



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment

Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance Network

NABSnet Vets and
Significant Disease Investigations

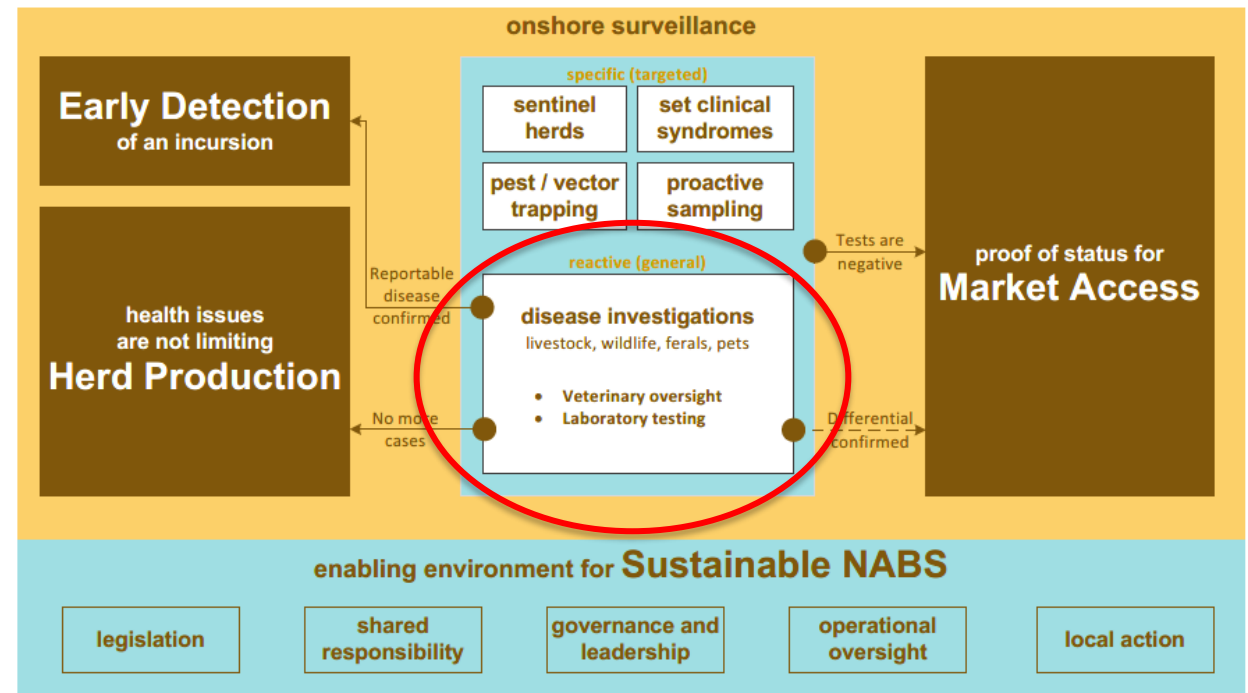
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9 September 2021



NABSnet - what & why?

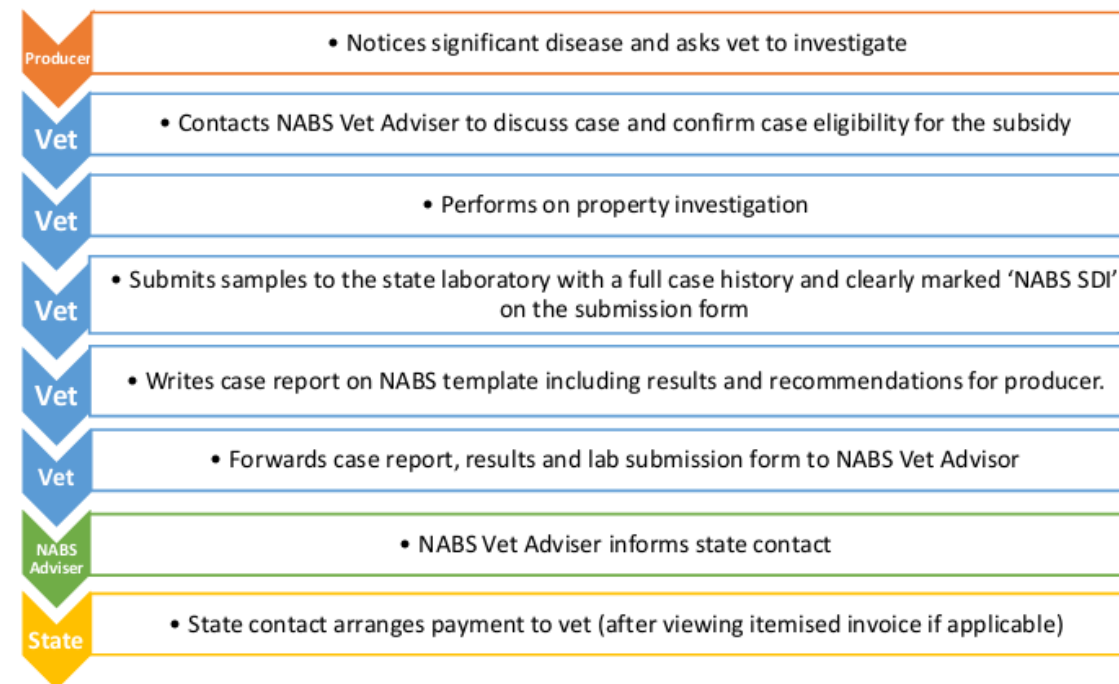
- **Addressing a gap in animal health surveillance strategy**
- **Harness animal health information**
 - from private livestock vets all over northern Australia
- **Strengthen connections**
 - between pastoralists and private vets and with government field and laboratory vets for better information sharing and stronger biosecurity
- **Increase awareness**
 - of exotic disease incursion risk, pathways and consequences
- **Improve disease investigation skills**
 - to ensure accurate and timely diagnoses
- **Make biosecurity more of a priority for private vets**
- **Build/refresh veterinary technical resources**
 - in preparation for an incursion or other emergency response



