

# Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) Member Update

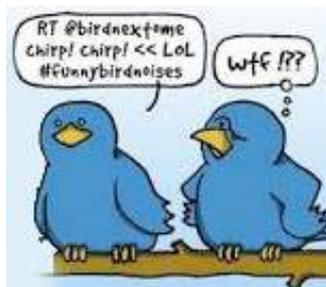
29 January 2018



Animal Medicines Australia  
18 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600  
[animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au](http://animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au)



Ben Stapley  
Executive Director



## Want to keep up to date?

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our eNewsletter [here](#) to keep up to date with industry information.

## AMA EVENTS



## Executive Director message

Just prior to Christmas, the Prime Minister made several changes to his Ministry. This included that the agriculture portfolio, including responsibility for agricultural and veterinary medicines policy and the APVMA, will be assumed by the Hon David Littleproud MP.

Minister Littleproud has a strong background in agribusiness and banking. He recognises the importance of agriculture to his Maranoa electorate and I look forward to working with the new Minister as veterinary medicine reform projects continue this year.

AMA has already met with the Minister's office to introduce AMA as a key stakeholder and describe our priority areas of operations. We have outlined our current activities and priorities and to express our willingness to work with the Government to continue improving the APVMA scheme as it prepares to move to Armidale in 2019.

This year, key focuses will include:

- Multiple reform bills to progress through Parliament;
- Ensuring relocation has minimal impact on regulatory performance through our support for the Relocation Advisory Committee;
- Veterinary medicine stewardship; and
- Ongoing communication about the importance of pets for health and wellbeing.

Last week, the APVMA released the findings of its independent review of operational performance. The review listed multiple recommendations that could be adopted to improve regulator performance. AMA is pleased to see that APVMA has committed to implementing each of them, and we look forward to assisting where we can.

Many of the recommendations are in close alignment with existing AMA messages regarding APVMA regulatory performance. Successful

### AMA Annual Dinner

22 November 2018  
Sydney from 6pm

### Issues Management Group (IMG)

28 February 10.00am to noon, Sydney  
3 May 10.00am to 4.30pm, Canberra  
2 August 10.00am to 4.30pm, Canberra  
11 October 10.00am to 4.30pm, Canberra

### Marketing Research Committee (MRC)

28 February 10.00am to noon, Sydney

### IMG and MRC Futureye workshops

28 February 12.30pm to 4.30pm, Sydney  
1 March 10am to 4.30pm, Sydney

### OTHER INDUSTRY EVENTS

12-13 February Science meets Parliament ([link](#))

6-7 March ABARES Outlook 2018 Conference, Canberra ([link](#))

30-31 May Pan Pacific Pork Expo, Gold Coast ([link](#))

Interested in innovation and technology in Agriculture? Do you live in the Canberra, Cooma and Bega areas? Come along to the [AgTech MeetUp Group](#) to discuss the latest in the AgTech scene.

### Agsafe agchem online training:

No time for staff training? Agsafe's new webinars are the most convenient and affordable way to keep your store staff up to date with agchem safety. More information is [here](#).



Senator Eric Abetz with Tasmanian devils (photo courtesy of Mike Bowers of The Guardian)

### The political wrap

PM Malcolm Turnbull announced his [new Ministry](#) on 19 December. Hon David Littleproud was made Agriculture and Water Minister while former Minister Barnaby Joyce was made

implementation of the recommendations outlined in the review (including building more efficient assessment methods, streamlining legislation, and implementing a future facing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) system) will result in a much more efficient and predictable regulator.

AMA has built strong foundations over the past 12-months and we will build on those in partnership with our members and stakeholders.

There is much to do in 2018, and we anticipate another successful year delivering outcomes for our members.



### Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

The APVMA released its [December performance statistics](#) on 17 January.

The statistics showed that overall the regulator completed 74% of assessments on time.

AMA's media release says the regulator is heading in the right direction but further reform was still needed if performance was to continue to improve. Our release can be read [here](#).

The regulator also released its 'Independent Review of Assessment (Operational) Performance' undertaken by the Reason Group on 18 January.

