

# Video transcript for Lumpy Skin Disease presentation by Dr Mark Schipp.

Lumpy skin disease is a viral disease of cattle and water buffalo, it is not present in Australia but we should all be aware of the risk of this disease broaching our borders.

Lumpy skin disease only affects cattle and water buffalo and does not pose a risk to human health. The disease is spread primarily by insects such as biting flies and mosquitoes, and possibly ticks. These insect vectors can also spread through natural means, including wind currents.

The disease has a low mortality rate, however it can cause significant disease in infected cattle - with economic losses resulting from loss of body condition, decreased milk production, abortions, infertility and damaged hides from the skin nodules that develop. Some animals can be infected but not show signs of the disease.

Lumpy skin disease is endemic in most of Africa, parts of the Middle East and Turkey. Since 2019, the disease has spread through China and Southeast Asia; and in 2021, the disease was confirmed in Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia.

The disease poses a substantial risk for Australia, as an outbreak in a close neighbouring country could potentially spread to our shores, we must be vigilant to protect our cattle industries from lumpy skin disease.

Our strict livestock importing protocols and robust biosecurity system are designed to counter the risk of exotic disease incursions.

It is critical that we all play our part. Follow the rules and do not illegally import any high-risk goods into Australia such as untreated cattle skins and hides.

Across Australia’s north, it’s important that veterinarians, cattle producers, associated livestock industry personnel, indigenous rangers and the wider community are vigilant and can identify lumpy skin disease. This will bolster our surveillance against this terrible disease.

Across Australia’s north, it’s important that veterinarians, cattle producers, associated livestock industry personnel, indigenous rangers and the wider community are vigilant and can identify lumpy skin disease. This will bolster our surveillance against this terrible disease.

For more information about lumpy skin disease, visit the department’s website at awe.gov.au/lumpyskin.

ENDS