



FMD and LSD: what you need to know

What's it called?	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)
What is it?	A highly contagious animal disease that affects all cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, sheep, goats, camelids, deer and pigs.	A contagious viral disease that affects cattle (both beef and dairy) and water buffalo.
How does it spread?	Through close contact between animals, by animal products or by the wind.	By biting insects and fomites.
What are the possible symptoms?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fever • drooling • reluctance to move • mouth, snout, tongue, hoof blisters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discharge from eyes and nose • decreased milk yield in lactating cattle • high fever • firm skin nodules • loss of body condition.
Where can I find out more?		

Australia is currently free from both FMD and LSD and our priority is to keep it that way.

An LSD or FMD outbreak in Australia would be devastating to our livestock and associated industries through international trade losses, market disruptions, animal health impacts and production losses. FMD alone could cost Australia around \$80 billion over 10 years (Source: DAFF, 2022).

The threat of these diseases entering Australia has increased significantly with the recent outbreak of FMD and LSD in Indonesia.

What's being done to stop the spread?

It's the Australian Government's responsibility to protect Australia from these diseases, and industry, in partnership with MLA, is doing everything possible to support this work.

What the government's doing

State and federal governments are undertaking a range of activities to manage the biosecurity risks posed by LSD and FMD and are actively engaged with industry on prevention and planning. The Australian Veterinary Plan (AUSVETPLAN) is in place as the nationally agreed approach to respond to an animal disease outbreak.

What MLA's doing

MLA, in conjunction with the Australian Government, is working closely with the Indonesian Government and industry on a biosecurity support program to help control the spread of FMD and LSD.

MLA is also an active member of the industry taskforce working on planning and preparedness. MLA's role here as the marketing and research provider for the red meat industry is to support the industry taskforce with technical expertise and investment in potential prevention and treatment solutions, including mRNA vaccines.

What can producers do to stop the spread?

- educate themselves and their employees on the symptoms of FMD and LSD, as well as how to report suspected outbreaks.
- meet industry traceability requirements under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and complete National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) so they're clear, complete and correct.
- review their Farm Biosecurity Plan and improve their farm biosecurity practices.

More information



Scan here to view MLA's dedicated webpage about LSD and FMD for the latest information



Scan here to watch this webinar answering frequently asked questions about FMD and LSD