

8<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## **Submission to the Inquiry into Australian Biosecurity**

Biosecurity is an important issue for Australia. Biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of infections, diseases or parasites are important to protect human health, agriculture and the environment.

Food and mouth disease (FMD) is a significant concern in the livestock and agriculture sector, particularly affecting cows.

Varroa mite is a parasite affecting bee colonies, which is a concern for the Australian honey industry.

We have just gone through the COVID-19 pandemic, which has illuminated the importance on relying on the medical or health advice and implementing appropriate actions. We have also seen various quarantine and border measures implemented. Taking actions on the border (e.g. quarantine measures) or within the community (e.g. social distancing) has served Australia well in suppressing the spread of the disease. This provides a good lesson in how Australia can and should prevent the spread of viral diseases or other biosecurity issues.

There has been the establishment of a biosecurity taskforce to prevent food and mouth disease entering Australia (Butler 2022). This is a promising step to coordinate the management of the threat.

Kind Regards,

Benjamin Cronshaw.

Josh Butler. 4th August 2022. "New biosecurity taskforce to test Australia's preparedness for foot-and-mouth disease." *The Guardian*. <<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/aug/04/foot-and-mouth-disease-fmd-australia-new-biosecurity-taskforce>>.