



# **WE ARE PREPARED FOR AN FMD OUTBREAK *AND THIS IS WHY***

Kathleen Plowman | CEO

Presentation to the  
Plant Health Australia members

# KEY ISSUES

- Emerging animal disease risks at our doorstep
- AHA engagement with government and industry
- Are we FMD prepared - what happens in an FMD outbreak
- Producer and sector preparedness - farm biosecurity is key

## AHA's strategic priorities

STRATEGIC PRIORITY  
**1**

Prepared and ready to respond

STRATEGIC PRIORITY  
**2**

Better health and biosecurity practices

STRATEGIC PRIORITY  
**3**

Connecting systems for stronger biosecurity



Animal Health Australia  
Strategic Plan 2020-25

# EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASE RISKS AT OUR DOORSTEP

In March 2021, there was 42% probability of an exotic disease incursion within five years.

Disease	Initial assessment (March 2021)	Reviewed (April – June 2022)
Foot-and-mouth disease	9%	11% (1.2 fold ↑)
Lumpy skin disease	8%	28% (3.5 fold ↑)
African swine fever	21%	
African horse sickness	13%	



Australian Government

**KEEP FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUT OF AUSTRALIA**

Declare meat, dairy products and shoes, clothing or equipment used near animals or in rural areas






Penalties of up to \$2,664 apply for breaching Australia's biosecurity laws. Your visa may also be cancelled.



# ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVT/INDUSTRY

## EXISTING GOVERNMENT

National Biosecurity  
Committee (NBC)

Animal Health  
Committee  
(AHC)

National Biosecurity  
Communications and  
Engagement Network  
(NBCEN)

## NEW GOVERNMENT

**Ministerial  
Exotic Animal Disease  
Preparedness Taskforce**

DAFF  
Emergency Animal Disease  
Preparedness Taskforce

Jurisdiction  
EAD Taskforces/Working Groups  
(QLD, NSW, VIC, NT etc)

## NEW INDUSTRY

**RMAC/NFF  
Industry Taskforce  
on LSD and FMD**

RMAC/NFF  
Industry Taskforce  
working groups

- Communications
- Overseas in country support
- Diagnostics and vaccine development
- Trade and protocols
- Domestic containment strategy



# COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

TACTICS	OVERVIEW	OUTCOMES
MEDIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Getting the right information out there</li> <li>Correcting opinion</li> <li>Technical experts</li> <li>AHA is helping to lead the conversation and not just be part of it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Radio interviews</li> <li>TV interviews</li> <li>Newspaper articles</li> <li>Online articles</li> </ul>
SOCIAL MEDIA	<p>A national producer engagement campaign focused on the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LOOK – what to look out</li> <li>PREPARE – biosecurity planning</li> <li>BE AWARE – what would happen</li> </ul>	Sent to all members, PICs and farming bodies
WEBINARS	Key role in the industry webinars targeted to livestock producers	Webinars nationally through industry taskforce and to specific industry and interest groups
E-ALERTS	Animal disease e-alert providing a digest of all the recent updates from govt and industry	Three alerts to date to 1,772 subscribers and growing (60% open rates)

Why foot and mouth disease has the whole nation on alert



## Why foot and mouth disease has the whole nation on alert

With foot and mouth disease now in Indonesia, Australia is desperate to stop it spreading here. Why are the stakes so high? Millie Murell reports.

It's the highly contagious disease that's swept across the Indonesian archipelago. The disease, known as foot and mouth disease (FMD), is caused by a virus that spreads through direct contact with infected animals, or through the saliva of infected animals. It's a highly contagious disease that can spread through direct contact with infected animals, or through the saliva of infected animals. It's a highly contagious disease that can spread through direct contact with infected animals, or through the saliva of infected animals.

For example, one of the ways the virus is spread is through the saliva of infected animals. The virus is spread through the saliva of infected animals. The virus is spread through the saliva of infected animals. The virus is spread through the saliva of infected animals.

What is foot and mouth disease? It's a highly contagious disease that can spread through direct contact with infected animals, or through the saliva of infected animals. It's a highly contagious disease that can spread through direct contact with infected animals, or through the saliva of infected animals.

