

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

LAST UPDATED: 12 SEPTEMBER 2022 | UPDATES SINCE PREVIOUS UPDATE **HIGHLIGHTED**

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Australia remains free from Foot and Mouth Disease.

1. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Indonesian statistics

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Indonesian statistics as of 9 September:

- 2.218m vaccinated animals (includes beef cattle, dairy cattle and buffalo);
- 0.206m vaccinated animals on Bali (included in the total above); and
- Structured Expert Judgement of an FMD incursion - 9% (March 2021) to 11.6%

Vaccination figures per the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture (see link [here](#)). Please note the NFF cannot verify the information provided on this site.

2. Summary of Australian Government announcements

Pre-Bali incursion at-border measures

DAFF released information outlining the at-border measures that were put in place following the initial confirmation of FMD in Indonesia.

Key actions include:

- enhanced questioning of passengers (in the baggage hall) regarding FMD risk items they may be carrying.
- any FMD risk goods (meat and other animal products) from Indonesia detected at international airports and Mail Gateway Facilities are being collected and sent for testing of FMD virus.
- non-letter mail from Indonesia is being screened (by x-ray or detector dogs) at a one hundred percent inspection rate.
- biosecurity officers undertook a targeted operation across five flights from Indonesia and Timor Leste arriving in Australia.
- enhanced targeted communication material (distributed both on and offshore) targeting passengers and mail users.

Post-Bali incursion measures

Following official confirmation from Indonesian authorities that FMD had spread to Bali on July 5th, new measures announced include:

- the deployment of additional biosecurity detector dogs in Darwin and Cairns airports
- additional signage and the distribution of flyers at major airports, informing travellers of FMD risk and precautions.
- expanded social media campaigns, informing travellers of their biosecurity responsibilities.
- 18 new biosecurity officers in airports and mail centres.
- additional training of airport biosecurity staff.
- enhancement of mail profiling and inspections.

- biosecurity officers boarding planes on arrival.
- new biosecurity message on all inbound flights from Indonesia to reinforce Australia's strict biosecurity measures and provide FMD-specific advice to travellers.

The statement can be accessed [here](#).

Vaccine and feedlot sector support

On July 15th, a vaccine and feedlot sector support package was announced. This included:

- \$1.5 million of vaccine support to Indonesia, supplying Indonesia with at least 1 million FMD vaccines
- an initial \$500,000 to Meat and Livestock Australia for coordinating support from Australian industry for the Indonesian feedlot sector's emergency response to these diseases.

The statement can be accessed [here](#).

Technical support and additional at-border measures

On the 15th of July additional technical support and at-border measures were announced. This included:

- \$5 million to provide technical expertise and support to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea to assist their work in combatting livestock diseases
- \$9 million for Australia's frontline biosecurity and industry preparedness activities (funding of previously announced measures)

The statement can be accessed [here](#).

Foot mats with citric acid solution

On July 20th, the installation of sanitation foot mats in international airports was announced.

The statement can be accessed [here](#).

FMD fragment detection

On the 20th of July a statement was released outlining the results of a biosecurity surveillance purchasing and testing campaign of food for sale in supermarkets around Australia. One sample tested positive for FMD and ASF viral fragments– the test does not indicate live virus and Australia remains FMD-free. In addition, illegal meat products containing FMD fragments were seized at the airport. Such surveillance efforts are undertaken routinely.

The statement can be accessed [here](#).

Biosecurity Response Zones at international airports

On the 22nd of July, DAFF Secretary Mr. Andrew Metcalfe AO, in his capacity as Director Of Biosecurity, announced the establishment of Biosecurity Response Zones at international airports in response to the Indonesian outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

The statement can be accessed [here](#).

Establishment of Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness Taskforce

On 4 August, the Minister announced the establishment of an Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness Taskforce to enhance biosecurity preparedness. The taskforce will include officials from DAFF, the Director-General of Emergency Management Australia, the Australian Defence Force, Australian Border Force and Animal Health Australia.

