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Pullman Reef Hotel, Cairns – venue for the Seventh FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity

From the Coordination Program Leader

Welcome to 2025. The major announcement for this edition of Health Highlights is the Seventh FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity.

The FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity is a biennial event that first occurred around 1999 and has run continuously since then (except for 2021 due to COVID).

The sixth Conference in 2023 attracted 90 participants, 4 keynote speakers, an industry panel session and 50 aquatic animal health and biosecurity presentations.

In 2024, the AAHBCP committee commenced planning the seventh conference, which will be held in Cairns from 8 – 11 July 2025.

To make life a bit easier, we've also created a new email address for the AAHBCP, so if you want to contact us, please use FRDC_AAHCBCP@csiro.au.

Regards,
Nick

Seventh FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity

Date: 8-11 July 2025

Venue: Pullman Reef Hotel, Cairns, Australia

Sponsored by the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC) and delivered through the Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Coordination Program (AAHBCP), the conference is the premier event for the aquatic animal health community in Australia, bringing together researchers, industry, government, and students. Emerging researchers in the field are encouraged to present their work, with a prize for the best PhD student presentation. The conversations that occur at this event are also an invaluable opportunity to foster collaboration.

The **Seventh FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity** will be held at the Pullman Reef Hotel, Cairns, starting at 9:00am on Tuesday 8 July and closing at midday on Friday 11 July 2025. The conference dinner will be held on Thursday 10 July 2025. The dates, timing and venue were determined based on feedback from previous conferences. Please note there is no longer a free afternoon on Wednesday as we have made the

close earlier on Friday to make it easier for people to get home for the weekend. Wednesday was always a good opportunity for informal and formal meetings, so these can be held on Friday afternoon.

This year the theme of the conference is “**Technology for Improved Production and Health.**” The conference program will be developed based on the range of topics received as abstracts, and all topics relating to aquatic animal health and biosecurity are welcome. At least one panel session will take place and is currently being organised.

For the Conference this year the following **Keynote Speakers** have accepted our invitation (we are still organising the fourth):

- **Dr Tina Oldham**, Institute of Marine Research, Animal Welfare Group, Norway
- **Tony Charles**, Senior Manager, Australian Prawn Farms, Ilbilbie, Australia
- **Dr Colin Johnston**, Chief Technical Officer, Tassal Group, Hobart, Australia
- To be determined

Registration and abstract submission open on 1 March 2025 (via link below).

[Registration & Abstract submission - 7th FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity](#)

Key Dates to Remember:

Registration open date – **1 March 2025**
Abstract submission deadline – **1 May 2025**
Finalised program to be distributed – **31 May 2025**
Registration closing date – **6 June 2025**

We are planning to have the finalised program sent out a week before registrations close.

Please forward this message onto others in your network who may be interested and keep an eye out for email updates. If you would like any further information, just email FRDC_AAHCBCP@csiro.au.

AAHBCP Meetings

Since our last issue, AAHBCP has had three meetings; two face-to-face in March and October, and a videoconference in August.

The next AAHBCP meeting is a face-to-face meeting scheduled for 2-3 April 2025 in Melbourne.

AAHBCP Website

Our website is located on the FRDC site and can be accessed at:

<https://www.frdc.com.au/aquatic-animal-health-biosecurity>

There you can view this issue and all previous issues of *Health Highlights* - in addition to finding other information about the FRDC Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity Coordination Program and related issues.

FRDC Final Reports are searchable at:

<https://www.frdc.com.au/project-search>

FRDC News is available at:

<https://www.frdc.com.au/newsletters>

Please contact FRDC directly (Email address: frdc@frdc.com.au) if you have any problems with their website.

Newsletter submissions

The Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity Coordination Program welcomes contributions to *Health Highlights* on all aquatic animal health and biosecurity R&D news and events – both within and outside the FRDC. We aim to assist with the widespread exchange of information by including any of the following in each edition; project updates, milestone reports, final reports, research papers, project communication and extension outputs, information sheets, and letters to the editor. Announcements regarding conferences, workshops, meetings, job vacancies etc., are also welcome.

Mailing list

Health Highlights is distributed biannually to stakeholders via email as well as being posted on the FRDC website at <https://www.frdc.com.au/aquatic-animal-health-biosecurity>

A new mailing list system is being planned for 2025. For now, to change contact details or to ensure inclusion on the *Health Highlights* mailing list, please contact:

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