The disease is one of the most contagious animal diseases in the world. It's a highly contagious disease that can spread through direct contact with infected animals, or through the saliva of infected animals. It's a highly contagious disease that can spread through direct contact with infected animals, or through the saliva of infected animals.

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Golden West News at 05:32  
Seven Regional WA, 12 Jul 2022 05:32, R009046015

**Spotted anything unusual?**

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE  
1800 675 888

LOOK CHECK ASK A VET

animalhealth AUSTRALIA farmbiosecurity

**Biosecurity preparedness**  
practical actions for livestock producers

Stand by what you sell  
Tuesday 9 August  
6.00pm (AEST)

JASON STRONG  
General Manager  
Meat & Livestock Australia

DR ROB BARWELL  
General Manager - Biosecurity  
Animal Health Australia

DR SAMANTHA ALLAN  
Associate Director of Emergency  
and Outbreaks Management  
Animal Health Australia

ELIZABETH BRADLEY  
Associate Director, Policy  
and Programs  
Livestock Systems Company

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Animal Disease Alert

Integrity Systems, Meat & Livestock Australia, and other partner organizations.

# • EADRA, AUSVETPLANS

- Core of our Business
- Reviewed FMD and LSD AUSVETPLAN
  - AUSVETPLANS have been written by technical experts from industry and government and consulted on at high levels of government and industry
  - 2014 and 2015 a series of discussion exercises and field activities, called **Exercise Odysseus**
  - 2022 and 2023, Australian government agencies will be involved in **Exercise Paratus**. A series of desktop exercises looking at how agencies escalate, coordinate and use relevant legislation in an emergency animal disease scenario
    - Exercise Paratus will culminate with a major functional exercise in early 2023.
- Ongoing AHA training
  - BAU EADRA training with NMG, CCEAD representatives (invite only)
  - Maintaining with PHA the National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT) program
  - Training of industry members on specific topics (industry liaison officers, etc)
  - Promotion of online EAD Foundation course, and updating key courses to ensure accuracy

# FIND OUT MORE

AHA website continues to be updated when new info comes to hand and you can also follow our social channels

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR  
DISEASE ALERTS



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



# What happens in an emergency animal disease (EAD) response?

Dr Therese Wright, Head of Program - EADRA  
Tuesday 16 August 2022

# EAD Management Framework

**Emergency animal disease  
response agreement (EADRA)**



**Scan me**

**AUSVETPLAN**



**Scan me**

# AUSVETPLAN

A **series of public manuals** that sets out the agreed national policy and guidelines for agencies and organisations involved in a response to an outbreak.

Overview

Response strategies

Operational manuals

Enterprise manuals

Management manuals

Guidance documents

Resource documents

# Parties to the EADRA



- The Commonwealth and all States and Territories
- Animal Health Australia
- Industry associations or other industry entities

14 Industry signatories

# What happens during an EAD outbreak

## REPORTING OF EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASES (EADS)

Unusual signs of disease detected (e.g. by a producer)

Private veterinarian and/or the EAD Watch Hotline (1800 675 888) contacted

Disease investigated by a government veterinarian

Jurisdictional Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) advised by government veterinarian on suspicion of an EAD

Formal investigation initiated by jurisdictional CVO

## EADRA INCIDENT DEFINITION PHASE

Laboratory samples submitted to jurisdictional animal health laboratory and the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness

Australian CVO notified by the jurisdictional CVO on strong suspicion of an EAD.

Australian CVO notifies and convenes the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD)

Affected jurisdiction's CVO prepares and submits an EAD Response Plan to the CCEAD

Case definition (incl. laboratory results, if available), current situation, eradicability of the EAD and the EAD Response Plan (incl. response strategy and budget) considered by the CCEAD.

Agreed EAD Response Plan submitted to the National Management Group (NMG) by the CCEAD for approval (incl. any recommendations for cost-sharing per the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement)

If not approved, amendments and/or clarification requested by the NMG to the CCEAD in an updated EAD Response Plan

Consideration and approval (if appropriate) of the EAD Response Plan by the NMG

## EADRA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PHASE

If approved, execution of activities (incl. cost-sharing) by the affected jurisdiction.

