



**Biosecurity SA - Directorate**

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Mr Greg Hamilton  
Management Committee  
South Australian Homing Pigeon Association

Dear Greg:

Regarding your recent concerns on behalf of the South Australian Homing Pigeon Association relating to Biosecurity SA, PIRSA support for importation of an effective pigeon vaccine against pigeon Paramyxovirus disease (PMV1) I would like to highlight the following:

- On December 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD), made up of state and territory Chief Veterinary Officers and representatives from Biosecurity Australia, Animal Health Australia and the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory agreed to request the expedited assessment of any import permit applications and registration applications for pigeon-specific inactivated APMV1 vaccines.
- On Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer wrote on behalf of CCEAD to advise DAFF Biosecurity (formerly AQIS) and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) of the emergency situation and to request expedited assessment of any applications for such vaccines.
- Biosecurity SA, as part of this process, through the Chief Veterinary Officer has been fully supportive of urgent vaccine importation.
- The method for distribution of a vaccine in SA, once available, depends on the rules stipulated by APVMA, the Federal body that grants registration for use. Biosecurity SA is expecting to help in this process as required.
- The importation of a vaccine into Australia now depends on the commercial process of a pharmaceutical company applying to DAFF Biosecurity for permission to import.
- Given the ongoing presence of disease in Victoria both in wild pigeons and pigeon flocks it seems possible that the disease will eventually spread to SA. In that context Biosecurity SA currently aims to prevent the entry of the disease into SA until protective vaccination can be given to pigeons in SA.

Yours sincerely

Dr Malcolm Anderson  
**Acting CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER**