

## 2003-04 SAFEMEAT ANNUAL REPORT

### Message from the Chairman

Dear Stakeholder

The SAFEMEAT partnership has had another very active year in dealing with a range of strategic policy issues associated with red meat safety and hygiene. Consistent with past years, SAFEMEAT has relied heavily on its partnership bodies and service delivery organisations to implement SAFEMEAT initiatives.

Maintaining a watching brief on overseas BSE developments has remained the most significant food safety issue for SAFEMEAT. The impact of Canadian and US BSE cases has had far-reaching implications for the North American meat industry and their trading partners. Ongoing trade disruption between Japan, US and Canada continues to place pressure on Australian measures. SAFEMEAT worked closely with its industry and government agencies in continuing to develop and implement appropriate risk management strategies. These included agreement to the R & D surveillance project and a BSE workshop to discuss international developments, specific domestic measures and to review Australia's strategic approach. Such strategies ensure Australia has sufficient evidence to demonstrate its BSE-free status.

Residue management continued to be a major focus of activity with the National Residue Survey (NRS) managing SAFEMEAT-approved programs. This year, SAFEMEAT continued to place a strong emphasis on managing the risks associated with drought feeding. The Targeted Testing Working Group has undertaken a review of the National Organochlorine Residue Management (NORM) program. The SAFEMEAT Stockfeeds Working Group presented a submission to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for setting export intervals and there have been some positive initial measures.

The progress of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) cattle and the NLIS sheep has received good support from all state and territory governments with compliance being mandated within these jurisdictions. The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) was also launched during the year and will underpin the new NVD/Waybill when presenting livestock for sale. SAFEMEAT officially endorsed LPA and use of the new NVD/waybill.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all SAFEMEAT partners and their respective organisations for their contributions in 2003-2004. A special thanks goes to the Executive Group for its work in progressing the SAFEMEAT work program. Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing work of key service delivery organisations, particularly Meat and Livestock Australia Ltd and the National Residue Survey, for their efforts during the year.

Yours sincerely

Jack Ware  
Chairman  
October 2004

## **Role of SAFEMEAT**

The primary role of SAFEMEAT, as specified in the Meat Industry memorandum of Understanding (MOU), is to oversight and promote sound management systems to deliver safe and hygienic product to the market place. SAFEMEAT promotes rationalisation of regulation and standards within the industry, drives the implementation of sound management systems and monitors industry performance in respect of meat safety and hygiene.

## **SAFEMEAT Structure**

The SAFEMEAT partnership members for 2003-04 were:

- Mr Jack Ware – Chair
- Mr Gary Hardwick – Australian Meat Industry Council
- Mr Allan Teys - Australian Meat Industry Council
- Mr Keith Adams – Cattle Council of Australia
- Mr Sandy Maconochie – Australian Lot Feeders’ Association
- Mr Ian Feldtmann – Sheepmeat Council of Australia
- Mr Ian McIvor - Australian Livestock Exporters’ Council Ltd
- Mr Michael Taylor – Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Dr Gardner Murray – Australian Chief Veterinary Officer
- Mr Jim Varghese– Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (representing State/Territory Agriculture Departments)
- Dr Barbara Wilson – Safe Food Queensland (representing State/Territory Meat Industry Authorities)

During the year, the Executive Group, comprising the following members, supported SAFEMEAT:

- Tom Maguire– Australian Meat Industry Council (Chair)
- Brett de Hayr – Cattle Council of Australia
- Rob Sewell – Australian Lot Feeders’ Association
- Bernie O’Sullivan – Sheepmeat Council of Australia
- Bob Biddle – Deputy Australian Chief Veterinary Officer
- Steve McCutcheon – Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Kevin Dunn – Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (representing State/Territory Agriculture Departments)
- Brian Casey – PrimeSafe Victoria (representing State/Territory Meat Industry Authorities)

- Allan Bloxsom – Meat and Livestock Australia Ltd
- Scott Hanson – Meat and Livestock Australia Ltd
- Peter Miller – National Residue Survey
- Ann McDonald– Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
- Ralph Hood – Animal Health Australia
- Andy Madigan – Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association Limited

### **SAFEMEAT Secretariat**

The SAFEMEAT Secretariat is located in the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Edmund Barton Building, Canberra. Mr Steve McCutcheon, General Manager, Product Safety and Integrity, is the Secretary of SAFEMEAT.

