

Towong Shire Emergency Animal Disease Response Sub Plan 2025 - 2028

December 2024



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Agriculture Victoria

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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1. Introduction

Emergency animal diseases (EADs) are diseases that are likely to have significant effects on livestock – potentially resulting in livestock deaths, production loss, and in some cases, impacts on human health. EADs include diseases that are exotic to Australia, new and emerging diseases that are of national significance and can also include serious outbreaks of diseases that do occur in Australia, for example, anthrax.

EADs can have a devastating impact on Victorian livestock industries with serious implications for the economy, community and environment through both the direct effect of the disease and trade restrictions. Australia is fortunate to be free of most serious diseases that affect animals in other parts of the world.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is the most significant EAD risk due to the economic, environmental and social impacts that the disease, and responses to the disease, could have. In 2022, an Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences report estimated that a multiple-state FMD outbreak in Australia could have a direct economic impact on our highly export-dependent livestock industry of around \$80 billion (in 2020-21 dollars), largely due to the loss of access to that export market.¹

In the event of an incursion, an extremely rapid response will be required to try and contain and eradicate the disease as quickly as possible. Many of the response actions are prescribed under national plans. Significant resources will need to be mobilised across the government to respond effectively and minimise impacts on the Victorian community.

Disease eradication activities will align with Australia's nationally agreed approach to responding to EADs of national significance – the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan ([AUSVETPLAN](#)) – and will be tailored to meet local needs and circumstances.

Preparing for and responding to an EAD outbreak in Australia is a shared responsibility and requires a joint effort across all levels of government, industry and the wider community.

1.1 Purpose

The Municipal Emergency Animal Disease Response Sub Plan ('the Plan') provides an overview of the arrangements for the management of a major EAD emergency in Towong Shire and contains information on mitigation, preparedness, response and relief.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide clarity on the approach the Victorian Government will use to manage an EAD emergency, agency roles and responsibilities and support preparedness in advance of an outbreak including:

- establishing the outcome the Victorian Government will work to achieve should an EAD emergency occur
- setting out the strategic level coordination and decision-making arrangements that will be used to manage an EAD emergency
- providing important context about major EADs
- detailing each relevant agency's role in the event of an EAD incursion
- informing EAD readiness activities for response and relief to ensure that this Plan can be successfully activated and implemented, if required.

The Plan has been developed to be consistent with national and state arrangements for biosecurity emergencies with input from a range of other emergency management agencies. The Plan refers to a range of existing plans and documents but does not duplicate the information contained in these.

Instead, it provides directions to websites or other sources where the reader can obtain further information if required. The Plan is subordinate to the [Animal, Plant, Marine and Environmental Biosecurity Sub-Plan](#) (the Biosecurity Sub-Plan) of the State Emergency Management Plan ([SEMP](#)). Within the *Emergency Management Act 1986 and 2013 (EM Act 1986 and 2013)*, major biosecurity emergencies are classified as 'Class 2' emergencies.

¹ Source, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences ([ABARES](#))

As a result of machinery of government changes, as of 1 January 2023, the responsibility for the control of biosecurity incidents has transferred from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). Through Agriculture Victoria, DEECA is the control agency in Victoria for biosecurity incidents including EADs.

Led by DEECA, preparation for, and response to, an EAD emergency is a shared responsibility and requires a partnership between national, state and local government agencies, industry bodies and the community. In the event of an EAD emergency, DEECA, support agencies and organisations will collaborate to provide an integrated, effective and efficient emergency management response for the benefit of the community.

This Plan will provide Victorian Government departments and relevant agencies with guidance to inform their planning for addressing risk and preparedness activities associated with their statutory obligations. It will also detail the consequences of an EAD emergency on their organisations' service delivery obligations and ability to fulfill their responsibilities as described in the SEMP.

Further details regarding roles and responsibilities are outlined in *Chapter 2: Authorising Environment* and *Chapter 5: EAD preparedness* of the SEMP.

1.2 Scope

The Plan provides strategic information about Towong Shire's mitigation, preparedness, response and relief arrangements for EADs. It:

- outlines the legal framework for managing an EAD response at a national and state level
- describes the EAD response, including roles and responsibilities and control and support arrangements for managing an EAD response (as set out in the SEMP)
- addresses resourcing, staff safety and wellbeing in managing the EAD
- highlights potential EAD consequences for various sectors
- strengthens accountability for managing and mitigating risks associated with an EAD
- outlines how industry and community will be provided with information, guidance and advice about an EAD response.

The Plan is supported by a suite of operational response plans, protocols and guides that provide additional detail so that those involved before, during or after an emergency have the information they need to meet their responsibilities. Wherever possible, these documents have been referenced (and links provided) in Appendix B.

1.3 Activation

The response arrangements in this Plan are activated as a result of the appointment of a State Controller by the DEECA Control Agency Officer in Charge (CAOIC) in response to or in preparation for an imminent Class 2 EAD event. This decision is informed by advice from the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO).

1.4 Audience

The primary audience for this Plan is the Victorian Government agencies, bodies and departments with emergency preparedness and response roles as outlined in the SEMP.

This Plan may also be used by organisations, groups and individuals within the Victorian regional or agricultural sectors who may be impacted by or involved with an EAD emergency, relief and recovery.

1.5 Assumptions

This Plan is based on the following assumptions:

- The reader is familiar with the SEMP as it outlines the holistic details of the arrangements for an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management in Victoria

- The reader is familiar with the Biosecurity Sub-Plan, as it provides an overview of the current arrangements for the management of biosecurity emergencies (excluding human health emergencies and non-EAD wildlife emergencies) in Victoria
- Details regarding relevant activities of individual agencies are covered in agency plans and supporting doctrine
- The Plan will be activated for a Level 3-5 Class 2 EAD biosecurity emergency as defined in the Biosecurity Sub-Plan
- The Plan may be activated in response to a detection of an EAD emergency anywhere in Australia, not only within Towong Shire
- A Level 3-5 Class 2 EAD biosecurity emergency will require activation of whole of state emergency management arrangements
- A Level 3-5 Class 2 EAD biosecurity emergency will exceed the capacity of DEECA to resource effectively. The emergency is expected to be large, complex and protracted with significant impacts on the community requiring early initiation of support agencies
- The incident could become a State of Emergency or lead to the declaration of a State of Disaster.

1.6 Review and evaluation

This Plan was current at the time of publication and remains in effect until modified, superseded or withdrawn. These arrangements are described at a point in time and there may be changes resulting from reviews and evaluations of exercises, biosecurity emergencies and ongoing reform in the Victorian emergency management sector. The next version of the Plan will incorporate these changes.

DEECA, as the control agency for EAD responses, will review and update this plan within 12 months of approval, given the significant work that is underway to further improve preparedness.

If the Plan is activated, DEECA, as the control agency, will organise an operational debrief with participating agencies as soon as practicable after the emergency has ceased. All agencies including recovery agencies shall be represented with a view to assessing the adequacy of the response and recommending any changes to the Plan, other agency plans and future operational response activities.

DEECA adopts the approved approach to lessons management defined in the Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) Lessons Management Framework (EM-Learn) for all biosecurity emergency responses. This is based on the national lessons management process of Observations, Insights, Lesson Identified, Lesson Learned (OILL), as defined in the *Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection: Lessons Management Handbook*. EMV may also undertake real-time monitoring and evaluation of a biosecurity emergency response which is a key evidence input into the DEECA evaluation approach as outlined above.

2. Authorising environment

Australia has well-developed EAD arrangements implemented through international agreements, national and state-based legislation and provisions.

2.1 International arrangements

Australia is a signatory to a range of international agreements that guides EAD activities. These include agreements and standards that apply to Australia as a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Resumption of trade in agricultural products after an EAD emergency may be dependent on demonstrating compliance with these standards and will be expected to come under significant scrutiny from trading partners.

2.2 National arrangements

A Level 3-5 Class 2 EAD biosecurity emergency could engage both the biosecurity national arrangements for emergencies and the national coordination architecture, as represented below.

2.2.1 National agreements

Victoria is a signatory to a range of national agreements that impacts an EAD emergency including:

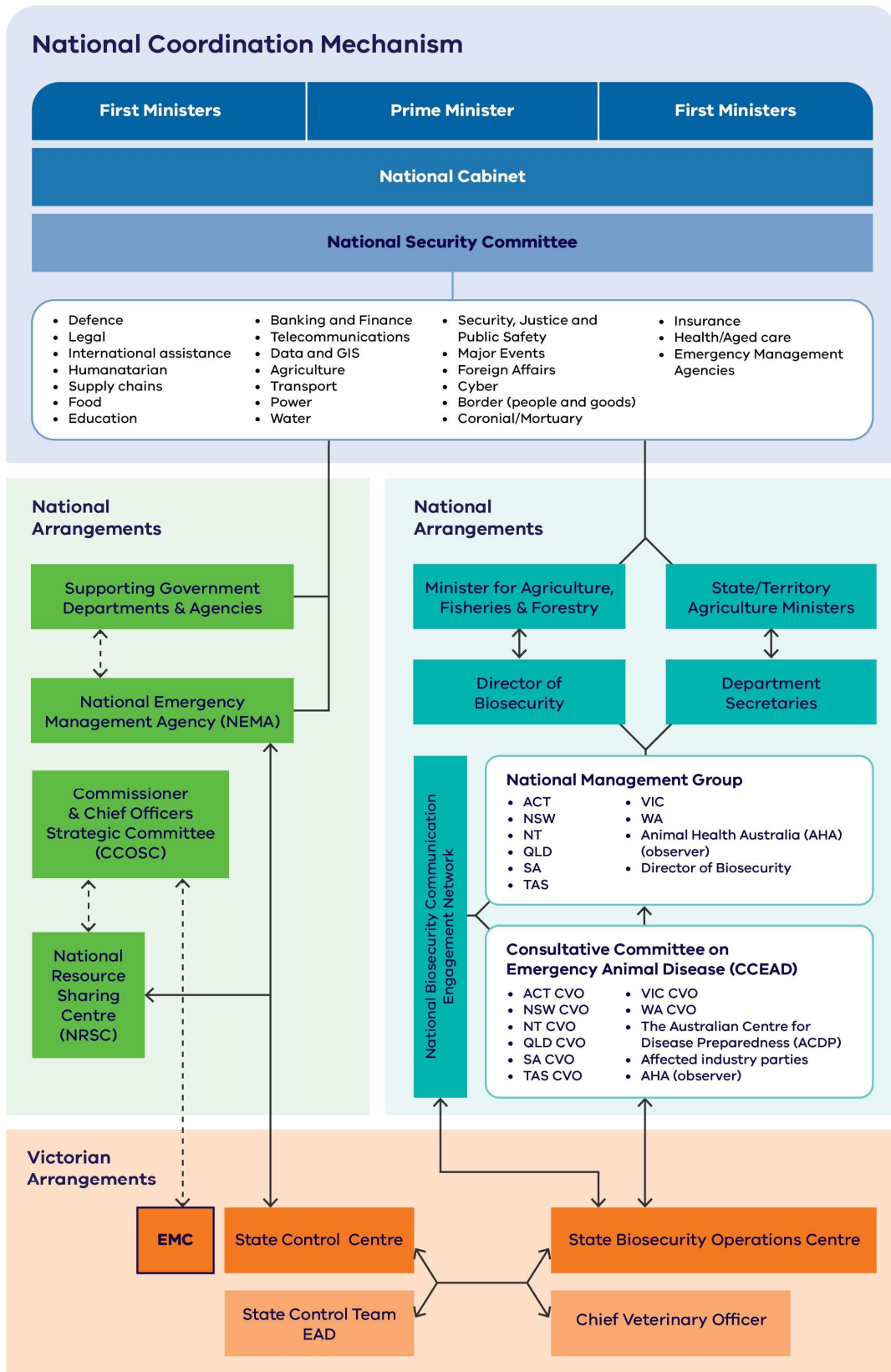
2.2.1.1 Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity

This Agreement between all Australian state and territory governments sets out commitments from all governments, outlines agreed national goals and objectives, and clarifies roles, responsibilities, and governance arrangements.

2.2.1.2 National Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)

Victoria is a signatory to the EADRA, a formal, legally-binding agreement between Animal Health Australia, the Commonwealth Government, all state and territory governments, and currently 13 livestock industry signatories. These arrangements mean that EADs can be responded to quickly and effectively while minimising uncertainty over management and funding. This Agreement provides for signatory industries to partner with government in sharing some of the decision-making and costs of responding to these emergencies according to pre-agreed categories of cost sharing that reflect public and industry benefit.

Figure 1. Biosecurity emergency management arrangements integration with Commonwealth Government Crisis Management Framework



2.2.2 National decision-making bodies

Under the national arrangements there are specified pre-existing decision-making bodies:

2.2.2.1 National Management Group (NMG)

The NMG is the decision-making body for national EAD eradication programmes under the EADRA.

The NMG's role is to endorse the response plan and associated budget; receive advice from the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) regarding the progress of disease control; and make decisions on the technical feasibility and cost-benefit for eradication.

The NMG comprises senior executives from:

- the Commonwealth Government
- state and territory governments
- signatory industries
- Animal Health Australia (AHA).

The NMG is responsible for endorsing the event-specific response plan and associated budget, which binds parties to financially contribute to the response through defined cost-sharing arrangements.

