

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

FID01**GRANTS****CURRENT ISSUE**

There is currently no adverse media or external scrutiny on grants delivered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, however previous Senate Estimates hearings indicate that Senators may be interested in details of specific higher focus grants and/or grant programs.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Refer to **Attachment A** for details of grant programs for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry functions that were in place prior to the Machinery of Government changes.
- Higher focus grant programs between 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022 may include:

Focus	Grant Program	PBS Program No. & Name	Division	Responsible First Assistant Secretary
Supporting Communities	Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program	3.2 Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Improving Market Transparency	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	3.10 Agricultural Resources	Agricultural Policy Division	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Improve Employment Opportunity	AgUP	3.10 Agricultural Resources	Agricultural Policy Division	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
International Partnership	Indonesia-Australia Red Meat & Cattle Partnership	3.13: International Market Access	Trade, Market Access & International	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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 Last updated: 10 October 2022

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 SB22-000065

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Focus	Grant Program	PBS Program No. & Name	Division	Responsible First Assistant Secretary
Biosecurity Initiative	Surveillance Implementation - Plant	4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Biosecurity Initiative	Stronger Biosecurity Quarantine Initiative	4.2: Plant and Animal Health	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

- For the period 1 July 2022 to 31 August 2022, the department entered into 13 grant agreements totalling more than \$6.78 million (GST inclusive). Refer to **Attachment B** for details which includes the relevant program number and name for each grant in accordance with the relevant Portfolio Budget Statement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Machinery of Government:
 - The Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio was part of the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) until 30 June 2022.
 - As per the Administrative Arrangement Order (AAO) on 23 June 2022, from 1 July 2022:
 - Environment and Water functions transitioned from DAWE to a new department, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
 - DAWE became the new Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).
- DAWE grants on GrantConnect:
 - Refer to **Attachment C** for details of DAWE grant programs that were transferred to DAFF.
 - Refer to **Attachment D** for details of DAWE grant programs and one-off/ad hoc grants that were transferred to DCCEEW.

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- Grants approved after department recommended rejecting.
 - For **2021 calendar year**, former Minister Littleproud for **Agriculture function** within the **Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio** has approved one grant that a departmental official has recommended be rejected, details of which was provided to the former Minister for Finance by former Minister Littleproud in March 2022. Refer to **Attachment E** for former Minister Littleproud's letter to the former Minister for Finance. The National Response Policy Section, Biosecurity Response and Reform Branch, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division is responsible for this program. Peta Lane is the responsible First Assistant Secretary for the program.
 - Under paragraph 4.12 of the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017, Ministers (including Senators) must report on all instances where they approved a grant that a departmental official recommended be rejected.
 - The Finance Minister tables in the Senate, in accordance with [Senate Order of Continuing Effect \(No. 23E\)](#), all reports and correspondence received under paragraph 4.12 of the CGRGs during the preceding calendar year, and a summary of all decisions including program title, sub-program, grant activity, grantee, total grant value, grant funding location, postcode, and a brief statement of reason for the decision reported, by 30 April of each calendar year.

- Grants not fully performed or which have been entered into during the previous 12 months
 - In **2021-22 financial year**, 527 grants for the value of \$319.53 million (GST inclusive) were entered into agreements for the **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio**.
 - On 16 August 2022, Minister Watt provided a letter to the President of the Senate on behalf of the **Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio**, informing that all grants for **2021 - 2022 financial year** that satisfy the Senate Order 13 - Entity Contracts (Murray Motion) reporting criteria are published on [GrantConnect](#). Grants administered by the portfolio agencies are published on the relevant agencies' internet. Refer to **Attachment F** for Minister Watt's letter to the President of the Senate.
 - The Senate Order 13 reporting period was not affected by AAO made on 23 June 2022 as the reporting period was for 2021-2022 financial year. Minister Watt and Minister Plibersek's offices agreed that Minister Watt will sign and table the compliance letter to the President of the Senate for **Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio** for **2021-2022 financial year**. A copy of the response was provided to Minister Plibersek (who has the Environment and Water Portfolio responsibility) for her reference.

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- Within two months of the end of the financial and calendar year Ministers must table a list of grants of the department and portfolio entities which have not been fully performed or which have been entered into during the previous 12 months, and which provide for a value of \$100,000 (GST inclusive) or more. This is also known as Senate Order 13 - Entity Contracts (Murray Motion) reporting requirement.
- Approved Grants
 - In the Senate Order -16 reporting period 25 January to 10 March 2022, 192 grants for the value of \$77.08 million were approved for the **Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio**.
 - On 22 March 2022, former Minister Littleproud provided a letter to the President of the Senate on behalf of the **Agriculture and the Environment functions of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio**, with a list of all approved grants for the period 25 January to 10 March 2022 that satisfy the Senate Order 16 - Departmental and Agency Grants (Minchin Order) reporting criteria. Reported details of each approved grant included the recipient, value, program from which the grant was made, and the approver. Refer to **Attachment G** for former Minister Littleproud's letter to the President of the Senate and the list of approved grants.
 - Before each Senate Estimates, Ministers must table a list of all grants approved in the department and portfolio agencies, including the value of each grant, the recipient, the program from which it was funded, and the approver. This is also known as Senate Order 16 – Departmental and Agency Grants (Minchin Order) reporting requirement.
- Impacts on grants from COVID-19
 - Many programs and grants delivered by the department have been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions including social distancing, quarantining, curfews, business shutdowns and capacity reduction.
 - Impacted programs and grants continue to be monitored on a case-by-case basis by the responsible policy areas in collaboration with the respective grants hubs.
 - The grants hubs are maintaining communication with grant recipients regarding their funding arrangements.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry grant programs in place prior to Machinery of Government Changes

Attachment B: List of grants entered into from 01/07/2022 to 31/08/2022*
 *source: GrantConnect (www.grants.gov.au) – as at 09 September 2022 (subject to change)

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- Attachment C: DAWE grant programs transferred to DAFF
- Attachment D: DAWE grant programs and one-off/ad hoc grants transferred to DCCEEW
- Attachment E: CGRGs 4.12 – Former Minister Littleproud’s letter to the former Minister for Finance.
- Attachment F: Senate Order 13 - Minister Watt’s letter to the President of the Senate.
- Attachment G: Senate Order 16 – Former Minister Littleproud’s letter to the President of the Senate and the list of approved grants

Attachment A: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Grant Programs that were in place prior to the the Machinery of Government Changes

