



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND LUMPY SKIN DISEASE PREPAREDNESS

<b>Issued by:</b>	Animal Strategy and Coordination Branch
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### 1. Situation

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has been detected in 24 of 37 provinces in Indonesia, including Bali, and there is an increased risk of an incursion into Australia.
- Lumpy skin disease (LSD) was reported in Indonesia on 2 March 2022, and there are confirmed cases in five provinces in Sumatra. There are no recent reports on the distribution of LSD in Indonesia.
- **There have been no reported cases of FMD and LSD in Australia.**

#### Key data

- As at 12:00pm on 26 August 2022 the Indonesian government has reported 510,963 FMD infected animals. There have been cases detected in 24 provinces of Indonesia.
- There were 1,791,191 FMD vaccinations administered. The largest number of vaccinations have occurred in the provinces of East Java, Central Java, Bali and West Java.
  - Infections are predominantly in the western islands of Sumatra, Java and Kalimantan. However, there are also reported cases in some eastern islands including Sulawesi and Bali. The highest number of infections have been reported in the provinces of East Java, West Nusa Tenggara, West Java and Aceh.
  - The Indonesian Government is reporting 8 provinces with no active cases (South Sumatra, Riau Islands, South Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, Bali, Jakarta, West Kalimantan and West Sulawesi). Note that this does not necessarily mean that infection is not present in these provinces.
  - There are no official reports of cases further east in East Nusa Tenggara.
- There are no updates on the distribution of LSD and there are no reports coming from the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture on the current situation other than they believe it is still confined to Sumatra Island.

### 2. Actions Taken

#### Australian support for Indonesia

- DAFF has been engaging with a range of Australian government stakeholders and international organisations to coordinate our support to Indonesia.
- The Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) program which is a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded development program has also been engaged to deliver support in country.



## Vaccination

- The Australian Government has supported Indonesia on its LSD control program through the provision of vaccine and communication campaigns and materials worth \$910,000 of Official Development Assistance.
  - 435,000 LSD vaccine doses to support the vaccination campaign in Indonesia have already been delivered.
- The Australian Government has supplied 1 million doses of FMD vaccine to Indonesia, at a cost of \$1.5 million. The vaccines arrived in Indonesia on Sunday 21 August 2022.
  - The Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture is working with provincial governments to determine where the vaccines will be distributed.
- 2.84 million of the initial 3 million vaccine doses (94.7%) procured by the Indonesian Government have already been distributed.
- The \$10m biosecurity support package to further support Indonesia's response to FMD and LSD announced on 9 August will provide additional FMD/LSD vaccines, second departmental biosecurity expertise and provide other technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and support development of a national livestock identification system for Indonesia.

## Technical support and capacity building

- DAFF has provided \$550,000 to Meat and Livestock Australia for the *Indonesia Biosecurity Support Project*, which will enhance biosecurity capacity in Indonesia's commercial feedlot sector to curb the spread of FMD and LSD. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$2.08 million. DAFF's initial contribution will fund an in-country risk assessment and mitigation plan, development of feedlot manuals, and training delivery on biosecurity and emergency response in Indonesia.
- The CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness are working with the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture to provide technical laboratory support and supply of essential materials to underpin FMD and LSD testing.
- The Australian Government has committed \$14m in immediate funding to manage the increased threat of FMD and LSD. Of this, \$5m will be provided for immediate support for Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea including:
  - support for FMD and LSD vaccine distribution
  - technical expertise to support and strengthen laboratory capacity
  - technical assistance to support on-ground control efforts in Indonesia and epidemiological support.

*Note: there has not been an incursion of FMD or LSD in Timor-Leste or Papua New Guinea.*



## Australian prevention and preparedness activities

### National coordination

- On 10 August 2022, a public hearing of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Inquiry in relation to *Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness, in particular with respect to foot-and-mouth disease and varroa mite*.
  - Officials from DAFF, the Department of Home Affairs and DFAT were present as witnesses.
- On 9 August 2022, Minister Watt launched the National Biosecurity Strategy.
- On 4 August 2022, Minister Watt announced the establishment of an Exotic Animal Diseases Joint Inter-Agency Taskforce (the Joint Taskforce). It brings together representatives from DAFF, the Department of Home Affairs (Emergency Management Australia and the Australian Border Force) and Defence to lift the overall preparedness of all of our jurisdictions and industries should there ever be an incursion of an exotic animal disease. The Joint Taskforce will produce a report to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on 5 September 2022.
- On 20 July 2022, Agriculture Ministers agreed in-principle to advance work on a national approach to Australia's livestock traceability systems, including urgent consideration of requirements for electronic individual identification of sheep and goats.

