



Keep a TOP WATCH! for

Lumpy skin disease

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a serious and infectious viral disease of cattle and water buffalo. The disease is not present in Australia but has rapidly spread through Southeast Asia, with cases confirmed in Indonesia.

January 2024



Eradication of LSD is difficult and early detection is essential



The disease does not infect humans



LSD must be reported

LSD is caused by a virus and is mainly spread from infected animals by biting insects and parasites such as flies, mosquitoes and ticks. The disease can also be spread by contaminated equipment and directly between animals.

What is the risk to Australia?

If LSD arrived in Australia, it would have serious impacts on our beef, water buffalo and dairy industries, and on our global trade.

LSD is difficult to control and it's important to spot it early. Cattle producers and communities in northern Australia need to look out for LSD and know how to report something suspicious.

Are there any risks to humans?

Humans cannot get sick from LSD.

What to look for

Infection with LSD typically causes a quick onset disease with fever, depression and characteristic skin nodules.

- Firm lumps (up to 50 cent coin size) may form on the skin. These lumps can be found on any part of the body.
- Scabs develop in the centre of the lumps. Once the scabs fall off, a large hole is left that may become infected.
- Swelling of the limbs, brisket, genitals and lymph nodes may occur.
- Watering eyes.
- Increased nasal and salivary secretions.
- Some animals may have the disease but not show signs.

LSD is a nationally notifiable disease which means it must be reported.



Report if you see cattle with lumpy skin.

Tell a biosecurity officer, ranger or vet or call the

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE HOTLINE 1800 675 888