



The National Sheep Health Monitoring Project Adding value in the Red Meat Supply Chain

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- A robust national animal health system that maximises competitive advantage and preferred market access for Australia's livestock industries and contributes to the protection of human health, the environment and recreational activities

- Commenced in 2007
- Monitors lines of adult sheep in abattoirs for a number of important animal health conditions
 - Reduce farm profit through productivity losses
 - Cause wastage in meat processing plants through condemnations, trimming and down time.

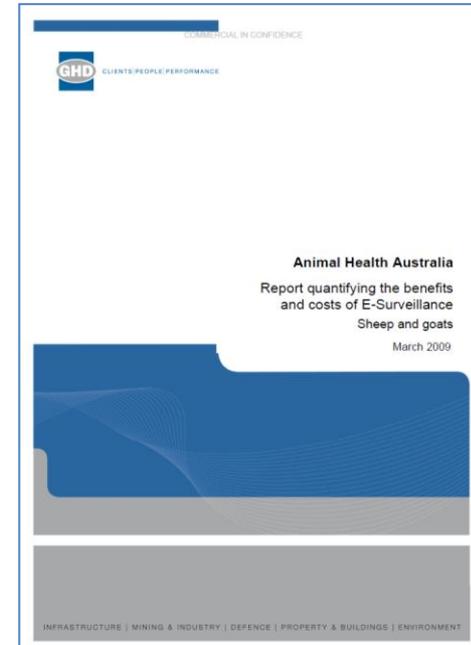
Drivers for the program

- Emerging diseases
- Early warning of emergency diseases
- Processor concerns about
 - Market access, managing risk
 - Product loss and downgrade
 - Labour costs

- Livestock industry concerns about:
 - Loss of productivity
 - Market access
 - Animal welfare.
- Previous trials had demonstrated the viability and effectiveness of collecting data and returning feedback information to producers

What was the catalyst for the NSHMP?

- A report commissioned by Animal Health Australia to identify benefits and costs of collecting and returning data to producers found that
 - Costs of processing based on percentage of carcase and offal condemns = \$15 million per year
 - Total cost = \$110 million (\$95m on farm + \$15m processors)
 - This didn't include the costs of partial condemns or trimming (75 kgs for every condemned carcass)





GHD Hassall

Wastage

- AQIS meat inspection data (extrapolation from export works to total works) – full condemnns:
 - Sheep 0.70% of 12 mill slaughter/yr = 86,216
 - Lambs 0.11% of 20 mill slaughter/yr = 21,023
 - Goats 0.95% of 1.1 mill slaughter/yr = 10,822
- Plus partial condemnns – estimated that for each condemn, 30 carcasses need trimming with trim waste 2.5kg/carcase
- Plus offal and skins



Which conditions?

Based on the report the sheep industries and processors have indentified the following conditions

Diseases and conditions monitored as part of the NSHMP	
Sheep measles	Bladder worm (<i>C tenuicollis</i>)
Hydatid disease	Sarcocystis
CLA (cheesy gland)	Cancer
Grass seed contamination	Lungworm
Pleurisy / Pneumonia	Knotty Gut (<i>Oesophagostomum spp</i>)
Melanosis	Dog bites
Liver fluke	



Source: Animal Health Australia

Key facts and figures

- Cooperating domestic and export mutton processing abattoirs in all states
- Year round inspection based on single vendor sales of more than 25 sheep.

