



**Australian Government**

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 1 November 2012**

### **UPDATED AUSVET PLAN READY**

A two-year process of public consultation and research to update policies which govern Australia's response, should we experience an outbreak of the highly contagious foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), has come to a successful conclusion today.

Dr Mike Bond, Chief Executive Officer of Animal Health Australia today announced the publication of the revised FMD AUSVETPLAN response strategy.

"I am very pleased that, with the valuable assistance of industry and government experts, we have now published an updated FMD AUSVETPLAN disease strategy following endorsement by the Standing (Ministerial) Council on Primary Industries on 26 October 2012."

"This is a significant achievement for AHA and its members and marks an important milestone under the National FMD Action Plan. It is the culmination of more than two years' solid effort" Dr Bond said.

An outbreak of FMD would have devastating consequences for Australia's livestock industries, food and retail sectors, the wider community and the broader economy. This is why Animal Health Australia gives high priority to ensuring the FMD AUSVETPLAN disease strategy reflects the latest scientific information.

"It would not have been possible to complete the review of the FMD AUSVETPLAN disease strategy without the considerable input from our government and industry members, as well as many other organisations, including stock agents', livestock transporters' and sale-yard associations and major retailers.

In particular, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), provided significant support – both financial and in kind – to ensure key response policy issues could be addressed and the strategy was updated as a national priority," Dr Bond noted.

"DAFF also led a process to engage stakeholders in the development of a clear and contemporary policy on the use of vaccination in a potential Australian FMD emergency," said Dr Mark Schipp, Australian Chief Veterinary Officer.

"Endorsement of the new national vaccination policy in April this year by industry, and state and territory governments, cleared the way for the FMD AUSVETPLAN response strategy to reflect the latest thinking on vaccination and provide for its use in Australia to be considered from day one of an emergency response."



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Animal Health Australia manages the continued improvement of the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) on behalf of its government and industry members. AUSVETPLAN is a comprehensive series of manuals that sets out the suggested starting policy and guidelines for agencies and organisations involved in a response to an outbreak of an emergency animal disease.

Animal Health Australia is a not for profit company established by the Australian Government, state and territory governments and major national livestock industries. With a focus on national animal health, biosecurity and welfare issues, the company **works to protect and improve animal health within Australia, through partnerships with industries and governments** – securing outcomes that position Australia as a world leader in terms of its animal health status.

More information on the FMD disease response policy review and the AUSVETPLAN can be found on the AHA website [Animal Health Australia](#).

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