



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture  
and Water Resources

# EMSAP & MEVS Update

What have **we** achieved so far  
and where to from here?

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# Meat Establishment Verification System

National review and future improvements.

# MEVS Policy

## Operational components of MEVS

- ✓ Verification schedule and checklists
  - ✓ Non compliance issues (NCIs)
  - ✓ Corrective action requests (CARs)
  - ✓ Weekly meetings
  - ✓ Monthly periodic audits (MPAs)
  - ✓ ATM supervisory visits
- All components are recorded within AMS



# MEVS National Review

## Review Objective

To review the main policies and instructional material of MEVS and the associated AMS verification templates to ensure that on-plant staff have nationally consistent instructions that can be practically applied.

## Review Outcomes

1. Consistent policy for abattoirs and IBRs
2. Workable instructional material
3. Effective ATM supervisory visits
4. Consistent and streamline AMS verification records

# MEVS National Review

## Project Phases

1. MEVS survey of OPVs/FSA, ATMs and establishment management – **done**
2. Review AMS verification schedule and checklists – **in progress**
3. Reformatting departmental instructional material and technical review – **in progress**
4. Review of ATM supervisory visit policy

# MEVS National Review

## Phase 1:

- MEVS policy and implementation
- MEVS verification schedule
- MEVS NCIs
- MEVS instructional material
- MEVS ATM supervisory visits

### ✓ Positive response

- 55 OPVs
- 4 ATMs
- 31 establishments



# MEVS National Review

## MEVS Policy and Implementation Key Findings

- Belief that EMSAP and MEVS are synonymous - if the establishment was not on EMSAP then MEVS was not applicable
- Confusion distinguishing between the original 2011 singular AMS Weekly Verification Checklist and MEVS Checklists
- MEVS transition - main method was ATM demonstration (full or partial)
- 90% of establishment management knew where to locate MEVS policy online
- 84% of establishment management understood

# MEVS National Review

## MEVS Policy and Implementation Action Items

### Revision of the MEVS policies:

- ✓ Not all establishments have opted into EMSAP systems auditing
  - ✓ Amend the policy to include establishments that have reverted to monthly ATM auditing
  - ✓ Amend the policy – for Greenfield sites and Tier 1 to 2 transition
- Will be captured in Phase 5 of the MEVS Review project



# MEVS National Review

For Greenfield, domestic to export and T1 to T2 transitions

## First 6 months

- OPV – MEVS VS, NCIs, CARS, Weekly Meetings, Weekly Reports
- ATM – Monthly Periodic Audit:
  - Acceptable
  - Marginal – 2 in a 6 month period
  - Unacceptable – 1 in a 6 month period

## Transition full MEVS and EMSAP

- OPV – MEVS VS, NCIs, CARS, Weekly Meetings, Weekly Reports, Monthly Periodic Audit
- ATM – Bimonthly supervisory visits
- First EMSAP audit scheduled after first ATM supervisory visit

# MEVS National Review

## ATM Monthly Periodic Audits

- No more than 2 marginal outcomes
- No more than 1 unacceptable outcome
- Above these limits the ATM would issue a “show cause” letter

## First EMSAP Audit

- **Acceptable** – transition to full MEVS and EMSAP
- **Marginal** – develop CAP and schedule CAP verification audit (EMSAP Policy):
  - Acceptable
  - Unacceptable
- **Unacceptable** – revert to 6 months of ATM audits and start process again

# MEVS National Review

## MEVS Verification Schedule Key Findings

- ✓ Some verification activities were inconsistent/poorly aligned with work instructions
- ✓ MEVS daily/weekly checklist was too long and not applicable to all plants
- ✓ Verification schedule does not clearly link to work instructions

# MEVS National Review

## MEVS Verification Schedule Action Items

- ✓ Review the frequency of verification activities
- ✓ Revise the Checklists
- ✓ Technical review of all instructional material
- ✓ Reformat the Verification Schedule
- ✓ Hyperlinks between the Verification Schedule and IML instructional material?

➤ **Will be captured in Phase 4 of the MEVS Review project**

# MEVS National Review

## MEVS NCI Key Findings

- ✓ NCIs being treated the same way as CARs due to department expectations and NCI template
- ✓ OPVs feel issuing NCIs is time consuming (conflicts with data – i.e. average 1-3 NCIs issued/month!)
- ✓ NCI work instructions need clarification especially around ZT detections
- ✓ OPVs feel marginal verification outcomes can be dealt with through Weekly Meeting

# MEVS National Review

## MEVS NCI Action Items

- ✓ Review the NCI process and amend the MEVS policy
- ✓ Develop NCI specific work instruction including rules for ZT detections
- Will be captured in Phase 5 of the MEVS Review project

# MEVS National Review

## MEVS Instructional Material Key Findings

- ✓ Some out of date
- ✓ Some are incomplete/confusing/inaccurate
- ✓ Overwhelming volume
- ✓ Confusion with the new department PSF for work instructions
- ✓ Process verification 74% of OPVs use a combination of MHA Manual and department work instructions and 50% multitask

# MEVS National Review

## MEVS Instructional Material Action Items

- ✓ Gap analysis on instructional material
- ✓ Review for technical accuracy
- ✓ Create a technical support register from the OPVs (25 volunteered)
- ✓ PSF and IML training sessions
- ✓ Redesign the IML landing page to align with the MEVS verification schedule
- ✓ Align department process verification with MHA Manual (rating MHA process)

➤ **This work will be captured in Phase 2 of the MEVS Review**



# MEVS National Review

## MEVS ATM Supervisory Visits Key Findings

- ✓ OPVs value the ATM supervisory visit
- ✓ Not enough time for the supervisory visit during monthly ATM audits
- ✓ Supervisory checklist is too lengthy



# MEVS National Review

## MEVS ATM Supervisory Visits Action Items

- ✓ Revision of the supervisory visit checklist
- ✓ Amend the supervisory visit work instruction
- Will be captured in Phase 3 of MEVS Review project

# Export Meat Systems Audit Program

Implementation, national review and future improvements.

