



## Stream of SDIs flowing in

Hi – most places in WA are pretty pleased to see the rain we’ve had after such a dry spell. I hope others are doing alright too, and that recovery from the floods is progressing in central Qld.

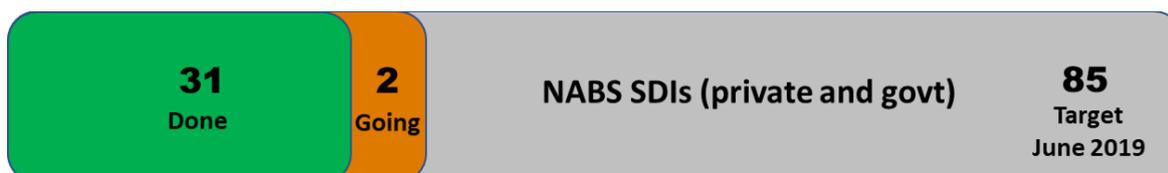
Great to see a stream of SDIs coming in. This month’s SDI features wild buffalo for export. It emphasizes that their transition to controlled environments needs to be carefully managed to avoid disease outbreaks.

You must send a written report to the producer as part of a NABS SDI. Following on from conversations with a few of you, we've created a simple guide to a 4-point report that does the job very well.

At the Masterclass Shirley Turner (BSL Qld pathologist) walked us through descriptions of gross path findings – she has set up another challenge for us below.

If you would like to be considered in the last round of NABS-sponsored FMD training in Nepal, send in your application soon.

Cheers Kev  
Newsletter #10 (3 April 2019)





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## Deaths in wild caught buffalo

In October 2018 there were deaths in wild caught buffalo on two properties in NT: 10 of 400 in Case A and at least 20-30 in Case B.

A field diagnosis of heat stress was made in Case A based on mouth breathing and skin colour changes in many animals. Loss of condition over a few days and death was the main feature of Case B. The buffalo had been in holding yards for between 1 and 3 months post capture.

With ongoing demand for export of buffalo to southeast Asia, vets may be called out to disease events as they transition from wild to fully controlled environments.

Thermoregulation is a big issue for buffalo. The main recommendations to reduce heat stress in Case A were to ensure the yards are not over-populated, use of sprinkler systems and to clean troughs at least once a day. The client was also given protocols for holding buffalo prior to export.

While no definitive diagnosis was reached in either case, it was worthwhile excluding [priority diseases](#) for northern Australia that potentially affect buffalo.

[Full case description here](#)

A new [Code of Practice](#) has recently been published by the NT Buffalo Industry Council. It includes responsibilities and protocols around mustering, animal welfare and handling practices, and biosecurity procedures.

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## Reports to producers - needed to complete a NABS SDI

Closing the loop for the client is a powerful way to encourage their participation in future investigations. A written report also becomes part of the property's (and practice) records, providing a useful, factual account as time moves on and people change.

Here is a [simple format](#) to follow - road tested as easy, effective and fits on one page or in a short email:

- **Case description** – one sentence with the presenting signs, case definition and timeline
- **Investigation** – one sentence that summarises what you did
- **Case assessment** – the differential diagnoses and your assessment of the most likely (based on field assessment and lab results)
- **Recommendations** – immediate actions (eg this group) and long-term (eg preventative measures). Could also include comment on the costs of the disease event if appropriate.

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## Shirley's challenge - what do you see?

Describe what you see in the pictures below.



Calf (Photo credit: The Joint Pathology Centre WSC)



Bovine (Photo credit: The Joint Pathology Centre WSC)

See cues in Shirley's [Guide to Gross PM Descriptions](#)

How did you go? Answers - [calf](#) and [bovine](#)

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## FMD training in Nepal



There are places for 2-3 vets from NABS clinics to complete FMD training in Nepal in November or December 2019. This will be the last opportunity to do so under the current NABS funding.

Exact dates are to be confirmed, however it is anticipated that two separate courses will be over:

- 25-29 November 2019
- 2-6 December 2019

If you are interested please contact Lisa <[Lisa.Stevenson@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Stevenson@agriculture.gov.au)> for a nomination form. Your application will require a short supporting paragraph and must be received by **1st June 2019 (but don't wait until then – do it now if you are keen to go)**. The FMD course organisers will finalise offers once dates are confirmed (probably in August).

Financial support will be provided for flights, accommodation and other travel expenses such as vaccinations, up to a value of \$3000.

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## Happy to help

Let me know anything you'd like covered here or on the website

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or visit [www.nabsnet.com.au](http://www.nabsnet.com.au)

Newsletter sent on Kevin's behalf from the team at Harris Park Group

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