Division	Program Name	First Assistant Secretary responsible
Agricultural Policy	Agricultural Innovation - Expanding the Farm Data Code	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	AgUp Round 1	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Educating Kids About Agriculture - iFarms	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Educating Kids About Agriculture - Kids to Farms	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Community Perceptions and Worker Experiences	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	AgCAREERSTART	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Changes to the Seasonal Worker Program	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Extend the Fair Farms Program	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Supporting Agricultural Shows and Field Day Round 2 - agricultural shows and field days	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Supporting Agricultural Shows and Field Days - Capital City Royal Shows	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Supporting Agriculture Showmen and Women Program - Showmen's Guild Fees	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	Supporting Agricultural Showmen and Women Program - Showground Rental Relief	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agricultural Policy	National Farm Safety Education Fund	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry & Engagement	Tuna Champions Phase 2	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry & Engagement	Agvet - Assistance Grants - Access to Industry Uses of Agvet Chemicals - Round 7	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Biosecurity Animal	One Health surveillance and zoonotic disease prevention capabilities	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Biosecurity Plant	Indigenous Rangers Coastal Clean Ups Project (IRCCP)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Environmental Biosecurity Office	Advancing Pest Animal and Weed Control Solutions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Environmental Biosecurity Office	Supporting Communities Managing Established Pest and Weeds - National Coordination	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Smart Farming Partnerships	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Smart Farms Small Grants	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Building Landcare Community and Capacity	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Future Drought Fund - Better Land Management - Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Future Drought Fund - Harnessing Innovation - Drought Resilience Innovation Grants	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Future Drought Fund - More Resilient Communities - Drought Resilience Leaders	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Future Drought Fund - More Resilient Communities - Networks for Building Drought Resilience	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Future Drought Fund - Harnessing Innovation - Adoption Officers	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Future Drought Fund - Harnessing Innovation - Hub Projects	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Farm Resilience	Agricultural Resources - Supporting Agricultural Industries and Communities – Innovation – Scaling up Agricultural Innovation Hubs	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer	One Health surveillance and zoonotic disease prevention capabilities	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Portfolio Strategy and Climate Policy	Soil Science Challenge	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Attachment B - List of Grants entered from 1 July 2022 to 31 August 2022

Agency	Grant Program	PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Agriculture Business Expansion Initiative	Program 3.13: International Market Access	Agriculture Business Expansion Initiative ABEl	As part of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategy Partnership statement agreed in June 2020, both countries committed to (among other things) developing a partnership on grains management and logistics to reduce post-harvest losses.	Ad hoc/One-off	8-Jul-2022	\$214,500.00	Pulse Australia Limited	NSW	NSW
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	AgUP Grants	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	AgUP	Part of the Agriculture 2030 package to improve employment opportunities in the agriculture industry through a pilot AgUP program to co-fund industry initiatives that build skills and enhance career progression pathways.	Open Competitive	18-Jul-2022	\$208,266.30	Northern Territory Farmers Association Incorporated	NT	NT
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	Improving market transparency in perishable agricultural industries	Fund projects in collaboration with the perishable agriculture goods industry that improve market transparency in the sector.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	5-Jul-2022	\$550,000.00	National Farmers' Federation Limited	ACT	ACT
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	Improving market transparency in perishable agricultural industries	Fund projects in collaboration with the perishable agriculture goods industry that improve market transparency in the sector.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	5-Jul-2022	\$653,950.00	The Australian Chamber Of Fruit And Vegetable Industries Limited	QLD	QLD
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	Improving market transparency in perishable agricultural industries	Fund projects in collaboration with the perishable agriculture goods industry that improve market transparency in the sector.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	5-Jul-2022	\$861,773.00	Seafood Industry Australia Limited	NSW	NSW
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	Improving market transparency in perishable agricultural industries	Fund projects in collaboration with the perishable agriculture goods industry that improve market transparency in the sector.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	5-Jul-2022	\$209,000.00	Meat & Livestock Australia Limited	NSW	NSW
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	Improving market transparency in perishable agricultural industries	Fund projects in collaboration with the perishable agriculture goods industry that improve market transparency in the sector.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	5-Jul-2022	\$989,000.00	Wine Australia	SA	SA
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	Improving market transparency in perishable agricultural industries	Fund projects in collaboration with the perishable agriculture goods industry that improve market transparency in the sector.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	5-Jul-2022	\$220,000.00	Dairy Australia Limited	VIC	VIC
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Improving Market Transparency in Perishable Agricultural Goods Industries	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	Improving market transparency in perishable agricultural industries	Fund projects in collaboration with the perishable agriculture goods industry that improve market transparency in the sector.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	25-Jul-2022	\$814,000.00	Australian Dairy Farmers' Limited	VIC	VIC

Attachment B - List of Grants entered from 1 July 2022 to 31 August 2022

Agency	Grant Program	PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Indonesia-Australia Red Meat & Cattle Partnership	Program 3.13: International Market Access	Indonesia-Australia Red Meat and Cattle Partnership	Support Indonesia-Australia Red Meat and Cattle Partnership.	Closed Non-Competitive	25-Jul-2022	\$550,000.00	Meat & Livestock Australia Limited	NSW	NSW
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	SBQI	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	Stronger Biosecurity Quarantine Initiative	The SBQI is a \$20m election commitment for a stronger biosecurity & quarantine system over 4 years (2014-15 to 2017-18). The initiative enables early response assistance to pest & disease incursions & strengthens Australia's biosecurity preparedness.	Ad hoc/One-off	1-Jul-2022	\$315,986.00	Australian Animal Health Council Limited	ACT	ACT
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program Grant Opportunity (R&D)	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program - Advancing Pest Animal and Weed Control Solutions Competitive Grant Round	To continue efforts to deliver better solutions to combat established pest animals and weeds that pose a significant threat to Australian primary production, the environment and biodiversity.	Ad hoc/One-off	1-Jul-2022	\$600,618.00	Local Land Services	NSW	NSW
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Surveillance Implementation - Plant	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Surveillance Implementation - Plant	This initiative aims to strengthen Australia's ability to prevent, prepare, detect and respond to emergency and emerging priority pests and diseases.	Ad hoc/One-off	29-Aug-2022	\$600,000.00	Plant Health Australia Limited	ACT	ACT

Attachment C - Grant programs transferred to DAFF

Grant Programs
ABARES Impact and Engagement
ACACA
Access Premium Markets - Cooperation Activities
Ag2030-SS-Enhancing Soil Education and Expertise Grant Program
Ag2030-SS-Soil Science Challenge Grants Program
AgCAREERSTART Grant
Agricultural Resources Scaling Up Agricultural Innovation Hubs
Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation
Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation 2
Agriculture 2030 – Biosecurity – to ensure Australia continues to have a robust biosecurity preparedness and response capability in the event of a pest and disease outbreak Enhancing Australia's Biosecurity System – Priority Pest and Disease Planning and
Agriculture 2030 – Supporting Trade: Extend the Improved Access to Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals program – Grants to Global Minor Use Foundation
AgShows and Field Days
AgUP Grants
Animal Biosecurity Response Reform
Animal White Paper Measures
Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (ACACA)
Australian Marine Parks - Fishing Business Assistance
Biosecurity Business Grants
Capacity Building for Fisheries Representatives
Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis & Research
Commonwealth membership of Animal Health Australia Plant Health Australia
Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought - Biosecurity Management of Pest & Weed
Community Perceptions and Worker Experiences Research Program
Contribution - Beef Australia
Crops and Infrastructure
Dairy and Competition
Diagnostic and Reference Laboratory
Diagnostics - PHP Grant
Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs
Drought Resilience Leaders
Drought: Resilience Innovation Grants
Eat Seafood Australia
Educating Kids about Agriculture
Enabling Services - Koori Kids sponsorship
Enhancing Australia's Biosecurity System: Priority Pest and Disease Planning and Response
Enhancing Australias One health surveillance and zoonotic disease prevention capabilities
Est Pest Animal and Weed Management - Prickly Acacia
Est Pest Animal and Weed Pipeline
Establish New Regional Forestry Hubs Program
Established Pest Animal and Weed Management
Established Pest Animal and Weed Pipeline
Extend Improved Access to Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals
Fair Farms Initiative - Expansion

