

FACT SHEET

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

KEY CONTACTS

Emergency Animal Disease
Watch Hotline – **1800 675 888**

Truck wash locations

Powranna biosecurity truck wash

3 Powranna Road Powranna,
TAS, 7300, Australia
Operates under the National
Truck Wash System or Avdata
key Charge rate: \$1.20 per minute

Smithton truck wash

Operates under the National
Truck Wash System or Avdata
key Charge rate: \$0.60 per
minute, minimum \$3.95

Cooee Point wash, Burnie
(owned and operated by Burnie
City Council)

24 hour key system – each user
is charged an annual fee to
purchase a key.

Biosecurity Tasmania:
(03) 6165 3777

Sanitation and PPE

Clothing and disinfectant
www.tasmanianhandsanitiser.com.au

What is FMD

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects all cloven-hoofed animals including: cattle, sheep, goats, camels, alpaca, llamas, deer and pigs.

HOW IS IT SPREAD

FMD is capable of extremely rapid spread – often, entire herds can be infected within 48 hours. Cattle are the most susceptible species, though pigs spread the disease fastest. An incursion of this disease into Australia would lead to a loss in production of meat and milk, cessation of trade and the humane euthanasia of many animals.

IDENTIFICATION

Early signs include fever, drooling and a reluctance to move. Blisters appear on the mouth, snout, tongue, lips or between and above the hooves on the feet. The blisters rupture to expose raw, painful tissue.



THREAT

FMD is considered one of Australia's biggest biosecurity risks. An uncontrolled outbreak could lead to beef, lamb and pork export markets being closed for more than a year, and control costs have been estimated at more than 50 billion dollars over 10 years (ABARES). Even an isolated, rapidly controlled outbreak could cost several billion dollars to eradicate, with serious economic and social effects in other sectors, including tourism.

TREATMENT

Infected livestock cannot be treated once infected, they are usually humanely euthanised to prevent further spread. Vaccination may be used by authorised people only to control an outbreak of the disease. It is not used as a preventative measure.

HOW EASILY COULD FMD BE INTRODUCED?

The FMD virus is not present in Australia, so any outbreak would have to be the result of the virus being brought in from overseas.

FMD usually enters countries via the importation of infected animals, semen or infected food. That's why Australia doesn't allow imports of any live animals, semen, uncooked meat or unprocessed dairy products from FMD affected countries.

Other risks are soil, straw and other material that might be on imported farm machinery, used animal handling equipment, or on footwear or clothing that could harbour the FMD virus.

BE PROACTIVE

The best defence for producers on the frontline is proactive prevention: all livestock owners should have stringent biosecurity measures in place on their property, including accurate records of livestock movement. Take the time now to implement or update an existing farm biosecurity plan.

Templates for a farm biosecurity plan can be downloaded at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit. Here you will find many other useful resources. You should also ensure you have biosecurity gate signs in place around your property, contact TFGA to get your FREE member biosecurity fence sign.



BE AWARE

Know the impacts you may face if FMD invades your space.

FMD is considered one of Australia's greatest biosecurity risks. An incursion would have severe consequences for Australia's animal health and trade. Severe economic losses would be felt with restrictions being placed on both domestic and international markets for live animals, meat and animal products.

The impacts of FMD may be felt well beyond agriculture.

WHO TO CALL

If you suspect the presence of this disease in any species of animal, you must report it to:

- **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 and**
- **Biosecurity Tasmania on (03) 6165 3777**

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Dept of Natural Resources and Environment Tas <https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/cattle/foot-and-mouth-disease>
- AUSVETPLAN Foot-and-mouth disease response strategy <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan/>
- FMD - Animal Health Australia <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/foot-and-mouth-disease>
- FMD - Dept Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/fmd>
- FMD - Farm Biosecurity <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/foot-and-mouth-disease-discovered-in-indonesia/>

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Review your on-farm biosecurity plan.
- Be aware of the signs of FMD.
- Adhere to all livestock traceability requirements.
- Monitor who is coming onto your farm – ensure that any visitors who have recently travelled overseas take the appropriate steps to minimise the risk of transmission through contaminated clothing or shoes.
- If livestock exhibit any unusual signs consistent with FMD, report urgently to a local veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

FMD is a notifiable disease, meaning, if you suspect your livestock are infected with FMD you are legally obliged to report it. Early detection is essential.