



# Foot & Mouth Disease reducing the spread



Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a significant biosecurity threat, and everyone in WA is working hard to prevent an outbreak. We need your support to ensure our community is aware of their obligations and help to protect our agricultural industry.

An outbreak of this highly contagious disease would cause animal health and welfare impacts across the country.

FMD has not been detected in Australia but was detected in Indonesia in May 2022. The presence of the disease in our close neighbours has increased the risk of the virus spreading to Australian livestock.

A key risk for the FMD virus to enter our Shire is through the illegal importation of meat and dairy products and the feeding of these products to pigs. Feeding food scraps that contain or have been in contact with meat to pigs is called swill feeding and is illegal in Australia.

We are reaching out to you regarding this, as the Shire has many small land holdings and hobby farms. These holdings and hobby farms have been identified as a high-risk area for an emergency animal disease such as FMD.

The combination factors could be low levels of land-owner awareness of the risk of feeding prohibited foods to pigs, increased likelihood of properties and animals not being registered, higher likelihood of livestock coming into contact with multiple

people who may have travelled or may not be aware of feeding requirements (e.g. farm stays), and lack of regular observation of livestock in the case of absentee landholders.

Many cafe and restaurant owners may also be unaware of their responsibilities to dispose of waste food appropriately to ensure it cannot be fed to livestock.

All livestock, including pet pigs and other pet livestock, and all properties where livestock are located are legally required to be registered with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013.

## Where can I find more information?

### DPIRD Website

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/livestock-identification-and-movement-pigs>

### Pig feed information

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/pig-feed-what-you-can-and-can%E2%80%99t-feed-pigs-swill>

Pig swill factsheet & Foot & Mouth factsheet available on the DPIRD website.