The statement can be accessed [here](#).

\$10 million biosecurity cooperation package to assist Indonesia

Package announced on 9 August will see Australia supply additional vaccinations, as well as technical and advisory support to strengthen Indonesia's biosecurity measures.

The statement can be accessed [here](#).

National Biosecurity Strategy released

National Biosecurity Strategy, released 9 August, outlines the key actions for all Australians to ensure a stronger biosecurity system. This is the result of advocacy by industry back to 2020, and a process initiated by the previous Government.

The Statement and copy of the strategy can be found [here](#).

Personal imports of meat banned from FMD countries.

On the 7th of September the Australian Government banned the importation of meat products for personal use from all countries with FMD. These new restrictions came into place at midnight on the 7th of September. The Minister's media release can be accessed as [here](#).

National Livestock Standstill Discussion Exercise

On the 29th of August, the Joint Interagency Taskforce on Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness coordinated a National Livestock Standstill (NLSS) Discussion Exercise. The exercise worked through a theoretical scenario of an FMD-positive case in a livestock business in order to explore national and jurisdictional arrangements for implementing and managing a NLSS. This was done in order to identify vulnerabilities within the biosecurity and/or emergency management sectors. Industry were invited to observe the exercise.

The exercise both demonstrated the established processes in place for such a scenario and helped to identify the ongoing need for jurisdiction harmonisation throughout decision making and data sharing, as well as resourcing and delivery of communications to the community, including producers, in such a scenario.

3. NFF advocacy

Key prevention and at-border measures

In response to the current increased risk of FMD in our region, the NFF is calling for:

- **Screening:** 100% screening (personalised biosecurity questioning and luggage check) of **all** returning travellers from Indonesia, while the situation remains higher risk.

- **Physical intervention methods:** Immediate rollout of physical intervention methods such as citric-acid foot mats at all Australian international airports and ports, and ongoing consideration of other appropriate intervention methods.
- **Risk assessment:** Continual assessment by Government of the risk profile of an FMD incursion, and consideration of all measures that need to be implemented commensurate with these risks.
- **Resourcing:** Adequate resourcing of front-line services, including assessing the need for more biosecurity personnel, sniffer dogs and technology-aided solutions for high-risk pathways such as imported food products.
- **Funding:** The implementation of additional long-term, sustainable biosecurity funding pipelines.

These calls have been made via public statements, via traditional and non-traditional media, private meetings with the Agriculture Minister, and targeted written engagement of non-agricultural ministers including:

- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese
- Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles
- Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong
- Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil

NFF, Minister and DAFF Indonesian delegation

On the 14-16th of July, NFF President Fiona Simson joined Minister Watt and key DAFF officials for inter-governmental and inter-industry meetings in Indonesia to seek a clearer picture of the situation on the ground and to offer our support to Indonesia in managing the outbreak.

Recent NFF FMD media releases and statements

9 August – NFF welcomes Biosecurity Strategy, calls for action on funding. This release can be accessed [here](#).

4 August – Statement on new Biosecurity Taskforce. This statement can be accessed [here](#).

22 July - NFF welcomes stronger biosecurity powers. This release can be accessed [here](#).

20 July - FMD fragments detected shows system working, but highlights need to continue to strengthen system. This release can be accessed [here](#).

14 July - The NFF welcomes FMD support for Indonesian farmers This release can be accessed [here](#).

12 July - Farmers urge travellers to ditch their pluggers to protect Aussie farms. This release can be accessed [here](#).

6 July - NFF welcomes biosecurity ramp-up as FMD risk intensifies. This release can be accessed [here](#).

4 July - Farmers call for security step-up as FMD reaches Bali. This release can be accessed [here](#).

21 June - Hand-to-mouth biosecurity funding must end, as farmers stare down Foot & Mouth Disease & Lumpy Skin Disease. This release can be accessed [here](#).