## **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN 2003-04**

### **Issues Management**

During the period 2003-04, there were no major zoonotic disease incidents. However, the emergence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States of America (US) had significant implications for Australia and the work of SAFEMEAT. The detection in the US had a far-reaching impact on the North American meat industry and, in particular, its trade relations with markets. A range of potential issues confront Australia in maintaining access to key beef export markets, particularly in Japan and the US. While both these countries are still in the process of developing and implementing enhanced BSE-control systems, SAFEMEAT will keep a watching brief. SAFEMEAT has played a major role in managing Australia's response to these events and ensuring Australia preserves its BSE-free status.

There were also no major residue incidents during 2003-04. With drought conditions in eastern Australia continuing, the Stockfeeds Working Group was able to provide advice on feeding practices to ensure any potential residue risks were effectively managed. Some significant advances were made with the setting of export intervals (EIs) with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) agreeing to require future registrants to propose EIs to enable the APVMA to consider these as part of the registration process. SAFEMEAT will continue to work closely with the APVMA and producer industries on their capacity (or otherwise) to manage the potential trade risks arising from the use of chemicals.

Jurisdictions and industry continue to work towards accelerated implementation of National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) cattle and NLIS sheep. NLIS will be kept under review to ensure that it continues to meet Australian and international standards.

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program was launched on 1 March 2004 and has gathered momentum. LPA requires producers to be able to verify the statements made on the NVD/Waybill when presenting livestock for sale. Proposals for enhanced traceability were progressed through Animal Health Committee to the State and Territory jurisdictions. A key measure will be the requirement for an extension to the time for keeping NVDs and associated records.

### **Three Year Business Plan**

The strategic directions of SAFEMEAT for the year were set out in the Three-Year (2004-2007) Business Plan. The Business Plan outlines the strategic approach to managing red meat safety and hygiene within Australia and seeks to achieve this through a number of targeted projects under the following eight Key Programs of industry priority:

1. Standards and Regulations
2. Emergency Management
3. Animal Diseases

4. Residues
5. Pathogens
6. Systems Development and Management
7. Communications and Education
8. Emerging Issues

Each Key Program has defined projects, timing, funding and responsibilities:

**1. Standards and Regulations**

The aim of this program is to ensure the implementation of nationally consistent standards and regulations relating to meat safety and hygiene.

**2. Emergency Management**

This program seeks to ensure that effective emergency management strategies are in place and activated at appropriate times.

**3. Animal Diseases (as they relate to food safety)**

This program is designed to ensure the red meat sector deals effectively with food safety issues arising from disease outbreaks in cattle and sheep.

**4. Residues**

This program aims to develop and implement sound management systems to deliver safe and hygienic food with adequate and nationally consistent government standards and regulations relating to residues.

**5. Pathogens**

The objective of this program is to implement sound management systems to deliver safe and hygienic food that meets consumer and regulatory requirements.

**6. Systems Development and Management**

The development and management of key management systems to underpin red meat safety and hygiene programs is the purpose of this program.

**7. Communication and Education**

This program aims to facilitate communication, education and awareness of meat safety and hygiene issues.

**8. Emerging Issues**

This program is designed to ensure that the industry is positioned to meet changing market and consumer demands as they arise. Issues such as advancements in biotechnology policy are closely monitored both domestically and internationally to ensure a well-informed industry.

## **Progress against the Business Plan**

During the year, SAFEMEAT made good progress against all the key programs outlined in the Business Plan.

### **1. Standards and Regulations**

SAFEMEAT continued to drive the implementation of State/Territory based legislative arrangements to support NVDs, the NLIS and TSE related issues. SAFEMEAT has been involved in developing the Recycling of Fats and Oils Standard and worked to promote the Meat Safety Quality Assurance (MSQA) and Meat Safety Enhancement Program (MSEP).

In terms of international standards, SAFEMEAT provided red meat industry input into Codex and other international food standards-setting processes.

### **2. Emergency Management**

SAFEMEAT maintains linkages between emergency management arrangements, including AUSVETPLAN. It also encourages State/Territory agencies to develop emergency response plans that complement SAFEMEAT emergency management arrangements.

### **3. Animal Diseases (as they relate to food safety)**

Following the detection of BSE in the US, there has been a major impact on the beef trade with Japan. Initiatives to increase market awareness of Australia's BSE-free status helped to maintain market confidence.

