

# Media Release

**The Hon Gayle Tierney MP**

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education

Minister for Agriculture



Thursday, 13 October 2022

## **MORE FUNDING TO SAFEGUARD OUR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY**

The Andrews Labor Government is investing more to safeguard our livestock sector and to ensure Victoria is prepared for any biosecurity risk from emergency animal disease (EAD).

The Labor Government will deliver an additional \$23 million package to ensure we can rapidly respond to any emergency animal disease outbreak.

Funding will go towards the recruitment of biosecurity experts to undertake key planning, field-based operational roles and provide training to a workforce from across government and industry in the event of an outbreak.

It will also provide tailored industry engagement to build on industries' ability to manage biosecurity risks and contribute to a response.

The Labor Government will also purchase automated diagnostic equipment that will fast-track foot-and-mouth disease sample testing, enhanced data management systems and essential tools such as livestock scanners and sensors at livestock accumulation points.

Funding will be provided to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to support a response and to reduce environmental risks associated with a possible outbreak.

This work will build on Agriculture Victoria's nation-leading biosecurity efforts such as the mandatory electronic National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for sheep and goats that supports rapid traceability, which is critical in a livestock biosecurity response.

This \$23 million package builds on the \$10 million investment made in August for portable sample testing, mobile incident centers, IT system upgrades, specialist training materials, and the preparedness work of the Emergency Animal Disease Taskforce, which was established by the Labor Government earlier this year.

To learn more about foot-and-mouth disease and biosecurity preparedness, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/FMD](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/FMD).

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney**

*"We are leaving no stone unturned to ensure government, industry and the community have the tools and capabilities to protect our valued livestock industries."*

*"We will continue engaging with the industry and farmers to ensure they are prepared if an outbreak occurred."*

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for the Environment and Climate Action Lily D'Ambrosio**

*"This funding is extremely valuable to ensure we are best prepared to respond to an emergency animal outbreak and reduce potential environmental risks."*

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