Attachment C - Grant programs transferred to DAFF

Grant Programs
Farm Hub
Fast Track Fair Farms Initiative Grants
FISHERIES RESOURCES RESEARCH FUND
Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank
Forest - Products Innovation
Forestry - Recovery Development Fund
Future Drought Fund: Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes Grants Program
Future Drought Funds
IGA State & Territory Contributions
Immediate Assistance Fund Grants
Improve access to Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals
Improving Traceability of Exports
Indigenous Rangers Coastal Clean Ups Project - Coordination and Equipment Support Grant
Indonesia-Australia Red Meat & Cattle Partnership
Innovation expanded Australian Farm Data Code
International Agricultural Cooperation
Landcare Program Smart Farms - Small Grants
Landcare Smart Farms - Capacity Building
Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund 2016-2020 programme
Livestock Global Assurance Programme
Managing Farm Risk Multi Peril Crop Ins
NAQS Animal and Plant Health
National - Forestry Industries Plan
National Agricultural Innovation Agenda Investment Strategies
National Agricultural Innovation Agenda Program
National Biosecurity Response Team 2020-23
National Farm Safety Education
National Farm Safety Education Fund: Improving Farm Safety Practices
National Landcare Program - Smart Farming Partnerships
National Landcare Program - Smart Farms Building Landcare
National Landcare Program - Smart Farms Building Landcare Capacity
National Landcare Program - Smart Farms Small Grants
Natural Resources Trust Fund
Networks to Build Drought Resilience
Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy (NAQS)
NRM Drought Resilience Grants
OECD Pesticides and Biocides
Office - Chief Veterinary Officer
Offshore Surveys - Plant Health Australia
Other Exotic Disease Preparedness
Other Exotic Disease Preparedness Programme
PABS - Environmental Protection Officer
Package Assisting Small Exporters
PASE Project Grants Round 2
Plant and Animal Health - Other Exotic Disease Preparedness
Plant Biosecurity Response Reform
Plant Health Preparedness
Plant Health Surveillance

Attachment C - Grant programs transferred to DAFF

Grant Programs
Plant Sciences and Risk Assessment
Priority Pest and Disease Planning and Surveillance - Pest
Promoting the Importance of Bees to Agricultural Production
Protect Aust Brand - Traceability Program
PSD Data Policy - AAFDX
Ranger Capability Building
Reducing Input Cost of Grazing - Deptl
Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants
RFCS COVID-19 ERP
Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) program 2021 to 2024
Rural Financial Counselling Service Programme 2016-2019
Rural Research and Development for Profit (Round 4)
SBQI
Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
SFSE - IB - Animal Surveillance
SFSE - IB - Plant Surveillance
SFSE - improvements to accessing premium markets - Improv Biosec Sys Survey
SFSE - NABS - Community Engagement
SFSE - NABS - Indigenous Rangers
SFSE - NABS - Modern Diagnostics - FRDC
SFSE-Pest Animal and Weed Management-Control Methods
Showground Guild Fees
Showground Rental Relief
Smart Farms Small Grants
Smart Fruit Fly Management - Collaborative National Approach
Smart Fruit Fly Management - Commonwealth to Lead Reform
Smart Fruit Fly Management - Commonwealth to Lead Reform - Departmental
Starting Farm Co-operatives
Stronger Bio&Quar - Expert
Stronger Biosecurity Quarantine Arrangements
Support for the Australian Dairy Industry
Supporting Agricultural Shows
Supporting Capital City Royal Shows
Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program Grant Opportunity
Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program Grant Opportunity (R&D)
Surveillance Animal
Surveillance Implementation - Animal
Surveillance Implementation - Plant
Tuna Champions Phase 2
Wine Tourism and Cellar Door

Attachment D - Grant programs and One-off/Ad Hoc grants transferred to DCCEE

Grant Programs
Agricultural Stewardship Package
Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship
Agriculture Stewardship
Antarctic Research Support
Australian Antarctic Science Program 2018-19
Australian Biological Resources Study – National Taxonomy Research Grants
Australian Heritage Grants Program
Australian Marine Parks - Our Marine Parks
Australian Marine Parks - Our Marine Parks Round 1
Australian Marine Parks Our Marine Parks Grants Round 3
Banrock Station Wiggley Reach Regulator Grant Opportunity
Blue Carbon Conservation, Restoration and Accounting Program
Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration Grants
Bushfire Recovery for Species and Landscapes
Calperum Station infrastructure works and management program grant opportunity
Centre for Invasive Species Solutions Deptl
Commonwealth Environmental Water Holdings
Communities Environment Program
Departmental Programs - Plastic Free Beaches
DNA Database for Aquatic Macroinvertebrates
Electronic Vessel Monitoring Assistance Program
Environment Restoration Fund
Environment Restoration Fund - Bushfire Wildlife Recovery Program
Environmental Economic Accounting (EEA) of International Blue Carbon Projects
Evaluating the effectiveness of household food waste reduction interventions
GAB Lynn Brake Scholarship
Great Barrier Reef Foundation
Improving Your Local Parks and Environment
Innovation Challenge Initiative
LEBRA
Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program
Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program Round 2
Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program Round 3
Murray-Darling Basin Healthy Rivers Program
Narran Lakes Water Reimbursement Project
National Environment Protection Council Special Account
National Environment Science Program Emerging Priorities Project: Invasive fishes - Tilapia
National Environmental Science Program
National Environmental Science Program 2
National Environmental Science Program Emerging Priorities Project: National Outfalls Database
National Food Waste Governance Entity Grant
National Landcare Program - 20 Million Trees
National Landcare Program - Indigenous Protected Areas
National Landcare Program - Regional Land Partnerships
National Landcare Program - Smart Farms Small Grants
National Landcare Program - Threatened Species Recovery Fund
National Landcare Program: Natural Heritage Trust
National Taxonomy Research Grants Program

Attachment D - Grant programs and One-off/Ad Hoc grants transferred to DCCEEV

Grant Programs
National Taxonomy Research Grant Program 2017-18
National Taxonomy Research Grant Program 2018-19
National Taxonomy Research Grant Program 2019-20
Natural Capital Metrics Program
Ozone and Climate Protection
Per-and-Poly-Fluorinated Alkyl Substances Research Grant
Planting Trees for the Queens Jubilee
Product Stewardship Investment Fund
Protecting National Historic Sites
Recycling of waste from international ships at Australian ports (AMSA)
Reef Builder
Reef Trust
Ross Billabong Blockbank Removal Project
Supporting small bus to adopt the Aust recycling label
Tamar Estuary River Health Grant: Natural Heritage Trust
Terrestrial and Marine Landscapes and Analytics Program
Waste Collection Partnership Program
Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme (Water Rating Scheme)

