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POULTRY INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY COMMITTEE – POULTRY INDUSTRY UNITE

The Australian Chicken Meat Federation, Egg Farmers of Australia and Australian Duck Meat Association, key poultry industry stakeholders who are signatories to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement, have established the Poultry Industry Biosecurity Committee, a joint initiative for their industries to work collectively on biosecurity and poultry health issues that impact all commercial poultry in throughout Australia.

The group will progress policies and activities of relevance to the poultry industry, and governments at national and state level.

The group was officially launched earlier this year and will continue to meet quarterly. Kylie Hewson from the Australian Chicken Meat Federation said that high standards of biosecurity and poultry health are critical to ensuring the continuous supply of poultry meat and poultry products to Australians consumers.

Greg Parkinson from the Australian Duck Meat Association said that preparation, management and eradication/management of poultry disease are an area of constant work and review. The increasing threat of disease incursions, including avian influenza which is ravaging poultry industries in the Northern Hemisphere, and the shifting demands of consumers to higher risk products (e.g., those raised outdoors) has heightened the priority for industries to coordinate initiatives both within and between Poultry sectors.

Melinda Hashimoto from Egg Farmers of Australia said that providing ongoing evidence-based information to advocate as a united poultry industry to Government on biosecurity and poultry health is important to ensure policies and investments are impactful in protecting Australia's poultry industries.

Melinda also thanked Kylie Hewson for her work as she commences a new role at Biosecurity Queensland. Kylie will be missed but we know that with her knowledge of the poultry industry, she will continue to approach her new role with a unique set of skills and work collaboratively with industry.

Photo: Kylie Hewson - Australian Chicken Meat Federation (formerly), Greg Parkinson - Australian Duck Meat Association, Melinda Hashimoto - Egg Farmers of Australia.

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