The report outlines recommendations against three broad themes:

- Improving the use of regulatory instruments;
- Building more efficient assessment processes; and
- Modifying legislation, cost recovery and reporting methods to support APVMA delivery of core functions

Of note, the report identifies Item 7, 8 and 12 applications as key reasons for the APVMA not meeting timeframe targets. These item numbers accounted for more than 50% of assessment delays in 2015/16.

The APVMA's media release can be read [here](#).

Intrastructure and Transport Minister.

NSW Senator [Arthur Sinodinos](#) is still battling cancer and removed himself from picking up any portfolios.

NSW Labor Senator [Sam Dastyari](#) announced on 12 December he would not return to Parliament in 2018 after several links to Chinese Communist Party aligned interests in Australia.

The [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) (TPP) free trade agreement was back on the agenda on 23 January with 11 countries (uncluding Australia and Canada but excluding America) indicating their willingness to sign up. Australian business groups and farmers welcomed the opportunity to access \$14 trillion worth of markets.

The ACCC blocked the sale of [Woolworth's service stations](#) to BP for \$68 billion on 14 December.

The Bennelong by-election on 16 December saw Liberal John Alexander returned but [Labor gained](#) a 4.97% swing for a two party preferred vote of 45.12% to the Liberals 54.88%. Labor's candidate [Kristina Keneally](#) (also a former NSW Premier) was endorsed for the Senate position on 17 January left vacant by Sam Daystyari.

The Government's [Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on 18 December showed we are on track to return to a Budget surplus in 2020/21.

The Government announced the results of its [climate change review](#) on 18 December. In summary, the review concluded that no changes are required to meet our commitments to reduce emissions under the [UN's Paris Agreement](#).

Partly in response to the [Banking Royal Commission](#), the Australian Bankers' Association (ABA) sent a refreshed [Code of Practice](#). to ASIC on 19 December. Provisions include the banning of unsolicited



### **Australians consume more chickens than vegetables**

Australians consumed more poultry and fewer vegetables between 1995 and 2011/12 according to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures.

Director of ABS Health, Louise Gates, said: "Average consumption of the vegetables and legumes/beans fell by 10%, with decreased consumption by teenagers and adults of both sexes.

"Although adults aged 51-years and over still consumed more serves of vegetables than younger people, those older adults also had the biggest drop in consumption."

Read more [here](#).

---



### **HealthforAnimals: Our international partner**

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have built a global database on the use of antimicrobials in animals.

This is the second OIE report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals and the link is available [here](#).

AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley, said the collection of data is important to improve the robustness of the information Australia provides to the international community and help keep the OIE database up-to-date.

credit card limit increases.

It was reported on 11 January that retail sales figures for November climbed 1.2%. Overall, sales of household goods with electrical and electronic goods rising 9.3%.

Meat and Livestock Australia released the 2018 Australia Day lamb advertisement on 11 January. The ad shows people of mixed political persuasions uniting over lamb.

The PMs of Australia and Japan committed to putting in place a Trans-Pacific Partnership by March on 18 January.

Jobs figures released by the ABS on 18 January show unemployment rose to 5.5% (up from 5.4%).

The High Court began hearings on 19 January into ACT Labor Senator Katy Gallagher and Victorian Labor MP David Feeney's citizenship legibility to be in Parliament.

The German election was held in September but at the time of going to print, there was still no outcome. Incumbant Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Christian Social Union (CSU) and centre-left's Social Democrats (SPD) are in discussions to form Government.

Tasmanian Liberal Premier, Will Hodgman, announced on 28 January that the State will go to the polls on 3 March. He is up against Labor's 34-year-old Rebecca White who has been Leader for less than a year.

**Economic Indicators:**

**Underlying cash deficit:** \$29.4 billion (26 Sept at \$33.2b)

**Net debt:** 19.5% of GDP

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP) seasonally adjusted:** 2.8

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP) nominal:** September quarter the economy grew 0.6%

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** Up 0.8% in the September quarter and up 1.8% over the last 12-months (the RBA has a

"Accurate data around antibiotic use and AMR is important for us all- animals, humans and the environment.