One-off / Ad Hoc transferred to DCCEEV
Grant for Bellwood Sacred Site Agreement
Ozone Science Summer Scholarship
National Centre for Coasts, Environment and Climate (NCCEC)
Harry Butler Environmental Education Centre
Glovebox Guide for feral cats
Activities to benefit the Christmas Island Flying Fox
Support for Ms Chrissy Grant in her role as Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH)
Commercialisation of the Banksia Vincentia
Commercialisation of the Magenta Lilly Pilly
HEPA Secretariat Grant
Coordination and mobilisation of volunteers responding to environmental impacts of bushfires
Native seed and plant supply for the restoration of bushfire affected areas and conservation of other valuable habitat
Attendance of Interim Chair at the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage
Grant for legal assistance and incidental expenses relating to protection of the Bellwood Sacred Site
Supporting the establishment and initial operations of the Antarctic Science Foundation
Building ocean specific environmental-economic accounting capability of countries in Asia and the Pacific



The Hon David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia
Deputy Leader of the Nationals
Federal Member for Maranoa

Ref: MS22-000253

Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
Minister for Finance
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

08 MAR 2022

Via email: Senator.Birmingham@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

I refer to the reporting requirements under paragraph 4.12 of the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017* (CGRGs).

I advise that records of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio show that there was an instance during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 where I, as Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, approved a grant for Agriculture function that the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment recommended be rejected, details of which are enclosed.

This grant was not located within my electorate of Maranoa, Queensland.

Yours sincerely

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP

Enc.

CGRGs 4.12 - Report of grants approved by a Minister that a relevant official has recommended be rejected

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Program Title	Program Component	Grant Activity	Recipient	Total Grant Value (GST Exclusive)	Grant Funding Location	Postcode	Brief Statement of reason for decision
Stronger Farmers, Stronger Economy – strengthening research, skills, and management of natural resources – immediate assistance fund	Stronger Farmers, Stronger Economy – strengthening research, skills, and management of natural resources – immediate assistance fund.	Remote Sensing Project for Hitchhiker Pests	University of New England	\$112,667.00	Armidale, NSW	2351	This project will meet an objective of the Immediate Assistance Fund to improve Australia's capacity to respond to pest and disease incursions through the funding of emergency preparedness activities. The grant to the University of New England will trial remote sensing technology to identify and map the location and movements of shipping containers that may contain hitchhiker pests. The project will compliment offshore and border activities, including measures announced in the 2021-22 Budget, by identifying where containers that have left biosecurity control are located for the purposes of conducting general surveillance within Australia. If successful, the project will provide another emergency preparedness tool to enable rapid location of containers which can be surveyed for exotic pests. The University of New England is the most appropriate recipient to deliver project outcomes given its experience in remote sensing and Geographical Information System (GIS) technology and previous projects the university has undertaken in the field of biosecurity and plant health.



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

PDR ID MS22- 001212

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to the Senate Order on Entity Contracts of 20 June 2001 (amended 14 May 2015), I wish to advise that contracts for the Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio, to the value of \$100,000 or more (GST inclusive), which have not been fully performed or which have been entered into in the 12 months prior to 30 June 2022, are published at the following internet locations:

Former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment¹:

- Grant contracts - GrantConnect
www.grants.gov.au
- Procurement contracts - AusTender
www.austender.gov.au
- List of other contracts
www.agriculture.gov.au

Portfolio entities of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio:

- Australian Fisheries Management Authority
www.afma.gov.au
- Bureau of Meteorology
www.bom.gov.au
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
www.gbrmpa.gov.au

¹ The Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio was part of the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) in 2021-2022 financial year. DAWE became the new Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) as per the Administrative Arrangement Order (AAO) made on 23 June 2022, effective from 1 July 2022. The current Senate Order reporting is not affected by AAO made on 23 June 2022 as the reporting period is for 2021-2022 financial year.

- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
www.apvma.gov.au
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation
www.crdc.com.au
- Director of National Parks
www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/national-parks/parks-australia/director-national-parks
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
www.frdc.com.au
- Grains Research and Development Corporation
www.grdc.com.au
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority
www.mdba.gov.au
- Regional Investment Corporation
www.ric.gov.au
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (trading as AgriFutures Australia)
www.agrifutures.com.au
- Sydney Harbour Federation Trust
www.harbourtrust.gov.au
- Wine Australia
www.wineaustralia.com

All contracts that satisfy the reporting criteria will be published online by 31 August 2022.

The contact officer for the entity contracts is **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** Assistant Secretary, Financial Operations Branch, Finance and Enterprise Investment Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, who can be contacted on **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Yours sincerely



MURRAY WATT

16 / 8 / 2022

Enc

cc: The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for the Environment and Water



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS22-001550

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to Senate Order 16 - Departmental and Agency Grants of 24 June 2008, please find attached a list of grants approved for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio¹ for the period 11 March 2022 to 07 October 2022. This list also includes three grants that were inadvertently omitted from the previous reporting period (25 January 2022 to 10 March 2022).

Any grants approved prior to 1 July 2022 for Environment and Water functions under the former Agriculture, Water and Environment portfolio will be included in the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water portfolio's response to the Senate Order.

Reported details of each approved grant includes the recipient, value and the program from which the grant was made.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Watt'.

MURRAY WATT

11 / 10 / 2022

Enc

¹ The Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio was part of the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). DAWE became the new Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry with responsibility of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry functions. The Environment and Water functions transitioned from DAWE to a new department, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water as per the Administrative Arrangement Order made on 23 June 2022, effective from 1 July 2022.

SENATE ORDER 16 – DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY GRANTS
LIST OF GRANTS APPROVED
FOR THE AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY PORTFOLIO
REPORTING PERIOD: 11 MARCH 2022 TO 07 OCTOBER 2022

AGVET CHEMICALS, FISHERIES, FORESTRY & ENGAGEMENT DIVISION

Agvet Chemicals & Forestry Branch

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
South East Forestry Hub Incorporated	Program 3.3: Forestry Industry	1,100,000.00

AUSTRALIAN CHIEF PLANT PROTECTION OFFICE

Plant Health Policy Branch

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Victoria Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	120,625.00
Plant Health Australia	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	166,000.00
Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	245,840.00
University of New South Wales	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	728,532.00
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	207,075.00

AUSTRALIAN CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICE

Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Wildlife Health Australia Incorporated	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	9,240,000.00

AGRICULTURAL POLICY DIVISION**Food and Supply Chain Branch****All grants include GST unless otherwise stated**