2.2.2.2 Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD)

The CCEAD coordinates and makes decisions on the national technical response to EAD incidents and provides advice to the NMG. The CCEAD comprises industry representatives, the Commonwealth Government, and state and territory government CVOs. AHA also participates. The CCEAD is responsible for recommending to the NMG whether a response should proceed, based on an assessment of whether the disease meets the EAD criteria and the feasibility of eradication.

2.3 State arrangements

Under the *EM Act 1986 and 2013*, the Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC) has legislated management responsibilities across major emergencies, including EAD emergencies. These responsibilities include response coordination, ensuring effective control arrangements are established, consequence management and recovery coordination.

The SEMP outlines provisions for the mitigation, preparedness, response, relief, and recovery from emergencies and specifies the roles and responsibilities of agencies in relation to emergency management. DEECA is identified in the SEMP as the control agency for the response to biosecurity emergencies (including EADs). When a biosecurity emergency occurs (or is anticipated), DEECA will implement its biosecurity emergency management arrangements (including this Plan) to provide the resources necessary to respond effectively. DEECA maintains a number of relevant policies, procedures and operations plans, including the Concept of Operations: Agriculture Victoria Response to Biosecurity Emergencies, which supports implementation of the arrangements described in the Biosecurity Sub-Plan.

As the control agency, DEECA is responsible for:

- implementing the State emergency management priorities as described in the SEMP
- coordinating actions against a specific emergency and establishing management arrangements for an integrated response to the emergency
- providing Victoria's affected industries and communities with advice about EAD risks and mitigation strategies, and education on the State's biosecurity emergency management arrangements
- advising the EMC on the existence of, or potential for, a biosecurity emergency in Victoria
- working with organisations at the source of an EAD outbreak to develop and oversee the implementation of effective incident response plans, including strategies to contain and eradicate active biosecurity threats
- supporting the EMC through the provision of regular situation updates and expert biosecurity advice

- providing information and strategic advice to the Premier and Cabinet (including any Cabinet subcommittees), and the State Crisis and Resilience Council (SCRC) on whole-of-government response activities for EAD responses
- maintaining specific plans for high-risk threats in accordance with nationally agreed Animal Disease Strategies.

Agencies from across Victorian State and local governments will be required to provide support in an EAD emergency consistent with the role statements in the SEMP. These are matched against the Victorian Preparedness Framework's (VPF) core capabilities and critical tasks that Victoria requires to effectively manage before, during and after major emergencies.

Detailed information about agency roles and responsibilities and how they map to the VPF capabilities and tasks can be found in the [SEMP](#).

In addition, support will be required from across the Victorian Government to support the significant surge in resources that will be required in the event of a major EAD emergency. This may involve declaring a State of Emergency to activate additional resources.

Any government or non-government agency may be requested to assist in an EAD response, relief or recovery if it can contribute to the management of the emergency. Accordingly, all agencies must have internal plans for managing their responsibilities in an emergency response as outlined in the relevant part of the SEMP. An EAD response will therefore require close alignment with business as usual (BAU) functions, such as compliance, as part of the emergency response.

The roles and responsibilities identified in this Plan are not exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation, plans, frameworks and guidelines.

2.4 Legislation

The *EM Act 1986 and 2013* is the empowering legislation for the management of emergencies in Victoria.

It is possible that a situation may necessitate the declaration of a State of Disaster under the *EM Act 1986 and 2013* giving broad powers to the Minister for Emergency Services to respond to the disaster.

This declaration also makes the gravity of the situation and the need to comply with government instructions during the disaster clear to Victorians.

In addition to the *EM Act 2013*, the following Acts and regulations relate to the management of EAD responses:

- *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 (LDC Act 1994)*
- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA Act 1986)*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992 (AVC Act 1992)*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2007 (AVC Regulations 2007)*
- *Environment Protection Act 2017 (EP Act 2017)*

The *LDC Act 1994* provides for the prevention, monitoring and control of livestock diseases, and for compensation for losses caused by certain livestock diseases.

Key provisions of the *LDC Act 1994* include:

- notification of diseases
- livestock and property identification
- establishment of control and restricted areas
- quarantine
- compensation
- destruction and disinfection
- powers of inspectors.

The *Public Administration Act 2004 (PA Act 2004)* is a key part of the governance framework for Victoria's public sector and includes emergency provisions that empower the Premier to declare an emergency for the purposes of mobilising the public sector workforce.

A complete list of relevant legislation is provided at Appendix A.

2.5 Role of Victoria's CVO

Victoria's CVO is responsible for:

- the provision of strategic policy and technical advice on EAD to government, ministers and senior officials, taking account of the evidence, issues and risks, and the impact on stakeholders and the practicalities
- confirming the presence of an EAD in Victoria and notifying the Australian CVO of a detection of an EAD within Victoria as soon as possible within 24 hours
- representing Victoria in the national coordination arrangements as the lead technical expert
- developing the event-specific Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan (EADRP) as required under EADRA
- making statutory decisions under the *LDC Act 1994* which provide the mechanism to implement a number of key response measures such as Control Area and Restricted Area Orders.

The CVO is also a departmental spokesperson and may support industry and community engagement especially with key livestock industries.

The CVO works closely with the State Controller to ensure the State Control Team (SCT) has the necessary strategy and policy direction, advice and guidance to inform the required emergency operations.

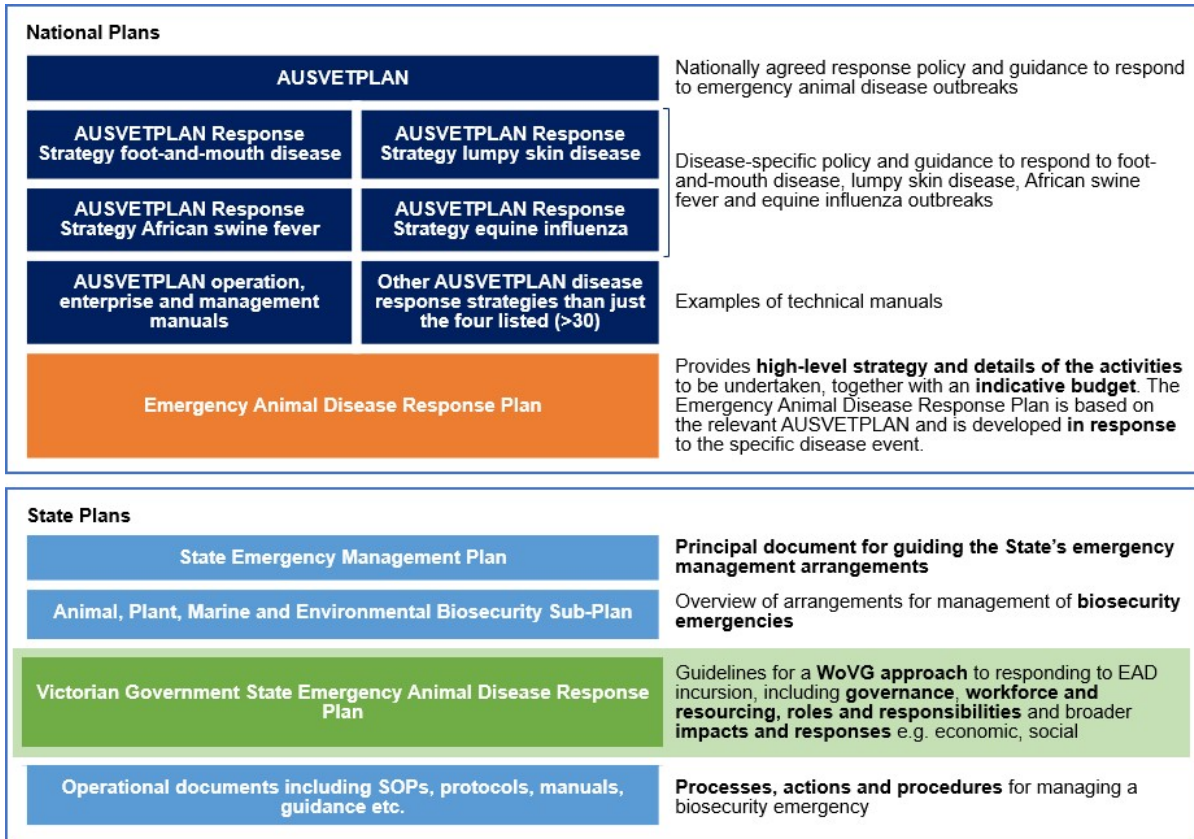
The CVO is supported by Deputy CVO positions and CVO support and advice teams. The deputy positions may undertake a range of CVO duties as required. The CVO may also convene a technical advisory group or consult with external expert advisors as required.

2.6 Hierarchy of emergency management plans

This Plan supports the Biosecurity Sub-Plan and aligns with nationally-agreed biosecurity plans and state-level emergency management plans.

Key plans and their relationship are presented below.

Figure 2 Hierarchy of emergency management plans



Delivery of the response is guided by the event-specific EADRP that is developed by the CVO for the particular EAD incident as required under the EADRA. The EADRP provides the high-level strategy and details of the activities to be undertaken and provides an indicative budget. The EADRP is generally based on the relevant AUSVETPLAN disease response manual and adapted to the particular disease incident.

The initial EADRP is considered at the first meeting of the CCEAD, following the reporting of an EAD incident with the objective that the CCEAD recommends the EADRP to the NMG for approval.

The EADRP must be agreed by all affected parties (governments and industry) through the relevant NMG. Endorsement of the EADRP by the NMG:

- formally triggers the commencement of the response phase under the national arrangements as well as the cost-sharing arrangements of the response, and
- commits jurisdictional and industry partners to following the key strategies and core operational activities identified in the EADRP and becomes the agreed initial response strategy for the affected jurisdiction(s).

The EADRP is the subject of constant review throughout the event and is updated on a regular and iterative basis as more information becomes available.

Timely approval of the EADRP and associated funding is crucial as any delays will impede communication, coordination and response activities.

2.7 Funding

The costs of an EAD emergency can be significant. For example, the national expenditure of a FMD response is estimated to be at least \$400 million for direct response costs only (i.e. not relief or recovery activities), with Victoria’s share expected to be between \$40 million and \$60 million. This projection only covers Victoria’s national obligations and does not include significant activities that are ineligible for cost-sharing arrangements, including all relief and recovery activities and aspects of the response.

The approval of the EADRP by the NMG approves both the plan and the associated budget for cost sharing, with an agreed upper limit of expenditure. Costs are subsequently reimbursed from industry and government partners through the mechanisms identified in the EADRA.

Under the EADRA, categorisation of diseases is used to determine the proportional levels of funding from government and industry parties. Cost-sharing arrangements for the major EAD threats are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Cost-sharing arrangements for the major EAD threats

Disease	Commonwealth	State and territory	Industry contribution*
Foot-and-mouth disease (Category 2)	40%	40%	20%
Lumpy skin disease (Category 3)	25%	25%	50%
African swine fever (Category 3)	25%	25%	50%
Equine influenza (Category 4)	10%	10%	80%

Cost sharing under the EADRA is only amongst signatories and the contribution from specific industries is specified in the EADRA depending on the disease. Industry contribution is determined in relation to the industry’s Gross Value of Production (GVP).

Non-signatory industries may also be affected but do not contribute to the costs nor participate in decision-making around cost sharing. The NMG may determine that the compensation paid by a party to a participant in an industry for which the relevant representative body is not a party to the Deed will or will not be eligible for cost sharing.

An EADRP in which budgeted costs exceed 1% of the GVP of the industry(s) affected by the EAD, and in the case of FMD 2% of the GVP of affected industries, requires specific consideration.

Responses undertaken under the EADRA may also be subject to the appointment of an efficiency advocate who provides assurance to the parties that a cost-shared response is being conducted as described in an effective and efficient manner and provides regular reports to the NMG. An independent financial audit will also be undertaken, and agencies are required to maintain records in an auditable form and be able to substantiate any claims before payment is made.

Victoria may need to perform significant activities that are ineligible for these cost-sharing arrangements, including initial disease control activities and all relief and recovery activities of the response. More details on cost sharing are provided in the [EADRA Resource Document](#).

Note that while there is operational flexibility in regard to emergency activities operating outside of, or inconsistent with, the EADRA, these may have consequences in terms of Victoria’s ability to recoup costs.

3. EAD threat

Annual risk assessments are conducted to monitor key diseases that threaten Victorian livestock industries and companion animals. This list currently features more than 30 animal diseases of interest. These include EADs that are known to already exist in Australia (e.g. anthrax, avian influenza and Hendra virus), diseases exotic to Australia (e.g. FMD, African swine fever and lumpy skin disease) and new diseases that may emerge in the future (e.g. mutations of existing strains of a virus).

3.1 Major EAD threats to Victoria

The 4 major EAD threats to Victoria detailed below are diseases that would be expected to activate this Plan. However, there are a number of other major EADs which may require a state-wide EAD response and therefore would also activate this Plan.

African swine fever (ASF): ASF is a contagious viral disease of domestic and feral pigs that causes the rapid death of most pigs that become infected. The virus is spread between pigs by direct contact, and to new groups of pigs by consumption of infected meat, by bites of some insects, and/or from contaminated feed, water, clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment. If introduced into Australia, ASF could have a significant impact on pig health and production and have major effects on the domestic pork industry and regional economies. A legislated ban on the feeding of meat products to pigs aims to reduce the risk of infected product being fed to pigs. However, recent seizures of pork products containing ASF virus fragments, both at the border and in retail products, reinforce the ongoing risk faced by Australia, the need for sound preparedness and the importance of compliance with Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.