Progress on the response provided to the CCEAD via the affected jurisdiction's CVO (may be as an updated EAD Response Plan requiring approvals by the NMG)

## EADRA TRANSITION TO MANAGEMENT PHASE

EAD determined not to be eradicable by the CCEAD

'Transition to management' initiated

EAD eradicated

'Proof of freedom' phase initiated

## EADRA PROOF OF FREEDOM PHASE

# Report of unusual signs in an animal



## Observation:

- Sick or dead animals
- Drop in milk or egg production

## Action:

- Call to private or government vet/biosecurity officer
- Call to Hotline 1800 675 888



# Disease investigation

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- Examines flock/ herd
- Collects samples and arranges prompt submission to laboratory
- Records detailed history
- Notifies DPI/Ag Dept
- Advice to farmer to contain disease
- Interviews farmer/staff to collect tracing information



# High suspicion - WAITING FOR TEST RESULTS

- Notification up to CVO
- Government vet or Biosecurity Officer issues Biosecurity Direction or Quarantine notice

## CVO:

- Alerts staff
- Briefs:
  - The Executive
  - Australian CVO
  - The Minister
  - Industry
  - State Farming Organisation.

## Lead Agency staff:

- Prepares:
  - Response plan
  - Situation Report
  - Legal orders
  - Communications
- Analyses tracing information
- Activates resources and systems.

Jurisdiction may test samples for EAD while additional samples are on route to CSIRO ACDP.

Outbreak not confirmed until CCEAD meets and results available from CSIRO ACDP.

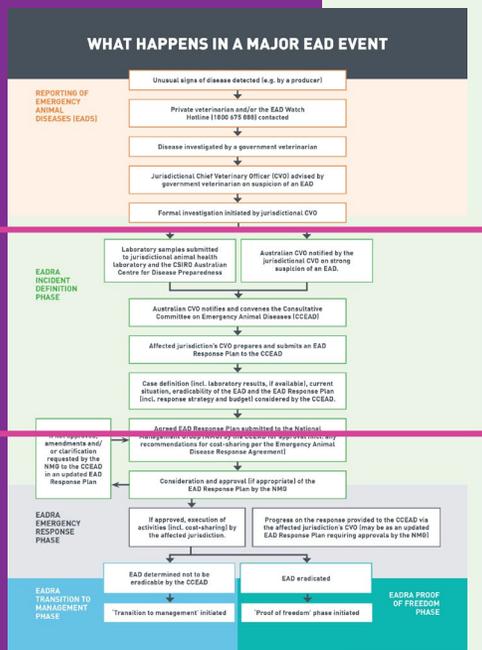
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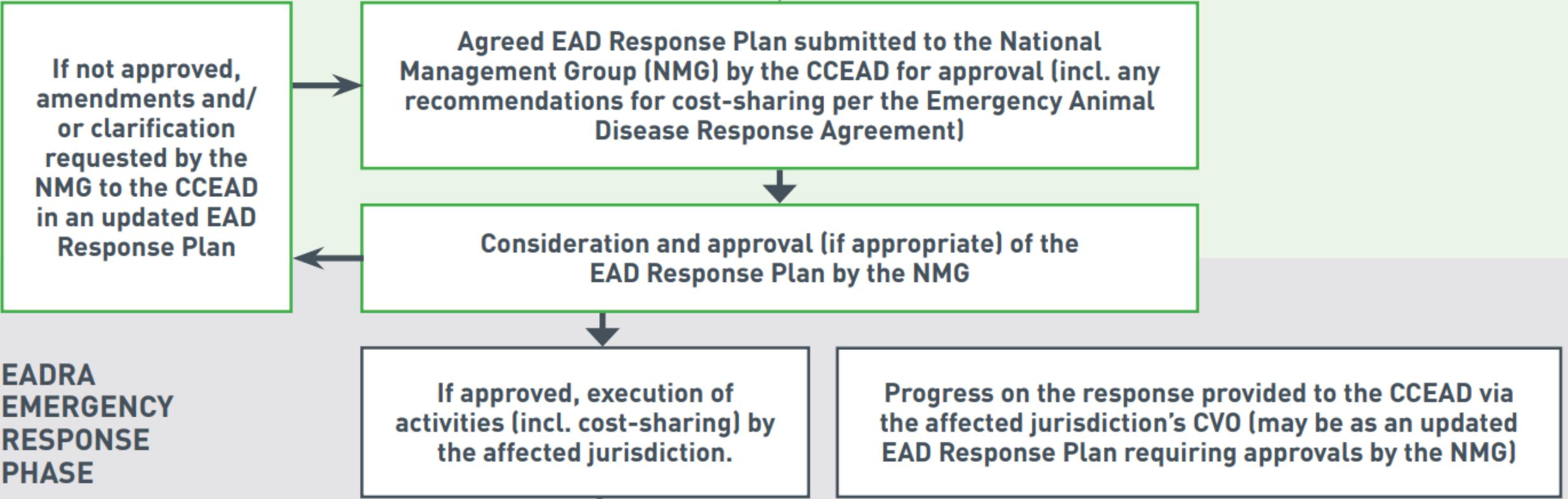
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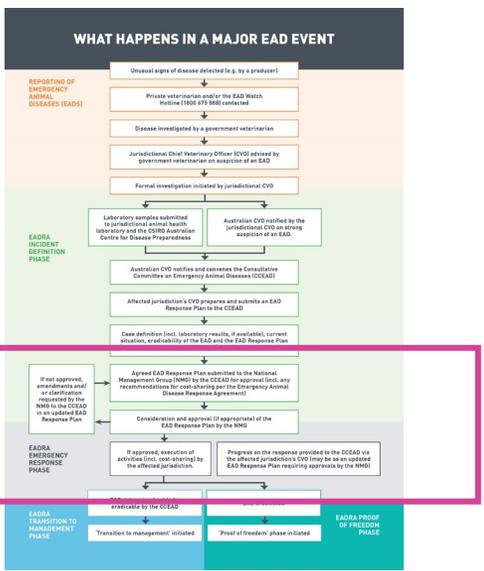
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**EADRA  
EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE  
PHASE**



# AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF AN EAD RESPONSE

## AIM

To contain and eradicate the EAD as quickly & cost-effectively, while minimising adverse social, economic and environmental impacts

## OBJECTIVES

- Contain disease through movement & other biosecurity controls.
- Identify the first case & determine extent of disease spread.
- Eradicate through 'Stamping out' – destruction, disposal, decontamination activities.
- Prepare for prompt vaccination program.
- Keep staff & stakeholders safe & well briefed.
- Gather evidence to support proof of freedom.
- Return to normal ASAP.

# State/territory CVO

## Oversight of the response:



### Briefings

- Minister
- ACVO
- Affected industries



### CCEAD and NMG



### Industry personnel

Industry nominated liaison officers and technical advisors



### Livestock standstill

- Declares biosecurity emergency
- Calls livestock standstill,
- Issues legal order to implement controls/restrictions



### Media spokes- person

# INCIDENT CONTROLLER



**Control  
centers**

- State coordination centre
- Local control centre
- Forward command posts



**Seek  
support**

- e.g. Police, EPA, transport,  
disposal, community  
support, engineering



# LEAD AGENCY ACTIONS

## Responsibilities of the control centres



**Call  
center &  
comms**



**Destruction,  
Disposal and  
Decontamination**



**Permits**



**Forward  
planning**



**Surveillance  
and tracing**

