Peter has a special interest in the use of strategic foresight within government with a particular focus on the investigation of the underlying drivers of disease emergence. Peter graduated from the University of Queensland in 1982 and worked for seventeen years for the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI) as a field veterinarian and policy officer. In 1992-3, he completed a Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) at the University of California, Davis and was subsequently the project leader for animal health surveillance in Queensland. Peter's involvement in the first two detections of Hendra virus in Queensland in 1994 and 1995 and the first human case of Australian bat lyssavirus in 1996 stimulated his initial curiosity in emerging infectious diseases. In 1997, Peter worked in a policy role in Brisbane where he was instrumental in introducing a formal risk management approach to animal and plant health activities within QDPI and developed a particular interest in risk perception and risk communication. It was this interest coupled with strategic planning activities that encouraged him to undertake a Masters of Science in Strategic Foresight at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, which he completed in 2005.

The application of foresight perspectives to veterinary epidemiology and more particularly to emerging infectious diseases, led Peter to adopt and promote more cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary approaches. Accordingly, he is a strong supporter of the One Health movement and EcoHealth approaches. Peter is the Director of Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness s in the Animal Health Policy Branch within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) where he has introduced strategic foresight approaches and thinking to his work colleagues. Peter is a member of the Epidemiology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists as well as being a member of the broader EcoHealth and foresight communities in Australia.

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