SAFEMEAT is closely monitoring international requirements regarding BSE/TSE and providing input into the development of appropriate response measures designed to preserve Australia's BSE-free status and enhance market access. Approval has been given for additional R&D surveillance testing of cattle and sheep to begin in the next financial year. SAFEMEAT progressed contingency plans looking at downers, specified risk material, testing and communications.

### **4. Residues**

The severity of the continuing drought during 2003-04 has maintained an increased risk of residues in meat due to the use of novel feed stuffs like crop trash. SAFEMEAT established a working group to assess the situation and assist in advancing a 'whole of supply chain' approach to residue risk management.

SAFEMEAT continues to respond to the recommendations from the two Brightling reviews relating to the operation of targeted testing programs. In particular, it has continued reviewing targeted testing programs including the National Organochlorine Residue Management (NORM) Program and the National Antimicrobial Residue Minimisation (NARM) Program. There is a general consensus that the cost of producing cattle from OC contaminated land should be a cost to the individual enterprise choosing to run cattle, rather than a common cost to the whole industry.

Through the National Residue Survey (NRS), SAFEMEAT conducted its revised endosulfan-testing program based on NVD responses.

SAFEMEAT provided input to relevant Codex Committees such as the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues and Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods.

## **5. Pathogens**

The first stage of microbiological testing in an abattoir survey has been completed. The results so far are showing an improvement in the hygienic quality of meat being processed in Australian abattoirs. The results also showed that the industry investment in quality assurance is paying dividends.

## **6. Systems Development and Management**

SAFEMEAT continues to promote the rollout of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) cattle and NLIS sheep. These schemes are to be used as the basis for the national risk-based framework for livestock identification and tracing.

SAFEMEAT has officially endorsed LPA and use of the new NVD/waybill. LPA is a program to underpin the new NVD/Waybill when presenting livestock for sale. SAFEMEAT has also officially endorsed the new CVD for stockfeeds.

## **7. Communication and Education**

The SAFEMEAT Communication Group continued to hold fortnightly teleconferences with industry and government groups for the exchange of information and discussion on red meat safety and hygiene issues.

SAFEMEAT sees communication with stakeholders and the development of strong and effective links as tasks of major importance. Communication channels are being built and strengthened between the community, industry and government organisations.

## **8. Emerging Issues**

SAFEMEAT maintained a watching brief on developments with biotechnology and their implications for red meat safety and hygiene. SAFEMEAT is also closely watching developments in policy on antimicrobial resistance.

### **SAFEMEAT Meetings**

SAFEMEAT met face-to-face as a partnership four times during 2003-04:

- 25 July 2003
- 30 September 2003
- 17 December 2003
- 18 March 2004

Members, industry and government experts and the Executive Group met considerably more frequently by teleconference or at special meetings to address particular issues.

### **SAFEMEAT Executive Group**

The SAFEMEAT Executive Group met regularly to drive the Business Plan work program.

### **Funding**

Funding to attend meetings and undertake projects is provided by individual SAFEMEAT members.

Funding for the SAFEMEAT Secretariat is provided through Meat and Livestock Australia Ltd. The cost of running the Secretariat was \$200,000 for the twelve months.

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- a. To work with the objective of establishing world best practice in ensuring the safety of red meat products.
- b. To ensure each red meat industry sector implements sound management systems to ensure safe and hygienic product is delivered to the market place.

c. To ensure adequate and nationally consistent government standards and regulations relating to meat safety and hygiene.

d. To ensure that effective crisis management strategies are put in place by the appropriate red meat industry sectors and to this end, ensure that there is a fully integrated and effective communications network.

## SECTION 2: PROJECTS

### Key Program 1: Standards and Regulations

<b>1.1 Project: Monitoring and/or contributing to the development of domestic food regulation policy and standards.</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Contributing, where necessary, to the transfer of the Meat Standards to the Food Regulation Ministerial Council.	Executive Group	N/A	Ongoing	First Standard being reviewed is poultry. SAFEMEAT involvement co-ordinated through secretariat
Leading the development of a national Pet Food Standard under the Primary Industries Ministerial Council	Executive Group	N/A	Ongoing	Endorsed by PISC in September 2004 Endorsed by PIMC in December 2004
Contributing to the development of a standard for recycling fats and oils.	Executive Group	N/A	Ongoing	First draft due mid 2005

<b>1.2 Project: Contributing to efforts to facilitate international acceptance of the MSQA and MSEP</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Continuing to promote international acceptance of HACCP based QA schemes utilising company based inspection staff and third party audits	AQIS/Executive Group	N/A	Ongoing	New Codex standard (due to be adopted by the commission by July'05) supports these initiatives. Industry developing a strategic plan including how they wish to progress company based inspection and third party audits.
AQIS and industry reviewing the MSEP model.	AQIS/Industry	N/A	2004	Review complete.