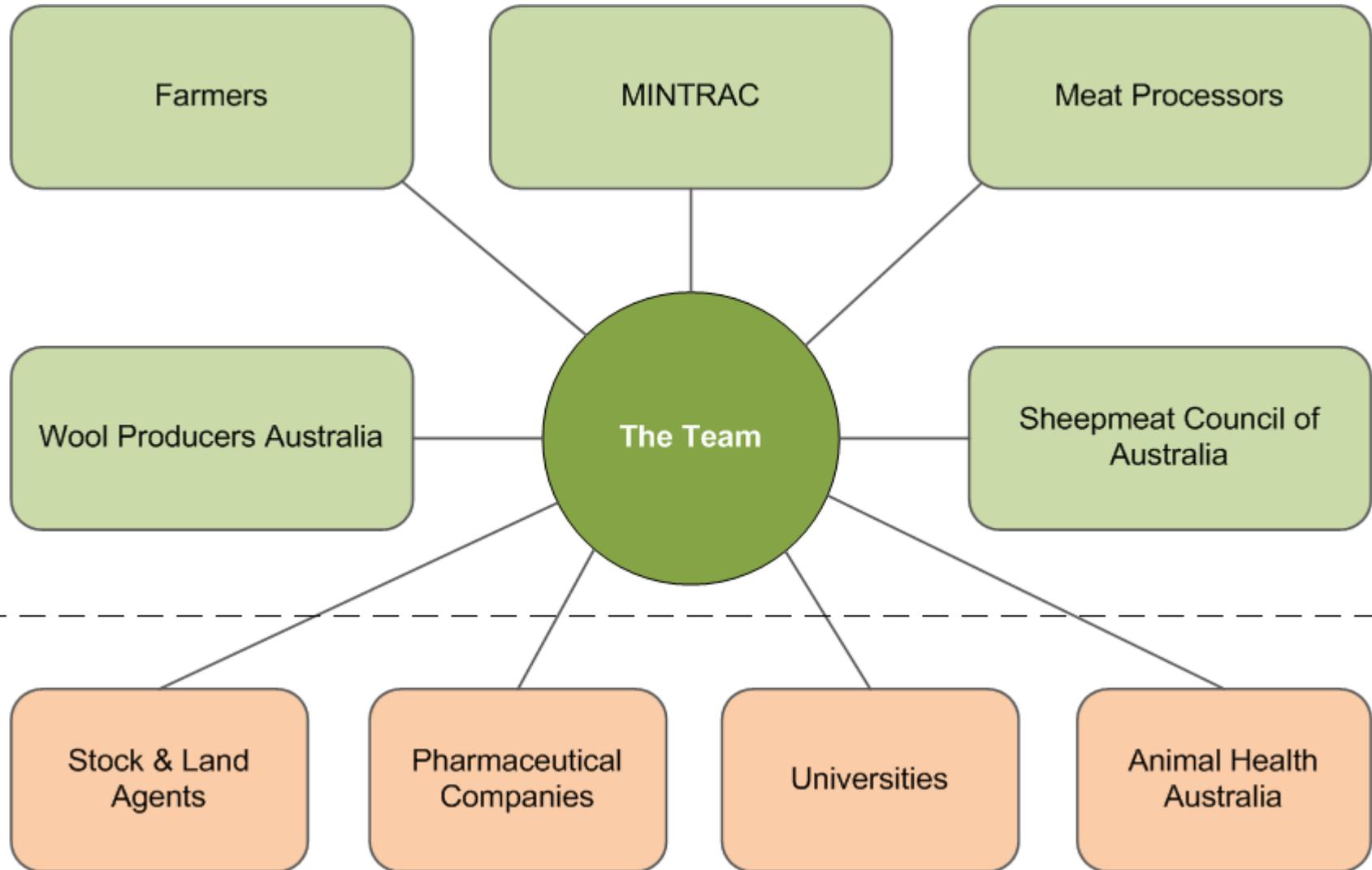
Year	Nos of sheep	Lines
2008-09	2,567,762	9,792
2009-10	1,824,444	8,340
2010-11	909,441	4,674

- The good news is good
 - Overall the average percentage of infected animals in an infected line is relatively low, BUT
 - Considerable regional variation in animal health conditions
 - Some lines are very heavily infected
 - For some conditions (T.ovis and Caseous lymphadenitis) in some jurisdictions over 50% of lines are infected

