



Government of South Australia

Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

Our ref: CORP F2022/000320
Receipt No: 16490275

11 October 2022

CORPORATE SERVICES
Level 15
25 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000
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Adelaide SA 5001
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Tel 8429 0422
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The Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 1 September 2022, seeking access to the following:

"A copy of all documents (including but not limited to hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters, meeting agendas, diary entries, placemats, event attendance records and any other correspondence) between Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (including directly with staff within the office of the Minister for Primary Industries), regarding biosecurity measures in response to the threat of lumpy skin disease."

Timeframe: 21/03/2022 to 31/08/2022

To include "all documents" would potentially reveal a large volume of documents and result in a substantial and unreasonable diversion of agency resources, pursuant to Section 18 of the Act. Accordingly, on 12 September 2022, PIRSA's Senior Freedom of Information Advisor contacted your office seeking to refine the scope of your application.

Following negotiations with your office, on 19 September 2022, it was confirmed that "documents" refer to "briefings and letters".

Your application was placed on hold for a period of seven days while negotiations on revising the scope were being undertaken. Accordingly, the new determination due date is 11 October 2022.

The following determination has been finalised.

I have located one document that is captured within the scope of your request.

Determination

I have determined that access to the following document is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 15/7/2022 re Lumpy Skin Disease	5

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation <https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/information-held-sa-government/making-freedom-information-application#Review>, by completing the “FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination” and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the document to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA’s disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Senior Freedom of Information Advisor on 8429 0422 or email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Griffiths
Accredited Freedom of Information Officer
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS



MINISTER'S
OFFICE
18 JUL 2022
RECEIVED

Minute to

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: eA197578

For	Noting and Signature
Critical Date	18 July 2022
Subject	Request to Department - Senator the Hon Murray Watt - Agriculture Ministers Meeting and Lumpy Skin Disease

Synopsis

Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry wrote to you regarding the progress on the importation of Lumpy Skin Disease virus to the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) and the opportunity to work collaboratively on immediate and future biosecurity and industry challenges to achieve the best possible outcomes for our rural and regional communities.

Recommendations

That you:

- Approve and sign the draft letter to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- APPROVED / NOT APPROVED**


 Hon Clare Scriven MLC
**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**
Minister for Forest Industries
 3/8 / 2022

Ministerial Comments -

Background

- This background information is provided for the Minister in preparation for the AGMIN meeting where biosecurity issues are likely to be discussed.
- Parliamentary Briefing Note (PBN) Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) (A5412294) contains background information on LSD and preparedness activities. PBN Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) contains background information on FMD and preparedness activities.
- The Hon Murray Watt MP, Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has written to you regarding the heightened risk of LSD reaching Australia and the lack of access to a suitable vaccine. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is currently assessing the risk posed by importation of the live virus required to develop and test new vaccines.
- Provided biosecurity risks can be mitigated to an acceptable level of protection the importation of live virus is supported by PIRSA, other state and territory governments and industry. PIRSA have been supportive of live LSD virus being held at the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) when considered at Animal Health Committee (AHC), National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) and Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC).
- The use of vaccine and laboratory testing capability and capacity in a response for critical tools for containing LSD to areas and attempting eradication. While import of vaccine will be beneficial for development of vaccine and laboratory testing capabilities activities to progress vaccine and laboratory preparedness should not be delayed until the virus is available.
- There are live vaccines available that are currently being used to protect livestock from LSD overseas. DAFF is currently progressing the ability to bring this vaccine in under an emergency permit for use in a response. Live vaccines cannot be used in Australia until a disease outbreak is declared as we will lose our disease freedom status and international market access as the vaccine contains a weakened live virus.
- DAFF is also considering the possibility of producing vaccines in Australia. This work is focused on inactivated (dead virus) or mRNA (uses a blueprint of part of the virus) vaccines.
- The roll out of LSD PCR testing capability to state laboratories is also to be progressed urgently so that the process is set up and ready to go, as has been done with FMD vaccine. Further proficiency testing can be progressed by ACDP once they have access to live virus.
- The high-level cross-industry taskforce (CIT) that was set up to co-ordinate industry's response to the detection of LSD in Indonesia is now incorporating FMD as well resulting in the inclusion of the pork, sheep, and wool industries. This group meet every 2 weeks with the most recent meeting on the 8 July 2022 and is represented by government with the inclusion of DAFF. There are 5 working groups under this CIT
 - Overseas in country support
 - Trade and protocols
 - Domestic containment strategy
 - LSD diagnostic capability and vaccine development
 - Communication strategy