# EMSAP Implementation

## Post transition

- 1 April 2015 - mandatory nomination
- ✓ 43 abattoirs opted for 6-monthly EMSAP audits
- ✓ 29 abattoirs reverted to monthly ATM audits - impact?
- ✓ 3 IBRs opted for 6-monthly EMSAP audits
- ✓ 10 IBRs reverted to traditional ATM audit frequency



# EMSAP Implementation

## Audit outcomes

Acceptable audits – establishment issued with AA certificate

✓ 2014:

- 20 acceptable

✓ 2015:

- 41 acceptable
- 4 marginal
  - CIR audit within 3 months – FOM and ATM

# EMSAP National Review

## Post-implementation

- ✓ Post-implementation review agreed to during the development of EMSAP
- ✓ Post-implementation is an EMP key priority for 2015-2016
- ✓ Joint department/industry working group confirmed at EMIAC Meeting 70 (13 Aug 2015)

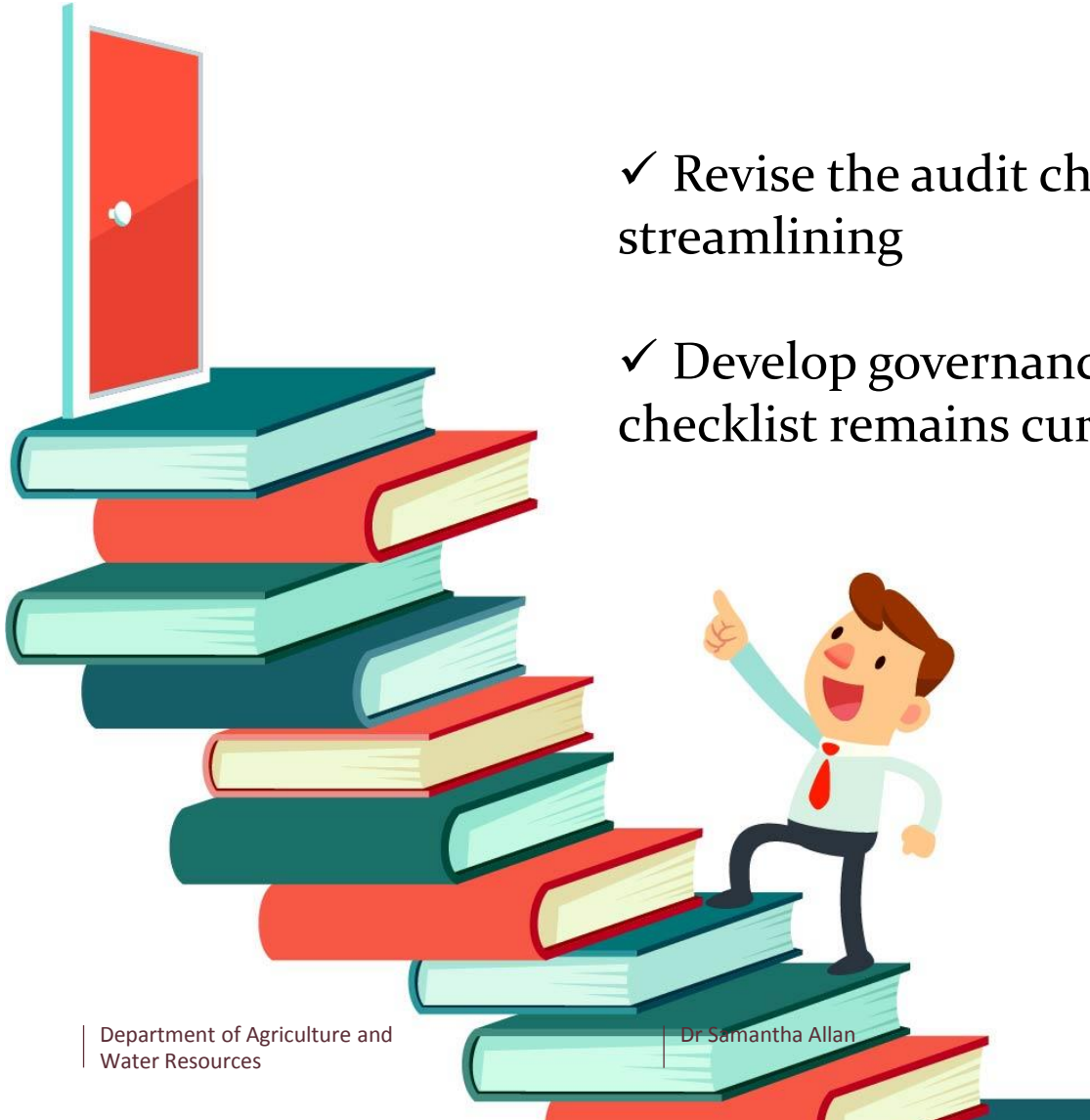
# EMSAP National Review

## Anecdotal Feedback

- ✓ Positive comments:
  - Systems audits thorough process for delving into the AA
  - Access to the checklist - helps with audit preparation
  
- ✓ Negative comments:
  - Audit findings:
    - Confusion around the language
    - List of defects...again!
  - Unclear process for systems audit report follow-up

# EMSAP Future Improvements

- ✓ Revise the audit checklist - needs streamlining
- ✓ Develop governance process to ensure checklist remains current





# Questions/Suggestions?

