

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF FMD ENTERED AUSTRALIA?

Australia is currently free from Foot-and-Mouth Disease but if it were to occur, the aim would be to eradicate the disease in the shortest possible time while minimising socio-economic impacts.

It is important for livestock owners, veterinarians, industry and the community to understand the actions government would take in the event of an FMD outbreak in Australia. The **Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) Disease Strategy for FMD** outlines Australia's FMD control and eradication strategy.

THE AUSVETPLAN-FMD STRATEGY

The strategy includes:

- Implementing **strict biosecurity and movement controls** over animals, animal products, and in-contact inanimate objects ("fomites") in declared areas to minimise disease spread.
- **Immediate ceasing of all susceptible livestock movements** nationwide (initially for a period of 72 hours), to allow time to assess the situation.
- **Tracing and surveillance** to identify infected animals and animals in contact with infected animals.
- Valuing and **euthanasia of infected animals** and destruction of infected animal products, with biosecure disposal.
- **Decontamination of facilities, products, equipment** and objects to reduce the spread of the virus.
- Implementation of **public awareness campaigns**.
- Enabling **relief and recovery programs** to minimise animal and human welfare issues.
- Pre-emptive euthanasia of livestock and emergency vaccination will also be considered as additional disease control measures.

To view the full AUSVETPLAN for FMD visit: <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan/>

Source: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/service-industries-professionals/service-industries/veterinary-surgeons/foot-mouth-info/outbreak-control>

If your livestock are showing signs of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, immediately call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (free call within Australia)