



# Consultation Draft: NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety Strategy 2022 - 2030

Submission of the  
Australian Veterinary Association Ltd  
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## The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the national organisation representing veterinarians in Australia. The AVA consists of over 8500 members who come from all fields within the veterinary profession. Clinical practitioners work with companion animals, horses, farm animals, such as cattle and sheep, and wildlife. Government veterinarians work with our animal health, public health and quarantine systems while other members work in industry for pharmaceutical and other commercial enterprises. We have members who work in research and teaching in a range of scientific disciplines. Veterinary students are also members of the Association.

### Discussion

The AVA welcomes and values the opportunity to provide feedback to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on the [Consultation Draft: NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety Strategy 2022-2030](#) (the strategy).

We thank the DPI for involving the AVA as a key stakeholder in the various development stages for this strategy and incorporating AVA's feedback. We support the strategy's purpose, vision, objectives, themes, and proposed outcomes in the draft document.

As recently advised in the AVA's feedback on the draft strategy just prior to public consultation, the AVA strongly believes it is vitally important to acknowledge the important role of veterinarians in emergency animal disease (EAD) surveillance and outbreak response activities. We appreciate our feedback being recognised by DPI and the public consultation draft strategy revised to include the following statement on page 9: *Industry has a key role in the identification and reporting of a biosecurity threat or food safety event, whilst also managing the threats posed by endemic biosecurity and food safety risks. Private veterinarians play a significant role in surveillance of emergency animal diseases and supporting emergency response activities.*

Furthermore, we are pleased with the strategy's key focus on 'working together' through stakeholder partnerships and the strategy explicitly identifying the roles of private veterinarians and Local Land Services district veterinarians.

Additionally, we support the strategy's theme regarding 'capability and capacity' through investment in people and partnerships to build response capabilities, capacity, and training. We thank DPI for recently progressing several initiatives in consultation with the AVA to increase veterinarians EAD preparedness and capacities.

The AVA looks forward to its continued engagement with DPI in support of veterinarian's role in NSW biosecurity and food safety, and their critical part in preparing and responding to EAD outbreaks.

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