**1.3 Project: Monitoring and participating in the development and implementation of policy and legislation for the registration and use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals**

<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Contributing to the review of national agvet chemical policy	MLA/CCA/SCA	N/A	Ongoing	Trade Advisory Notices circulated to a number of Executive Group representatives.
Through the Stockfeed Working Group, working with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority on chemical registration issues	DAFF/CCA/SCA	N/A	Ongoing	Working with APVMA in implementing new Export Interval requirements.

**1.4 Project: Monitoring and/or driving the legislative framework for key red meat industry systems.**

<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Driving the implementation and refinement of the national legislative framework for vendor declarations	Executive Group/States	N/A	Ongoing	Agreement reached with most feed industries on CVD format. Strategy for uptake of CVD is next major issue. CVD published. New NVD commenced 1 March 2004. Phase-out of redundant NVD on 1 July 2004
Contributing, as necessary, to the refinement of underpinning legislation for the NLIS (cattle and sheep)	Executive Group/States	N/A	Ongoing	Regular consultation through the NLIS Executive Committee.

**1.5 Project: Monitoring and/or contributing to the ongoing development of international food regulation policy**

<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Contributing to the development of briefing for Australia's participation in OIE, Codex and other international food standards setting bodies.	Executive Group/AFFA	N/A	On going	Input provided into key committees/issues as necessary.

## Key Program 2: Emergency Management

<b>2.1 Project: Conducting an annual review of arrangements for the management of red meat safety and hygiene emergencies</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Reviewing SAFEMEAT's Incident Response Manual on an annual basis	Secretariat	N/A	March 2004	Workshop for SAFEMEAT partners held prior to 25 August meeting. Further revisions being incorporated for consideration at 18 November meeting. Endorsed at SAFEMEAT 25
Conducting post-mortems following each emergency	Executive Group/Secretariat	N/A	Ongoing	The last post-mortem was conducted in February 2004 following the US announcement of its first BSE case.

<b>2.2 Project: Facilitating appropriate linkages between SAFEMEAT emergency management arrangements and other related arrangements including AUSVETPLAN and State/Territory emergency response plans</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Maintaining appropriate linkages with DAFF arrangements	Secretariat/DAFF	N/A	Ongoing	Secretariat represented on DAFF EM committee reviewing current arrangements.
Facilitating closer alignment with the AUSVETPLAN	Secretariat/DAFF	N/A	Ongoing	Discussions held with OCVO/AHA. Secretariat involved in rewrite of AUSVETPLAN. SAFEMEAT plan amended to reflect linkages.
Encouraging State/Territory agencies to develop emergency response plans that complement SAFEMEAT emergency management arrangements.	Secretariat/NSW Agriculture	N/A	Ongoing	Draft generic safety plan circulated for comment. Need for PISC endorsement.

<b>2.3 Project: Maintaining and/or developing both domestic and international networks to ensure the most up to date information on issues is available.</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Liaising regularly with key overseas Commonwealth Government posts	AFFA	N/A	Ongoing	Briefing provided on key issues. Reports from posts circulated as necessary.
Liaising regularly with MLA overseas	MLA	N/A	Ongoing	Links maintained through MLA head office.

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**Key Program 3: Animal Diseases (as they relate to food safety)**

**3.1 Project: Contributing to the development and implementation of management strategies to protect Australia from TSEs and to underpin our assurances on TSE freedom**

