

AQUAPLAN NEWSLETTER 1 - 2004

“GOODBYE AQUAPLAN 1998-2003”

What did the “old” AQUAPLAN achieve?

AQUAPLAN 1998-2003 provided, for the first time, an integrated and planned approach with industry and governments working together to maximise the opportunities for, and profitability of Australian aquaculture and fisheries.

- It significantly enhanced our preparedness and response for aquatic animal disease emergencies through, for

example, production of contingency plans, diagnostic tests, and provision of many training exercises.

- It also led to the formal establishment of the Aquatic Animal Health Committee as the primary interface between industry and government for aquatic animal health issues.

Despite all the progress, however, much work still needs to be done.

Why do we need a new plan?

Industry and governments recognise the need for a new plan, based on the success of *AQUAPLAN 1998-2003*. The new plan will:

- help maintain our relative disease-free status,
- continue to enhance our emergency preparedness and response, and
- facilitate market access, domestically and overseas.

“WELCOME AQUAPLAN 2005-2010”

How was the “new” AQUAPLAN developed?

AQUAPLAN: Australia’s National Strategic Plan for Aquatic Animal Health 2005-2010 has been jointly developed by governments and private industry sectors under the oversight of the Aquatic Animal Health Committee.

- The development of *AQUAPLAN 2005-2010* involved extensive consultation with governments, a wide range of aquaculture industries, researchers, conservation groups, the wild catch and recreational fishing industries, and educational institutes around Australia.
- These stakeholders identified and ranked priority health issues that will face the aquaculture industry over the five years 2005-2010.

The highest ranked issues were developed with further consultation with these groups, and have become the key strategies of *AQUAPLAN 2005-2010*.

What does *AQUAPLAN 2005-2010* cover?

The *AQUAPLAN 2005-2010* strategies are:

- Enhanced integration and scope of aquatic animal health surveillance in Australia
- Harmonisation of approaches to aquatic animal health in Australia
- Establishment of an emergency animal disease response agreement for Australian aquaculture industries
- Education and training in the aquatic animal health sector
- Welfare standards for aquaculture
- Appropriate use of therapeutics for aquatic animal health management
- Aquatic animal health as part of ecologically sustainable development

Each individual strategy includes a detailed description of the strategy objectives and the projects that must be carried out to achieve progress

against the objectives.

AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 also includes indicative budgets for the implementation of the individual strategies. These budgets are indicative in nature and as such only provide an estimate of the cost of implementing actions to achieve progress against the strategy objectives. The indicative budgets do not attribute costs to stakeholder groups.

What are the next steps?

AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 will be presented to the heads of the State and Territory Primary Industries and Fisheries Departments (PISC) and relevant Ministers (PIMC) at their meetings in September and October this year. Should PISC and PIMC endorse *AQUAPLAN 2005-2010*, it is intended that the Aquatic Animal Health Committee will coordinate discussions between governments and industry regarding the funding and resource allocation required for the implementation of *AQUAPLAN 2005-2010*.

For further information contact:

Aquatic Animal Health Unit, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry: ph: 02 6271 6300 email: aah@daff.gov.au or visit: www.daff.gov.au/aquaticanimalhealth .