"It is important that best practice guidelines are established and resources available to enable data collection," Mr Stapley said.

AMA and our members are committed to the responsible and judicious use of antibiotics through responsible stewardship programs that includes increasing awareness and understanding of AMR.

"Data collection is necessary to support informed policy and decision making regarding AMR risk and appropriate responses in Australia and ensure the continued effectiveness of antibiotics into the future."

AMA's "Commitments and Actions on Antibiotic Use" can be read here.

The 'Access to Medicines' foundation published a "Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark 2018" report at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on 25 January. The archived release event can be found on YouTube and a microsite was launched at AMRBenchmark.org.

The 'Key Findings' of the report can be found on Page 7:

- 28 antibiotics for high-priority pathogens are in late-stage development;
- 15 companies are involved in tracking patterns in AB resistance, with surveillance programs running in 147 countries;
- Eight companies are setting limits on the level of ABs that can be released in waste waters at manufacturing facilities; and
- Four companies are taking steps to separate sales agent compensation from AB volume sales

The AMR Industry Alliance report, which tracks human medicine progress against the AMR principles outlined in the Davos Declaration and Roadmap was released on 27 January.

The only area where the report prominently calls for greater industry action is: "address the environmental concerns related to the manufacturing.

In that regard, AMA members have ongoing policies and practices in place to improve environmental management.

---

target of 2% to 3%)

**Wage Price Index:** 2% over the year

**Unemployment:** 5.5%

**Interest rates:** No change at official cash rate of 1.5%

**Exchange rate:** 0.81 USD



### Refresh your safety knowledge online

It's quick and easy for your employees to refresh their safety knowledge and skills with Agsafe's new series of webinars.

Ideal for busy staff, webinars are not only convenient and affordable, they're a great way to maximise time spent on professional development.

Webinars save on travel costs, they're an active learning tool and excellent refresher for more experienced staff.

These short sessions are perfect for staff who need to improve their knowledge of aspects of the chemical supplier environment, particularly around emergencies and first aid, but who don't need to maintain Agsafe accreditation.

You can enroll for one, two or three of the webinar series currently advertised on our website.

Enroll in all three-webinar series' and receive the third series free. Read the course outline [here](#).



### Active constituent exemptions

The APVMA has published the web page for 'Active constituents exempt from the requirements of APVMA approval for use in agricultural or



### Vaccinations eradicate Foot and Mouth

Brazil expects the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to declare the country free from foot-and-mouth disease because of vaccinations at a meeting in May.

The declaration will bolster the country's prospects to export meat to new markets, a government statement said.

Read more [here](#).



Australian Government

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

### ABARES commodities report

The ABARES commodity report of December 2017 reveals a mixed forecast on the farming front.

The report says poor climate conditions in grain-growing regions have contributed to the gross value of farm production being forecast to reach \$59 billion in 2017/18, down 7% from a record of \$63 billion in 2016/17.

Read more [here](#).



### Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) review

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has called for submissions on a proposal to change maximum residue limits (MRLs) for some agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

AMA's Issues Management Group (IMG) would have received a summary document prepared by our Science and Technical Manager,

veterinary chemical products'.

The web link can be found [here](#).

The Veterinary Actives Team are happy to answer all enquiries about this information via email [vetactives@apvma.gov.au](mailto:vetactives@apvma.gov.au) or phone 02 6210 4984.

Please feel free to call or email AMA if you have any queries.

---



(Photo courtesy Australian Livestock Exporters' Council)

### **Chris Back to review live export standards**

Veterinarian and former Senator, Dr Chris Back, has been appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) as independent Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee to review the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock.

The Australian Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC) welcomed the announcement.

Read more [here](#).

---



### **Biosecurity Matters**

Keep up to date with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR's) through their online newsletter "Biosecurity Matters."

Their latest newsletter and subscription link can be found [here](#)

---

Dr Charmian Bennett, asking for member input.

The closing date for submissions is COB 26 February.

For more information, click [here](#).