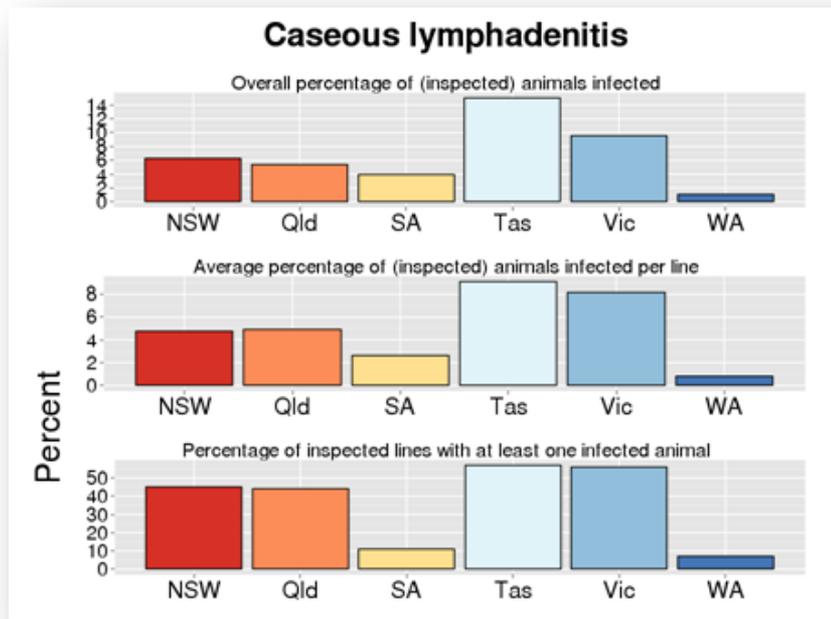
- There is room for improvement
 - Some markets accept no risk
 - The monitoring is 'patchy' in some states
- Provides baseline data set and demonstration of a national abattoir monitoring program to support international negotiations

- Feedback to producers is creating renewed interest in managing production diseases
- Informing regional extension messages in programs such as Lifetime Ewe
- Informing R and D decisions in the sheep industries.

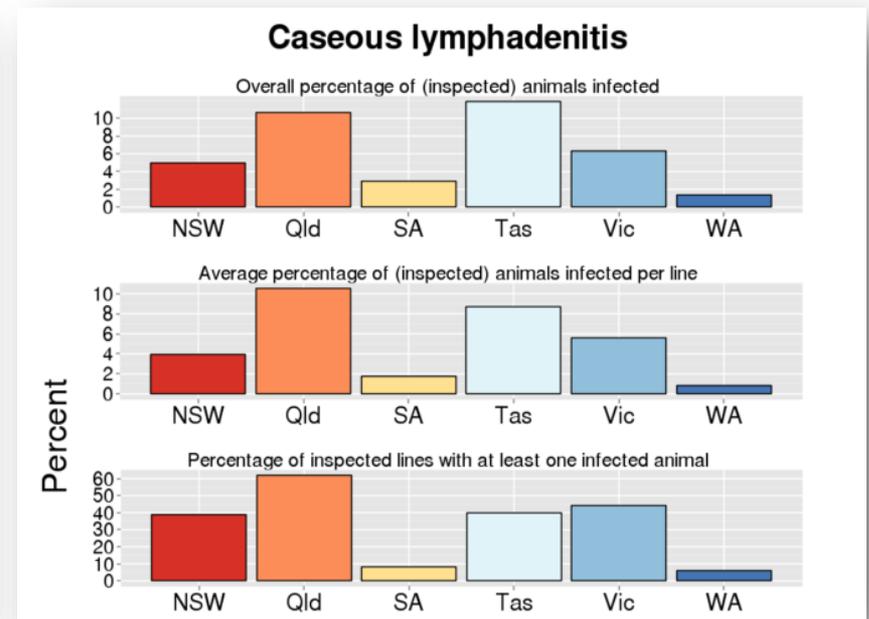
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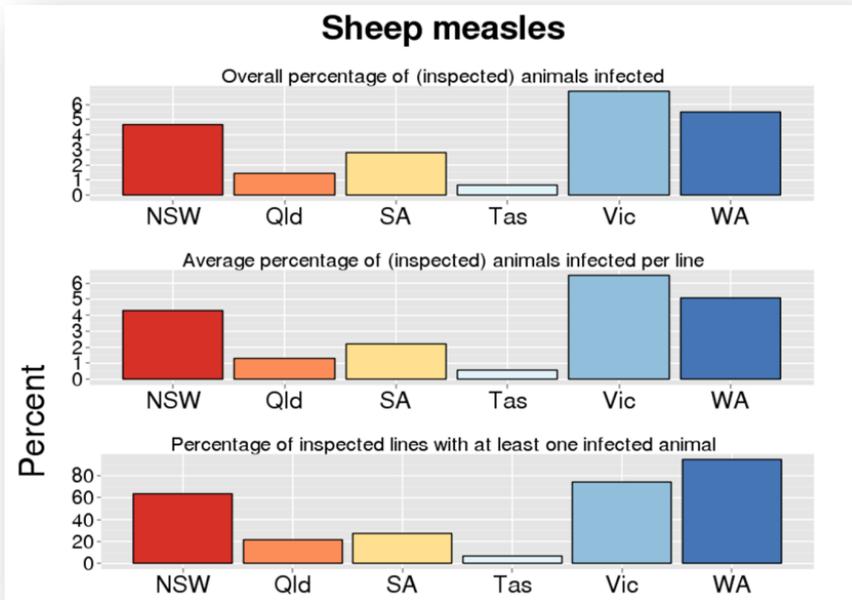


