



Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC
Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food;
Hydrogen Industry

Our ref: 64-27194

Ms Anne Gething
State President
Country Women's Association of WA
PO Box 97
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Dear Ms Gething

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PREPAREDNESS

Thank you for your letter dated 5 September 2022 regarding the risk that foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) poses to our livestock industry.

FMD has not been detected in Australia but was detected in Indonesia in May 2022. The presence of the disease in our close neighbours has increased the risk of the virus spreading to Australian livestock.

Protecting Western Australia (WA) from emergency animal diseases like FMD is at the core of our biosecurity system. State Government is taking this risk very seriously and has an FMD taskforce currently working on response planning, stakeholder engagement and preparedness activities.

Our activities to date have focused on measures at the farm gate and industry, as well as our borders and travellers. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has held over 50 briefings across WA for farmers, industry, veterinarians, communities, and government, and is updating all registered livestock owners with regular emails. We have distributed 1,800 free biosecurity signs to farmers and industry.

Additional biosecurity signage and information has been deployed to domestic and regional airports, and road border checkpoints. The State Government has invested extra funding to run an extensive biosecurity awareness campaign, which includes TV, radio, digital and social media ads. Biosecurity has also been a focus at events such as the Perth Royal Show and other regional agricultural shows.

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for biosecurity at all airports designated as first points of entry for international aircraft (including Broome and Port Hedland in WA) and has always screened passengers and mail arriving from FMD-affected countries. Following the outbreak in Indonesia, additional surveillance measures have been put in place at all these airports for travellers and mail from Indonesia, including screening of every flight, sanitation foot mats for travellers, and enhancement of mail profiling and inspections.

The State Government is working very closely with the Commonwealth Government to stay up to date on the situation in Indonesia and to regularly review suitability of biosecurity measures.

We all have a role to play in protecting WA from exotic pests and diseases, including FMD. There are some simple things your members can do to help:

- **Register all your livestock**

All livestock (even pet sheep) must be registered with DPIRD under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013*. Livestock registration helps us to trace disease in the event of an outbreak. Information on how to register livestock can be found on the [DPIRD website](#).

- **Do not feed food scraps to pigs**

The key risk pathway for the FMD virus entering Australia and infecting our livestock is through the illegal importation of meat and dairy products into Australia and the subsequent feeding of these products to pigs. Feeding food scraps that contain or have been in contact with meat to pigs is called swill feeding and is illegal in Australia.

- **Monitor livestock for unusual signs or symptoms**

All livestock owners should monitor their stock closely and immediately report any suspicion of disease to the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888, to your local DPIRD veterinarian or to your private veterinarian.

- **Avoid livestock and farms if you have been to Indonesia**

If you have been to a farm or had contact with livestock in Indonesia, or any other country affected by FMD, we recommend you avoid contact with Australian livestock of farms for seven days after your return.

The WA Government remains dedicated to the prevention of emergency animal disease to protect WA livestock, their owners, and our livestock industries. Together we can protect WA from emergency animal diseases.

Yours sincerely



**HON ALANNAH MACTIERNAN MLC
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AGRICULTURE AND FOOD;
HYDROGEN INDUSTRY**

19 OCT 2022