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Adelong Pastoral and Agricultural Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	7,240.00
Agfair Broken Hill Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	14,127.00
Agricultural Pastoral & Show Society of Lockhart Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	4,159.00
Agricultural Publishers Pty. Limited	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Albion Park AH & I Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Alstonville Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Ariah Park Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,951.00
Armidale & New England Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	18,581.00
Australian Rural Education Centre Co-operative Ltd	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Australian Sheep Breeders Association Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Bairnsdale and District Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,817.00
Balaklava and Dalkey Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,990.00
Ballarat Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Balnarring Pony Club Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	8,500.00
Bangalow Agricultural and Industrial Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Barellan Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	4,137.00
Barham-Koondrook & District PA & H Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	1,654.00
Beauesert Show Society	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Beaufort Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,901.00
Bega Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	31,779.00
Bellarine Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,107.00
Bemboka Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	1,950.00
Benalla Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Berrigan Agricultural & Horticultural Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,758.00
Berry Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	37,040.00
Boorowa Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	13,642.00
Boort District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,799.00
Bowral Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Bribbaree Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,522.00
Brighton Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	63,936.00
Bulahdelah Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,363.00
Bungendore P A And H Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,041.00
Burra Burra Show Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Bushy Park Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,510.00
Camden Haven Pastoral Agricultural Horticultural & Industrial Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Camperdown Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	14,307.00
Candelo Agricultural, Horticultural & Dairy Farmers Association Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	8,006.00
Canowindra Pastoral, Agricultural & Horticultural Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Canungra and District Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	12,100.00
Casino Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,727.00
Castle Hill & Hills District Agricultural Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,040.00
Castlemaine and District Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,874.00
Central Australian Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Central North Coast National Agricultural Society Limited	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Charlton Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,585.00
Chudleigh Agricultural and Horticultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,541.00
Circular Head Agricultural Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,000.00
Clunes and District Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,256.00
Cobram Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,090.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Coleraine Pastoral and Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,388.00
Comboyne A & H Association Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Condobolin P A H & I Assoc Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	14,964.00
Cooma Pastoral and Agricultural Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	12,012.00
Cootamundra APH & I. Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,192.00
Cooyar Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,000.00
Cowra Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Crookwell Agricultural Pastoral & Horticultural Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Culcairn A.P.H.& I. Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	1,462.00
Cummins Agricultural & Horticultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Dandenong Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	54,717.00
Dapto Agricultural and Horticultural Society Limited	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,499.00
Darkan Sheepfest Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	750.00
Dartmoor and District Pastoral and Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	1,022.00
Dayboro Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Daylesford and District Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	4,638.00
Donald District Pastoral and Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Dorrigo & Guy Fawkes Agricultural Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Dubbo National Ram Sale Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	8,800.00
Dungog Agricultural & Horticultural Association Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Echuca - Moama & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Edenhope P. & A. Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,276.00
Elmore and District Machinery Field Days Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Eugowra Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,000.00
Euroa Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Finley Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,182.00
Forbes Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	62,874.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Foster and District Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,016.00
Ganmain Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,653.00
Gin Gin Agricultural Pastoral & Industrial Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,154.00
Gloucester Agricultural Horticultural and Pastoral Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Goroke Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,936.00
Gosford Showground Land Manager	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Grenfell P.A.H and I Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Griffith Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,389.00
Hamilton District Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,958.00
Hamilton Pastoral and Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Hay Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,694.00
Heathcote Agricultural Pastoral & Horticultural * Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,820.00
Henty Machinery Field Days Co-operative Ltd	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Hillston Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,644.00
Horsham Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association Limited	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Huon Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	12,801.00
Illabo Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,000.00
International Dairy Week Pty. Ltd.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Junee Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	4,450.00
Kalamunda and Districts Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,698.00
Kangaroo Valley A & H Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,902.00
Keith and Tintinara District Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,000.00
Kerang District Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Kiama Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	18,064.00
Kingston Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	4,772.00
Koroit Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,545.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Kyneton Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Leeton Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	12,309.00
Lilydale Agricultural And Horticultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	55,303.00
Lions Club of Lucindale Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Luddenham Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Manildra Pastoral & Agricultural Association Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,977.00
Manilla Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	8,016.00
Manning River Agricultural and Horticultural Society Taree Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Mansfield Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Mil LeI Agricultural & Horticultural Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	7,922.00
Mildura Show Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Milton Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	33,904.00
Morongla Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,850.00
Moss Vale and District Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Mullumbimby Agricultural Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,049.00
Mungindi Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Murrumbateman Progress Association Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Murrumburrah-Harden Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,175.00
Murtoa Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,170.00
Myrtleford and District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	14,119.00
Nathalia Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,182.00
Nhill Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Nimbin Agricultural & Industrial Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,000.00
Nimmitabel Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Noorat & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
North Eastern Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	30,642.00
North Western Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Northern Agricultural Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Nowra Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	32,930.00
Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	8,077.00
Omeo and District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,611.00
Orange Field Days Co-op Ltd	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Parkes P.A.& H. Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Peak Hill Pastoral Agricultural & Horticultural Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,916.00
Penola Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	13,212.00
Penrith District Agricultural Horticultural and Industrial Society Limited	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Port Fairy Agricultural Pastoral and Horticultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Port Lincoln Agricultural and Horticultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	12,389.00
Quirindi Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	13,857.00
Red Hill Agricultural & Horticultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	37,670.00
Riverland Field Days Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Robertson Agricultural and Horticultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	18,196.00
Rochester Agricultural and Pastoral Association Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,561.00
Royal Geelong Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Rydal & District Agricultural Horticultural and Pastoral Association Incorporate	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	4,200.00
Sale & District Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	73,387.00
Seymour Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Shepparton Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	68,219.00
Sofala and District Agricultural & Horticultural Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,111.00
Southern Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Southern Yorke Peninsula Agricultural Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
Stawell Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,655.00
Strathalbyn Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	12,640.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Sunbury Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	8,945.00
Swan Hill District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	24,035.00
Temora Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,661.00
The Wynyard Agricultural and Pastoral Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
The Ararat Show Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	7,349.00
The Bedgerabong PA & H Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	7,224.00
The Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
The Berwick & District Agricultural & Horticultural * Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	33,740.00
The Bream Creek Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,972.00
The Camden Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	76,980.00
The Carcoar Pastoral, Agricultural & Horticultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,238.00
The Dimboola Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,170.00
The Harvey Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,093.00
The Jamestown Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	44,039.00
The Kaniva Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	4,164.00
The Kyabram Agricultural Horticultural & Pastoral * Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	15,000.00
The Laidley Agricultural and Industrial Society	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
The Lions Club of Speed Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	33,511.00
The Maffra & District Agricultural Pastoral and Horticultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,000.00
The Maldon and Baringhup Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,729.00
The Mount Remarkable Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
The Nambucca River District Agricultural Association Limited	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
The North Coast National Agricultural & Industrial Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
The Pakenham and District Agricultural and Horticultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	14,796.00
The Pine Rivers A. H. & I. Association	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
The Queanbeyan Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,483.00
The Rock Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	4,454.00
The Royal National Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
The St.Arnaud Agricultural Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	6,125.00
The Tweed River Agricultural Society Ltd	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	70,120.00
Tiaro and District Landcare Group Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,450.00
Tooraweenah P.A. and H. Association Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,000.00
Trundle Pastoral & Agricultural Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Tullamore Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Association Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Ulverstone Show Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Uralla District Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,999.00
Victorian Agricultural Shows Ltd	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Wagga Wagga Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Wandin - Silvan Field Days Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Wangaratta Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,312.00
Warracknabeal Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	11,000.00
Warragul & West Gippsland Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,900.00
Warrnambool Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	17,642.00
Wauchope Show Society Ltd	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Wee Waa Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Wentworth Show Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	25,124.00
West Wyalong Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Whittlesea Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	68,349.00
Wilmington Agriculture & Horticulture Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,194.00
Wimmera Machinery Field Days Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	77,000.00
Wingham Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,224.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Wodonga Show Society Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	9,320.00
Wondai Agricultural Pastoral & Industrial Society Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	16,500.00
Woodstock Memorial Show Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,317.00
Yarram Agricultural Society Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	5,498.00
Yarramalong Valley Community Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	1,165.00
Yarrawonga & Border Agricultural & Pastoral Association Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	7,175.00
Yea Agricultural Pastoral & Horticultural Association Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	10,000.00
Yulecart Community Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	1,956.00
Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	7,157,282.00
Royal National Capital Agricultural Society	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	93,918.00
Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,529,079.00
Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria Limited	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	3,563,754.00

