



Media Release

Inform Yourself on Animals Disease Risks

10 October 2017

Council's Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee has identified strategies to mitigate potentially high-risk animal disease risks for the local and broader agricultural sector including 'avian influenza' and 'foot and mouth disease'.

Agriculture Victoria has a wide range of resources available online to help educate and mitigate against the spread of high risk animal diseases.

Avian Influenza is a highly contagious viral infection of birds including poultry. Susceptible bird species include: domestic fowls, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, quail, pheasants and ostriches. Many species of wild birds including waterfowls and seabirds can serve as carriers of the virus.

Humans are generally not affected by avian influenza strain, although H5N1 subtype (a HPAI) which is prevalent in East Asia has been reported to infect and has killed a number of people who had close contact with infected birds.

More information on avian influenza is available at:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/animal-diseases/poultry/avian-influenza/avian-influenza-bird-flu#>

Foot and mouth disease has the potential to spread rapidly within the livestock population if left undetected. There are however, measures in place to enable early detection, notification and control. If the disease is detected early and notified to authorities, if movement controls are implemented effectively and community cooperation levels are high, then there is potential to limit the extent of the outbreak to a small number of properties within a confined geographical area.

More information on foot and mouth disease is available at:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/animal-diseases/general-livestock-diseases/foot-and-mouth-disease>

End release

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