

8 July 2016

Dr Wendy Craik AM, Chair
IGAB Review Secretariat
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: igabreview@agriculture.gov.au

Dear Dr Craik AM

Review of national biosecurity framework

We thank the IGAB Review Panel for the opportunity to comment on the IGAB Review Discussion Paper. We support the review of Australia's biosecurity framework and the basic direction proposed in the Discussion Paper.

Biosecurity and animal welfare are interrelated. Biosecurity threats can have a serious consequences for the welfare of animals. We are therefore concerned about the absence of any reference to animal welfare within the Discussion Paper. The need to ensure that humane practices are employed in the application of biosecurity measures involving animals, whether they be pest animals, or livestock and other domestic animals impacted by a biosecurity incursion. We acknowledge the high level strategic nature of the Discussion Paper but feel it is still important to recognise the importance of animal welfare at every level.

RSPCA Australia would like to see the Review Panel consider and incorporate animal welfare principles into the Review including in any national statement of intent or strategy for the biosecurity system. Animal welfare impacts are an important social consideration for governments, industry and the community that should be included. The recognition that all animals are sentient beings, including those defined as pests, should inform any national biosecurity strategy and the nature of control measures recommended.

We look forward to following the progress and outcomes of the Review. Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you wish to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely,



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