



Biosecurity Measures

Biosecurity has played a critical role in reducing risk and shaping our nation into one of the few countries in the world to remain free from the world's most severe pests and diseases.

With more than 60,000 kilometres of coastline offering a variety of pathways for exotic pests and diseases, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources screens, inspects and clears millions of people, mail parcels, baggage, ships, animals, plants and cargo containers entering Australia every year.

Australia works across the whole biosecurity continuum with offshore, at the border and onshore measures. The department uses a range of sophisticated technologies and approaches, including research and shared international resources and intelligence, to help prevent the introduction and spread of disease. Surveillance and monitoring of risk areas is also critical, along with border control activities, which focus on assessing and managing potential biosecurity threats at Australia's airports, seaports, and international mail centres.

This year's Budget delivers an additional \$121.6 million to 30 June 2022 for our biosecurity system. This investment is an important step towards strengthening the national biosecurity system and forms part of the Australian Government's commitment to implementing the recommendations of the 2017 independent report, *Priorities for Australia's biosecurity system: An independent review of the capacity of the national biosecurity system and its underpinning intergovernmental agreement*.

Why is this important?

Biosecurity is a critical part of the government's efforts to prevent, respond to and recover from pests and diseases that threaten the economy and environment. Protecting our pest and disease-free status is vital to maintaining our competitive advantage in the global market and supporting jobs and growth across Australia.

Who will benefit?

Biosecurity controls at Australia's borders minimise the risk of exotic pests and diseases entering Australia and protect our \$63 billion agriculture industries as well as our unique environment, native flora and fauna, our tourism industries and lifestyle.

What will this cost?

Assurance, Verification and Enforcement	\$27.8m
International Ports – Supplementary Funding	\$14.8m
Modern, Seamless Border Clearance	\$7.5m
Priority Pest and Disease Planning and Response	\$51.5m
Tasmanian Fruit Fly – Outbreak Response	\$20.0m
Biosecurity Measures	\$121.6m