

Further information from the November Meeting. FYI

**From:** Colin Walker [<mailto:colin.walker@auspigeonco.com.au>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 November 2025 3:58 PM

**To:** Steve Brown

**Subject:** FW: VHA minutes Colin Walker

*“Colin Walker spoke for about 10 minutes. He advised that in the previous 2 weeks he had met with several principal veterinarians from AgVic and also the ANRPB. During the AgVic meeting several of the primary concerns currently affecting pigeon racing in Victoria were discussed. These included deaths in OLR's, Rota and Fat Eye and their possible relationship to losses ( particularly in the early races) as well as Avian Influenza ( AI ) preparedness. At the ANRPB meeting the discussion focused mainly on AI . The PIC and SDI programs were discussed as well as the importance of developing electronic state and federal membership lists*

*Colin explained that agriculture related industry makes up about 10% of Australia's GDP and represents about \$ 72 billion dollars. To maintain export markets Australia is keen to show overseas trading partners that its disease free status is being maintained. As part of this a scheme has been in place for the last 31 years enabling rapid identification of the location of properties holding more than 50 animals ( including pigeons ) giving each property a Property Identification Code (PIC ). At the same time a rapid response program ( called the Significant Disease Investigation or SDI program ) has been set in place to investigate outbreaks of disease where the symptoms displayed by affected animals could possibly be due to an exotic disease . These programs have great advantages to the pigeon sport :-*

*1/ rapid identification and control of diseases that could impact our sport ( in particular Avian Influenza )*

*2/ subsidized veterinary testing for disease outbreaks . For example if a fancier is having significant numbers of birds die or birds become unwell with neurological symptoms the government will cover the cost ( often fully )*

*Our members need to be aware of these programs. We need to work with the government in programs that affect our sport*

*Regarding Rota and Fat Eye , Colin explained that following several veterinary investigations early in the 2025 season it does appear that Rota and Fat eye are contributing to losses. Colin discussed ways of minimizing the impact of these diseases including vaccinating against Rota in the 2 months prior to racing (rather than in the post weaning period )”*