

# FMD READY PROJECT

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**The Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Ready Project aims to strengthen preparedness for an emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreak and facilitate an earlier return to trade for Australia following control of the EAD, using FMD as a model.**

The FMD Ready Project combines the expertise of research partners from several disciplines, working closely with animal industries to deliver approaches to enhance EAD surveillance, preparedness and response in Australia.

This project is supported by Meat & Livestock Australia, through funding from the Australian Government

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural Research & Development for Profit program, and by producer levies from Australian FMD-susceptible livestock (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs) industries and Charles Sturt University (CSU), leveraging significant in-kind support from the research partners.

The research partners for this project are the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), CSU through the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, supported by Animal Health Australia. The project commenced in July 2016 and will conclude in June 2020.

## FMD READY PROJECT

PROJECT PARTNERS



## WHAT DOES THE FMD READY PROJECT INVOLVE?

### The project consists of four integrated sub-projects:

#### SUB-PROJECT ONE: RAPID DIAGNOSTICS AND VACCINATION STRATEGY PREPAREDNESS

This project aims to deliver improved diagnostic capabilities, identify vaccines that have been shown to be effective against FMD and improve Australia's ability to perform post-outbreak surveillance and return to trade.

#### SUB-PROJECT TWO: FARMER-LED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

This project is working on the development of a model farmer-led surveillance system for improved early detection of incursions and effective control and management of diseases.

#### SUB-PROJECT THREE: DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS FOR DECISION-MAKING DURING OUTBREAKS

This project is working to enhance epidemiological models that simulate FMD outbreaks, to help predict:

- how different response strategies (e.g. prioritising vaccine use or removing infected animals from the population) might influence the course of an outbreak
- the costs and benefits of different response strategies, including the implications for proof of freedom and return to international trade.

#### SUB-PROJECT FOUR: ANALYTICAL TOOLS TO DETERMINE THE PATH OF FARM-TO-FARM DISEASE TRANSMISSION

This project is an important initiative to help us better understand how the FMD virus might spread via natural pathways, for example wind, between properties in the event of an outbreak.

## HOW WILL THE FMD READY PROJECT HELP?

FMD is currently regarded as one of the most economically and socially devastating livestock disease threats to Australia which could cost this country up to \$50 billion over 10 years, should a multi-state outbreak occur. Because of the impact of this disease, it is being used as a model to help us improve surveillance, preparedness and return to trade for other EADs.

The FMD Ready Project will also contribute to improving the way Australia manages endemic diseases through the work being done to strengthen disease recognition and management.

## MORE INFORMATION

Further details and the latest news about the project can be found at <https://research.csiro.au/fmd/>

For other enquiries about the project, please contact Wilna Vosloo, Team Leader/Project Spokesperson at [Wilna.Vosloo@csiro.au](mailto:Wilna.Vosloo@csiro.au)



Some of the members of the FMD Ready project