

# **THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COST OF AN OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA**

## PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION ACT 1998

Australia is free from major exotic animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease (FMD). If an outbreak of FMD was to occur in Australia, there would be a major impact on the agricultural sector, the national economy and rural and regional Australia. Assessing the full extent of these consequences will provide important information, which will assist planning and preparedness for such an outbreak and also in managing a response.

The Productivity Commission is requested:

- To consider three scenarios:
  1. A small single point outbreak;
  2. A medium sized outbreak which impacts on two States and which takes up to six months to contain and eradicate; or
  3. A large multi-point outbreak which takes up to twelve months to control and eradicate.
- To evaluate the full economic, social and environmental impact of an outbreak (under each of the above scenarios), including on the agricultural sector, regional Australia, and the national economy, and in any other collateral manner.
- For scenarios (2) and (3) above, consideration be given to any changes to the impact of an outbreak if:
  - a vaccination policy is in place; or
  - FMD-free geographic zones are established.

The Commission is required to report within 6 months of commencing the study.