Key Components	Key Action Responsibility	Funding	Timing	Progress
Monitoring international requirements for BSE/TSE and the implications for export trade.	DAFF	N/A	Ongoing	Input sought from industry on OIE Code changes and individual country requirements. Particular emphasis on Canada/US/Japan/EU. Comments provided drafted on new US rules
Contributing to the development and implementation of the TSE Freedom Assurance Program.	AHA/Executive Group/MLA	TBA	Ongoing	Some SAFEMEAT Members also on TSEFAP committees, including National Advisory Committee, National Technical Committee and Feed Ban Working Groups.
Contributing to the development and implementation of appropriate strategies to protect public health interests in Australia.	DAFF/Executive Group/MLA	TBA	Ongoing	Ongoing discussion with FSANZ and DHOC. Input into strategies provided. PIMC has endorsed strategies from BSE workshop. Implementation being worked on by Exec Group, States and TSEFAP as a very high priority.
Validation of PCR and assessment of neogen test	DAFF/MLA/AHA	\$77,000	December 2003	Validation work completed. Interim report with MLA and circulated to TSEFAP. Awaiting NATA accreditation and final costings. Additional work to establish a testing regime in Australia being undertaken by a TSEFAP Working Group.
Maintenance of AAHL accreditation for prionics test and development of systems to test '4D' animals	DAFF/MLA/AHA	NTSESP	Ongoing	400 test p.a. approved for maintenance of Prionics accreditation as part of the NTSESP. Sampling of 4 'D' stock commended. .
Additional testing of R&D surveillance of 2000 animals per annum (1800 cattle 200 sheep). Accreditation of second laboratory for screen tests	DAFF/MLA/AHA/AQIS/Industry	MLA	Ongoing	Sampling commenced October 2004. Laboratory capability to undertake Biorad 'rapid tests' expanded to include a QLD laboratory.
Contingency Plans for BSE	DAFF/ Industry/AHC	Various	End of 2004	SAFEMEAT contingency working group looking at downers, SRMs, testing and communications. Draft plans for SRMs, downers and additional testing drafted. Consultancy to look at SRM/downer and

				feed chain issues almost finalised.
PIMC Resolutions	DAFF/ Industry/AHC	Ongoing	End of 2005	Some resolutions implemented. Others have commenced. See separate detailed action list

### 3.2 Project: **Contributing, where appropriate, to the development and implementation of national policies and programs designed to protect Australia from exotic animal diseases**

Key Components	Key Action Responsibility	Funding	Timing	Progress
<b>FMD</b> Monitoring overseas developments with FMD.	Executive Group	N/A	Ongoing	Lat update provided at 17 December 2003 SAFEMEAT meeting. FMD vaccine supply agreement implemented by AHA.
<b>Anthrax</b> Monitoring progress with industry-driven proposal for establishing a secure supply of anthrax vaccine	Executive Group	N/A	Ongoing	AHA engaging interested parties in vaccine bank discussions. MLA undertaking a study into anthrax vaccine manufacturing in Australia.

#### **Key Program 4: Residues**

### 4.1 Project: **Developing and/or reviewing residue management/monitoring programs**

Key Components	Key Action Responsibility	Funding	Timing	Progress
<b>National Organochlorine Residue Management (NORM) Program</b> (Funded from NRS levy and contribution from States and Processors)	NRS	TBA	TBA	Being reviewed by Targeted Testing Working Group. Preliminary recommendations to be presented to SAFEMEAT on 25 August and endorsed
<b>National Antimicrobial Residue Minimisation (NARM) Program</b> (Funded by NRS beef levy and contributions from States)	NRS	TBA	TBA	To be reviewed by Targeted Testing Working Group following completion of NORM review.
<b>Endosulfan</b> (Funded from beef NRS levy with a contribution from Cotton Australia)	NRS	TBA	TBA	SAFEMEAT has approved strategy for 2004-05. Further refinement may be necessary in light of APVMA endosulfan review. AQIS will seek advice from Asian markets on ceasing program – awaiting APVMA finalisation of endosulfan review.
<b>Plantation Risk Assessment</b> (Funded from NRS beef and sheepmeat	NRS	TBA	TBA	Referred to APVMA as part of their spray drift review.

industry reserves)				
<b>Natural Toxins</b>	Stockfeed Working Group	N/A	Ongoing	Raised as a priority for R&D. MLA have specific project do obtain data.
<b>Stockfeed Residues</b> Development and implementation of an integrated system to manage residues arising from stockfeeds	Stockfeed Working Group	N/A	Ongoing	Parts of systems agreed eg CVD, risk assessments. Discussing continuing with AVCARE. SAFEMEAT comments provided to APVMA.
<b>Export Intervals</b>	Stockfeed Working Group	N/A	Ongoing	Establishment of export intervals for agricultural and veterinary chemicals where appropriate. Working with APVMA

**4.2 Project: Reviewing and updating the international strategy for dealing with residues problems, including a continued focus on the Codex forum**

<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Coordinating red meat industry input into relevant Codex Committees, including the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food, Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and the Codex <i>Ad Hoc</i> Task Force on Animal Feeding.	CCA/AFFA	N/A	Ongoing	Comments sought from industry as appropriate.