Figure 3. ASF



Source: Source: Agriculture Victoria

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD): FMD is a highly contagious disease affecting a wide range of livestock species such as cattle, sheep, goats, deer and pigs. Vehicles, equipment, people and footwear/clothing can spread the disease.

The consequences of an outbreak are significant to not only livestock and agricultural industries, but also to broader businesses and economies. Australia relies heavily upon exports and international market access for livestock products and these would be immediately lost upon detection of FMD. Markets can take many years to regain or may be lost permanently, causing significant long-term economic loss.

Figure 4. FMD



Source: AHA

Lumpy skin disease (LSD): LSD is a viral disease of cattle and buffalo which causes firm, raised nodules around the skin of the head, neck and body. Animals can become infected through biting insects or close contact with contaminated equipment, clothing, etc.

The disease would have significant and far-reaching impacts should there be an incursion in Australia. There would be considerable economic losses with restrictions being placed on both domestic and international markets.

Figure 5. LSD



Source: AHA

Equine influenza (EI): EI is a disease of horses and donkeys, caused by a highly contagious virus that can be spread horse-to-horse or by humans on their skin, clothes and riding equipment. Infected horses show signs of fever, a dry, hacking cough and nasal discharge.

In 2007, EI was detected in a horse in New South Wales (NSW) after the virus escaped quarantine. After 6 months, and a total estimated cost of \$571 million to Commonwealth Governments, the disease was eradicated through vaccination and strict movement controls. Australia is the only country in the world to have eradicated EI following an incursion.

Figure 6. EI



Source: NSW Department of Primary Industries

3.2 EAD response mission

The objective of the EAD Response Plan is to ensure that any EAD in Victoria is eradicated in the shortest time possible while minimising social, environmental, welfare and economic impacts.

Eradication is the nationally agreed policy for responding to a FMD, LSD, EI or ASF emergency in Australia. Should eradication be determined as not technically feasible, then national decision arrangements will be used to determine the most appropriate course of action.

3.3 Principles of a disease response

Disease control and eradication activities will align with international standards and agreed national obligations under the AUSVETPLAN and will be tailored to meet local needs and circumstances.

Control and eradication are supported by a combination of strategies which may include:

- rapid recognition and laboratory confirmation of cases at the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP), in Geelong, Victoria
- application of quarantine and movement controls supported by legislated declared areas for disease control purposes (for example the implementation of a national livestock standstill for FMD or widespread controls on the movement of horses for EI)
- tracing and surveillance to determine the source and extent of infection (including in feral animals as necessary), and to provide proof-of-freedom
- destruction, disposal and decontamination of affected animals, animal products, fodder, fittings and vehicles consistent with national obligations
- vaccination to reduce susceptibility of animals to infection and clinical disease, and potentially reduce virus excretion (if approved and available) relief and recovery programs
- increased public awareness
- zoning and/or compartmentalisation to facilitate trade and business continuity.

Table 2 Disease Control Strategy Summary

	African swine fever	Foot-and-mouth disease	Lumpy skin disease	Equine influenza
Quarantine, movement restrictions & declared areas	✓	✓	✓	✓
National livestock standstill	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
Tracing and surveillance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Destruction of animals	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Disposal and decontamination of contaminated items	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vaccination (if required and approved)	✗**	✓*	✗**	✓*
Vector (insect) control	✓	N/A	✓	N/A

* vaccines permitted for use in Australia under emergency conditions only

** vaccines available overseas but currently not permitted for use in Australia

4. EAD mitigation

Mitigation means the elimination or reduction of the incidence or severity of emergencies and the minimisation of their effects. Government, industry and the community all have a role to play in the mitigation of emergencies as part of their BAU functions.

Federal and state government departments and agencies, local government, industry, communities and individuals have a shared responsibility to take steps to prepare for and mitigate the impact of an EAD.

4.1 Government

The role of the Commonwealth, states and territory governments is set out in the [Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity \(IGAB\)](#) and in the Biosecurity Sub-Plan.

The Victorian Government is responsible for aspects of biosecurity within Victoria including:

- maintaining legislation and regulation that controls activities that have the potential to cause or contribute to a disease outbreak (including compliance and enforcement)
- leading EAD preparedness activities within Victoria and contributing to national activities e.g. development of policies, plans and exercises
- managing eradication and containment programs for nationally-agreed and other pest and disease incursions
- undertaking surveillance and diagnostics to support early detection and diagnosis
- maintaining and administering systems to support agreed national traceability requirements
- negotiating and facilitating domestic trade, including setting entry conditions for products entering the State from elsewhere in Australia based on biosecurity risks
- maintaining capacity to prepare for, detect and respond to exotic pest and disease incursions
- ongoing stakeholder engagement and communication, and partnership building.

The Victorian Government has put in place a number of provisions to support EAD mitigation:

- Provision of a 24/7 hotline to support reporting of suspected exotic animal diseases (Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline, **1800 675 888**)
- Trained veterinarians and animal health staff who investigate any suspected exotic animal disease reports
- Significant disease investigation program which subsidises farmers and veterinarians to incentivise investigation of unusual disease or deaths of livestock on farms
- Prohibited pig feed restrictions and associated compliance activities
- Regular communication and engagement activities to raise awareness, encourage early reporting, registration of properties and use of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)
- Property identification and traceability requirements.

Towong Shire Council support EAD mitigation by:

- contributing to local and regional EAD planning as members of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) and the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC)
- complying with legislative responsibilities as:
 - owners or operators of livestock saleyards
 - road managers
 - authorised officers (e.g. environmental health officers).

A range of resources to support emergency management planning at the municipal level can be found on the [EMV website](#).

4.2 Industry and businesses

Industry and businesses also have a key role in mitigating biosecurity risks.

AHA works with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments and member industries to support the delivery of biosecurity outcomes including industry biosecurity plans developed and owned by industry associations (such as Australian Pork Limited). AHA also manages the FMD Antigen Bank which is jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government, the 8 state and territory governments and potentially affected national livestock industry associations.

National, state and local industry and community organisations support biosecurity by:

- providing tools to implement preventative biosecurity practices and improve resilience including exercises, training, education and information-sharing
- conducting extension activities that drive adoption of best practices
- engaging with industry and businesses, utilising their expertise, understanding their needs and providing them with options to better mitigate their risks
- delivering effective and tailored messaging
- understanding consumer and community expectations and how they might impact production systems
- advocating to government to represent the interests of their members
- providing expertise to government to maintain and improve national and state-based response arrangements.

A farm biosecurity plan is an essential tool for individual farms and businesses to prevent, eliminate and minimise biosecurity risks on-farm. Producers are strongly encouraged by industry, national and state peak bodies to develop these plans and they are often an integral part of farm assurance programs such as the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program for the red meat industry.

All livestock owners are required by law to have a Property Identification Code (PIC) for the properties on which they graze livestock. All livestock businesses (saleyards, cattle scales, abattoirs, knackeries and stock agents) must also have a PIC. Agriculture Victoria maintains the register of Property Identification Codes.

In addition, all cattle, sheep and goat movements in Victoria must be recorded on the NLIS database for the purpose of identification and traceability. All pig movements in Victoria are required to be recorded on the PigPass database.

Property and livestock identification requirements support rapid tracing in the event of an EAD emergency.

4.3 Individuals and households

Community members can play a key role in mitigating biosecurity risks by educating themselves on what is 'normal'. Early detection is critical to minimising the size of an EAD emergency response as these diseases can spread very rapidly before they are detected.

The *LDC Act 1994* requires all those who suspect or know of the presence of specified diseases to report that knowledge to the relevant authorities.

Suspected detections of EAD should be reported to the 24-hour free call service Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on **1800 675 888** or through the [Notify Now app](#). Further information on notification requirements and how to notify can be found on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

5. EAD preparedness

DEECA has overall responsibility for preparedness activities associated with an EAD. All signatories to the IGAB and the EADRA, including Victoria, have a legal obligation to have the necessary resources and arrangements in place to manage an EAD emergency.

Integrated whole of Victorian Government (WoVG) preparedness for an EAD is undertaken using the Victorian Preparedness Framework. Continuing to build the capability and capacity of people, resources, governance, systems and processes requires multi-agency contributions. While the detail of enhanced EAD preparedness is not within the scope of this Plan, it is acknowledged that strong EAD preparedness across DEECA, Victorian agencies and industry is fundamental to supporting an efficient and effective EAD response.

5.1 Surge resourcing

For a major EAD response, a significant surge in resources will be required and may quickly exceed DEECA's capacity. The recent COVID-19 pandemic response experience has demonstrated the scale and speed at which large numbers of staff will be required.

5.1.1 EAD Response Workforce Plan

DEECA is responsible for developing and maintaining an EAD Response Workforce Plan. This plan outlines where surge resources can be sourced and how they will be managed.

Surge resources will be derived from the core surge workforce comprising Victorian Public Service (VPS), Emergency Service Organisations (ESOs), industry (private veterinarians) and potentially from the extended surge workforce including, but not limited to, labour hire companies and contractors.

The EAD Response Workforce Plan details the processes by which staff will be onboarded into an EAD response and the resourcing method for requesting and deploying human resources. Relevant industrial and safety matters are considered in the plan, as well as applicable procedures and formal agreements between agencies. These should be outlined at state level for implementation at incident level.

Detailed arrangements for the deployment of personnel in an EAD emergency will occur through established processes and procedures as outlined in relevant Victorian emergency management doctrine.

5.1.1.1 Core surge workforce

Core surge workforce resources to assist with an EAD response will be derived from the broader VPS and ESOs and may be facilitated by:

- any declaration of an Emergency Situation under the *PA Act 2004* which empowers agency heads to assign any task to employees (s.105E)
- any declaration of a State of Disaster under the *EM Act 1986 and 2013* which provides broad powers to the Minister to direct any agency to do, or refrain from doing, any Act (s.24)
- VPS Enterprise Agreement (EA) 2020 Part 8 Emergency Management which provides common employment conditions for those VPS employees not covered by extant agency conditions.

The preparedness of a surge workforce will be centrally coordinated by DEECA as the control agency to ensure appropriate matching of workforce supply to operational demands, and efficiency in workforce generation, training, administration, deployment and reporting.

Establishment of an EAD workforce coordination team will draw together skillsets in human resources, industrial relations, recruiting and appropriate emergency management/technical advice in a multi-disciplinary team to directly support the State Controller.

DEECA will, in the first instance, utilise its own human resources or those directly within its control (through a pre-existing resourcing arrangement) prior to requesting assistance from elsewhere.

DEECA shall request resources via:

- the State Control Centre (SCC) to utilise the State Resource Requesting System (SRRS) to source personnel from Victorian ESOs. Approval authority rests with the EMC to balance readiness and response commitments for all emergencies
- interstate or international ESO requests through the SCC Interstate and International Liaison Unit (ILLU) to the National Resource Sharing Centre (NRSC) in accordance with Arrangements for Interstate Assistance (AIA)
- the Jurisdictional Deployment Coordinator in accordance with the Interstate Deployment Arrangements for Biosecurity Responses.

All requests for Commonwealth Government resources to support Victorian emergency operations are to be made via the EMC to the Minister for Emergency Services for approval.

DEECA (through Agriculture Victoria) has Memoranda of Understanding in place with South Australia (SA) and New South Wales (NSW) to enhance collaboration for emergency disease outbreaks that occur near the borders. Other collaboration activities include resource sharing, co-location and management of control centres and development of consistent policies.

Under national biosecurity arrangements there is also the National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT) comprised of trained personnel from across jurisdictions who can be deployed to support biosecurity emergencies. However, in an EAD emergency, all jurisdictions will be affected and so people are unlikely to be available for deployment. The total number of interstate NBRT members is less than 50. The Commonwealth Government is also a party to the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve agreement signed by Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States of America. The agreement provides participating countries with access to additional skilled veterinary human resources in the event of an EAD outbreak.

5.1.1.2 Extended surge workforce

In addition to a core surge workforce, further resources will likely be needed for a significant EAD response. To support this, additional resources will be sought from labour hire companies, contractors, industry and volunteer organisations, as well as other areas such as the tertiary sector. These extended surge resources will likely be used in a number of different roles including operational support (e.g. general field support, disposal and decontamination support, staging area support), logistics support (e.g. water carting and transport of other materials and supplies) and administrative support. The EAD Response Workforce Plan

will provide further detail on the types (including secondments), requirements and indicative numbers of these roles.

5.1.1.3 Workforce Coordination Team responsibilities

Workforce supply and demand matching – meeting the State Controller intent for workforce resourcing by working with functional teams to understand their workforce needs and priorities and liaising with supply agencies and industry to source appropriate personnel.

Workforce reporting – providing a consolidated, accurate picture of EAD response workforce numbers, locations and skillsets to inform senior decision-making and workforce planning.

Human and industrial relations – delivering policy support to the State Controller through the provision of advice on application of industrial relation rules. This includes management of human resource industrial issues that arise during the incident and ensuring all personnel time records are accurately completed and provided to home agencies according to established policies.

Workforce safety – providing assurance to the State Controller and the CAOIC that appropriate policies, procedures and equipment, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), are in place and effective across the EAD response workforce to support staff safety and wellbeing. All agencies are responsible for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of personnel undertaking activities under their direction.

Staff inductions and training – As the control agency, DEECA is responsible for ensuring each staff member deployed to work under the DEECA control structure during an EAD response has been adequately inducted and trained in the role they are performing. If any other agency has lead responsibility, either through delegation or transfer of control, those agencies are responsible for the delivery of staff induction, including deployment briefings and training relevant to their scope of responsibilities. Inductions are focused on providing staff with an introduction/orientation to the response and the current administrative arrangements for response personnel including organising any response-specific authorisations and monitoring more detailed inductions at section/unit levels. Inductions differs from 'training', which is role specific and typically skills based.