### Technical/Policy

- On 10 August 2022, Animal Health Australia published Version 5.0 of the AUSVETPLAN Response Strategy for Lumpy Skin Disease. The Australian Government has committed \$9m (of the \$14m immediate funding mentioned above) to support prevention and preparedness activities for LSD and FMD in Australia. In addition to the enhanced border measures mentioned below, this includes:
  - additional frontline resources (18 new staff members in airports and mail centres) and targeted diagnostic and surveillance activities
  - redeployment of detector dogs in Cairns and Darwin Airports
  - the appointment of a northern Australian co-ordinator to manage the urgent development and delivery of effective surveillance and preparedness strategies across north Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory
  - support for activities by industry and state and territory governments to deliver preparedness activities
  - targeted communication and engagement material for northern Australia and in the traveller and mail pathways, to encourage biosecurity compliance and help to achieve a shared responsibility towards preventing the entry and establishment of these diseases.



## Operations

### *Travellers*

- On 22 July 2022, the Director of Biosecurity made a determination declaring Biosecurity Response Zones (BRZs) at international airports receiving direct flights from Indonesia (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and Cairns).
- The BRZs enable enhanced measures to be taken by biosecurity officers, such as deploying of foot mats, and directing travellers to walk across foot mats to treat the soles of their footwear.
- These mats, filled with diluted citric acid have now been deployed at all international airports with BRZs.
- An on-arrival FMD message is delivered by biosecurity officers who board every aircraft arriving from Indonesia, alerting travellers to the risk of FMD, use of the foot mats upon disembarkation, and the need to make accurate declarations on their Incoming Passenger Card. The message is available in Bahasa Indonesia as well as English, for use on flights from Jakarta (in line with the passenger cohorts on these flights).
- Further FMD messaging is being played through terminal audio systems while travellers are being processed through immigration or waiting for their baggage, and FMD signage (including electronic signage in some airports) is displayed throughout the terminals.
- Travellers who have been in Indonesia in the last seven days are being referred for biosecurity assessment at all of Australia's international airports.
- Denpasar airport has installed foot mats at both arrival and departure areas.
- FMD-related signage has been placed in both Denpasar and Jakarta airports targeting travellers to Australia. Post reports that further signage is being arranged at Surabaya airport, and that arrangements are being made with the Smart Traveller website for the links to FMD information to be moved to a more prominent position on the travel advice for Indonesia.

### *Mail*

- Biosecurity officers in mail centres are continuing to inspect 100% of non-letter class mail arriving from Indonesia, this includes all parcels, express mail service and other articles.

### *Maritime*

- Foot baths must be in place at top and bottom of gangways for livestock vessels while docked at port. All persons disembarking or embarking vessels are directed to use the foot baths and keep footwear visibly free from organic material. The crew are to maintain foot baths at all times.

### *Cargo*

- DAFF has a range of measures in place to prevent the introduction of exotic diseases, such as FMD, into Australia. These include, but are not limited to, import permits and mandatory inspections of products that could introduce FMD into Australia.



### Communications

- Regular social media posts are being published, aimed at travellers and industry across DAFF and Biosecurity Australia social media channels.
- Location-based advertising to mobile users (geo-targeting) has been implemented for Australian airports and Bali and Jakarta from June to 31 August 2022.
- Targeted FMD flyers are being handed out to travellers at departures in Australia (for flights to Indonesia) and in Bali (for flights to Australia), and on arrival in Australia.
- The following media products have been published:
  - 4 x departmental news articles
  - 2 x departmental statements
  - 3 x departmental media releases
  - 10 x ministerial media releases
- On 24 August 2022, a webinar on the combined government and industry response to the threat of FMD/LSD was held. Speakers included Minister Watt and representatives from DAFF, National Farmers Federation, Australian Pork Limited and Animal Health Australia.
- DAFF circulated information via the Australian Federation of Travel Agents and a webinar took place on 3 August 2022 to provide Biosecurity/FMD information.
- On 29 July 2022, the smartraveller.gov.au website was updated with FMD advice.
- DAFF is in discussion with airlines to provide Biosecurity/FMD information on commercial airline webpages.
- Raw footage from a joint DAFF and MLA/Industry 'Behind the scenes tour of an airport' will be reviewed and production is underway.
- An FMD special edition of the Biosecurity Matters newsletter was published on 12 August.

### **3. Other**

#### **Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness Taskforce is now the Animal Strategy and Coordination Branch, Biosecurity Animal Division.**

- The Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness Taskforce has transitioned into the Biosecurity Animal Division, DAFF as the Animal Strategy and Coordination (ASC) Branch. We will continue to work under the leadership of the National Animal Disease Preparedness Coordinator, Dr Chris Parker and will be the central coordination point for DAFF's LSD and FMD preparedness activities, drive strategy and lead industry engagement.
- The 'Joint Inter-Agency Exotic National Disease Preparedness Taskforce' is being led collaboratively by DAFF and Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and will test the way our animal health plans and systems interact with emergency response systems,



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within Commonwealth departments and agencies and with other jurisdictions. It will accelerate the other Commonwealth and interjurisdictional preparedness activities, to lift the overall preparedness of all of our jurisdictions and industries should there ever be an incursion of an EAD.

### **Next Report**

- The ASC Branch will continue to provide industry updates on current situation via an Industry Advice Notice on the DAFF website. We encourage you to subscribe to receive ongoing and regular departmental updates. Further information will be circulated soon.