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Foot and Mouth and Lumpy Skin Disease outbreak in Indonesia: be alert not alarmed

On the back of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has also been detected in Indonesia.

Current case numbers:

- FMD: currently some 211,000 known cases, across 19 provinces, Bali is thought still to be clean.
- LSD: some 21,000 cases, largely contained to 5 provinces in Sumatra with investigations ongoing into suspect cases in neighbouring provinces.

Indonesian resources are almost completely occupied with FMD response and Australia has been supporting Indonesia since late May with in-country assistance for their response to these outbreaks, including support for vaccine supply, technical skills and other such support as necessary.

The National Farmers Federation (NFF) has been briefing national farmer organisations including Australian Dairy Farmers on border measures being undertaken regarding minimising risk of FMD and LSD entering Australia.

Please find attached a two page synopsis issued by Chris Parker, from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment which outlines the protocols being adopted at the moment.

Farmers are urged to be Alert but not Alarmed.

Australia has the FMD antigen relevant to this outbreak in its antigen bank (1,000,000 doses) and can move to have a vaccine produced and being supplied within a matter of weeks should an outbreak deem that an appropriate and needed course of action.

Negotiations are underway in relation to an LSD vaccine which is a live virus vaccine, and currently not approved for use in Australia (emergency permits etc are being readied should they be needed).

Due to impact on international trade, such vaccines will not be deployed unless there is an outbreak in Australia, as the use of such on their own would otherwise trigger recognition of Australia having the disease, and thus we would lose any "disease-free status" recognition.

SADA will keep members appraised of developments as further information comes to hand.

ENDS