



*In reply please quote #87532
Enquiries to*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
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ABN 92 366 288 135

Mr Gerry McInally
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs
and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr McInally

***INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF AUSTRALIA'S BIOSECURITY
MEASURES AND RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS***

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 August 2022, regarding the adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness with respect to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and varroa mite.

In accordance with the South Australia Government's emergency management arrangements, in the event of an animal or plant disease outbreak, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) performs the function of a Supporting Agency to the Department for Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), who are nominated as Control Agency.

In general terms, the Department provides support to a Control Agency through the delivery of transport and transport infrastructure advice and services as well as the provision of personnel in support of a response.

In respect to preparations for the current FMD threat, the Department is working alongside PIRSA, and other agencies, on a Waste Management Sub Committee responsible for preparing waste management plans specific to a potential FMD outbreak.

The Department has not been requested to provide any support in relation to varroa mite. In the event of a varroa mite outbreak, the Department would again assume the responsibility of Support Agency to PIRSA as the Control Agency.

The Department is not in a position to comment on the adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures as the implementation and monitoring of biosecurity issues is the responsibility of PIRSA.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

10 August 2022