# Response strategy



Rapid response – eradication asap



Minimise social and economic impacts



Quarantine and stamping out – infected premises



National livestock standstill



Declared areas and movement controls



Vaccination

# National STANDSTILL (only for FMD)



Key tool to  
contain FMD

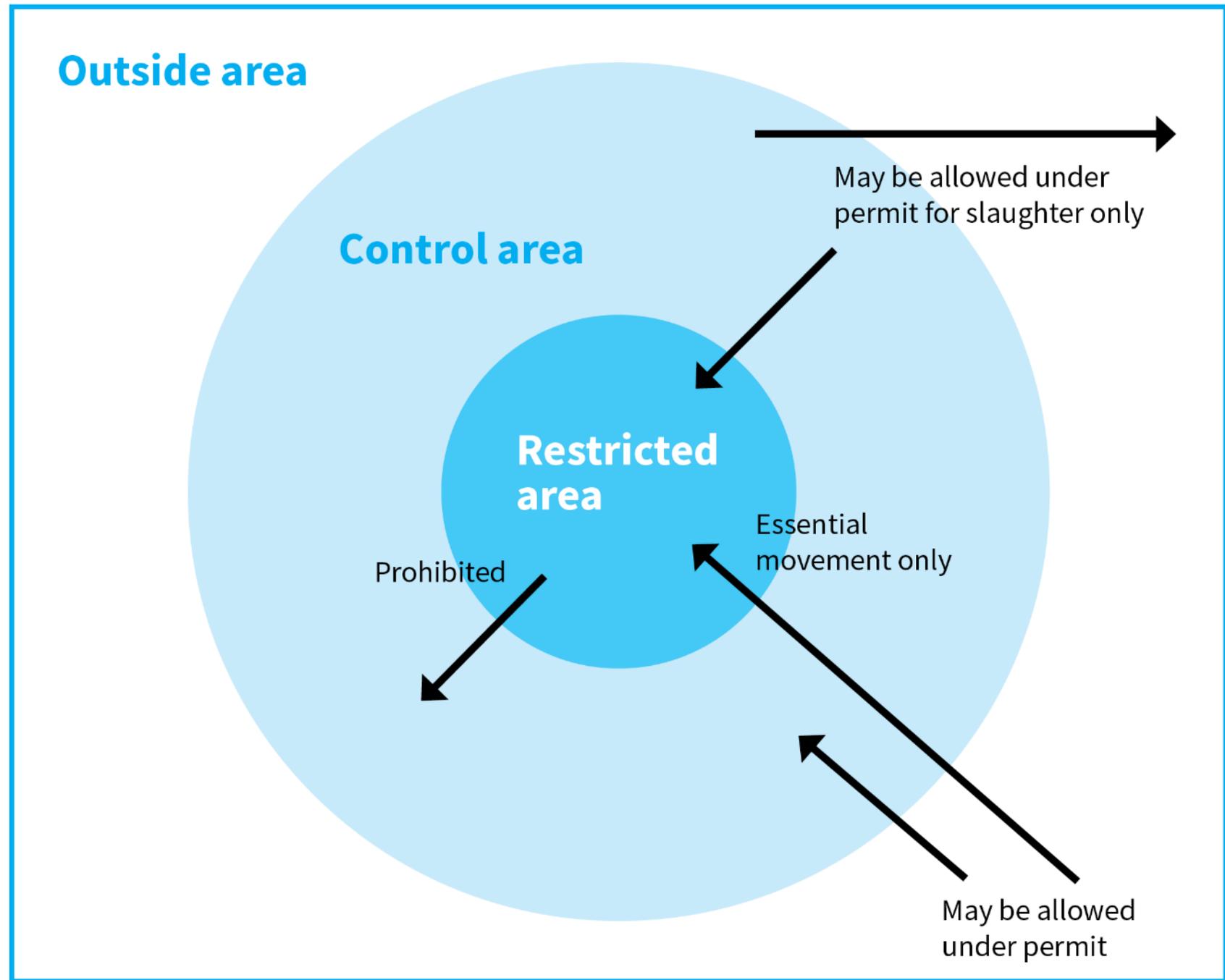


Legal order  
declared each State  
or territory



No new movements  
of susceptible animals  
unless already in  
transit

# After the national livestock standstill



# Movement restrictions

Containment and eradication of FMD is the highest priority. Therefore, 'normal business movements' are not allowed.

Live animals pose the greatest risk of disease spread; therefore, their movements from all premises within the RA and CA must be strictly controlled.

The OA should remain as 'clean' as possible. Therefore, movement of animals from the RA to the OA is prohibited, and movement of products is generally prohibited. Movement of animals and products from the CA to the OA will also be restricted.

# Movement matrix

		To		CA		OA
		RA		SP/TP	POR/APFa	
From		IP/DCP/SP/TP	ARP/APFa			
	RA	IP, DCP, SP, TP	Prohibited		Prohibited	
ARP		Prohibited	Prohibited, except under SpP1			
CA	SP, TP	Prohibited		Prohibited		Prohibited
	POR	Prohibited	Prohibited, except under SpP2	Prohibited	Prohibited, except under SpP3	
OA	OA	Prohibited	Prohibited, except under SpP2	Prohibited	Prohibited, except under SpP3	Allowed under normal jurisdictional requirements