

The National High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (H7N8) Eradication Program – Australian Capital Territory

PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Australian Capital Territory
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2026 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 <i>National High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H7N8) Australian Capital Territory Response Plan</i> (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.
Purpose	This Schedule will support the delivery of the Response Plan to contain and eradicate High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (H7N8) as quickly and cost effectively as possible.
Project Elements	<p>The Australian Capital Territory response to the National High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) (H7N8) outbreak in the Division of Macgregor will deliver actions as detailed in version 2.0 of the Response Plan. Version 1.0 of the Response Plan was approved by the NMG on 2 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 the source and defining extent of infection, including commercial poultry farm(s) and wild birds, and impact of control activities. Delimiting the extent of the disease and demonstrating HPAI (H7N8) is no longer present supporting proof of freedom allowing the lifting of biosecurity restrictions. 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 Industry and community engagement strategy incorporating use of social media, radio, television, and print keeping the community well informed and maintaining public confidence.</p> <p>Public information channels updated and accurate to reduce community</p>

	<p>concern about response activities including the destruction of animals.</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 and movement controls within quarantine and declared areas. Quarantine of Infected Premises (IPs) to be undertaken in conjunction with the declaration of Control and Restricted Areas. Depopulation, destruction and sanitary disposal of susceptible animals, property and things on IPs and other contaminated premises.</p> <p>(f) Policy and planning: The Australian Capital Territory eradication program will be conducted under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA). The program response activities will be conducted in accordance with the <i>Animal Diseases Act 2005</i>, AUSVETPLAN response strategy and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.</p> <p>(g) Support services: Engagement with industry technical experts including private veterinarians, particularly for backyard flocks.</p> <p>ACT Health are working closely with the response due to the potential of zoonotic infection with surveillance for human cases routine and risk mitigation strategies have been put in place.</p>												
<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the Australian Capital Territory of up to \$6.6m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p>The agreed maximum financial contribution for the National High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H7N8) Eradication Program 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="368 1370 1485 1653"> <thead> <tr> <th>Table 1 (\$ million)</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Australian Government</td> <td>4.4</td> <td>4.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Industry Contributions*</td> <td>2.2</td> <td>2.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory</td> <td></td> <td>6.6</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.</p>	Table 1 (\$ million)	2024-25	Total	Australian Government	4.4	4.4	Industry Contributions*	2.2	2.2	Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory		6.6
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Program will be conducted as a EADRA response. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 												

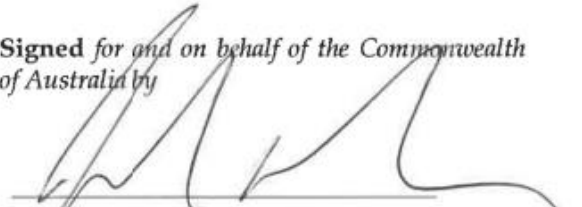
commitments approved by the NMG on 21 June 2024.

- 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 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H7N8) Response Plan and decisions by the NMG.

Table 2: Australian Capital Territory – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary			
Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Eradicate High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H7N8) including by using <i>stamping out</i> through destruction, disposal, and decontamination activities.	<p><i>Milestone 1</i></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 to November 2024 verified by Animal Health Australia as eligible for cost sharing.</p>	30 November 2024	Up to \$4,600,000 subject to the additional terms.
	<p><i>Milestone 2</i></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 May 2025 verified by Animal Health Australia as eligible for cost sharing.</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of final report for work completed from July 2024 to May 2025 endorsed by the Consultative Committee Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) demonstrating satisfactory completion of the Response Plan for the eradication program.</p>	15 May 2025	Up to \$2,000,000 subject to the additional terms

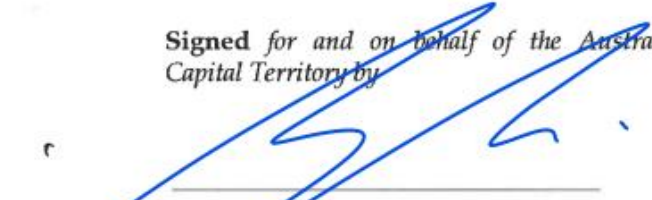
The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

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 Australian Capital Territory by



Ms Suzanne Orr MLA
Minister Suzanne Orr MLA of ACT, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
[Day] December 2024⁵⁰
26 March 2025