



# Lumpy skin disease

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

## About the disease

LSD is a highly infectious disease of cattle and water buffalo that does not affect other livestock or humans. It is caused by a virus like sheep pox and goat pox and is mostly spread by biting insects such as flies and mosquitoes, and possibly ticks. The disease can also be spread by fomites through such things as contaminated equipment and in some cases directly from animal to animal.

Infection with lumpy skin disease typically causes an acute disease with fever, depression, and characteristic skin nodules. There may also be a marked reduction in milk yield as well as abortion in pregnant animals.

## Signs of Lumpy skin disease in animals *Cattle overseas infected with Lumpy skin disease*

- Firm, raised nodules of up to 50mm in diameter develop on the skin around the head, neck, genitals and limbs. Nodules can develop on any part of the body.
- Scabs develop in the centre of the nodules after which the scabs fall off, leaving large holes that may become infected.
- Swelling of the limbs, brisket and genitals may occur.
- Watering eyes.
- Increased nasal and salivary secretions.
- Some animals with the disease may be asymptomatic (have the disease but not show signs).

LSD has shown the ability to establish and spread in a wide range of environmental and production systems around the world.

## Impacts

If Australia was no longer recognised as being free from lumpy skin disease this would have significant consequences for our beef, water buffalo, and dairy cattle industries, along with substantial trade impacts.