**4.3 Project: Reviewing national and international requirements for national residue testing**

<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Developing strategies to identify implications for the meat sector of national and international requirements for residue testing as they arise.	NRS/AQIS	N/A	On going	Maintaining watching brief. SAFEMEAT alerted as necessary.

## Key Program 5: Pathogens

5.1 Project: <b>Monitoring international developments in microbiological testing and contributing to the development of the international standards.</b>				
Key Components	Key Action Responsibility	Funding	Timing	Progress
Providing analysis and advice on developments in overseas microbiological testing as they arise	DAFF	N/A	Ongoing	Maintaining watching brief. SAFEMEAT alerted as necessary

5.2 Project: <b>Through MLA, developing and implementing risk-based pathogen management programs underpinned by sound R&amp;D.</b>				
Key Components	Key Action Responsibility	Funding	Timing	Progress
<p>Oversighting the MLA Food Safety R&amp;D Program</p> <p><b>Understanding Hazards</b></p> <p>Antibiotic resistance</p> <p>Ecology and Virulence of EHEC and salmonella</p> <p>Pathogens in Animals: farm to slaughter</p> <p>Microbiological Hazard Survey in export and retail meat products</p> <p>Potential pathogens on meat products in Australia</p> <p>Food borne Pathogens in Processing Effluents</p>	<p>Executive Group/MLA</p> <p>Executive Group/MLA</p>	<p>TBA</p> <p>MLA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sub-committee meets on a regular basis to review.</p> <p>All projects except Pathogens in animals: farm to slaughter have commenced. Results from the microbiological survey will be available in early 2005. Last update provided to SAFEMEAT at 25 August meeting.</p>

<p><b>Managing Hazards</b>  Pathogen interventions in cattle  Bacterial physiology and control of pathogens in meat processing  Pathogen control in meat processing and boning  Controlling Listeria in ready to eat meats</p>	<p>Executive Group/MLA</p>	<p>MLA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>All projects have commenced. SAFEMEAT provided with updates as necessary.</p>
<p><b>Industry Capability and Adoption</b>  HACCP plan- validation and verification  Alternative Procedures  Process control in hot boning  Other panels  QA Food Safety Communications Network  Other communications activities</p>	<p>Executive Group/MLA</p>	<p>MLA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>All projects have commenced. Panels have met recently to discuss technical aspects of Export Meat Orders. SAFEMEAT provided with updates as necessary. Legislation is in place and the technical aspects are being addressed.</p>

## Key Program 6: Systems Development and Management

6.1 Project: Progressing the development and implementation of identification and traceback systems				
Key Components	Key Action Responsibility	Funding	Timing	Progress
Contributing to the implementation of PIMC's risk-based framework for livestock identification and tracing	CCA/SCA/DAFF/MLA	N/A	Ongoing	SAFEMEAT represented on PIMC Implementation Taskforce.
Promoting rollout of the NLIS in the cattle industry	NLIS Management Committee/MLA	TBA	Ongoing	All States and Territories have now agreed on design of system and rollout program.
Promoting rollout of the NLIS in the sheep industry.	NLIS (sheep) Management Committee/MLA	TBA	Ongoing	All States presently working with industry to identify the components of a system to implement in 2006.
Further developing the EDI/EAN traceability model to retail by developing a project design to test the passing of information up and down the supply chain.	AMC/MLA	TBA	Ongoing	

6.2 Project: Facilitating continued development and uptake of vendor declarations				
Key Components	Key Action Responsibility	Funding	Timing	Progress
Updating the cattle NVD, as required, to enhance its relevance and uptake	NVD Working Group/MLA	N/A	Ongoing	Implemented 1 March 2004 with LPA scheme.
Updating the sheep vendor declaration to enhance its relevance and uptake.	NVD Working Group/MLA	N/A	Ongoing	Implemented 1 March 2004 with LPA scheme
Continuing to promote the implementation of the national Commodity Declaration for Feed Ingredients	NVD Working Group/MLA	N/A	Ongoing	By-products CVD published
Advancing the development of electronic vendor declarations	NVD Working Group/MLA	N/A	Ongoing	Implemented mid-2004.