The training function will provide for safe, efficient, effective and biosecure performances by response personnel.

5.1.1.4 Occupational health and safety (OHS)

The health and safety of all personnel involved in providing support during an EAD emergency is a primary consideration. The following OHS conditions apply:

- Agencies will fulfil their obligations to comply with all relevant occupational health and safety legislation
- All agencies are jointly responsible for OHS noting the host agency has primary responsibility for the duration of mobilisation/deployment
- A host agency must ensure that employees who are deployed temporarily to other duties, roles or agencies receive induction on OHS procedures, equipment and PPE relevant to those duties and worksite(s) before they commence duties
- Employees must fulfil their OHS obligations including cooperating in the implementation of risk control measures. They are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that they do not perform an action or make any omission that creates or increases an existing risk to their health and safety or to that of others in or near the workplace. See Section 25 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (OHS Act 2004)*
- Employees operating plant machinery must provide appropriate licence/qualifications to the host agency
- Employees should advise their managers of any risks to their health and safety arising directly or indirectly from mobilisation/deployment and report hazards and incidents
- All personnel deployed will comply with relevant health, fitness and training requirements
- The home agency remains responsible for workers compensation insurance coverage
- The host agency must advise the home agency of any reportable OHS incidents involving home agency personnel resulting from emergency management activities.

5.1.1.5 Avoiding fatigue

Key considerations in the avoidance of fatigue of personnel deployed during an EAD response include that:

- fatigue in a work context is more than feeling tired or drowsy – it is an acute and/or ongoing state of tiredness that leads to mental, emotional and/or physical exhaustion (or all) and reduces a person's ability to perform work safely and effectively
- fatigue management of employees undertaking emergency management activities is a shared responsibility between employees and their managers/supervisors
- all personnel deployed will comply with relevant health, fitness and training requirements.

5.1.1.6 Mental health and wellbeing

Resources available to support the mental health and wellbeing of personnel deployed during an EAD response include:

- the Mental Health and Wellbeing Program, which takes a proactive approach to mental health to reduce work-related psychological risks and provide support with mental health injury and illness recovery
- all employees will be made aware of how to contact the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that is available to them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for confidential counselling and support
- a rapid response service available for staff who have been impacted by significant and potentially traumatising events, including those that may be experienced during emergency management activities.

5.1.2 EAD Training Plan

DEECA is responsible for developing and maintaining an EAD capability framework which will outline the required roles and capabilities, training pathways and role statements. The EAD Training Plan will detail the learning and development opportunities for the workforce including, but not limited to, accredited and non-accredited training, just-in-time training, exercises and workshops.

DEECA will maintain learning and development records and will share this information with agencies.

DEECA will collaborate with agencies to develop and deliver components of the EAD Training Plan.

6. Control, command and coordination

6.1 Control

The DEECA Control Agency Officer in Charge will appoint a State Controller. The State Controller, supported by a small executive team, will be co-located in the SCC and lead an SCT as described in the SEMP. Locating the State Controller in the SCC benefits coordination across the lines of control, communication with the EMC and access to specialist functional advice.

The State Controller will implement control strategies in accordance with the strategic and technical direction set by the CVO, to ensure consistency with agreed EAD response plans.

The State Controller may appoint deputy state controllers to be responsible for geographic or functional areas, as determined by the emergency response. As a Class 2 emergency, the State Controller may transfer specific control functions, in accordance with the *EM Act 1986 and 2013* and the SEMP. The appointment of deputy state controllers or transfer of control functions will be agreed between the CAOIC, EMC and relevant agency. This will be important given the scale and complexity of operations, which will likely need to take span of control into consideration.

Local control teams will be established at the incident tier and work through the line of control to the State Controller. Local control teams will operate out of DEECA-managed local control centres (LCCs). Forward command posts may be established as necessary.

6.2 Command

As per the SEMP, each agency involved in an EAD response will identify the commanders responsible for supervising their personnel and the agency chain of command. Commanders escalate agency issues and provide direction on agency issues through the agency chain of command.

6.3 Coordination

Coordination is the bringing together of people, resources, governance, systems and processes to ensure effective response to, and relief and recovery from, an emergency. As a Class 2 emergency, during an EAD response, the EMC is responsible for the coordination of the activities of agencies that respond to the emergency. The State Coordination Team (SCoT) is the primary mechanism for coordination across lines of control. In the context of EAD, the functions of the SCoT include:

- setting and monitoring the strategic context for readiness, response, relief and recovery
- sensing the aggregate risk to the State from concurrent major emergencies
- providing a common strategic picture to SCRC and senior decision-making forums such as the Major Emergencies Interdepartmental Committee (IDC)
- bringing together inputs from national level EAD technical, consultative and emergency management forums
- issuing guidance on resource priorities and allocation across lines of control.

Based on the situation and risk of the EAD response, especially during concurrent emergencies, the SCoT will determine an appropriate governance structure. This will ensure that appropriate control is in place and make provision for ministerial or agency powers that cannot be transferred to the State Controller.

A principle of EAD response will be to utilise existing emergency management governance and coordination arrangements where feasible. In addition to the SCoT, DEECA will participate in the following forums to support EAD response, relief and early recovery operations:

State Emergency Management Team (SEMT)

A standing forum chaired by the EMC to develop a state strategic plan with high-level actions for agencies to manage consequences of major emergencies. Regional emergency management teams (REMTs) exist across all 8 emergency management regions for the purpose of consolidating a regional picture of impacts and consequences being experienced by communities. See Chapter 11 of this Plan for further details.

State Relief and Recovery Team (SRRT)

A forum established by the State Emergency Relief Coordinator (SERC) and/or the State Recovery Coordinator (SReC) as required, usually as the incident grows in size and/or complexity. The role of the SRRT is to coordinate state-tier relief and recovery governance, management and operational delivery. Regional relief committees exist across all 8 emergency management regions for the purpose of consolidating a regional picture of relief needs and to coordinate operational relief delivery. See Chapter 10 of this Plan for further details.

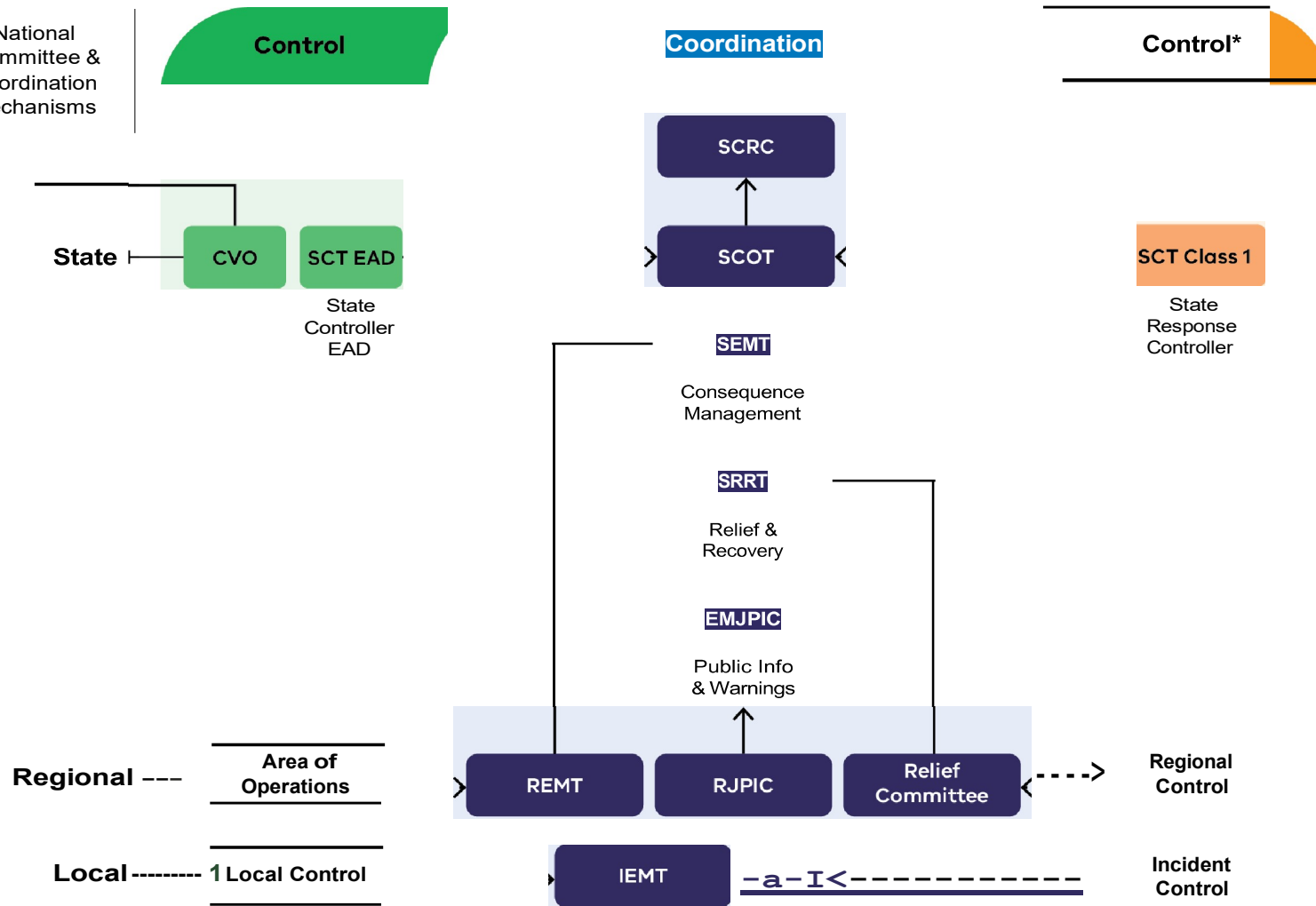
Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee (EMJPIC)

The EMJPIC is appointed by the EMC to coordinate public, stakeholder and government communications including warnings and engagement. The EMJPIC can support EAD response by forming and implementing strategic media, communications and support to all agencies to strengthen whole of Victorian Government, regional and incident-level communications. See Section 7.2 and Chapter 9 of this Plan for further information.

Subject to the disease and the nature of EAD emergency response, the membership of these committees may be amended to ensure relevant agencies are represented. Consideration will be given to those that may not normally attend and the inclusion of important representatives, such as the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner (CBC).

Interjurisdictional cooperation and coordination will also be required as part of a nationally-coordinated EAD response and this will particularly be the case in relation to neighbouring jurisdictions, such as SA and NSW.

Figure 7. Control and coordination diagram



*Noting continuing COVID overlay and functioning SCT Health

6.4 Concurrent emergencies

Given the prolonged duration of an EAD major emergency, it is likely to occur concurrently with other major emergencies. The State Controller responsible for planning and coordinating the EAD response must consult with the EMC and other relevant control agencies, to determine (and document) appropriate control and coordination arrangements. The SCoT is the primary forum for such consultation. When there are concurrent major emergencies and competing demands for resources, the EMC will work with appointed state/response controllers of relevant Class 1 and Class 2 events to ensure state control priorities are met. If consensus cannot be reached then the EMC will, based on state priorities, make any final decision in relation to the prioritisation of resources or any other elements highlighted by simultaneous major emergencies.

6.4.1 Functional coordination

Commonality between the Biosecurity Incident Management System (BIMS) and Australian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) functions contribute to effective cooperation and synergies between similar operations in control centres across the State. A clear articulation of lead and support relationships between State Biosecurity Operations Centre (SBOC) and SCC functions at a state level is necessary to ensure roles and responsibilities are aligned to appropriate lines of control, are clearly defined and generate effective information flow.

Informal relationships exist between functions for the sharing of information and best practice. Formal tasking of functions between SBOC and the SCC occurs via respective controllers who may agree to share functional resources as required.

7. EAD incident management

7.1 Control system – Biosecurity Incident Management System (BIMS)

In responding to an EAD, DEECA will apply a scaled operating model determined by the [BIMS](#).

The BIMS is designed to complement state and legislative obligations and sector-specific arrangements described in AUSVETPLAN. It is structured according to the operational principles of the AIIMS, but with contextual modifications to facilitate the complexity and nuances of biosecurity responses.

The structure of biosecurity incident management will have 2 functions:

1. Provision of strategic policy and technical direction
2. Planning and implementation of operational activities

The separation of the State Controller and CVO roles in Level 3 EAD emergencies is required to facilitate differentiation of state-wide operational control and the CVO role in national engagement and provision of technical direction. The Secretary of DEECA (as the CAOiC) appoints and maintains a list of persons authorised to perform the State Controller role. The State Controller reports to the CAOiC.

In some circumstances, interstate EAD emergencies may trigger the need for an emergency response to be established even though the disease is not present in Victoria. In this case the focus of activities will be on preventing the spread of the disease to Victoria, completing surveillance to demonstrate freedom of the disease and facilitating safe trade, along with managing relief and recovery activities associated with wider consequences, such as suspension of exports that may impact on Victorian producers and businesses.

7.2 Public information

The public information function focuses on gathering, assembling and disseminating timely, tailored and relevant information. The focus of these messages is to support and encourage appropriate responses and proactive measures in communities that are directly or likely to be affected by an incident or emergency. This may include the general public, media, businesses, other agencies and/or government departments and internal stakeholders.

