



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Reference: MC22-064849

Ms Anne Gething
State President
Country Women's Association of Western Australia
1176 Hay Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Ms Gething

Thank you for your letter of 5 September 2022 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, regarding foot and mouth disease (FMD). The Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Australian Government is acutely aware of the devastating impacts an exotic animal disease could have on Australia's agriculture industry, and is working to prevent an incursion. In response to the FMD and lumpy skin disease outbreaks in Indonesia, the Government has announced more than \$24 million in new funding to bolster Australia's frontline biosecurity defence and provide direct technical support and additional vaccines to Indonesia and neighbouring countries.

The Government has introduced strict new biosecurity measures, including installing sanitation foot mats in all international airports, expanding social media campaigns to raise awareness of FMD in the community, and introducing additional messaging about FMD at airports and on returning flights from Indonesia.

I have provided a copy of your correspondence to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, given the matters you raise fall with that Department's portfolio responsibility. Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Strapp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Strapp
A/g Assistant Secretary

11 October 2022