



Kia ora

The NBL has undergone significant progress since the last issue and the fully-welded steel structure is now complete. The building envelope is progressing well and primary plant is being delivered to site and being installed.



Work has now begun to ensure the NBL will have the services it needs to operate at maximum capacity. A new electrical substation is under construction and new water and electricity connections into the site are being finalised.

The number one project priority – Health and Safety – continues at an excellent standard under the stewardship of Fletcher Construction Company (FCC), this is mainly due to the diligence of the FCC site management team who have lost zero hours due to injury over the past year.



November 2015



November 2016



November 2017

Mycoplasma Bovis Response Putting Biocontainment to the Test

In July this year samples from South Canterbury were confirmed positive for *Mycoplasma Bovis* (M Bovis) by the Wallaceville laboratory. This is the first time this bacterium has been found in New Zealand. The pathogen, which occurs worldwide except in New Zealand and Norway, does not infect humans but can cause significant disease and welfare issues in cattle.

This response has seen Wallaceville's Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) working a full capacity for more than four months, testing over 50,000 samples. The laboratory's work has been essential to determine which properties are infected and which are clear. It confirms the importance of the NBL in the future protection of New Zealand's primary industries. Testing of potentially infectious material is being carried out in the MPI's existing PC3 laboratory.

The increased workload has put the current facility and staff under considerable pressure due to the higher number of samples. It has however confirmed many of the design decisions made in the development of the new facility, due to come on stream in 2019, such as being able to process a larger number of samples each day.



NBL Project Director Joseph O'Keefe comments, "The NBL has been designed to provide the laboratory environment capable of rapidly expanding testing should the situation call for it. Improved features such as new containment boundary equipment, better capacity in the containment showers and more resilient containment systems, such as air handling and effluent decontamination will ensure the laboratory can do the work necessary for a foot and mouth outbreak with up to 100 infected properties".



Lessons from the M Bovis response will provide important and relevant intelligence to the ongoing planning for and transition to the new laboratory.