Workforce and Competition Branch

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Northern Territory Farmers Association Incorporated	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	208,266.00
Rural Business Tasmania Inc.	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	220,000.00
Seafood Industry Australia Limited	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	385,000.00
Meat and Livestock Australia	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	193,370.00
Seafood Industry Australia	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	783,430.00
Wine Australia	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	989,000.00
National Farmers' Federation	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	500,000.00
Australian Dairy Farmers	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	740,000.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Dairy Australia	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	200,000.00
Fresh Markets Australia	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	594,500.00

BIOSECURITY ANIMAL DIVISION

Animal Health Policy Branch

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Department of Primary Industries and Regions, Government of South Australia	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	150,000.00

BIOSECURITY PLANT DIVISION

Science and Surveillance Branch

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Anindilyakwa Land Council	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	165,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	164,993.00 (GST exclusive)
Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	125,124.00 (GST exclusive)
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	165,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Wellesley Island Land Sea Social Economic Development Pty Ltd	Program 4.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	165,000.00 (GST exclusive)

BIOSECURITY STRATEGY AND REFORM DIVISION

Biosecurity Response and Reform Branch

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Inc.	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	125,000.00 (GST exclusive)
The Northern Territory Government	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	450,556.00 (GST exclusive)
The Northern Territory Government	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	2,040,000.00 (GST exclusive)

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
The Queensland Government	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	1,000,000.00 (GST exclusive)
The Government of Western Australia	Program 4.2: Plant and Animal Health	1,290,000.00 (GST exclusive)

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY OFFICE

Biosecurity and Compliance Branch

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Invasive Animals Limited	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	990,445.00
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	625,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Local Land Services	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	600,618.00 (GST exclusive)
Monash University	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	943,926.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Queensland	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	1,815,660.00 (GST exclusive)
Invasive Animals Limited	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	283,250.00
Department of Primary Industries and Regions	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	395,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Australian Wool Innovation Limited	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	203,500.00

FARM RESILIENCE DIVISION

Policy and Program Delivery and Adaptation and Innovation Branches

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
The University of Melbourne	Program 3.11: Drought Programs	855,843.00 (GST exclusive)
Growers Group Alliance Inc	Program 3.11: Drought Programs	713,103.00 (GST exclusive)

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Charles Darwin University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	533,103.00 (GST exclusive)
Charles Sturt University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	433,333.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Adelaide	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	789,199.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Southern Queensland	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	183,333.00 (GST exclusive)
James Cook University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	183,333.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Tasmania	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	405,969.00 (GST exclusive)
Australian Rural Leadership Foundation	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	10,003,978.00 (GST not applicable)
The Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	19,643,570.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Tasmania	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,125,000.00 (GST not applicable)
The University of Southern Queensland	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,125,000.00 (GST not applicable)
Charles Sturt University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,125,000.00 (GST not applicable)
Growers Group Allince Inc	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,125,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Charles Darwin University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,125,000.00 (GST not applicable)
James Cook University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,125,000.00 (GST not applicable)
The University of Adelaide	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,125,000.00 (GST not applicable)
The University of Melbourne	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,125,000.00 (GST not applicable)
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	566,700.00 (GST exclusive)
Charles Sturt University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,000,000.00 (GST exclusive)

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Southern Gulf NRM Ltd	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	667,500.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Melbourne	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	987,320.00 (GST exclusive)
Agricultural Innovation & Research Eyre Peninsula Incorporated	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	995,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc.	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	856,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Territory Natural Resource Management Incorporated	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	999,192.00 (GST exclusive)
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	987,757.00 (GST exclusive)
Charles Sturt University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	983,950.00 (GST exclusive)
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	994,110.00 (GST exclusive)
Mingenew - Irwin Group (Inc)	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	621,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Western Local Land Services	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	920,933.00 (GST exclusive)
Riverina Local Land Services	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	821,800.00 (GST exclusive)
Charles Sturt University	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	997,600.00 (GST exclusive)
Resource Consulting Services Pty. Ltd.	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,000,000.00 (GST exclusive)
University of New England	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	896,934.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Adelaide	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	809,068.00 (GST exclusive)
The Trustee for Wetland Revival Trust	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	999,920.00 (GST exclusive)
CHRRUP Limited	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	907,000.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Queensland	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	999,107.00 (GST exclusive)
Western Australian Agricultural Authority	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	1,000,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Healthy Land and Water Ltd.	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	682,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Holbrook Landcare Group	Program 3.11: Drought Progams	875,680.00 (GST exclusive)

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Charles Darwin University	Program 3.11: Drought Programs	926,343.00 (GST exclusive)
Mallee Catchment Management Authority	Program 3.11: Drought Programs	875,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd	Program 3.11: Drought Programs	739,645.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Tasmania	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST not applicable)
The University of Southern Queensland	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST not applicable)
Charles Sturt University	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST not applicable)
Growers Group Alliance Inc	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Charles Darwin University	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST not applicable)
James Cook University	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST not applicable)
The University of Adelaide	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST not applicable)
The University of Melbourne	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST not applicable)
The University of Tasmania	Program 3.10: Agricultural Resources	2,500,000.00 (GST not applicable)
Ocean Watch Australia	Program 1.1: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	350,000.00 (GST exclusive)

PORTFOLIO STRATEGY AND CLIMATE POLICY DIVISION**National Soil Policy and Programs Branch**

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	1,100,000.00
The University of Sydney	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	847,082.50
The University of Western Australia	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	4,338,371.13
The University of Adelaide	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	3,122,859.92
The University of Sydney	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	1,838,559.82
The University of Melbourne	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	1,954,288.62
The University of New South Wales	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	1,205,143.50
The Queensland University of Technology	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	883,517.82
The University of Melbourne	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	2,166,470.92
The University of Queensland	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	1,753,556.22
The University of Sydney	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	2,955,170.90
The University of Queensland	Program 3.2: Sustainable Management – Natural Resources	568,478.90

