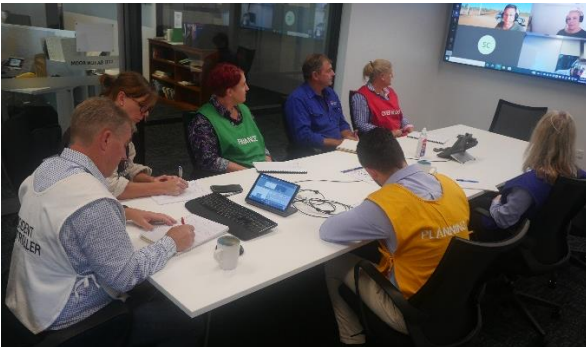


Exercise Grim Spectre

Exercise need

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and deer. With a heightened risk of a FMD outbreak in Australia, the NSW Government, along with its jurisdictional counterparts, industry partners and the Australian Government, reviewed and strengthened its measures to prevent, detect and respond to a FMD outbreak.

The NSW Government undertook Exercise Grim Spectre on 20 September 2022 as functional exercise to test a FMD response in NSW.



Exercise aim

The primary aim of Exercise Grim Spectre was to test the FMD response capability of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Incident Management Team (IMT) and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) in accordance with the New South Wales State

Emergency Management Plan 2018 (EMPLAN) and the Biosecurity (Animal and Plant) Emergency Sub Plan.

A secondary aim was to contribute to the continuous improvement of the exercise capability of the NSW Government for future state level exercises.



Exercise objectives

The 3 overall objectives of the Exercise were:

- **Practice** the DPI and SEMC response to an identified risk (biosecurity emergency) under the State Level Emergency Risk Assessment, including connecting private industry partners with Government response agencies.
- Through hypothetical discussions, **test** existing command, control, and coordination processes across the response stage of a biosecurity emergency.
- **Validate** the functionality of the NSW Rural Fire Service State Operations Centre to host the DPI IMT.

Exercise outcomes

Exercise Grim Spectre achieved its aims and objectives in testing the NSW Government's ability to respond to a FMD outbreak and contributing to the continuous improvement of the exercise capability of NSW Government agencies for future state level exercises.

Exercise evaluation

The Exercise Grim Spectre Evaluation Report detailed the methodology, exercise preparation/conduct and applied learnings.

There were 9 lessons identified; 7 improve and 2 sustain across planning, information flow, engagement, and the DPI IMT. The accompanying recommendations were accepted by DPI and actions put in place to implement with the lessons fed into the State Lessons Process.

