



Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance (NABS) Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Network



The Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance (NABS) project was formed in 2016 with funding from the Australian Government Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. It is a collaboration with QDAF, WA DPIRD and NT DPIR, and AHA.

One of the initiatives is the NABS Significant Disease Investigation (SDI) Network. The SDI Network is a network of private veterinary practices and government veterinarians who work in northern Australia. The Network aims to increase the number of investigations, as well as improve sampling and reporting outcomes of SDIs in cattle conducted across the north to benefit producers.

The first NABS Masterclass, and launch of the SDI Network, was on 23-24 February in Townsville. It was attended by 35 representatives from across private veterinary clinics and government-based animal health surveillance streams in northern Australia.

The SDI Network is an initiative to better collaborate with private cattle vets on animal disease surveillance in northern Australia. It aims to:

- Enhance the national animal health surveillance system, and its associated submission, diagnoses and reporting channels,
- Increase information sharing and collaboration among private and government vets operating in extensive cattle production areas in northern Australia,
- Improve the quality and quantity of SDIs.

What support does the NABS SDI Network offer?

- Subsidies for vets who undertake eligible SDIs in northern WA, northern QLD and the NT.
- Post-mortem kits for vets and producers.
- Access to the NABS Veterinary Adviser, Dr Kevin Bell, an experienced veterinarian who is available to discuss cases and facilitate information sharing through the Network.
- Professional development and networking opportunities through an annual Masterclass.

Do I have to be a member of the NABS SDI Network to access this support?

While some support may be available to vets who are not a part of the SDI Network, all veterinary practices are encouraged to join the network to gain the professional support and networking opportunities it offers.

How can I be involved?

If you are a cattle vet working in northern Australia, you can get involved in the SDI Network by contacting the NABS Veterinary Adviser **Dr Kevin Bell** on 0427 433 244 or nabsvetadviser@gmail.com. For more information about animal surveillance, disease investigation or laboratory arrangements specific to your state, please contact your state-based SDI Network coordinator.

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The Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance Project is part of the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the government's plan for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.