TRADE, MARKET ACCESS AND INTERNATIONAL DIVISION**Agricultural Trade and Market Access Branch****All grants include GST unless otherwise stated**

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Red Meat Advisory Council	3.13: International Market Access	827,860.00
Horticulture Innovation Australia	3.13: International Market Access	2,244,000.00
Citrus Australia	3.13: International Market Access	501,693.00
CANEGROWERS and the Australian Sugar Milling Council	3.13: International Market Access	592,900.00
Australian Renderers Association	3.13: International Market Access	483,700.00
Australian Hide, Skin and Leather Exporters' Association	3.13: International Market Access	608,050.00
Meat and Livestock Australia	3.13: International Market Access	550,000.00
Pulse Australia Limited	3.13: International Market Access	214,500.00

International Strategy and Engagement Branch¹**All grants include GST unless otherwise stated**

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Australian Grape and Wine	3.13: International Market Access	1,998,700.00
Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative	3.13: International Market Access	2,118,600.00
Australian Cotton Shippers Association and Cotton Australia	3.13: International Market Access	1,515,700.00

¹ Grants approved during the previous reporting period 25 January 2022 to 10 March 2022.

RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION T/AS AGRIFUTURES AUSTRALIA

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Australian Seaweed Institute Pty Ltd	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	3,272.00
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	3,300.00
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	3,300.00
IKG Holdings Pty Ltd t/a IKG Industries	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Good Country Hemp	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,500.00
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	3,300.00
Buggy Distributors Pty Ltd	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,000.00 (GST exclusive)
Savannah Ag Research Pty Ltd trading as Savannah Ag Consulting	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,500.00
Chin Chin Farm	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	4,850.00 (GST exclusive)
The University of Queensland	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	4,675.00
Brayfield Park Lavender	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,148.00
Bee Aware Kids	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	4,530.00 (GST exclusive)
Prendergast, Kit Stasia	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	3,584.00 (GST exclusive)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	4,950.00
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,500.00
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	4,600.00 (GST exclusive)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	3,000.00 (GST exclusive)

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,000.00 (GST exclusive)
The Trustee for The Parker Good Family Trust	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,500.00
Australian Alpaca Association Ltd	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	46,387.00
Australian Agave	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	55,000.00
Melbourne Bushfood	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	55,000.00
Agrico Produce Pty Ltd ATF The Rennie Marketing Trust	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	55,000.00
St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	5,392.00
Grain Producers SA	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	20,728.00
Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	21,976.00
Crop Research on Production Systems (CROPS)	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Australian Prune Industry Association Inc	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	20,344.00
Cradle Coast Authority on behalf of Ag Logic	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Fruit Growers Tasmania Inc.	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Lucerne Australia	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	13,310.00
Corinda State High School	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	20,000.00
Meridian Ag on behalf of The 5 Bees	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Hagley Farm School Agricultural Learning Centre	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	18,000.00

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
Manjimup Senior High School	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	19,959.00
SheepMetriX	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia Inc	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	19,600.00
Rice Research Australia	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Perennial Pasture Systems/Girls & Grass Advisory Group	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
WA College of Agriculture Morawa	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	21,800.00
Tobacco & Associated Farmers Co-operative Limited	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
WA College of Agriculture-Harvey	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	21,346.00
Western Australian College of Education - Cunderdin	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	17,730.00
Rockhampton State High School	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	20,165.00
Unity College	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	8,497.00
Sustainable Horticulture on behalf of Duncan Macadamia Monitoring	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	13,596.00
Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00
Coomandook Area School	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	22,000.00

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

FID02

SUPERANNUATION - OVER AND UNDER PAY

CURRENT ISSUE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is undertaking a review of its application of the superannuation legislation and enterprise agreements since 2005.

The review includes staff from the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. This department and its predecessors had, in some instances, calculated employer contributions incorrectly. The consequence is that superannuation contributions for some current and former employees are likely to have been overpaid or underpaid by the department.

The department has completed all reviews. Review data has been provided to the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (PSS and CSS and PSSap members) and Choice Superannuation Funds for all staff except those employed by Parks Australia Division.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The department was made aware of potential issues with the calculation of superannuation contributions for some employees through investigation of individual enquiries.
- On further investigation, the department found that some of these issues may also impact other employees, both current and former.
- A broader review of the department's superannuation arrangements has now been undertaken, and a project was established addressing any errors going back 17 years. The project is overseen by an internal Superannuation Review Steering Committee whose members include the: Chief Finance Officer; Chief Counsel and Chief People Officer.
- Supporting the Superannuation Review Steering Committee is the Superannuation Review Sub-Committee which includes representatives from the department's Payroll, Legal and People teams with support also drawing from external advisers who have experience in this type of remediation work.
- The identified superannuation errors are the result of an incorrect calculation of **superannuation salary** as set down in legislation and enterprise agreements. If

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SB22-000066

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the **superannuation salary** is not correctly calculated, then the contribution will be incorrect.

- Superannuation is complex and an incorrect **superannuation salary** can be the result of many factors but can include incorrect interpretation of allowances for superannuation purposes: using the incorrect method for calculating contributions where employees have changed superannuation funds; or a trigger point such as receiving a particular allowance after meeting a qualifying period for superannuation, but the allowance is inadvertently not included in the **superannuation salary**.
- In most cases, the correction of employer **underpayments** occurs between the employer and the superannuation fund.
- For most employees whose employer contributions have been **overpaid**, the department will work with the superannuation fund to recover the overpayment amount from the fund and will not deduct any amount from employee's salary.
- Employee contributions – PSS and CSS members generally make employee contributions based on the employee's **superannuation salary**. Where an adjustment is required to the **superannuation salary** following the review, this may result in an over contribution or shortfall in employee contributions. Options to make up any shortfall will be discussed with employees by either the department or the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, depending upon the individual's circumstances.
- For individuals who are members of a Commonwealth superannuation scheme (CSS, PSS and PSSap), there are additional processes required to be completed by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation including a final check on our calculations.
- For individuals who are member of Choice superannuation funds, the department has engaged with each fund to confirm arrangements for processing under and over paid superannuation.
- Approximately half of the completed reviews to date have found no errors in the calculation of employee's superannuation contributions.

Consultation

- The department has notified the CPSU, Professionals Australia, the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, the Fair Work Ombudsman, the Australian Taxation Office and the Department of Finance.
- The department has provided briefings to CPSU officials and delegates as requested.
- The department has published general notices to all staff and directly contacted potentially affected staff and former staff about this review process.