2009

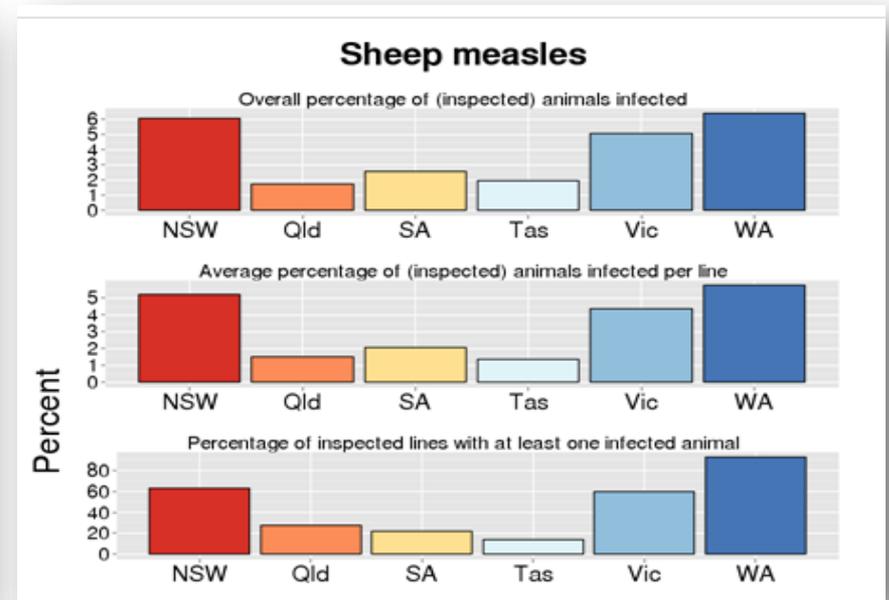


2010

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2009



2010

A vision for the future

- Abattoir monitoring as a normal activity in processing works
- Feedback to producers along with information on carcass traits and bruising scores
- Electronic transfer on data along the supply chain from point of collection to producer
- Availability of a trained and engaged meat industry workforce who add value to the red meat supply chain
- Responsive producers interested in improving productivity on-farm and lift product compliance for meat processors.



Source: Animal Health Australia