PIRSA (and other states and territories) are represented by their CVO or delegate on the domestic containment strategy WG. activities with workshops

- The DAFF set up a taskforce in response to the detection of LSD in Indonesia that is lead by Dr Chris Parker. This taskforce has developed a draft LSD action plan and is currently undertaking a series of workshops to finalise the plan. PIRSA is represented by the Chief Veterinary Officer and Executive Director of Biosecurity at these workshops. Workshops held or planned include
 - Surveillance, preparedness and response- In person -21 June 2022
 - Diagnostics and vaccine- virtual- 28 June 2022
 - International engagement and trade protocols- In person -19 July 2022
 - Future focused (resilience and recovery) - virtual- TBC
- The DAFF LSD taskforce has now transitioned to an emergency animal disease preparedness (EADP) taskforce to incorporate activity relating to FMD. Actions and issues are transferred between the CIT and EADP taskforce when required.
- The AUSVETPLAN disease strategies for FMD and LSD have been reviewed and Animal Health Australia are hosting a series of meetings from 18 to 22 June in Canberra to consider issues and agree on solutions. The Chief Veterinary Officer will represent PIRSA at these meetings. These strategies are high level policy guidance documents and will require significant work at the state and national level in exercising scenarios and operationalising aspects to achieve preparedness for these diseases. A priority activity once these plans are finalised.
- PIRSA is working with Livestock SA, South Australian Dairyfarmers Association and PorkSA to conduct a desktop EAD workshop (planned for 4 August 2022) with a small number (less than 20) of South Australia industry leaders to develop an SA industry preparedness action plan. The workshop will be based on considering 4 scenarios of how FMD or LSD could be detected and focus on the immediate response activities (first 2-3 days of the response guided by the disease strategy) and industry impacts that are likely to occur. The resulting action plan will detail activities that industry can undertake now to improve response outcomes.
- PIRSA will be undertaking a similar exercise at the SA Rural Australian Veterinary Association conference in Robe on the 14 August 2022. This conference is attended by private practitioners and University of Adelaide representative

Discussion

- PIRSA has less resources than the commonwealth and larger states and territories. This impacts our ability to participate in preparedness activities to the same level and will affect our ability to effectively mount a response.
- Adding to this issue of a smaller resource is also the added difficulty of securing a workforce at the present moment. Similar to other states and territories recently vacated government roles are not able to be filled with suitable candidates.
- The DAFF often provide funding to support activities such as funding the laboratory testing for surveillance activities however participation in such surveillance is limited by not having the PIRSA staff resource to organise, collect and report the results which can be logistically time consuming.
- Any discussion at AGMIN regarding EAD preparedness activities should give due consideration to the resourcing issues currently being experienced.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- Nil (relating to letter or AGMIN meeting)

Management of key risks

- Nil (relating to the letter or AGMIN meeting)

Legislative and/or financial implications

- Nil (relating to the letter or AGMIN meeting)

Attachments

A. Document title



for

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

15/7/2022

CONTACT	Nathan Rhodes
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Biosecurity
MOBILE and LANDLINE	0412 376 450
Cleared by	Mary Carr



Government
of South Australia

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Minister for Emergency Management
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Email: dlo.watt@awe.gov.au

Dear Minister

Murray,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July providing information regarding the progress of activities for the importation of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) virus to the high security laboratory facilities at the CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness. It is pleasing to see this is in the final stages and hopefully available to further prepare our response to LSD.

I appreciated the discussion regarding LSD at the recent Agricultural Ministers Meeting held on 20 July. With increasing biosecurity threats in the region, it is vitally important that we work together to ensure adequate resources are directed towards our preparedness activities.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) has been keeping me informed of the progress being made by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Emergency Animal Disease preparedness taskforce and the Lumpy Skin Disease Action plan.

Should DAFF require any further assistance from PIRSA please feel free to contact Mr Nathan Rhodes who is the Executive Director of Biosecurity on email nathan.rhodes@sa.gov.au or phone on 0412 376 450.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this very important matter and I look forward to working with you to continue supporting South Australian farmers and regional communities.

Yours sincerely

Clare Scriven

Hon Clare Scriven MLC

**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES**

3 / 8 / 2022

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

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