

OFFICIAL

Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport
and Resources

Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund

Summary of Projects
2017-18

MID-YEAR REPORT
TO DECEMBER 2017

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

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SHEEP & GOAT COMPENSATION FUND OVERVIEW

Victoria's Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund (SGCF) is established under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* (the Act). The Fund primarily comprises livestock duties paid on the sale of sheep and goats or their carcasses in Victoria.

The SGCF receives \$0.12 for each sheep or goat, or each carcass of sheep or goat sold.

Under Section 79B(2) of the Act, the Minister for Agriculture may make payments from the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund from:

- (a) the capital of the Fund for administering the provisions of the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 relating to sheep and goats;
- (b) interest earned on money from the Fund for programs and projects for the benefit of the sheep and goat industry in Victoria;
- (c) from the capital of the Fund or from interest earned on money from the Fund for programs and projects for the control or eradication of disease of sheep or goats.

The Minister for Agriculture must not make a payment from the Fund unless the Minister has considered any relevant recommendations from the Sheep and Goat Compensation Advisory Committee (SGCAC).

The SGCAC has been established to provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture on the maximum amount of compensation that is payable, payments which should be made and any other matter referred to it by the Minister.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Under Section 79I(3) of *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* the SGCAC comprises eight members appointed by the Minister as follows:

Section 79(3) of the Act	Nominated by
(a) four are to be persons with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the sheep industry	Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF)
(b) one is to be a person with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the goat industry	Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF)
(c) one is to be a person with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the livestock agents profession;	Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association (ALPA)
(d) one is to be a person with suitable qualifications and experience relating to the meat processing industry;	Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC)
(e) one is to be a person nominated by the Secretary	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

Nominating body	Name
VFF	Mr Michael Craig (Chair) Mr Ian Feldtmann (Livestock Group) Ms Kate Joseph (Sheep Producer) Ms Faye Tuchtan (Goat Producer)
ALPA	Ms Liz Summerville (Southern Regional Manager)
AMIC	Ms Angelique Raspin (Australian Lamb (Colac) Pty Ltd – Group QA Manager)
State Government	Ms Cassandra Meagher, Executive Director, DEDJTR From April 2017: Dr Charles Milne, Chief Veterinary Officer, DEDJTR

2017-18 PROJECTS

Combined Funding of the Sheep & Goat Compensation Fund and the Cattle Compensation Fund

TABLE 1: Projects supported by funding from Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund and the Cattle Compensation Fund (50:50)

Project	Objective	Administered by	2017-18 Budget SGCF
Disease investigation training for veterinary practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver training in animal disease investigation that will increase the knowledge, competency and capacity of private veterinarians to conduct a thorough and effective disease investigation in livestock. 	Agriculture Victoria	\$35,000
Significant disease investigations (including anthrax investigations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide financial subsidies to cattle producers to offset the cost of engaging a private veterinarian to undertake an investigation of a significant disease event. Encourage private veterinarians to investigate and report significant disease events. 	Agriculture Victoria	\$35,000
VFF Livestock Project Officers (Animal Health and Biosecurity Extension) Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver key animal health and biosecurity messages to all Victorian sheep meat, wool, goat and beef producers with a focus on endemic disease that impact farm profitability, animal welfare and Victoria's biosecurity status. This includes the provision of educational workshops for all producers; develop and/or distribute related industry materials including VFF online resources to the farming community; and act as a point of contact for any animal health and biosecurity questions. 	VFF	\$180,000
VFF Policy Development and Livestock Industry Network Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to policy development at a state and national level in relation to biosecurity and welfare, particularly in the context of welfare/management standards, disease surveillance, endemic disease control and emergency animal disease preparations. Maintain industry networks at producer and national levels to facilitate the effective communication of information, particularly in the context of natural disasters and emergency disease response, the maintenance of appropriate biosecurity and livestock management standards. Represent Victoria's livestock health and welfare interests at a national level. 	VFF	\$130,000

Sheep & Goat Compensation Funded Projects

TABLE 2: Projects supported by funding from Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund

Project	Objective	Administered by	2017-18 Budget SGCF
Accreditation for Footrot Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that there is a pool of accredited contractors to perform footrot eradication when virulent footrot has been diagnosed on a farm. 	Agriculture Victoria	\$2,500
Negative ovine Johne's disease reporting (ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Victorian sheep producers with reports of negative results from ovine Johne's disease abattoir surveillance 	Agriculture Victoria	\$5,000
Saleyards and abattoir surveillance project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detect incursions of emergency animal diseases in the sheep and goat industries. Investigate and describe the causes of mortality and loss in transported sheep and goats at Victorian saleyards and abattoirs. Maintain or enhance DEDJTR staff capabilities in disease surveillance and gross necropsy. 	Agriculture Victoria	\$200,000
Sheep and goat mortality surveillance project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detect incursions of emergency animal diseases in the sheep and goat industries. Investigate and describe the causes of mortality and loss in sheep and goats on Victorian farms. Provide DEDJTR staff the opportunity to maintain or enhance their capabilities in disease surveillance, especially in gross necropsy. 	Agriculture Victoria	\$100,000
Abattoir (Sheep and Goat) monitoring feedback for Production Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish causes of deaths in sheep and goats in Victorian abattoirs; advise producers with data on disease detected and prevalence, and Develop and deliver factsheet. 	Agriculture Victoria	\$5,000
Validation of a field test for the Identification of anthrax in Victorian Sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the true accuracy (i.e. sensitivity and specificity) and repeatability of the commonly used field test for anthrax in sheep, namely the Immunochromatographic test (ICT). 	Agriculture Victoria	\$127,666
Microwaving anthrax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To design a research project that will evaluate the effectiveness and viability of microwave technology to nullify Anthrax. 	VFF	\$15,513
Peri-Urban Livestock Project Officers (Peri-Urban Biosecurity Extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect and inform peri-urban landholders about animal health and biosecurity practices, improving awareness and action in Victoria's peri-urban regions to help safeguard Victoria's \$6.2 billion meat, milk and fibre industries. 	VFF	\$97,219
Local Area Networks for Disease Information - Stage 2 (LANDI-2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue and extend the networks of 'LANDI' local sheep and beef farmer groups throughout Victoria, monitor the occurrence of endemic and emerging diseases, record this on the Agriculture Victoria database and further develop a system of farmer reporting of disease ('syndromic surveillance'). <p>Note: First milestone (payment) is July 2018</p>	The McKinnon Project, University of Melbourne	\$0

Project	Objective	Administered by	2017-18 Budget SGCF
Sheep and goat veterinary officers project (including Sheep Notes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop expertise within DEDJTR by the employment and continual development of two veterinary officers serving the sheep and goat industries. Manage endemic disease programs (ovine and caprine Johne's disease, caprine arthritis encephalitis, ovine brucellosis, National Sheep Health Monitoring Project reporting). Inform sheep industry stakeholders of disease, welfare, biosecurity and production issues through the production of Sheep Notes. 	Agriculture Victoria	\$210,000
Veterinary and extension support for the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project feedback in Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific advice and workshops to reduce the overall industry impact of endemic diseases across the whole sheep meat production chain. 	Livestock Biosecurity Network	\$18,800
Vaccination of sheep against anthrax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provision of specialist advice on sheep and goat diseases (as required) 	Agriculture Victoria	\$0*
Refund Interstate Stamp Duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As required 	Agriculture Victoria	\$27*
Administration, project support, secretariat services, committee operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing support to committee and projects 	Agriculture Victoria	\$111,655

*Actual amount spent as at 31 December 2017

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