Recent media coverage

[Agriculture Minister to release first National Biosecurity Strategy as disease threat looms](#) - ABC

[Senate inquiry launched into biosecurity measures](#) – Beef Central

[The curious case of Peter Dutton, foot-and-mouth disease and an extreme bid to close the border](#) – ABC

[Conference told FMD attention provides an opportunity to fix biosecurity funding](#) – QCL

[Keep border open but screen for foot-and-mouth, farmers say](#) – ABC

[Concerns grow over foot and mouth disease](#) – 9 News

[PM backs 'strongest ever' biosecurity measures as farmers, business say keep Indonesia border open](#) – Sydney Morning Herald

Industry Webinars

The Industry Taskforce on FMD/LSD has hosted three webinars updating the public on response and preparedness activities.

Recordings of each of these webinars is available on the NFF website [here](#).

A further webinar is planned for the coming weeks, with details to be made available shortly.

Communications with extractive industries

The NFF has written to the mining and gas sectors outlining the need for companies operating in these sectors to be aware of biosecurity risks when conducting activities on properties and to take all appropriate measures to minimise this risk.

4. Industry communication and coordination structures

DAFF FMD and LSD industry update

DAFF has recently released industry updates outlining key situational information and actions taken in response to LSD and FMD threats, in particular from a Government/Departmental perspective. See below:

- 29th of August - can be accessed [here](#).
- 5th of September - can be accessed [here](#).

Biosecurity Measures at International Airports

Last month a group of representatives from predominantly industry service providers undertook a behind-the-scenes inspection of Sydney's International Airport biosecurity measures.

Watch the video of this [behind-the-scenes tour here](#).

Industry Taskforce on Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease

The Industry Taskforce on Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) was formed following the confirmation of LSD in Indonesia in March. Following the outbreak of FMD in Indonesia the taskforce was expanded to include industry engagement on FMD.

The taskforce comprises the Chair/Presidents & CEOs of:

- The Red Meat Advisory Council
- The National Farmers' Federation
- Australian Dairy Farmers' (ADF)

With the MD/CEOs/Chair of:

- Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)
- The Australian Livestock Export Corporation (LiveCorp)
- Australian Meat Processing Corporation (AMPC)
- Dairy Australia
- Australian Pork Limited
- Australian Wool Innovation

Additionally, a representative from The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) sits on the taskforce to provide Departmental updates.

This taskforce will meet every week to discuss industry efforts, coordination activities and communications, as well as to receive DAFF updates.

Five working groups have been established under the ITLSD & FMD:

- Overseas In-Country Support Working Group
- Trade and Protocols Working Group
- LSD/FMD Diagnostic Capability & Vaccine Development Working Group
- Domestic Containment Strategy Working Group
- Communications Working Group

While much of the work of these working groups was concerned with initially providing input to the DAFF LSD National Action Plan, as appropriate they have now undertaken work concerning FMD.

The NFF Farming Systems Committee

The NFF Farming Systems Committee (FSC) receives a fortnightly update from the NFF secretariat communicating information from the ITLSD & FMD, the Government, other sources, as well as NFF advocacy efforts.

Additionally, the following briefings have been held:

- 22 June - a situational update and at-border measures brief from DAFF (held jointly with NFF Trade Committee)
- 5 July - Internal briefing on reports of incursion into Bali
- 26 July - Briefing on specific FMD-related cross-commodity trade implications from DAFF (held jointly with NFF Trade Committee)

NFF advocacy efforts, including additional measures being called for, have been discussed by the Committee at these briefings.

NFF member's forum on FMD

The NFF has convened the NFF member's forum on FMD. The aim of this forum is to coordinate and share information, provide updates on advocacy and communications efforts and allow internal discussion between all NFF members with regard to FMD. It is being held weekly.

Updates provided to the forum include a post-Indonesia delegation report for Fiona Simson, as well as a briefing from Animal Health Australia.

5. Additional resources

- [Australian Government FMD Resources Page](#)
- [NFF FMD Resources webpage](#)
- [Animal Health Australia FMD Resources Page](#)
- [Industry Briefing on Foot & Mouth Disease \(video\)](#)