

**Livestock Biosecurity Network Ltd (2015)**

**Biosecurity evaluation**

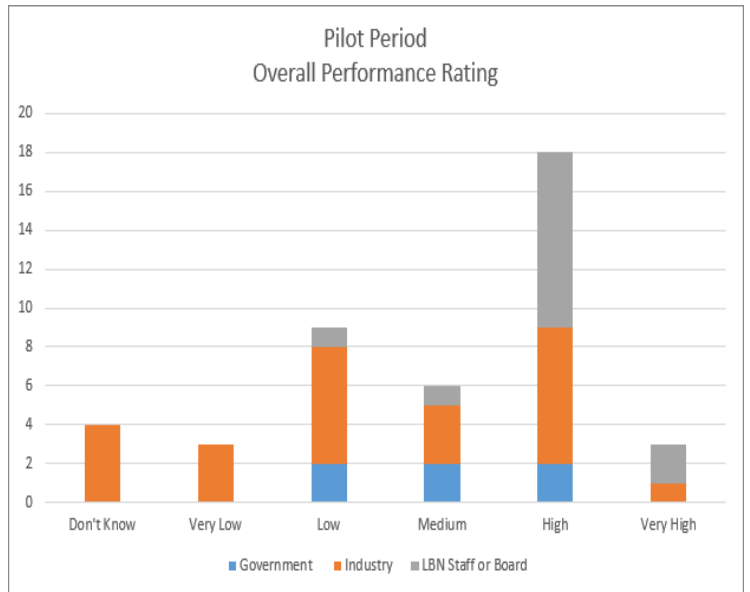
My team was engaged as evaluation lead by GHD to support the Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN) to complete a review of the company as it approached the end of its three-year pilot phase.

The overarching objective of the review was to provide advice to LBN’s members on whether maintaining the initiative beyond June 2016 is justified and, if so, in what form the company should operate and with what funding it could be continued.

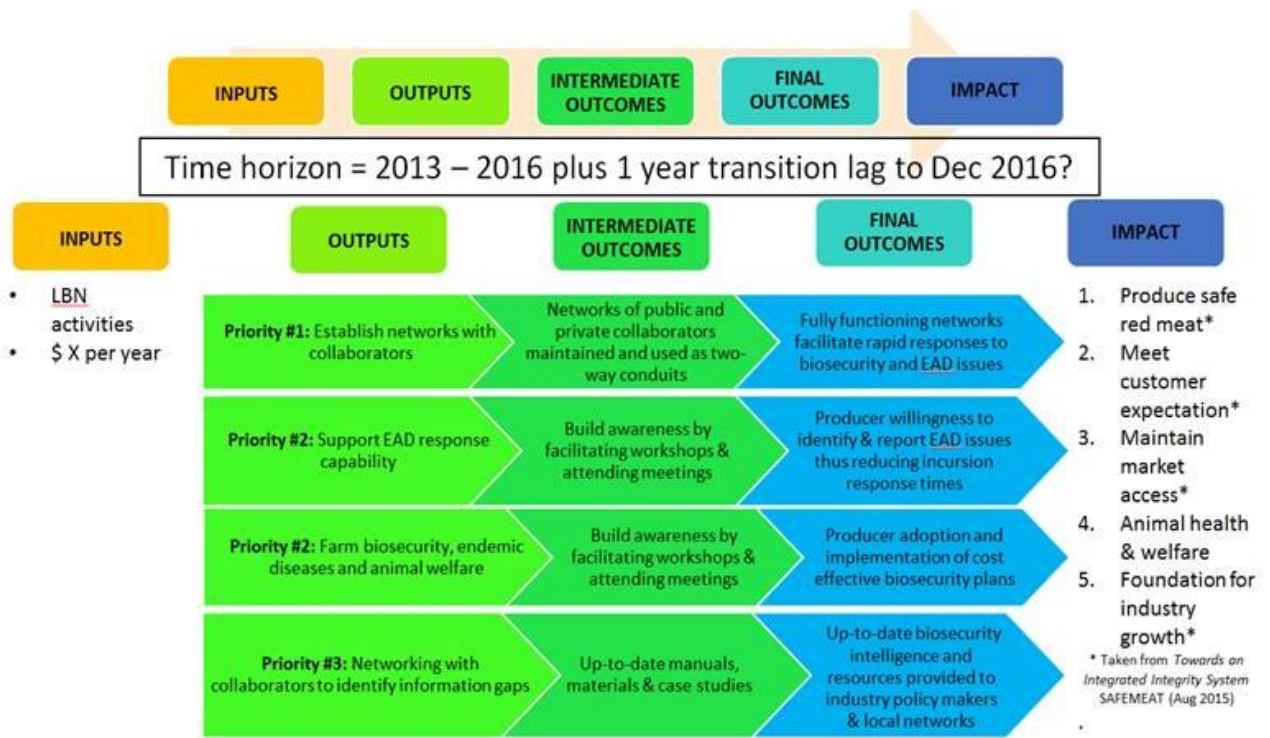
We provided recommendations for the future operations of the company, including a preferred structure and funding model, for consideration by the company’s members and Board.

