

From:
To: [RRAT, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Cc:
Subject: Clarification of fact - CSIRO evidence 10 August
Date: Wednesday, 17 August 2022 10:55:21 AM

Dear Committee,

On Wednesday 10 August CSIRO appeared at the inquiry into the adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness, in particular with respect to foot-and-mouth disease.

One of our witnesses Dr Trevor Drew was questioned on the diagnostic process for FMD in Australia. Upon reading the Hansard he has prepared a written correction to clarify the fact around FMD testing capability (in regard to Page 38 of the transcript):

ACDP receives samples directly from States and Jurisdictions, where there is overt suspicion of disease. However, all laboratories for Emergency Animal Disease Diagnostic Response (LEADDR) network, comprising state and territory departmental animal health laboratories, can conduct PCR testing for FMD. ACDP facilitated this process with funding support from DAFF and has an ongoing role in conducting proficiency testing for this jurisdictional capability. Each year ACDP sends 'dummy' samples to the laboratories involved, to test their capacity to return the correct result. ACDP has been conducting this proficiency testing since 2014, to assure ongoing test competency and the LEADDR laboratories consistently demonstrate this. Nevertheless, ACDP encourages all states and territories also to submit all field samples submitted for FMD directly to ACDP, in addition to any testing they conduct in house. This ensures that ACDP can conduct confirmatory testing, to provide additional assurance on results. In the case where a LEADDR laboratory returned a positive result, the sample would also need to be sent to ACDP for confirmatory testing before a notification to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) was made by the ACVO.

Kind regards

| **CSIRO**

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