A successful response relies on extensive voluntary compliance with restrictions, public reporting of suspected cases or breaches of movement controls and maintaining trust and confidence over an extended period during which the public and industry may experience difficult circumstances due to the impacts of the disease or measures to control it.

In the event of an EAD emergency, DEECA will establish a public information function within each incident management team (IMT), led by a public information officer (PIO).

The public information function in any IMT should bring an end-to-end communications team together in one section, encompassing media, communications, customer service, digital channels and engagement activities.

DEECA will activate the public information function in the event of an EAD emergency, regardless of whether an EAD detection is within Victoria or from interstate. Depending on the nature and requirements of the response, functions may be combined into one role, one person may be allocated to each function, or multiple people might be required for each function, with a lead reporting into the SCT PIO.

A public information officer/section will only be activated at the local level in the event of a detection in Victoria when further local public information is required. The local IMT is responsible for delivering media, communications and engagement activities specific to an impacted community, as it may require specific and tailored information, and further use of local channels and forums.

The National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network (NBCEN) is the national body for coordinating communications activities in biosecurity emergencies. In the event of an EAD emergency, the NBCEN will be the forum for coordinating messaging, communications and engagement activities nationally. DEECA is the Victorian representative on the NBCEN.

The EMJPIC supports operational public information processes in a Class 2 emergency by coordinating whole-of-government emergency management communications and community engagement. The EMJPIC coordinates appropriate stakeholders for each specific event where possible, including state, local and federal agencies, businesses and relevant industries. It also fosters partnerships with media.

All agencies should take a digital-first approach. The Agriculture Victoria website will be the primary source of information, and all communications should point back to this website. VicEmergency will also be a key digital platform for information and warnings.

The call centre managed by the DEECA Customer Contact Centre will be activated via the State Control Centre as per usual VicEmergency arrangements.

The community will have access to the broadly promoted VicEmergency Hotline number (**1800 226 226**) for information in the event of an incident. The call centre will not be the primary source of information for audiences, but available as a channel for those seeking further information.

In the event of a declared EAD emergency, DEECA (and other relevant agencies) will provide knowledge articles to the SCC that can be utilised by Customer Contact Centre staff. This support will augment advice provided via the VicEmergency website and app and can assist particularly where more detailed, individualised and/or localised information is required. The VicEmergency website and app are the primary mechanisms for providing timely and accurate information to communities and the broader public. The VicEmergency Hotline replicates information from the website and the app as an additional method that the community can access as part of the State's integrated warning system.

The EAD Watch Hotline (**1800 675 888**) is the number for reporting suspect cases of disease in livestock. This phone number is a national hotline which is redirected to local call takers in each jurisdiction.

DEECA and other agencies may also consider other call centre arrangements for overflow if required, which must complement or be integrated with the agreed process.

Towong Shire Council will play a role in delivering public information to the community.

7.3 Liaison

The EADRA provides for industry decision-making and cost sharing for EAD emergencies. Arising from this, there is also a clear expectation and role for affected industries to be engaged closely at a local, regional, state and national level. There are specified roles for industry within the IMT as livestock liaison industry (LLI) officers.

The responsibilities of LLI officers include (but are not limited to):

- providing regular and timely updates about the current response situation and control measures (actual and planned) to the peak industry body
- issuing information and advice on industry-specific policies, resources and factors to the SCC Coordination Management Team (CMT)/IMT (e.g. industry practices, practicality and consequences of control measures)
- consulting industry contacts about policies, strategies and progress of the response
- commenting on and contributing to decision-making where matters affect industry.

LLIs are subject to confidentiality agreements as described in the EADRA.

In addition to these roles, given the significant consequences of the EAD emergency on the agriculture sector and animal industries, there is a parallel liaison requirement by strategic leaders of the response to work with community and industry bodies to keep stakeholders and influencers informed of the situation, strategies and concepts agreed by the NMG in specific EADRP.

This liaison effort requires effective levels of working through established industry peak body and representative liaison networks. DEECA (through Agriculture Victoria) has well-established forums that can be used for this purpose at a state level, but local level liaison will need to be established with the assistance of local government.

Coordination with Victorian Government agencies is detailed in Chapter 6.

7.4 Planning

Victorian agencies are responsible for planning the delivery of activities they lead for an EAD response. This could be for their responsibility as a support agency under the SEMP and/or for operational delivery under this State EAD Response Plan.

The planning function is responsible for the collection, collation, analysis (or interpretation) and dissemination of information. It also includes the development of written plans for the response to the incident. The planning function acts as an information centre, providing information that contributes to the situational awareness and ensuring that response aims and objectives can be achieved in a coordinated manner.

7.4.1 Response planning

During an EAD response, DEECA is responsible for response planning. This includes communicating national plans and strategies to partner agencies to inform their specific response plans, and in doing so, ensuring that Victoria is contributing to a nationally-consistent approach to managing the response.

Agencies involved in an EAD response are responsible for developing their plans and reviewing and updating the plan throughout a response, based on evolving needs.

Response planning may include strategic and/or operational planning. Strategic planning is usually performed at a state and/or national level. Operational planning is most likely to occur at the LCC and will focus on activities within the local IMT's area of responsibility in alignment with the EAD Response Workforce Plan.

7.4.2 Resource planning

Agencies involved in an EAD response are responsible for the planning for all resources required to fulfill the activities under their jurisdiction.

Resource planning includes forecasting for resource requirements such as facilities; equipment; human, financial and supporting resources; and services required to achieve the objectives set for their operations centre's area of responsibility. The resource planning team undertakes resource planning for both operational and strategic requirements.

7.4.3 Intelligence

DEECA is responsible for collecting, processing, analysing and evaluating information and providing timely and accurate data to agencies involved in an EAD response and to decision-makers to support assessments of risks, threats and hazards to assist with planning.

DEECA is responsible for the provision of technical specialists such as epidemiologists and pathologists capable of analysing and interpreting data relating to the biology of the causative agent of the EAD and the evolution of an EAD outbreak. Their insight will enable forecasting of the progress of the outbreak and provide advice on control methodologies and/or techniques. The outputs from technical analysis include intelligence that assists with decision-making and provides guidance for the planning of activities, such as movement restrictions, tracing, surveillance and vaccination. DEECA is also responsible for collaborating with industry representatives for relevant information on impacted industry sectors, including technical advice regarding enterprise practices and equipment, business models and other factors which may influence response planning.

In large and/or complex incidents, DEECA may require assistance from the intelligence expertise available within the SCC to support this function and assist with monitoring the broader situation.

Intelligence reports will be provided to all agencies to inform their support function and other concurrent activities.

Agencies involved in an EAD response need to continue collecting, processing, analysing and evaluating information, sharing relevant information with other agencies to assist with EAD response planning.

7.4.4 Situation assessment

DEECA is responsible for disseminating timely situation assessments to all agencies and stakeholders.

Agencies involved in an EAD response are responsible for distributing timely situation assessments of their activities to DEECA.

7.4.5 Legal

Agencies involved in an EAD response must ensure that response activities are conducted in accordance with appropriate State and/or Commonwealth Government legislation.

DEECA will provide legal services to support the EAD emergency including:

- developing proclamations, delegations, permits and orders
- advising on the legality of proposed policy decisions and operational activities
- providing legal advice on specific issues, as they arise
- briefing staff on their responsibilities in regard to legal issues
- managing legal proceedings (if required).

Given the number of activities that are likely to require regulatory approvals, different Acts that may be involved and the potential volume of activities in this area, DEECA is likely to require support from other agencies to ensure that all legal requirements are met. The support should also provide guidance on expediting these legal requirements in an emergency situation and the timely processing of any regulatory approvals within activities undertaken under the direction of the control agency or within usual agency responsibilities.

7.4.6 Information systems

DEECA is responsible for maintaining an EAD response and associated information systems (including MAX and BioWeb) used by DEECA and other Victorian Government departments and agency staff in an EAD

emergency. This includes providing access to relevant information systems as well as onboarding and training DEECA, Victorian Government departments and agency staff in their use.

Agencies involved in an EAD response are responsible for the management of electronic information management systems they require in undertaking their activities.

Agencies will need to ensure appropriate data storage and security during an EAD response, aligning with established State and agency policy and agreements.

7.4.7 Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping

DEECA is responsible for the collation of incident-specific geographic information and data to produce appropriate spatial products and outputs, whether physical or electronic, relating to its control agency responsibilities. DEECA expects to utilise the mapping and GIS expertise available within the SCC to support this function and to assist with monitoring the broader situation.

Agencies involved in an EAD response are likewise responsible for the collation of incident-specific geographic information and data to produce appropriate spatial products and outputs, whether physical or electronic, relating to their areas of responsibility under this Plan.

7.5 Logistics

The logistics function delivered in an EAD response is consistent with that implemented for other emergencies within Victoria. The logistics function is responsible for the identification, sourcing, provision, management and demobilisation or disposal of physical resources, facilities, services and materials required by the other functions within the EAD response.

The logistics function will liaise closely with the finance and administration function to provide ongoing business services so response and relief strategies and tactics can be implemented.

Where multiple departments and agencies are involved in a specific activity, and common goods/ services are identified, the head delivery agency will take the lead in determining logistical requirements.

As the control agency, DEECA is responsible for:

- maintaining a catalogue of logistical requirements by identifying the necessary items, equipment and supplies to ensure it can fulfill its role and responsibilities for the response
- sourcing and procuring items, equipment and supplies identified in the DEECA catalogue throughout the response
- coordinating payment of goods and services via the finance and administration section throughout the response and until the last purchase orders/contracts have been closed after the operational closure of the response
- managing and maintaining items, equipment and supplies throughout the response
- demobilising and/or disposing of items, equipment and supplies once the response is complete
- undertaking the strategic planning, operational planning and tactical planning for logistical requirements and communicating these where relevant to other agencies
- providing access to facilities, equipment and supplies that may assist another agencies to enact their responsibilities under this Plan.

Support agencies are responsible for:

- identifying the necessary items, equipment and supplies to fulfill their own responsibilities and activities
- sourcing and procuring items, equipment and supplies throughout the response to ensure they can fulfill their own responsibilities and activities
- managing and maintaining items, equipment and supplies throughout the response that their agency is responsible for

- demobilising and/or disposing of items, equipment and supplies that their agency is responsible for once the response is complete
- providing access to facilities, equipment and supplies that may assist another agencies to enact their responsibilities under this Plan
- delivering induction and training for staff deployed through their own agency's process to undertake activities for their agency's responsibilities
- coordinating payment for goods and services associated with their responsibilities under this Plan until all invoices have been received and contracts closed
- coordinating logistical activities with their logistics counterparts in other agencies during the response.

7.6 Operations

Operational activities in an EAD response can be very significant, encompassing multiple regions and several different activities. The operations function is responsible for the tasking and application of resources required to respond to the incident to achieve the operational objectives while monitoring and managing operational performance against the set objectives.

Main activities are outlined in more detail below.

7.6.1 Livestock standstill

A national livestock standstill is the result of all jurisdictions, in aggregate, applying jurisdictional livestock standstills through relevant state or territory legislation. A livestock standstill will only be imposed in the event of a FMD or EI incident. The livestock standstill will be imposed in Victoria regardless of where the disease is initially detected in Australia.

Under the standstill arrangements, all of Victoria will be declared a control area for a minimum of 72 hours. The declaration will specify a range of prohibitions, restrictions or requirements to operate in the control area in relation to specified livestock, livestock products, fodder or fittings.

The standstill will be enacted in Victoria once a control area and the associated movement restrictions under section 29 of the *LDC Act 1994* are gazetted.

The movement of all susceptible livestock will be prohibited within Victoria for the period of the standstill and no susceptible livestock will be allowed to enter Victoria (noting that similar livestock standstill arrangements will be enacted across Australia at the same time). Emergency permits for movement may be granted.

Livestock transport vehicles with livestock already loaded and in transit within Victoria may continue their journey in Victoria without a permit provided that:

- the journey began and will end within Victoria
- the journey can be completed within 4 hours of when the livestock standstill was declared
- the destination is either another farm, a feedlot or an abattoir, or livestock is being returned to its place of pick-up or origin.

A decision to ease, lift or extend the standstill in Victoria will be made by the CVO in consultation with the CCEAD and will be based on an assessment of the available intelligence and the risk of further spread of disease.

DEECA will enact a livestock standstill in accordance with the [Victorian Livestock Standstill Implementation Plan and Procedure](#) and it will operate consistently with AUSVETPLAN and the Nationally Agreed Standard Operating Procedures (NASOP), available online at www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

The NASOP includes:

1. Management of livestock in transit at the time a livestock standstill is declared
2. Establishment of checkpoints for EAD movement control
3. Management of saleyard security during a livestock standstill

4. Management of stock in a saleyard during a standstill.

A national livestock standstill is a critical disease response activity to restrict the spread of FMD or EI. It will allow DEECA to make an initial assessment of the possible extent of the spread of the disease by tracing the movement of affected livestock and product, and disease surveillance activities. High risk areas for FMD spread include animal congregation sites such as saleyards, shows and vehicles in transit.

Livestock at any given premises or location must not be moved. Under the legislation, persons may be prosecuted for moving livestock during the standstill period.