We found that LBN operates as part of the complex national biosecurity system containing many inter-dependent parts.

It is reasonable to conclude that market failure exists in biosecurity because of the many intersecting issues for both EAD preparedness, endemic disease prevention (both of these can at least partially be addressed via improved biosecurity), endemic disease treatment and animal welfare, and many agencies are working to overcome the deficiencies.

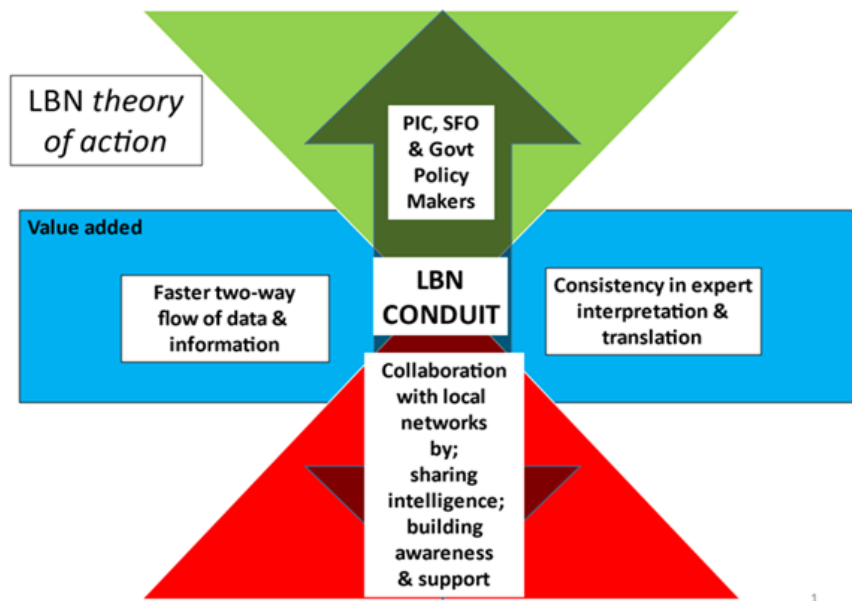


The figure below outlines the interdependencies and relationships.



If it is viewed in the context of the national livestock biosecurity system 'the conduit' is actually a feedback loop on the preparedness of the livestock biosecurity system that can provide a valuable opportunity for learning and change.

The conduit does not seem to be working as well as it could because stakeholders interviewed suggested that any upwards flow of information on policy and information gaps was ad hoc. Where it has been successful, local LBN staff seem to be able to communicate with state government policy makers and SFO staff in a way that promotes biosecurity outcomes and does not seem to be advocating for these producers from a political perspective.



Industry specific competencies demonstrated during this work included:

- evaluating companies, and preferably NGO-style companies, for efficiencies and value for money
- market failure as a result of many intersecting issues for both EAD preparedness, endemic disease prevention (both of these can at least partially be addressed via improved biosecurity), endemic disease treatment and animal welfare
- understanding of international market access requirements, supply and demand side industry structures in agriculture, dynamics of diversified international value chains and how the relevant industry peak industry councils operate and interact
- understanding of funding mechanisms relating to industry levies, including the extent to which these are influenced by the Government's Levy Raising Principles and Guidelines
- cognisance of government involvement in industry matters as they related to biosecurity and animal and animal health and welfare
- a clear understanding of the growing importance of biosecurity to Australian agriculture and what elements of biosecurity are of most importance and their contribution to Australia achieving the NFF goal of creating an agribusiness sector worth >\$100 billion per year by 2030.