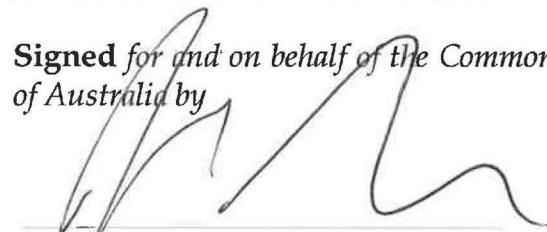
- 1.1. Reporting obligations are set out in Table 2, but circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought in accordance with the EADRA arrangements.
2. Each party will contribute funding in accordance with the financial commitments approved by the NMG July 2024.
 - 2.1. Final contributions will be based on actual expenditure and determined by the custodian, Animal Health Australia in accordance with the EADRA and the Response Plan.
 - 2.2. Industry party contributions will be apportioned as detailed in the 2021 Deed of Agreement between Australian Chicken Meat Federation Inc, Australian Eggs Limited, Australian Duck Meat Association and Animal Health Australia.
 - 2.3. The Commonwealth's maximum potential payments are set out in the Table 2 milestones but, where applicable, will be adjusted to match the Commonwealth's share of actual expenditure as determined under additional term 2.1.
 - 2.4. Where the Industry Party is not able to meet its cost sharing obligations either directly, or from funds held on its behalf, the Commonwealth will initially meet that Industry Party's Cost Sharing obligations as set out in EADRA section 11.4 (b). Each Industry Party will subsequently meet its cost sharing obligations to the Commonwealth, arising as a result of the Commonwealth meeting Industry Party obligations pursuant to Schedule 7 of the EADRA.
 - 2.5. The Commonwealth Minister may, at their discretion, move all or part of an underspend against a milestone in a financial year to a milestone in another financial year. Such a circumstance may arise where the NMG has agreed that the Response Plan can be varied to include additional cost-shared activities, or extend duration, without increasing the overall maximum contribution under this schedule.
3. This Schedule will be reassessed in conjunction with reviews of the National HPAI H7 Response Plan and decisions by the NMG.

Table 2: Victoria – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Eradicate High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (H7) including by using <i>stamping out</i> through destruction, disposal, and decontamination activities.	<p>Milestone 1</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of evidence of claimed expenditure to support the progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan for the period May 2024 to June 2024 verified by Animal Health Australia as eligible for cost sharing.</p>	31 December 2024	Up to \$5,272,111 subject to the additional terms.
	<p>Milestone 2</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of evidence of claimed expenditure to support the progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan for the period July 2024 to October 2024 verified by Animal Health Australia as eligible for cost sharing.</p>	15 January 2025	Up to \$30,000,000 subject to the additional terms.
	<p>Milestone 3</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of evidence of claimed expenditure to support the progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan for the period November 2024 to April 2025 verified by Animal Health Australia as eligible for cost sharing.</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of final report for work completed from May 2024 to April 2025 endorsed by Consultative Committee Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) demonstrating satisfactory completion of Response Plan for the eradication program.</p>	15 May 2025	Up to \$10,021,889 subject to the additional terms.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

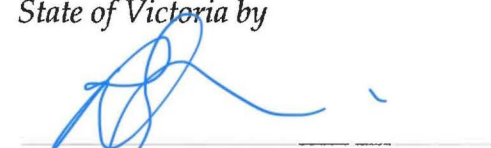
Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



The Honourable Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

29 November 2024

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria by



The Honourable Ros Spence MP
Minister for Agriculture

[Day] December 2024