In the event of a livestock standstill being implemented:

1. DEECA will be responsible for notifying affected stakeholders of the national livestock standstill via industry, government and media outlets with notification channels including:
 - broadcast and print media
 - VicEmergency alert
 - Agriculture Victoria website
 - social media
 - other digital platforms
 - roadside variable messaging boards.
2. All relevant Victorian Government agencies, authorities and industry peak bodies (including the Victorian Farmers Federation, Australian Livestock Saleyards Association, Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association, Livestock Transporters Association of Victoria and Dairy Australia) will brief their staff and key stakeholders and help circulate communication messages.
3. Victoria Police will establish and resource traffic management points at interstate borders and roving patrols on main roads to stop livestock transport vehicles that are on the road and provide advice on management of such vehicles. Victoria Police's support for the livestock standstill will be in accordance with the *Victoria Police Operational Plan – Livestock Standstill (Borders and Restricted Areas)*.
4. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) will provide logistical support to Victoria Police to establish and equip traffic management points at interstate borders and provide traffic management contractors.
5. If the livestock standstill is extended beyond 72 hours, traffic management contractors provided by DTP may be used on the border with an LDCA inspector present.
6. All saleyard owners and managers, with support from DEECA and Victoria Police, will activate their livestock saleyard FMD standstill plan.
7. Owners and managers of premises where livestock is located (farms, feedlots, export facilities, saleyards, abattoirs, showgrounds, etc.) will enact contingency plans for the care and welfare of the animals that may be in their custody at the time of a livestock standstill.
8. Livestock industries, with support from DEECA, will be responsible for managing the welfare of animals. (see Section 10.2 Animal welfare).

7.6.2 Movement control

When an EAD is confirmed in Victoria, additional legal notices will be enacted to allow for necessary eradication and control activities to take place. Restricted areas will be introduced via Section 26 of the *LDC Act 1994* declaring the area around an infected premises to be a restricted area and specifying any prohibitions, restrictions and requirements which are to operate in the area.

A restricted area will take into account property boundaries, which may be as small as one property or encompass an entire local government area or multiple adjoining local government areas depending on the disease, size and scale of the incident including both private and public lands.

Quarantine and movement controls will be established in accordance with the relevant AUSVETPLAN disease strategy. Properties containing susceptible animals will be classified according to their disease status.

In some circumstances, access to public land may need to be restricted.

Quarantine and movement controls will be imposed by the CVO on an at-risk basis to ensure that any product likely to be contaminated is appropriately managed through treatment or destruction. This will include animal products (meat, milk, carcasses and/or offal) and equipment used for susceptible livestock.

DEECA will implement a system for issuing movement permits on an at-risk basis. Conditions such as transport in a biosecure manner, travel by approved route, cleaning and disinfection on and off properties and government inspection may be applied. This process will also have provisions for managing the risk of spills/clean-up in the event of an accident.

DEECA may seek the assistance of Victoria Police, DTP and Towong Shire Council with the planning and implementation of road closures and/or roadblocks. Similarly, DEECA will seek the assistance of these agencies for road signage (including variable messaging boards), monitoring of illegal movements, vehicle apprehension, vehicle inspections, and identifying registration and ownership details.

7.6.3 Tracing

Marketing and production systems in Australia can result in the rapid dispersal of animals across the country. The ability to trace livestock movements and products is critically important to identify the source and potential spread of the EAD. It is also crucial for early control of an EAD emergency by identifying infected and in-contact animals to inform the extent of the restricted areas, control areas and unrestricted areas.

Rapid trace-back and trace-forward are essential to effectively contain the disease. Trace-back and trace-forward time periods are relevant to the specific nature of the disease.

Livestock tracing for cattle, sheep, goat and pig movements is well established and managed through pre-existing tools developed to interrogate the NLIS database and present known movement data across the whole supply chain. This data is available for analysis and triaging, allowing efficient and appropriate allocation of surveillance resources based on movements. However, given the volume of tracing required in a large EAD incident, other supporting staff may be required with suitable training.

Tracing of other susceptible FMD species (deer, alpacas, llamas) will require a manual approach as movement data is not consistently recorded nor made available on a national database. There is particular risk associated with this if wildlife is susceptible to the particular EAD.

Tracing also incorporates non-livestock movements that can carry and spread disease. These include:

- **animal products** — meat, offal, dairy products, wool, skins, hides, semen and embryos, and wastes and effluent (including any evidence of illegal swill feeding)
- **vehicles** — milk tankers, livestock transport vehicles, feed trucks, farm visitors' cars, local government cars (e.g. rangers), and other rural industry vehicles such as those of forestry contractors
- **materials** — hay, straw, crops, grains and mixed feed
- **people** — people who live on the property, veterinarians, vaccination teams, tanker and other vehicle drivers, artificial insemination personnel, sales and feed representatives, tradespeople, technicians, visitors and other rural industry contractors.

Tracing data for non-livestock movements will be captured manually and entered on a response case management system.

Tracing team members coordinate the collation of tracing information from a variety of sources to ensure follow-up investigation of premises identified by tracing are prioritised by the likelihood of transmission and the potential consequences for disease control activities.

7.6.4 Surveillance

Surveillance is an important tool in responding to an EAD emergency and will be carried out in accordance with the relevant AUSVETPLAN disease strategy.

DEECA will develop and implement a surveillance strategy to identify the location of a disease and subsequently establish Victoria's proof of freedom from the EAD. Consistent with the requirements of the *LDC Act 1994*, the public will be asked to report any suspicion of disease.

Surveillance in a restricted area will be comprehensive and may require additional DEECA resources in the form of field staff to partner with authorised veterinary and animal health officers to form surveillance teams. Surveillance will also be required in a control area, but will be less intensive than in a restricted area.

DEECA will be responsible for obtaining and submitting samples to ensure rapid recognition and laboratory confirmation of cases. Wherever suspicion of an EAD is reported to DEECA, a field investigation will be conducted immediately. Samples will be collected and tested at either the Veterinary Diagnostic Services facility at AgriBio, the ACDP in Geelong or another laboratory approved by the CVO. A provisional diagnosis will be available as quickly as the testing protocol allows.

DEECA will also trace movements into Victoria of 'at risk' people, livestock, vehicles, livestock product and fomites from infected or suspected premises in other states. This will be performed for the purpose of surveillance and testing to ensure the EAD has not spread into Victoria. This work will also potentially determine the extent of spread of the EAD in Victoria and will guide containment and eradication.

7.6.5 Laboratory and diagnostic capabilities

DEECA is responsible for ensuring that there is sufficient laboratory capacity to process large numbers of samples as part of a surge response from an EAD emergency.

The Veterinary Diagnostic Services facility located at AgriBio in Bundoora is the approved State Government veterinary diagnostic laboratory in Victoria.

The ACDP is the national reference laboratory and is responsible for confirming any diagnosis of an EAD in Australia. Samples collected during an EAD investigation may be sent directly to either the Veterinary Diagnostic Services facility at AgriBio or ACDP depending upon the diagnostic requirements.

During the EAD emergency, DEECA is responsible for organising transportation of samples to the approved laboratory.

7.6.6 Infected premises operations

DEECA is responsible for all activities that take place on any premises containing infected, or considered highly likely to contain infected, animals or animal products (infected premises). Operations can occur on a single property or on multiple properties concurrently depending on the size of the outbreak. All infected premises will have an infected premises site supervisor appointed who is responsible for daily operations on site.

Infected premises operations are resource intensive and require significant human and material resources which can include a mix of government staff, labour hire as well as contractors providing specialist equipment to support operations. Departmental officers are likely to include those authorised under the *LDC Act 1994* as well as staff who are not authorised. Given the intensity of the operations, DEECA resources might need to be supplemented by those from other agencies. Further details will be outlined in the EAD Response Workforce Plan.

7.6.6.1 Site supervision

An infected premises site supervisor will be appointed by DEECA to manage a team responsible for all the activities that take place on an infected premise. As a minimum, an infected premises site supervisor should be authorised as an inspector under the *LDC Act 1994*.

DEECA will be supported by Victoria Police as required in relation to safe site access and responding to protest activity.

7.6.6.2 Quarantine

Quarantine will be established by DEECA in accordance with the *LDC Act 1994* and guided by the relevant AUSVETPLAN disease strategy. Quarantine notices will be issued by inspectors and signage may be considered.

7.6.6.3 Destruction

Where destruction of affected animals is required under the EADRP, the humane destruction of livestock on infected premises will commence and be completed without delay with due consideration for human safety and animal welfare. After an assessment of the most appropriate destruction methods, trained DEECA staff may be responsible for the humane destruction of animals or DEECA will contract destruction teams.

The safety of personnel working on any property will be monitored by an infected premises site supervisor and randomly audited by DEECA.

The welfare of animals during humane destruction will be monitored by an infected premises site supervisor and should be overseen by a registered veterinary practitioner.

Control and or destruction of susceptible feral, wild or native animals on a property or on public land may be required. This can include for example feral pigs or horses where an integrated control program needs to be employed using the most appropriate methods for the species of animal. The *LDC Act 1994* contains suitable provisions to support this activity on public or private land in the event of an EAD. However, in some cases, for example pre-emptive destruction without suspicion of disease, then an authority to control wildlife issued under the *Wildlife Act 1975* for the destruction of wildlife (excluding deer species other than hog deer on private land) may be required. DEECA activities related to the destruction of animals will be supported by relevant agricultural, wildlife and animal welfare legislation, including provisions in the *LDC Act 1994*.

7.6.6.4 Livestock and other material disposal

Disposal of livestock and infected material during a response is the responsibility of DEECA and is a critical control to stopping the spread of the disease. DEECA activities related to the disposal of livestock and other material will be supported by relevant agricultural, environmental and emergency management legislation, including provisions in the *LDC Act 1994*.

Disposal requirements will include **carcasses** as well as:

- **animal products** — meat, offal, dairy products, wool, skins, hides, semen and embryos, and wastes and effluent (including any evidence of illegal swill feeding)
- **agricultural materials** — hay, straw, crops, grains and mixed feed
- **clinical waste** – including PPE, sharps, clinical specimens, laboratory cultures, tissues, pharmaceutical products, pathology materials and veterinary materials
- **other reportable priority waste (chemicals and liquid waste)** generated through decontamination operations.

The EPA, DTP and Towong Shire Council will support the disposal program with expertise, assistance and permissions where required. The chosen method of disposal should consider environmental factors including likelihood of environmental contamination, human health risk as well as public amenity as its first priority. The number and species of animals to be disposed of will also influence what disposal method is chosen. The disposal method must have the ability to handle the required volume quickly and efficiently.

Disposal methods include, but are not limited to:

- burial on site
- commercial landfill
- greenfield landfill
- composting
- incineration
- burning
- rendering.

DEECA is responsible for the coordination of waste management in Victoria and the development of an integrated EAD disposal plan. The EPA and DTP will support DEECA through the provision of specialised technical advice and information.

DEECA will be responsible for disposal on site and transporting carcasses and other waste to the selected off-site disposal sites. Responsibility for carcasses and other waste will transfer to the operator of the receiving disposal site, e.g. the property owner for on-farm disposal, Towong Shire Council or private operator for landfills or DEECA for any new mass burial in a greenfield site.

DEECA, DTP, EPA and local government are the statutory decision-makers responsible for the necessary approvals to support disposal activities.

As required, Towong Shire Council will be called upon to support on-farm disposal and where available, provide heavy equipment (e.g. excavators) and receive carcasses and other waste in council-run landfills authorised to receive such waste.

Note – An agreed decision support framework is being developed and will be outlined in this section which takes into consideration:

1. Capacity to safely dispose in situ (referencing existing criteria for onsite disposal)
2. Capacity of existing and permitted disposal infrastructure to accommodate additional waste volumes
3. Transportation and other logistical capacity
4. Practicalities of scaling up/establishing existing and new infrastructure.

All decisions will deliver the necessary disease control outcomes, comply with the relevant legislation and regulatory approvals processes and be feasible and cost effective, with consideration for the environmental, community and economic impacts within the context of an active emergency response.

7.6.6.5 Decontamination

Cleaning and disinfection of infected premises and neighbouring premises will commence in unison with carcass disposal activities. Disinfection will be a shared responsibility between DEECA staff, farm owners, farm workers and/or private contractors engaged by DEECA.

7.6.6.6 Monitoring and restocking

As control agency, DEECA will lift restrictions on a farm and allow the restocking of the property with susceptible species after a period of time determined by a risk assessment. This time period will be dependent on various environmental factors including temperature and relative humidity, exposure time, decontamination procedures applied and destocking duration as well as disease agent survivability.

Restocking may include the use of a small number of sentinel animals to demonstrate freedom from disease before a property is restocked to full capacity.

7.6.6.7 Vaccination

Livestock vaccination may be an important part of disease control in some EAD emergencies. However, there is currently no vaccine registered for use in Australia for ASF or LSD. While there is a vaccine available for FMD, use of a vaccine significantly extends the time and requirements to regain freedom status post-eradication.

Vaccination may be considered for FMD if the disease spreads beyond the limit of available resources to contain it, to protect areas of high animal concentrations, and to limit infection and minimise virus excretion.

Vaccination for EI is available and was used successfully in the previous outbreak in Australia.

Use of vaccine requires approval by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority, either under an emergency use permit or standard approval. The decision to use vaccination as a disease control approach is approved at a national level by the CCEAD as part of the EAD Response Plan.

Use of FMD vaccine requires confirmation of the virus serotype in Australia and a request to the international FMD antigen bank following NMG approval. The specified quantity and strain of vaccine will then be sent to the preferred location(s) in Australia. AHA also has a contractual arrangement in place with a commercial supplier of vaccination equipment to be co-distributed with the vaccine in the event of an EAD.

In conjunction with pre-identified customs agents, and the suppliers of the cold chain service and vaccine equipment, AHA has developed procedures to be applied in the event of FMD vaccine being required in Australia.