NABSnet Significant Disease Investigations

- Case eligibility:
 - Significant morbidity or mortality event in livestock (or other species as approved by NABS Vet Adviser)
 - Property located in NT or northern Qld or WA
 - Vet commits to undertaking a full investigation
 - Full set of quality diagnostic & case history sent to lab
 - Written report and recommendations back to producer
 - Debrief with NABS Vet Adviser
- Current subsidy available for approved cases:
 - Up to \$2000 per case
 - To subsidise costs specifically associated with disease investigation, including:
 - Professional fees and mileage including for repeat visits
 - Freight costs for samples
 - Lab testing costs if not already subsidised

Steps and responsibilities



Other components of NABSnet

- ❖ Regular newsletters of cases, relevant news and SDI tips
- ❖ website www.nabsnet.com.au

NABS SDIs

Navigation: All | Multiple deaths | Neurological | Respiratory | Reproductive | Oral lesions | Skin lesions | Sudden death | Multiple species | Ill thrift

Multiple tick fever deaths in young steers
Five steers found dead near water square in three days
[Read More](#)

Bovine hypertensive syndrome in mature cows
Multiple cow mortalities after entry to a station feedlot
[Read More](#)

Bacterial pneumonia in recently-weaned steers
14 dead and another 100 sick a fortnight after weaning
[Read More](#)

Paralysis tick kills 22 cows
A high mortality event with an instant fix
[Read More](#)

Respiratory bacteria causing vasculitis and thrombosis
Sixteen young bulls die within a month of being introduced from the south
[Read More](#)

From dull to dead – a horse with Hendra
A case reminder of an important zoonoses and differential for African horse sickness
[Read More](#)

NABSnet Resources

Stuff you might find helpful when doing SDIs

Navigation: Default | Date | Title | Random | Ascending | Descending

Lumpy Skin Disease moves through Asia
Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), a pox virus infecting cattle and buffalo, has been spreading rapidly across Asia in 2021.
[Read More](#)

NABS Masterclass handout on collecting plants
Guides to collecting and preserving plant specimens and contact details for services
[Read More](#)

NABS 2021 Masterclass
Tuesday 23 March
By Dawn
[Read More](#)

Gross path challenge #8
How did you go?
[Read More](#)

Gross path challenge #7
How did you go?
[Read More](#)

❖ NABS Masterclasses



Where to next...? (from the NABSnet Implementation Plan)

- **Program governance and processes**
 - Organisational chart, ToR, SOPs, position descriptions
 - Maintain clear and consistent standards across jurisdictions
- **Dashboards to track progress**
 - Regular reporting back to stakeholders
 - Easy to keep program on track and visualise outcomes
- **NABS newsletter and website**
 - Keep NABS SDI program 'front of mind' for vets
 - Clear messaging for program rules and calls to action
- **Subsidised Significant Disease Investigations**
 - Revise expectations of all parties – reconsider practice package
 - Maintain/improve quality of case workups and sampling
- **Onboarding new members**
 - Develop welcome pack and induction video for introductions and clarify process
- **NABS Masterclasses**
 - Highly valued by participants – great opportunity for learning, strengthening network
 - Prefer face-to-face but need for remote training option for flexibility
- **EAD preparedness**
 - Vets confident to take action on potential EAD
 - Advocate good biosecurity practices throughout clinic and to producers
- **Disease exclusion reporting**
 - SDIs can contribute to proof of freedom data for livestock health status & market access
- **Producer resources**
 - Better engagement with producer organisations (AgForce, NTCA, KPCA etc) for awareness to call a vet in the first place!