<b>6.3 Project: Evaluating meat safety risks through the supply chain</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Assessing food safety risks through the red meat supply chain.	MLA	N/A	TBA	Final report circulated to SAFEMEAT Executive.
Identifying areas where new management strategies may be applicable	MLA	N/A	TBA	Final report circulated to SAFEMEAT Executive.
Identifying areas where knowledge or data gaps exist	MLA	N/A	TBA	Priority data and knowledge gaps being addressed by project 5.2

<b>6.4 Project: Ensuring consistency of performance against Australian Standards</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Monitoring compliance to meat standards; ensure that Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) techniques are uniformly implemented across export and domestic areas and that the system is transparent	Meat Standards Committee	N/A	Ongoing	Cross-jurisdictional auditing being considered.
Reviewing Australian Standards (conformance with Codex) including implement auditing	Meat Standards Committee	N/A	Ongoing	New meat orders commence 1 July 05 and will underpin the meat standard. Meat standards yet to be reviewed under new FSANZ system.

<b>6.5 Project: Contributing to the uptake of on-farm quality assurance programs</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Contributing to the development and implementation of the new Livestock Production Assurance (Level 1 – Food Safety) Scheme	Executive Group/MLA	N/A	March 2004	Implemented 1 March 2004.
Promoting the National Feedlot Accreditation Program accreditation through effective communication to feedlotters.	Executive Group/ALFA	N/A	Ongoing	

### **Key Program 7: Communication and Education**

<b>7.1 Project: Developing effective communication linkages with levy payers and the broader community</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Providing feedback to constituents and broader community	MLA	N/A	Ongoing	Fact sheets/ annual report prepared.
Provide effective communication and education regarding food safety and industry issues	MLA/AFFA	N/A	Ongoing	Fact sheets/pamphlets/press releases <a href="http://www.safefood.net.au/">http://www.safefood.net.au/</a>

<b>7.2 Project: Maintaining the current communication process between the Australian industry and Government officials in international markets</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Providing information and feedback to overseas posts	MLA/AFFA	N/A	Ongoing	Reports and information provided as necessary.
Minimise market disruption arising from food safety and related incidents	MLA/AFFA	N/A	Ongoing	As circumstances dictate

<b>7.3 Project: Communicating SAFEMEAT activities</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Developing mechanisms to ensure effective communication between SAFEMEAT members	MLA/Secretariat	N/A	Ongoing	Communications strategies being reviewed. Small working group formed.
Developing communiqués to inform industry/public of SAFEMEAT activities	MLA/Secretariat	N/A	Ongoing	Drought/BSE/plague locust/residues are issues recently addressed
SAFEMEAT Communications Group	MLA	N/A	Ongoing	Fortnightly meetings held.
SAFEMEAT web site	MLA	N/A	Ongoing	New website developed. Launched end of 2004
SAFEMEAT Annual Report	MLA	\$2000	October 2004	2003-04 being prepared .

### **Key Program 8: Emerging Issues**

<b>8.1 Project: Contributing to the development and implementation of animal feeding policy and standards</b>				
<b>Key Components</b>	<b>Key Action Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Leading the development of national policy for animal feeding	AFFA/Executive Group/Stockfeed Working Group	N/A	Ongoing	Co-ordinated feed chain strategy developed. Details being finalised with stakeholders. SAFEMEAT endorsed strategy Paper being progressed through PISC
Contributing to the development of international policy and standards for animal feeding	AFFA/Executive Group	N/A	Ongoing	Comments provided to Codex /Japan/EU on feed issues. Preparing comments on US/Canadian proposals

## 8.2 Project: Monitoring and implementing a range of strategic initiatives in relation to emerging issues and their implications to red meat safety and hygiene

Key Components	Key Action Responsibility	Funding	Timing	Progress
Anti-microbial Resistance	AFFA	N/A	As required	JETACAR recommendations being implemented. Advice provided on issues raised in media
Biotechnology	MLA/AFFA	N/A	As required	SAFEMEAT policy being reviewed. Consultant engaged.
Chrones Disease	AFFA	N/A	As required	Maintaining watching brief.
Bio-terrorism	AFFA	N/A	As required	SAFEMEAT informed of overseas developments eg US legislation.
Vaccines (eg FMD)	AFFA	N/A	As required	Government / Industry agreement for FMD in place. Other diseases addressed on an individual basis, as required.
Develop strategies and initiatives to exploit gene technology while meeting consumer requirements	MLA/AFFA	N/A	Ongoing	Participating in various working groups