Operational plans for the distribution of vaccine and vaccination of livestock in Victoria are under development.

7.6.7 Wild animals

The role of native and feral animals in the transmission of an EAD in Australia is difficult to predict as the country's freedom from these diseases and uniqueness of our Australian species mean there is limited available evidence. However, native and feral animals, such as deer and pigs are not considered to be a significant issue in an FMD outbreak. Research and experience from previous FMD responses to date, indicate the risk of transmission or recurrence from feral animals is considered low and has rarely been demonstrated, despite extensive research.

In the event of an EAD emergency, surveillance in feral and wild animal populations may be required as part of the State's EAD surveillance strategy. EAD-susceptible feral and wild animals will be identified and an assessment of their potential role in EAD spread will be undertaken. Generally, the highest risk of spread of an EAD by feral or wild animals will come from their interactions with livestock species (both direct and indirect contact). The first requirement will be to ascertain which susceptible wild animal species are present in the area of any EAD emergency and whether infection is present in that population. When susceptible feral or wildlife species are present in an EAD emergency area, a sampling strategy addressing them may be required to form a component of the surveillance program.

Depending on the results of the surveillance, control activities to reduce or entirely depopulate the animals in a localised area may be undertaken.

For local knowledge on surveillance and sampling of feral animal populations, DEECA will call upon the expertise of relevant authorities which may include Parks Victoria (PV), the Game Management Authority, local farmers and other relevant experts.

Any surveillance or control activities required in an EAD emergency event would be undertaken following risk assessment and under direction from the CVO.

7.6.8 Vector control

Insect vector monitoring or control will require significant input from agencies with BAU responsibility in this activity, for example, the Department of Health (DH) and local government. This will ensure that the risk of transmission via insect vectors is understood and monitored over time and if required, effective vector control is achieved.

7.6.9 Compliance and enforcement

The need to ensure compliance with the requirements of *LDC Act 1994* during an EAD response is a key element in the containment, control and eradication of disease. The requirements of *LDC Act 1994* include movement controls, quarantine, permit conditions, inspectors' directions and other disease control tools.

DEECA is the lead for EAD compliance and enforcement. The *LDC Act 1994* Act provides that in the event an exotic disease is declared under s.105(1), inspectors may also be appointed from:

- all employees of departments and administrative offices, potentially including public servants from other jurisdictions
- police officers, and
- persons employed or engaged by emergency service agencies (within the meaning of the *EM Act 1986 and 2013*).

Victoria Police, DTP and the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) have staff that can be authorised as inspectors to support a livestock standstill and movement controls. Agencies such as VFA have investigators that can also be authorised as inspectors under the *LDC Act 1994* and could support investigations under

the *LDC Act 1994*. Appointments made from these sources would also require specific training. The VFA Intelligence Unit provides support to DEECA compliance and enforcement activities.

DEECA will utilise all available compliance options within the compliance continuum from education and extension through to prosecution. The *LDC Act 1994* does not include provisions for on-the spot fines. Any matters determined for prosecution require charges to be laid and heard through the court. Under the *LDC Act 1994*, a livestock owner convicted of an offence that impacts the disease control response may not be eligible for compensation for any livestock or property destroyed as part of the disease response.

All compliance and enforcement will be conducted consistent with DEECA's Agriculture Victoria Compliance Management Policy.

Effective public engagement, communication and industry liaison are essential. Successful engagement will ultimately support compliance activities as people in regional communities are highly motivated to voluntarily comply with the requirements providing the information is clear and appropriate to the audience due to concerns of actually or being perceived to contribute to disease spread.

The *LDC Act 1994* is the main instrument that will support compliance activities in relation to the containment, control and eradication of disease. However, there are a number of other acts and subordinate legislation that are required to support these activities, specifically the *EP Act 2017* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* are critical for disposal activities.

Agencies are expected to undertake compliance and enforcement activities within usual agency responsibilities consistent with their policies, procedures and responsibilities. Given the significant increase in the potential volume of activities in this area, agencies with compliance and enforcement functions are likely to require support from other agencies in ensuring appropriate compliance activities occur to manage potential risks.

7.6.10 Finance and administration

The finance and administration function includes the management of financial arrangements and business systems associated with a response as well as the management of records, data capture and information flow. The function may be established within LCCs and the SCC.

Depending upon the size and complexity of an EAD emergency, it may be necessary to establish several units to manage the range of finance and administration activities for an EAD incident response. These could include the following:

- **Procurement** – provides policy and administrative support to the Incident Controller and IMT on procurement issues for the IMT, such as contracts, leases and related negotiations. This may also include the preparation and management of contracts and leases for the IMT during the response. Procurement will follow existing departmental policies and procedures and DEECA will invoke its critical incident protocols and processes to expedite procurement activities.

Additionally, each response agency is responsible for identifying, acquiring and distributing the goods and services that they require to exercise their role and responsibilities under this Plan.

There will be a variety of goods and services that will be required to deliver the activities to support a response. While some of these goods and services are used as part of BAU, there will be some that are only used in an EAD response. DEECA has determined the end-to-end activities required to be carried out in an EAD response and a catalogue of goods and services to support these activities has been developed. Where an activity is deemed to be led by another department or agency, the associated goods and services for that activity will be procured by the lead delivery agency according to their department's policies and procedures.

Where multiple department and agencies are involved in a specific activity, and common goods/services are identified, the lead delivery agency will take the lead in determining the procurement action.

- **Finance** – provides policy support to the IMT through provision of advice on financial issues such as cost-sharing arrangements. This may also include the management of and accounting for all financial transactions (which may incorporate claims for compensation), preparation of cost-sharing claims and participation in post-response audits.

- **Records management** – responsible for management of records (paper and electronic) received and generated by the IMT. This includes the establishment and management of processes for the collection, collation, storage and retrieval of these records.
- **Information systems** – maintaining existing EAD response and associated information systems used by DEECA (including MAX and BioWeb), other Victorian Government departments and agency staff in an EAD response. This includes providing access to relevant information systems as well as onboarding and training DEECA and Victorian Government department and agency staff in their use.
- **IMT secretariat** – provides dedicated secretariat support to the IMT, particularly for large EAD responses.

The finance and administration function of the Control Centre (State or local) will operate under DEECA policies and procedures. All other Victorian Government departments and agencies involved will be required to establish, implement and comply with their own financial and administrative management policies and processes to provide auditable support for EAD cost claims and invoices submitted to DEECA in relation to the response.

8. Proof of freedom

Following an outbreak of a major EAD such as FMD, surveillance to prove freedom from disease will be required to demonstrate that infection has been eradicated from susceptible animal populations and enable any remaining movement restrictions to be lifted within the country or zone. Proof of freedom will be needed to satisfy trading partners and regain access to international markets as well as underpin import controls to prevent the re-introduction of the disease.

The [WOAH](#) has the mandate from the WTO to officially recognise disease-free areas of countries for trade purposes. The Commonwealth Government is responsible for submitting an application to the WOA to regain Australia’s disease status. This application is supported by information provided by the states and territories detailing the eradication procedures carried out, the surveillance program undertaken, results obtained, demographics of the animal population, records of movements and relevant industry and government structures.

Any application should be based on the [WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#). If Australia is applying for part of the country to be recognised as free of disease (zonal approach) before country eradication is achieved, increased surveillance and movement restrictions may be required. The surveillance program will need to be consistent with national requirements and carefully designed to produce sufficient data that is reliable and acceptable to the WOA and international trading partners, while avoiding a program that is excessively costly and logistically complicated.

Although the WOA provides guidelines for recovering disease-free status, including prescribed times, acceptance of disease-free status following an outbreak will most likely have to be negotiated with individual trading partners and may take months to years.

9. EAD communications strategy

A comprehensive package of materials has been developed by DEECA to support broader EAD communications in the event of an outbreak within Victoria or in another state. This includes:

- media releases
- social posts
- website content
- digital stories
- case studies
- media holding lines
- key messages
- Q&As
- web updates
- internal communications
- industry and stakeholder engagement (such as meetings, webinars, workshops,

targeted communications, digital and social content).

The Victorian communications team must also work to coordinate with other state and Commonwealth Government communications teams to announce elements of a response in a coordinated manner where required.

The overarching objectives for the EAD communications strategy are to:

1. provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure that DEECA is well prepared to communicate and engage effectively with stakeholders in the event an EAD is confirmed in Australia
2. identify communication protocols and processes to be used in Victoria during an EAD emergency response
3. pre-develop a suite of communication tools to aid in the swift and timely delivery of information to affected stakeholders during an EAD response
4. support coordinated communication across government to meet the information needs of industry and the community and to convey that the response is being well managed.

The public information objectives in the event of an EAD are to:

1. generate accurate awareness of the EAD emergency immediately following confirmation of the disease being in Australia and in parallel with the signing of legal orders, and to notify affected stakeholders that the national livestock standstill (if applicable) is in effect via industry, government and media outlets
2. provide consistent, timely, tailored and accurate information to industry bodies, livestock/animal stakeholders, veterinarians, the supply chain and communities about the EAD emergency, how the government is managing the emergency, what they should do to minimise the impact of the emergency and where to seek further information
3. promote the need to report suspected EADs in animals to the EAD Watch Hotline on **1800 675 888**,
4. minimise consequences through communicating messages that support safety of food and human health and maintaining public trust and confidence in the response and the food and grocery supply chain
5. ensure all departmental, partner agency and stakeholder personnel prepare adequate communication materials for their interaction with stakeholders and the public where necessary
6. educate audiences about the EAD, control and management strategies to minimise further spread and promote how they should report suspected detections.

While DEECA will lead the control agency communications and public information strategy, the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) is responsible for communications, public information and engagement strategies related to broader economic consequence management and recovery outside the control agency public information function (such as tourism and local government).

Other Victorian Government agencies, departments or entities may also be required to support communications by identifying the needs and consequences of their audiences and use their channels to provide timely and tailored information to address audience concerns and amplify control agency messages.

Public messaging needs to be simple, delivered by credible spokespeople, easy to access and reinforced through multimedia campaigns that reach diverse audiences across the State.

The public messaging aims to:

- clearly articulate the pathway to the eradication of the EAD and show the community that the Government has the right plan and resources to do this
- provide clear information about support available to impacted Victorians – individually and at a community level
- quickly, clearly and repeatedly counter misinformation and disinformation with simple, understandable facts delivered by credible spokespeople
- promote tolerance and decrease conflict within the community.

10. EAD relief

Industry, business and community-wide relief measures will be required from Government. The nature and scale of these measures will be scenario dependent.

10.1 Activation and coordination of EAD relief

Responsibilities for relief activation rest with the Incident Controller (IC), Regional Controller (RC) or State Controller, in collaboration with the relevant relief tier coordination agency. Controllers will work closely with relevant relief tier coordination leads (i.e. DJSIR, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) and Towong Shire Council) to ensure that relief operations are integrated with response operations and that relief outcomes are considered in response decision making and directions. Where possible, existing relief structures will be used at local, region and state tiers to ensure integrated relief programs should there be concurrent emergencies.

Systems-level decision-making and oversight will be provided by the SRRT which is a forum established by the SERC as the incident grows in size and/or complexity. The role of the SRRT is to coordinate state-tier relief and recovery governance, management and operational delivery. Regional Relief Committees exist across all 8 emergency management regions for the purpose of consolidating a regional picture of relief needs and to coordinate operational relief delivery.

DEECA may establish an EAD Relief Working Group subject to consultation between the State Controller and State Emergency Relief Coordinator with consideration to the scale and complexity of the EAD response. The EAD Relief Working Group would provide EAD technical, policy and coordination support to the State Controller, SReC and respective tiers of relief coordination.

The EAD Relief Working Group membership could include DEECA, DJSIR, DFFH and other agencies relevant to relief operations from government and extend to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and industry subject to the nature and scale of the EAD outbreak.

DEECA will lead engagement with the Commonwealth Government on national relief measures and work jurisdictions for a consistent approach to the design, activation, and provision of relief. State level relief coordination will be led by ERV and regional relief coordination by DFFH. Where appropriate EAD relief operations will utilise existing structures and arrangements for relief provision.

10.2 Early State Government relief measures

Targeted sector-specific support from a range of government agencies and non-government organisations will be essential to meet wide-ranging needs. This targeting will respond to the specific needs of vulnerable cohorts and the cumulative stress and fatigue that exist in communities. Where possible existing EAD response activities and measures will be leveraged for EAD relief provision, examples include using the call centre and information lines as well as training response personnel to deliver key relief information and triage.

There are 3 priority areas for the State Government to activate immediate EAD relief in response to an outbreak. These priority areas and the responsible agency are detailed below, noting this list reflects the early and known support required of Government. Depending on the EAD outbreak, more relief measures are likely to be required.

- **Mental health**

DFFH will coordinate initial psycho-social first aid (PFA) to impacted farmers, workers and communities. This will include PFA support delivered through established service providers. This will be supported by the Department of Education (DE) and DJSIR through the development of psycho-social support for students and DH through the coordination of the mental health system
- **Compensation**

DEECA will manage and process the payment of compensation to eligible businesses for the destruction of animals, contaminated equipment or fodder.
- **Information and advice**

DEECA will promote the Rural Financial Counselling Service for impacted agricultural businesses to seek financial counselling and referrals for mental health support. DEECA will promote the technical services available in the Agriculture Services' team for farmers to access advice.

