

## The IGAB

1. Is the IGAB a suitable mechanism to underpin Australia's national biosecurity system in the future (10 or 20 years from now)? Are the consolidated priority areas still appropriate?

If future funding mechanisms are to be largely dependent on, and in conjunction with industry, I believe the IGAB needs to be rebadged to reflect this new position.

2. What are your views on the construct, effectiveness, and transparency of the IGAB? Please provide examples.

The construct of the IGAB is basically good however has been written from the point of view of government in isolation so industry lacks ownership. The fact that most people have never heard of the IGAB speaks to the latter two points. Tasmania is not a signatory to IGAB as it disagreed with section 7.19 which allows the Australian Government to override state and territory controls on interstate trade where a measure is scientifically unjustified and/or unnecessarily trade restrictive, therefore it doesn't represent all of Australia nor can be fully effective. Western Australia was also not an immediate signatory which possibly indicates some dissatisfaction with the same part of the agreement

3. What practical improvements to the IGAB and/or its structure would provide for an increased, but accountable, role for industry and the broader community?

Industry needs to be involved from the outset.

## Agreeing to risks, priorities and objectives

1. Is the goal, and are the objectives, of Australia's national biosecurity system still appropriate to address current and future biosecurity challenges?

Yes

2. In order of importance, what do you see as the most significant current and future biosecurity risks and priorities for Australia and why? Are Australia's biosecurity objectives appropriately tailored to meet these risk and priorities?

The emphasis on post rather than pre-border fails to take account of the full cycle impacts of an incursion. The rationale underpinning this position focusses only on government spending and does not account for the flow on effects to industry and trade.

3. Are the components and functions of Australia's national biosecurity system consistently understood by all stakeholders? If not, what could be done to improve this?

No. It is hard to know how to resolve this. Many industries are not large enough to have dedicated representatives that can spend the time to understand these issues. Biosecurity is complex and has an extensive language of its own.

4. What benefits (or impediments) are there in realising a more integrated national approach to biosecurity, agreed to by key partners in Australia's national biosecurity system?

In recent fora, ideas were mooted by industry to assist in the funding position and the transparency of biosecurity. It seems the main impediment to implementation is the government itself and the current constitution which does not permit state governments to raise levies. New thinking is required. The current biosecurity policies have been generated by government with little, if any industry consultation so industry has no ownership of these policies. Involving industry in these processes would also assist in industry's understanding of biosecurity which requires an understanding of international obligations as well as state and national issues.

5. What form would this best take (for example, a national statement of intent or national strategy)? What are the key elements that must be included? What specific roles do you see industry and the broader community playing in such an initiative?

As mentioned before industry needs to be involved in the process. ALL states need to be represented and to be signatories.

## Embedding shared responsibility

1. Are the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in Australia's national biosecurity system clearly and consistently understood? How might this be improved?

No. It could be improved with greater involvement of industry but most of the general public has little ownership. Possibly due to increasing urbanisation which has resulted in limited contact with food production and the environment.

2. What practical actions do you think governments and industry organisations can undertake to strengthen the involvement of industry and community stakeholders in Australia's national biosecurity system? Would increased involvement in decision making on and implementation of biosecurity activities help the adoption of shared responsibility?

Yes

## Funding biosecurity

1. Are the IGAB investment principles still workable? Do they still meet the needs of Australia's national biosecurity system now and in the future?

The investment principles are valid and current.

2. Are governments and industry investing appropriately in the right areas? Are there areas where key funders should be redirecting investment? Can investment in biosecurity activities be better targeted? If so, how? Please provide examples.

The lack of transparency in this area makes it impossible to judge.

1. How do we ensure investments and investment frameworks align with priorities, while being flexible enough to address changing risks and priorities?

Independent oversight/auditing of the program and regular reviews should handle those issues.

2. Are current biosecurity funding arrangements still appropriate to meet the needs of Australia's national biosecurity system, now and in the future? What might an alternative or novel funding model encompass?

No. The paper by Harley Smith and Stewart Webster: A new biosecurity investment decision framework to promote more efficient biosecurity policy would be a good start.

3. What can be done to ensure an equitable level of investment from all stakeholders across Australia's national biosecurity system, including from risk creators and risk beneficiaries?

See reply to previous question

## Market access

1. Are market access considerations given appropriate weight in Australia's national biosecurity system? What other considerations also need to be taken into account?

Issues with market access concern the process of achieving same rather than biosecurity. There needs to be more flexibility in respect of how markets are ranked and also products. This is complicated by reduced R&D funding which has left some areas such as disinfestation research sorely lacking.

2. Are there ways governments could better partner with industry and/or the broader community to reduce costs (without increasing risk), such as industry certification schemes?

Improved transparency would improve trust. Industry is reluctant to fund areas when they are not aware and have no input into current policy and budget.

3. How can the capacity and capability of surveillance systems (including diagnostic systems) underpinning Australia's national biosecurity system be improved?

It may well require more money. But it needs to be done in the context of a full review of the program spend. Refer to previous comments on full lifecycle costings.

## The role of research and innovation

1. Which specific areas of Australia's national biosecurity system could benefit from research and innovation in the next five, 10 and 20 years and why? Please provide examples.

Any issues of market access, both overseas and interstate. Disinfestation as previously mentioned. Other ways to overcome biosecurity barriers may include changes to production systems themselves. More emphasis on soilless production, elimination of viruses, accreditation schemes

2. How can coordination of biosecurity-related research and innovation activities be improved?

In a country such as Australia which has such a wide variety of climates, soil types, crops and production systems and target markets I am not sure that national coordination as a priority above all else results in better outcomes or cost savings. It slows decision making and creates inefficiencies. In particular, Western Australia seems to be disadvantaged by the weight of population and overwhelming presence of most bodies in the eastern states.

3. How can innovation (including technology) help build a more cost-effective and sustainable national biosecurity system?

See above comments on hydroponic production systems. Also rapid techniques for analysis.

## Measuring the performance of the national biosecurity system

1. What does success of Australia's national biosecurity system look like? How could success be defined, and appropriately measured (that is, qualitatively or quantitatively)? What, if any, measures of success are in use?

Number of incursions. Spending on eradication and/or containment

2. What would be required to ensure data collection and analysis meets the needs of a future national biosecurity system? Who are the key data and expert knowledge holders in the national biosecurity system?

Data needs to be accessible to all stakeholders. More often the issue is that data is collected but not collated or analysed. Government is the appropriate holder of such data.

3. How can existing or new data sets be better used? How might data be collected from a wider range of sources than government?

If industry becomes a true partner in the management of biosecurity then data collection should be easier.