

# The National High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (H7N8) Eradication Program – New South Wales

## PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

**Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule**

Parties	Commonwealth New South Wales
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) (H7N8), the New South Wales 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 (H7N8) as quickly and cost effectively as possible.
Project Elements	<p>The New South Wales response to HPAI (H7N8) outbreak in the Hawkesbury region of New South Wales will deliver actions as detailed in version 3.0 of the Response Plan. Version 2.0 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) <b>Treatment:</b> Eradicate Avian Influenza using <i>stamping out</i> through destruction, disposal, and decontamination activities.</p> <p>(b) <b>Surveillance:</b> 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) <b>Community engagement:</b> 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 concern about response activities including the destruction of animals.</p>



	<p>(d) <b>Science:</b> Epidemiological assessment focusing on commercial poultry farms monitoring health records and sampling dead birds where available.</p> <p>(e) <b>Containment:</b> Implementation of Biosecurity and movement controls within quarantine and declared areas. Quarantine of 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 Infected Premises (IP) and other contaminated premises.</p> <p>(f) <b>Policy and planning:</b> The New South Wales 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>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>, AUSVETPLAN response strategy and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.</p> <p>(g) <b>Support services:</b> Engagement with industry technical experts including private veterinarians, particularly for backyard flocks.</p> <p>NSW 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>												
Estimated financial contributions	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to New South Wales of up to \$18m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p>The agreed maximum financial contribution for the National HPAI 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><tr><th>Table 1 (\$ million)</th><th>2024-25</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Australian Government</td><td>12.00</td><td>12.00</td></tr><tr><td>Industry Contributions*</td><td>6.00</td><td>6.00</td></tr><tr><td><b>Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory</b></td><td></td><td><b>18.00</b></td></tr></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	12.00	12.00	Industry Contributions*	6.00	6.00	<b>Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory</b>		<b>18.00</b>
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Additional terms	<p>1. The Program will be conducted as a EADRA response.</p> <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.</p> <p>2. Each party will contribute funding in accordance with the financial commitments approved by the NMG on 16 July 2024.</p>												

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. This Schedule will be reassessed in conjunction with reviews of the National HPAI (H7N8) Response Plan and decisions by the NMG.</p>
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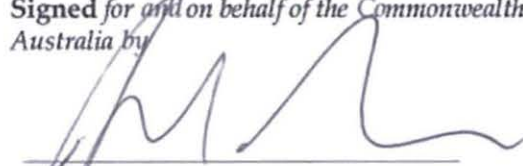


Table 2: New South Wales – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Eradicate High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (H7N8) including by using <i>stamping out</i> through destruction, disposal, and decontamination activities.	<b>Milestone 1</b> Commonwealth acceptance of evidence of claimed expenditure to support the progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan for the period June to September 2024, verified by Animal Health Australia as eligible for cost sharing.	31 December 2024	Up to \$15,000,000 subject to the additional terms.
	<b>Milestone 2</b> Commonwealth acceptance of evidence of claimed expenditure to support the progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan for the period October 2024 to April 2025 verified by Animal Health Australia as eligible for cost sharing. Commonwealth acceptance of final report for work completed from June 2024 to April 2025 endorsed by the Consultative Committee Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) demonstrating satisfactory completion of the Response Plan for the eradication program.	15 May 2025	Up to \$3,000,000 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 State of New South Wales by



The Honourable Tara Moriarty MLC  
Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW and Western NSW

12 March 2025