

Foot-and-mouth disease in Indonesia

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has been confirmed in Indonesia. FMD is a highly infectious viral infection of domestic and wild cloven-hooved animals, including cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, camelids, and buffalo. It does not infect horses.

The disease is not present in Australia and we all need to work together to keep it that way. Livestock owners should take steps to prevent introducing or spreading FMD, be aware of the signs in animals and report suspect cases immediately. Clinical signs include:

- vesicles and ulcers in the mouth, feet and teats
- lameness
- fever
- unwillingness to eat
- excessive salivation
- abortion
- drop in milk production
- sudden death in young animals.



If you suspect the presence of this disease you must report it to **Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23** or contact the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888**.

More information about FMD is available on our [website](#) and from the Australian Government [Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#).

Protect your horse from Japanese encephalitis

Horse owners can reduce the risk of Japanese encephalitis (JE) infection in horses by minimising their exposure to mosquitoes.

To protect your horses, consider:

- rugging and hooding horses with a rug and fly mask
- stabling horses between dusk and dawn
- applying a safe insect repellent (avoiding around and above the eyes)
- eliminating mosquito breeding sites on horse properties by checking ponds, rainwater tanks and small stagnant water sources for signs of breeding
- turning off lights inside stables during the night
- using fluorescent lights in stables that do not attract mosquitoes
- ensuring all screens and mesh at building openings are intact and any holes or tears are fully repaired
- using fans and if possible, fogging to eliminate mosquitoes within and around stable.



Learn more about [JE and horses](#).

If you suspect JE in any of your animals, call us immediately on 13 25 23.

Have you seen this plant?

With rainfall over much of Queensland, now is the time to be looking for unusual plants.

Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia pallida*) is a thorny cactus native to Mexico and, if left uncontrolled, it can overrun grazing land and impact outdoor activities like bushwalking and camping. Hudson pear's reverse-barbed spines can also harm native wildlife.

If you see a plant that looks like Hudson pear, contact us on 13 25 23, or report it through our online reporting portal.

Find out how you can [report a biosecurity pest or disease](#).



Is your cattle registration up-to-date?

The spread of Lumpy skin disease through Asia and detection in Indonesia this year are important reminders to ensure your biosecurity entity registration for cattle is up to date.

Lumpy skin disease is a highly infectious skin disease of cattle and water buffalo. It causes painful body lesions and impacts animal production.

Lumpy skin disease is not present in Australia. Its introduction would trigger a cattle biosecurity emergency. Having accurate information about where all cattle are located will be critical to a response effort and allow us to respond quickly and notify you of the outbreak.

If you keep one or more head of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, camelids or equines (horses, ponies, donkeys, mules), 100 or more captive birds or a beehive — you must be registered.

You can check to see if you're registered, renew your registration, and confirm your contact details through the [Biosecurity entity registration portal](#).

Learn more about [Lumpy skin disease](#).



Is your pet emergency ready?

Your pets are an important member of your family and need to be included in your family's emergency plans. To prepare for the unexpected, follow these tips with your pets in mind:

- Pets are identifiable with a collar, council registration tag and are microchipped with your current contact details.
- Pet vaccinations are up-to-date (you will likely need a current vaccination certificate if you need to leave your pet at a boarding facility).
- You have a kit stocked with pet food, water, bowls, leads, blankets, bedding, medication, documentation, and a travel carrier.
- An evacuation plan, including where you could go if you need to leave your home and what routes are safe in an emergency.



Learn more about [preparing animals, including livestock, for natural disasters](#).

Don't let electric ants hitch a free ride!

Electric ants are an invasive pest ant found in Far North Queensland around the Cairns region.

They are tiny at just 1-1.5mm long, but have a powerful, venomous sting. Being so small, they are hard to spot and can be accidentally moved around in things like pot plants, plant cuttings, soil, mulch and even garden furniture.

Find out more about [electric ants](#).



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For more information visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23



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