---



### **Reminder to vaccinate pet rabbits**

The ACT Parks and Conservation Department has released [calicivirus](#) into the environment to control the wild rabbit population.

Although RHDV-K5 (K5) was released almost a year ago, Department Director Daniel Iglesias said it would be most effective during the cool autumn and winter months with higher rainfall.

The release was given the go-ahead by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) following a decade-long investigation by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC).

If you have an unvaccinated pet rabbit, check with your vet to organise a vaccination appointment.

---



### **Study to improve animal health monitoring**

Charles Sturt University is undertaking research into animal health monitoring for [sheep](#), [cattle](#), [goats](#) and dairy.

The research study uses an online questionnaire to understand the animal health management practices and communication and extension needs of Australian livestock producers.

The questionnaire should take around 30-minutes.



### **Agcarm**

Agcarm, our National Association in New Zealand, published an op-ed highlighting the principles of our global Antibiotics Commitment.

Read more [here](#).

---



### **Horse riding helps stroke recovery**

Another report confirms the many benefits of pet ownership.

A Swedish study, led by Australian-based Professor Michael Nilsson at the Hunter Medical Research Institute, found horse riding and rhythm-and-music therapies improved a patient's gait, balance, grip strength and cognition five years after a stroke.

Researchers studied 123 Swedish men and women aged 50-75 who had suffered strokes between 10 months and 5 years earlier.

Trial participants were randomly assigned to rhythm-and-music therapy, horse-riding therapy or ordinary care, with the therapies given twice a week for 12 weeks.

Of those who experienced improvements, 56% were in the horse-riding group, 38% in the rhythm and music group, and 17% in the control group.

"The combination of social, physical, cognitive challenges and stimulation adds together in a form of synergy to stimulate the brain," said Prof Nilsson.

---

Read more [here](#) or click on the [sheep](#), [cattle](#), [goat](#) and [dairy](#) links to find out more.

---



### **Boosting the Queensland economy one smashed avo at a time**

The popularity of avocado, egg and tomato as the breakfast of choice for Australians is helping boost Queensland's primary industry commodities, according to the latest AgTrends report.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner said the total value of Queensland's primary industry commodities for 2017/18 was estimated to be \$19.87 billion.

"Avocados are forecast to be \$240 million, 44% greater than the average for the past 5-years while tomato production is forecast at \$298 million, 10% than the previous 5-year average, and egg production, is expected to be \$244 million which is 23% higher than average for the past 5-years."

Read more [here](#).

---



### **Victoria releases animal welfare plan**

The Victorian Government has released their first Animal Welfare Action Plan.

The plan covers all animals, including pets, livestock, native animals, aquatic animals, those for research and teaching, and animals in tourism and recreation.



**And from the University of South Australia: Having a pet increases your lifespan**

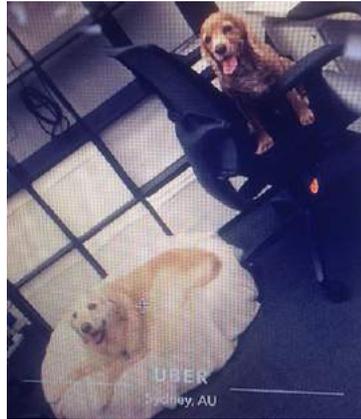
A new study from the University of South Australia found dogs may be beneficial in reducing cardiovascular risk in their owners by providing social support and motivation for physical activity.

Read more [here](#).

(reprinted courtesy of The Conversation).

More detail is available [here](#).

---



**Uber: Pet friendly work space**

Uber Sydney lets staff bring their dogs to the workplace when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Employee, Alex Bell, said it was great to work for a firm that saw the benefits of pet ownership.

"It meant my dog and I went for a walk during my lunch break when I would otherwise be in the office."



Animal Medicines Australia  
18 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600  
Australia  
P: +61 2 6257 9022  
[enquiries@animalmedicines.org.au](mailto:enquiries@animalmedicines.org.au)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

---

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
Animal Medicines Australia · 18 National Circuit · BARTON, ACT 2600 · Australia

MailChimp

