

27 July 2015

WA TO HAVE ITS SAY ON BJD

WA producers are invited to an open forum in Perth on 11 August to help determine the future of Bovine Johne's disease (BJD) management in Australia as part of the National BJD review.

"Animal Health Australia (AHA) is coordinating the Review and is encouraging all interested parties in WA to participate," said AHA's Executive Manager of Biosecurity, Duncan Rowland.

"Following a number of rounds of constructive public feedback we are off to WA to hear their thoughts on the proposed steps to move the Review into its next phase.

"WA is a vast and uniquely placed state with its own distinctive needs when it comes to avoiding and managing Johne's disease, which is why it is important to seek the opinions of interested stakeholders.

"This will be an open forum where participants can review the current discussion paper, and, most importantly, it's an opportunity for the Review team to hear, first-hand, the issues surrounding BJD and its future management from a WA perspective.

"Feedback from WA producers and other stakeholders within the WA livestock sector will help us get a clearer understanding that the progress being made by the Review's reference panel reflects the requirements of the WA cattle industry.

"Following the WA consultation, work will commence on determining a path for the management of BJD in Australia over the next five to seven years," Mr Rowland said.

RSVPs to the forum, which is being held at the Pan-Pacific Hotel Perth, are essential. Interested parties must RSVP to bjdreview@animalhealthaustralia.com.au by 5 August 2015.

The discussion paper and further information on the National BJD Review can be found on the AHA website at www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au. Enquiries into the Review can be sent to bjdreview@animalhealthaustralia.com.au

The existing National BJD Strategic Plan is a cooperative program involving Australian livestock industries, government and the veterinary profession to help cattle industries reduce the spread and impact of BJD in Australia.

ENDS

About Animal Health Australia

Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our Members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.

Media enquiries: Harley McNamara 02 6203 3977 / hmcnamara@animalhealthaustralia.com.au