

# 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



Monday, 7 August 2023

## SHOWCASING ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AT SHEEPVENTION

The Andrews Labor Government is strengthening Victoria's ability to respond rapidly in the event of an emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreak, with new equipment and resources

Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney attended Sheepvention in Hamilton and spoke with Agriculture Victoria staff and farmers about the continued EAD threats facing the nation and the importance of everyone doing their part to prepare.

Studies have estimated that a multi-state EAD outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Australia, could result in direct economic losses of up to \$80 billion over a 10-year period for Australia's national livestock and meat processing sectors alone.

Since the threat of an outbreak increased when FMD and lumpy skin disease were detected in Indonesia last year, the Labor Government has taken significant strides to bolster our capability to detect and respond to an EAD.

To continue to strengthen the state's preparedness, \$17.5 million was allocated in the *Victorian Budget 2023-24* to help fund portable yards, traceability equipment, 100 decontamination kits, and purpose-built decontamination trailers – taking the total Government investment to more than \$43 million.

The new decontamination trailers will support Victoria's rapid response strategy by allowing first responders to effectively clean vehicles and equipment at affected properties or restricted areas.

Agriculture Victoria's stand at this year's Sheepvention features new sheep sculptures painted by local artists and new activity books to teach kids about biosecurity and keeping farms safe. It will also promote the new Biosecurity Strategy, which is currently open for feedback on [engage.vic.gov.au](https://engage.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney

*"Sheepvention continues to be a key part in the state's agriculture calendar – thank you to the organisers for putting on such a fantastic event."*

*"We're investing in new specialised biosecurity equipment to ensure Victoria's livestock sector continues to remain free from disease."*

*"The impact of an emergency animal disease outbreak extends far beyond the agriculture industry, so that is why we are committed to protecting our state and animals from significant diseases."*

### Quote attributable to Jacinta Ermacora Member for Western Victoria

*"Sheepvention is a terrific event to showcase Victoria's diverse and leading Agriculture industry while also highlighting how we are strengthening our biosecurity."*