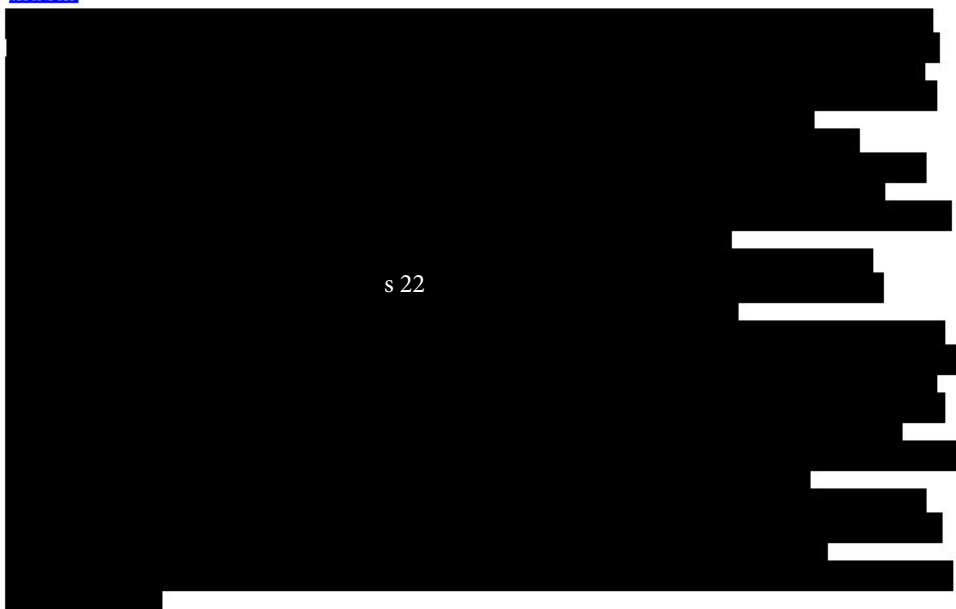


From: [incident](#)
To:



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Cc: [incident](#)
Subject: 2019-01 SE linked to eggs - Information provided to Agricultural Counsellor network
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Thursday, 21 March 2019 4:25:55 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

GOVERNMENT-IN-CONFIDENCE

Dear Network Officers and FSANZ Incident Response Team,

In yesterday's teleconference for Food Incident **2019-01 SE in eggs**, DAWR raised with the group their obligation to advise their Counsellor network of the Incident to enable them to respond to enquiries about this incident and the related food recalls.

DAWR has provided the following information to the Agricultural Counsellor network for reference when they receive enquiries from overseas government authorities concerning the food recalls and media reports in Australia. The draft whole of government talking points were also attached to this email.

The text of the email is below for your information.

Dear Agricultural Counsellors

A consumer recall of eggs from Bridgewater Farms in Victoria has been notified through the FSANZ food recall system on 20 March 2019, due to an ongoing outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE). To ensure that you are able to appropriately respond to any importing country enquiries regarding the incident, attached is the whole of government talking points. A brief summary of the key points regarding implications for our trading partners is provided below.

Issue: A consumer recall of eggs from Bridgewater Farms in Victoria has been notified through the FSANZ food recall system. NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has also triggered the National Food Incident Response Protocol due to SE detections

on layer farms across two jurisdictions (NSW, Victoria).

Action Required: This advice is for information only and for use if contacted by importing country authorities

Key Points

Five NSW egg layer farms and one Victorian egg layer farm have detections of SE. NSW DPI has triggered the National Food Incident Response Protocol as this food safety incident involves more than one jurisdiction and a consumer recall of eggs from Bridgewater Farms in Victoria has been notified through the FSANZ food recall system

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There is no known export of affected eggs at this time.

The department has confirmed that the establishments affected in NSW are outside of the export supply chain for eggs and has implemented controls to ensure that no affected eggs from these establishments enter the export supply chain.

The Victorian layer farm is still under investigation, so while there is no evidence that product has entered the export supply chain at this time, the investigation is still underway.

Currently Singapore and Korea require attestations confirming that the eggs have not been sourced from farms that have had SE in the last 3 months and the department is implementing the relevant measures to ensure that this is enforced when applying for export certification.

To ensure freedom from SE, NSW DPI coordinates the National Salmonella Enteritidis Monitoring & Accreditation Program (NSEMAP), which includes all Australian states. The NSEMAP is available for all Australian commercial egg producers exporting eggs to overseas markets but is not mandatory. Where an importing country requires certification as free from SE, the NSEMAP can provide the relevant assurances.

Under the *Salmonella* Enteritidis Incident Response Plan (Australian Eggs), birds and other potentially infectious material on SE infected properties (such as manure, eggs, packaging) are to be quarantined and destroyed. In NSW these actions are currently underway.

Background

The top nine export market for eggs from Australia have been identified as Hong Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Republic of Korea, Nauru.

Exports of Fresh shell eggs by country of destination by value (2018 FY)

- o Hong Kong- \$934,184
- o Singapore- \$465,129
- o Sri Lanka- \$214,774
- o New Zealand- \$199,293

- o New Caledonia- \$112,613
- o Vanuatu- \$92,564
- o Republic of Korea- \$78,090

The SE outbreak was first detected on a NSW egg farm in September 2018. Since this time, four other farms in NSW have had positive detections with the most recent notification on Wednesday 13 March 2019.

NSW also understands that Victoria had a confirmed SE detection on a farm on 18 March 2019. The investigation in Victoria is progressing.

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There is no known export of affected eggs, and no evidence of any direct sales of eggs into any other jurisdiction other than Victoria. The department is working with State authorities to ensure that no eggs have ended up in the export supply chain.

NSW is being guided by the *Salmonella* Enteritidis Response Plan developed by Australian Eggs for quarantine and destruction of birds on farm. There has been one recall and a separate consumer advisory in NSW linked to this incident.

Accreditation of SE freedom can be supplied through the National Salmonella Enteritidis Monitoring & Accreditation Program (NSEMAP). NSEMAP freedom and accreditation guidelines can be found [here](#).

Regards

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| Export Standards Branch | Export Division

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Kind regards,

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Food Safety and Response Section



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