An EAD outbreak is anticipated to have direct and indirect impacts along the agriculture value chain. DJSIR is the lead stakeholder manager for small, medium to large businesses along this value chain and the consideration of EAD relief for businesses other than primary producers will reside with DJSIR to lead.

10.3 Valuation and compensation

The *LDC Act 1994* provides for the payment of compensation for domestic livestock, livestock product and property (such as fodder, fittings or vehicles) destroyed for the purposes of controlling, eradicating or preventing spread of an exotic disease, and for any domestic livestock that is certified by an inspector as having died of an exotic disease.

No compensation is payable for consequential loss, such as loss of profit, loss of production, loss of markets or losses incurred by breach of contract.

The amount of compensation payable for livestock is based on the market value of the livestock at the earliest of the following events:

- the time at which the owner consulted a veterinary practitioner about the diseased livestock
- notified an inspector of the disease under Section 7
- restrictions on the movement of the livestock were imposed under Part 3
- at the time the Secretary was notified that it was affected by or died from the disease.

In the case of an FMD response, where a livestock standstill would be implemented, the market value would then be determined based on the livestock value on Day 1, as this is when movement restrictions would be imposed (other than for individual livestock producers where diseased livestock might have been identified by a veterinary practitioner or inspector, as per the other events above, before the imposition of the livestock standstill).

The amount of compensation payable for livestock product, feed, fittings, or vehicles is the market value at the time of destruction of the goods.

A suitably-qualified and experienced person/s is appointed by the Minister for Agriculture or their delegate to provide an assessment of the market value of any destroyed livestock and property.

The compensation application, approval and payment process is a multi-step process. The steps are summarised as follows:

1. Development by DEECA staff, in consultation with the property owner/manager, of an inventory of dead/destroyed livestock which died as a result of the exotic disease or were destroyed for disease control purposes and, any livestock product, fodder, fittings (equipment) and vehicles (if applicable) that were, or need to be, destroyed for disease control purposes.
2. Valuation of the inventory by the appointed valuer.
3. Agreement by the owner to the inventory and valuation.
4. Completion and submission of the compensation form for approval and payment.

During large outbreaks, where there is a high number of valuations to be completed, the process may be modified to streamline compensation applications. In such circumstances valuations may be conducted centrally based on prior agreed values for livestock.

DEECA is responsible for the processing of compensation forms and will seek to ensure applications are processed and payments are made as swiftly as possible.

10.4 Animal welfare

Following the introduction of restrictions related to an EAD response, significant animal welfare consequences may arise as stock may be unable to leave the property. In addition, owing to the loss of export markets, there may be significant financial hardship for livestock owners unaffected by the disease but no longer having the resources to provide sufficient feed to their livestock or unable to sell them owing to wider market failure. This may result in the need for a welfare slaughter scheme or for ministerial seizure under the *POCTA Act 1986*.

DEECA is responsible for the implementation of the Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (VEAWP). The VEAWP supports efficient and effective coordination of animal welfare support services during and after an EAD emergency. The VEAWP describes the roles and responsibilities of DEECA, key partner organisations and Towong Shire. Council

The VEAWP integrates existing legislative requirements for animal welfare with the State's formal emergency management arrangements, describing:

- the planning requirements for animal welfare support services, including government agencies and non-government organisations, in emergency preparedness, response, relief and recovery
- the roles and responsibilities of agencies, organisations, owners and carers that have a role in planning for and providing emergency animal welfare support services
- operating arrangements during an emergency between animal welfare agencies and organisations, emergency service agencies and animal owners and carers.

DEECA is responsible for assessing the direct impacts of an emergency on animals. This requires determining the impact and consequences, and defining appropriate objectives, tactics and resources to enable an effective response.

View the VEAWP on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

11. Consequence management

The *EM Act 1986 and 2013* allocates responsibility to the EMC for the management of consequences of major emergencies including EAD emergencies. The *EM Act 1986 and 2013* defines consequence management as the coordination of agencies that are responsible for managing or regulating services or infrastructure which are or may be affected by a major emergency.

To acquit this responsibility, the EMC appoints an SEMT to develop a strategic plan with high-level actions for agencies to manage consequences, including to identify the potential consequences of emergencies and develop mitigation and response strategies to reduce impacts on communities.

The SEMT is a standing forum with membership tailored to the impacts and consequences of particular emergencies. The seniority of SEMT members reflects the magnitude and complexity of the consequences to be managed. EMV will provide systems level coordination of consequence management with agencies responsible for the management of consequences specific to their respective portfolios as per the SEMP. Joint planning will be required in circumstances where concurrent emergencies in and around impact areas could affect agencies' ability to respond to the emergency.

DJSIR is responsible for 2 critical infrastructures sectors (food and grocery supply and telecommunications) and is the recovery coordinating agency for impacts to business and local economies. DJSIR will appoint a state commander EAD to interface between response and consequence management functions of an EAD emergency, and will have functional accountability for economic consequence assessment, economic relief and early economic recovery planning activities.

Department of Education

The Department of Education will work to support school and early childhood services, Government school workforces and their communities by providing a range of services including:

- psychological advice and support to impacted schools, government schools and early childhood institutions as required
- supporting schools to respond to the impacts on educational operations including those resulting from potential quarantine activities or limitations on student movements. If schools are closed, education will continue and be maintained
- supporting schools to minimise the potential impact to agriculture learning programs as appropriate.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action will provide support to a range of sectors including:

- the waste management, recycling and resource recovery sector, in line with support provided to critical infrastructure sectors (noting that waste management is not a formal critical infrastructure sector)
- the water sector including in response to the potential contamination of waterways and catchments from deceased infected stock or feral cloven hooved animals and the waste disposal risk that infected animals could have an adverse impact on waterways and catchments
- water corporations and catchment management authorities which will adopt any preventative biosecurity measures required by DJSIR as they carry out ground works. Water corporations can play a role in pest animal control on public land and catchment protection, which will help prevent the spread of an EAD should it occur. They will also monitor water treatment plants (drinking water) for deceased infected feral animals and monitor waterways for deceased cloven-hoofed animals, as these may impact downstream and into storage facilities.

Appendix A Legislation

The table below sets out legislation (both Commonwealth and State) that provides authority to undertake actions during an EAD response.

Legislation	Acronyms and Abbreviations	Jurisdiction
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992	AVC Act 1992	State
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017	AVC Regulations 2017	State
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) (Ruminant Feed) Regulations 2015	AVC Regulations 2015	State
Biosecurity Act 2015		Commonwealth
Biosecurity Regulations 2016		Commonwealth
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994		State
Catchment and Land Protection Regulations 2012		State
Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987		State
Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981		State
Emergency Management Act 1986 and 2013	EM Act 1986 and 2013	State
Environment Protection Act 2017	EP Act 2017	State
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999		Commonwealth
Fisheries Act 1995		State
Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988		State
Livestock Disease Control Act 1994	LDC Act 1994	State
Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2017		State
Marine and Coastal Act 2018		State
Marine Safety Act 2010		State
Public Administration Act 2004	PA Act 2004	State
Planning and Environment Act 1987		State
Plant Biosecurity Act 2010		State
Plant Biosecurity Regulations 2016		State
Port Management Act 1995		State
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986	POCTA Act 1986	State
POCTA Regulations 2019		State
Wildlife Act 1975		State

Appendix B List of relevant operational documents

Status correct at time of publication and subject to change

Plan	Description	Status
Victorian Livestock Standstill Implementation Plan (DEECA)	Describes how Government agencies, businesses and the community will work together to implement a livestock standstill within Victoria.	Under revision
EAD Response Workforce Plan (DEECA)	Outlines where EAD response surge resources can be sourced and how they will be managed.	Under development
EAD Capability Framework (DEECA)	Outlines outline the roles and capabilities required for an EAD response, training pathways and role statements.	To be developed
Concept of Operations: Agriculture Victoria Response to Biosecurity Emergencies	Provides a uniform approach for managing biosecurity responses in Victoria.	Active
Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan	Integrates arrangements for animal welfare with the State's formal emergency management arrangements to ensure that animals are planned for and their welfare is appropriately addressed in any emergency.	Active
Victoria Police Operational Plan – Livestock Standstill Borders (Operation Silvanus)	Integrates arrangements to support the control agency with closing all border crossings points for vehicles carrying or that may have recently carried livestock or capable of carrying livestock by providing static traffic management points to stop vehicle until cleared or turned around on advice of control agency.	Active
<i>Victoria Police Operational Plan – Restricted Areas and Movement Intrastate (Operation Demeter)</i>	Supports the control agency by establishing traffic management points for restricted areas and providing a mobile response capability.	Active

Appendix D Committees

National

Committee/forum	URL
Animal Health Committee	https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/health/committees/ahc
Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD)	https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/health/committees/ccead
National Management Group (NMG)	https://www.outbreak.gov.au/how-we-respond-to-outbreaks
National Cabinet	https://federation.gov.au/national-cabinet
National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network (NBCEN)	https://www.outbreak.gov.au/about/biosecurity-incident-national-communication-network

State

Committee/forum	Description
State Crisis and Resilience Council (SCRC)	Peak crisis and emergency management advisory body to the Victorian Government that provides advice to ministers and relevant cabinet subcommittees. It is responsible for the development and implementation of whole-of-Victorian-Government EM policy and strategy. It does not make operational or tactical decisions.
State Relief and Recovery Team	Coordinates state-tier relief and recovery governance, management and operational delivery.
Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee (EMJPIC)	Has representatives from all Victorian Government departments and agencies Ensures a coordinated and cohesive communications approach and response arrangements in place.
Major Emergencies Interdepartmental Committee (IDC)	Provides strategic policy advice to the Minister for Emergency Services and Government, as well as advice and support to the EMC and control agencies as required.
Regional Relief Committees	Regional relief committees exist across all 8 EM regions for the purpose of consolidating a regional picture of relief needs and coordinating operational relief delivery.
State Coordination Team (SCoT)	The EMC may establish a State Coordination Team (SCoT) to oversee the coordination functions and responsibilities of the EMC and to set the strategic context of the readiness, response, relief and recovery to Class 1 and Class 2 emergencies.
EAD Relief Working Group	DEECA may establish an EAD Relief Working Group, subject to consultation between the State Controller and State Emergency Relief Coordinator and giving consideration to the scale and complexity of the EAD response. The Working Group would provide EAD technical, policy and coordination support to the State Controller, SReC and respective tiers of relief coordination.

Appendix E Acronyms, definitions and abbreviations

Acronym/term	Explanation/definition
Agency	government or non-government agency <i>EM Act 1986 s 4</i> For the purposes of this Plan, agencies include government and non-government organisations, government departments, local government and volunteer organisations with a role in EM as listed under Roles and Responsibilities.
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
AHA	Animal Health Australia acts as the custodian of the Agreement, is an independent national body in Australia whose members include the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, animal or plant industries, service providers and associate members. These bodies manage the development and review of underpinning plans such as AUSVETPLAN, which detail the nationally agreed approaches for the response to different emergency animal diseases.
ASF	African swine fever
APMEB	Animal Plant Marine and Environmental Biosecurity
ACDP	Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness
AUSVETPLAN	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan
Biosecurity Sub-Plan	Animal Plant Marine and Environmental Biosecurity Sub-Plan
CAOiC	Control Agency Officer in Charge
Class 2 Emergency	major emergency which is not – a. a Class 1 emergency; or b. a warlike act or act of terrorism, whether directed at Victoria or a part of Victoria or at any other state or territory of Australia; or c. a hijack, siege or riot. <i>EM Act 2013 s 3</i>
Chain of command	An agency's organisational hierarchy that defines the accountability of people or positions and identifies the link between them and their supervisor.
CMT	Coordination Management Team
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
CCEAD	Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease
DEECA	Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
DE	Department of Education
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DH	Department of Health
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EAD	Emergency Animal Disease
EADRA	Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement

Acronym/term	Explanation/definition
EADRP	Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan
EMC	Emergency Management Commissioner
EM-Learn	Emergency Management Victoria's Lessons Management Framework
EMJPIC	Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria
ERV	Emergency Recovery Victoria
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
EI	Equine influenza
FMD	Foot-and-mouth disease
GIS	Geographic Information System
GVP	Gross value of production
IGAB	Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity
IC	Incident Controller
ILO	Industry Liaison Officers, ILO and LLI are often used interchangeably
IMT	Incident Management Teams
LG	Local government
LLI	Livestock Liaison Industry Officers. ILO and LLI are often used interchangeably
LSD	Lumpy skin disease
NASOP	Nationally Agreed Standard Operating Procedures
NBCEN	National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network
NBRT	National Biosecurity Response Team
NMG	National Management Group
NLIS	National Livestock Identification System
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
OILL	Observations, insights, lesson identified, lesson learned
'the Plan'	The Victorian Government State Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Response Plan
PHA	Plant Health Australia
RC	Regional Controller
REMT	Regional EM Team
PFA	Psycho-social first aid
PIO	Public Information Officer
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SBOC	State Biosecurity Operations Centre
SCC	State Control Centre
SCRC	State Crisis and Resilience Council

Acronym/term	Explanation/definition
SCT	State Control Team
SEMP	State Emergency Management Plan
SEMT	State Emergency Management Team
SERC	State Emergency Relief Coordinator
SReC	State Recovery Coordinator
SRRT	State Relief and Recovery Team
STPT	Strategic and Technical Planning Team
VEAWP	Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
VFA	Victorian Fisheries Authority
VPF	Victorian Preparedness Framework
VPS	Victorian Public Service
WoVG	Whole of Victorian Government
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
WTO	World Trade Organisation

