

Biosecurity Animal Division  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Australia

28 February 2025

**Re: National Lumpy Skin Disease Action Plan Progress – Report 9: November 2024 to January 2025**

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the National Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) Action Plan Progress Report for the period of November 2024 to January 2025. As the peak industry body representing the post-farm gate red meat sector, AMIC's response underscores our commitment to food safety, regulatory clarity, and maintaining strong biosecurity measures to safeguard industry sustainability and market access.

*Trade and market access*

AMIC acknowledges the significant progress made in aligning Australia's import policy with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards, particularly the recognition of bovine skeletal muscle meat as safe. This alignment has already demonstrated its value during the recent LSD outbreak in Japan, a key beef-trading partner. The industry supports science-based trade policies that reinforce confidence in Australia's biosecurity system while minimising unnecessary regulatory barriers.

The completion of the LSD Trade Preparedness Strategy is an important step in mitigating the potential economic and market impacts of an incursion. However, actioning the strategy and ongoing engagement with trading partners remains essential to ensure unnecessary LSD attestations in export certification are addressed. While progress has been made, continued negotiations are required to remove attestations that do not align with internationally recognised risk assessments, or LSD attestations that apply to non-bovine species. Strengthening this engagement will enhance Australia's trade resilience and minimise potential disruptions in the event of an outbreak.

*Surveillance*

AMIC notes the ongoing work to strengthen Australia's preparedness for a potential LSD incursion but remains concerned about the pace of progress, with 22 of the 27 activities still underway. While the National Surveillance Strategy is under development, there is no clear timeline for its completion or implementation. Given the critical role of

surveillance in early detection and risk mitigation, industry seeks greater clarity on when this strategy will be finalised and how it will be integrated into broader biosecurity efforts.

Further detail is needed on the status of vector surveillance research and its integration into the national surveillance framework. The report does not outline how real-time vector surveillance will be used for LSD detection or whether it will be prioritised to strengthen Australia's preparedness. Industry has consistently highlighted vector surveillance as a priority. Given its importance in early warning systems, further information is needed on how this capability will be incorporated into national biosecurity efforts and whether targeted investment will be allocated to accelerate its implementation.

AMIC welcomes continued engagement on these matters and looks forward to the timely progression of key initiatives.

Should you require any additional information or further input, please contact Sue Viana, AMIC's Manager, Animal Welfare & Integrity Systems at [sviana@amic.org.au](mailto:sviana@amic.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

**Tim Ryan**  
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Australian Meat Industry Council