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- Individuals have been advised by letter or email at the following points in the review process:
 - Upon commencement of the review of their circumstances.
 - At regular intervals during the review process.
 - When individual reviews are finalised and notification provided to the current/former employee advising of the outcome (no errors, or remediation action required to address under or overpaid superannuation contributions).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

FID03

COST RECOVERY

CURRENT ISSUE

How cost recovery is applied in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

KEY ISSUES

- The department recovers the cost of many of the regulatory functions we perform for industry.
- The department's largest cost recovery arrangements are in place for biosecurity (import) and agricultural exports.
- These arrangements are regularly reviewed to ensure cost recovery arrangements remain financially sustainable and efficient.
- Each Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) includes an engagement strategy that guides the department's consultation with regulated industries on the cost recovery arrangements. The CRIS describes charging arrangements and is generally released for public consultation before finalisation.
- The Australian Government's Charging Framework provides that where a regulatory function is provided to an identifiable group or individual, that group or individual should bear the full cost of the regulatory function, not general taxpayers.
- The department operates cost recovery arrangements in accordance with the Australian Government Charging Framework. Cost recovered charges are underpinned by whole of government policies and supporting legislation.
- The department engages with industry, generally through consultative committees to explain revenue, expenses and cost allocation, as well as reform impacts to their arrangement.

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FACTS AND RESPONSES

2022-23 financial year

The department anticipates collecting \$436.5 million revenue from cost recovered arrangements in 2022-23, as described in the DAFF 2022-23 PBS (Table 2.3, page 57).

2021-22 financial year

- In 2021-22, income from cost recovery arrangements (including CRIS, contracts and Memoranda of Understanding) was \$415.5 million¹.

2021-22 Cost Recovery Revenue	\$ Millions
Biosecurity Arrangement	286.3
Food Export (Dairy, Meat, Seafood, Non-Prescribed Goods)	81.0
Plant export (Grain, Horticulture)	23.0
Live animal Export	7.7
National Residue Survey	12.2
Other cost recovery including agricultural commodity levies	5.3
Total cost-recovered revenue	415.5

1. As per 2021-22 DAWE Annual Report, Note 2A

BIOSECURITY OVERVIEW

2020-21 revenue	\$282.8m ²
2021-22 revenue	\$286.3m ³
2022-23 full year forecast revenue	\$289.3m ⁴
Special Account: Biosecurity revenue and expense is managed through the Biosecurity, Imported Food and Export Certification Special Account 2020.	
Cost Recovery Implementation Statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-22 Biosecurity CRIS published in March 2022, updates past financial performance and future estimates. Also documents the government decision to cost recover to manage the risks posed by hitchhiker pests and diseases. Industry consultation commenced 1 November 2022 on sustainable funding and investment for biosecurity. A review of the Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement is being conducted during 2022–23. Consultation with industry on the review is expected to commence in late November 2022. 	

2. As per 2020-21 DAWE Annual Report, Note 2A

3. As per 2021-22 DAWE Annual Report, Note 2A

4. Excludes revenue for the Hitchhiker Measure as cost recovery has not yet commenced

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS OVERVIEW

	Cost recovered revenue	Appropriation ¹
2020-21 revenue ²	\$102.5m	\$26.4m
2021-22 revenue ³	\$111.7m	\$16.3m
2022-23 full year forecast	\$123.7m	\$10.5m
Special Account: Export certification revenue and expense is managed through the Biosecurity, Imported Food and Export Certification Special Account 2020.		
Cost Recovery Implementation Statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2022-23 legislated prices commenced 1 July 2022. - 2022-23 CRIS closed for consultation on 19 August 2022. 		
To ensure the department can continue its regulatory functions, supporting access to markets for exporters, appropriation has been allocated to cost recovery arrangements to facilitate a stepped increase in prices and return to full cost recovery from 2023-24.		

1. Actual appropriation allocated to export cost recovery arrangements

2. As per 2020-21 Annual Report, Note 2A

3. As per 2021-22 Annual Report, Note 2A

NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY

- The National Residue Survey (NRS) is departmental revenue held in the NRS special account. The NRS manages the risk of chemical residues and environmental contaminants in Australian animal and plant products. The cash balance of the special account at 30 June 2022 was \$2.1 million. Revenue in 2021-22 was \$12.2 million with expenses of \$11.6 million.

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY LEVIES

- The department collects, administers and disburses agricultural levies and charges on behalf of Australia's primary industries. The department charges research and development corporations annually, to perform these activities. Charges are reconciled so no reserve or cash balance is maintained for this service.

BACKGROUND

- The department operates cost recovery arrangements in accordance with the Australian Government Charging Framework. Cost recovered charges are underpinned by whole of government policies and supporting legislation.
- The Australian Government's Charging Framework provides that where a regulatory function is provided to an identifiable group or individual, that group or individual should bear the full cost of the regulatory function, not general taxpayers.

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- Levy – imposed when activities are provided to a group of individuals or organisations, for example, the meat or plant industries. An example of an activity is the maintenance of an audit system for approved premises.
- Fee – imposed when activities are provided directly to a specific individual or organisation, for example, for inspection of goods or animal husbandry.
- Some of the department's functions are fully recovered while others are partially recovered, based on government decisions for the function.
- Recoverable departmental costs are allocated to regulatory functions which are then used to determine levy prices or fee for service charges.
- Costs may be direct (inspection, enforcement, audit) or indirect (IT, property, finance) which are allocated based on various metrics such as FTE, head count, area used, or IT assets.
- The department engages with industry, generally through consultative committees to explain revenue, expenses and cost allocation, as well as impacts to their relevant arrangement. Each CRIS generally goes through public consultation before finalisation.
- The department maintains a Cost Recovery Reserve or special account for some arrangements to manage unanticipated changes in activity that cannot immediately be managed through expenditure alone.
- Over recoveries may be managed through reduction in fees and charges known as remissions. When a remission is agreed, the legislated fees and levies do not change, a remission is applied to reduce the amount payable.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance Division

FID04**CONSULTANTS****CURRENT ISSUE**

There are no current issues for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) that are related to consultancies.

The former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) was given an extra \$1.27 billion dollars in new measures over the last Budget (\$0.75 billion) and MYEFO (\$0.52 billion) to support initiatives including Agriculture 2030, Oceans Leadership Package, Great Barrier Reef Package and managing Murray Darling Basin water resources.

At the same time the ASL allocation increased slightly and so DAWE strategically looked at how work was delivered for Australia. The approach included increasing the use of short and long-term contractors, consultancies, partnerships and working closely with other agencies and organisations.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

DAFF engages consultants where it lacks specialised expertise, requires independent research, review, or assessment; or the skills required are unavailable in the department. Consultants are typically engaged to:

- investigate or diagnose a defined issue or problem
- carry out defined review or evaluations
- provide independent advice, information, or creative solutions to assist in the department's decision-making.

The department considers the skills and resources required for each task, the skills available internally and the cost-effectiveness of engaging external expertise. Decisions taken to engage consultants are in accordance with Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act and related rules including the Commonwealth Procurement Rules issued by the Minister of Finance. The department complies with its responsibilities to ensure any procurement undertaken by the department represents the best value for money.

The department provides tools, guidance material and advice to support the procurement processes.

All consultancies are endorsed at the First Assistant Secretary level prior to the commencement of a procurement process.

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OFFICIAL**Reportable Consultancy Contracts (over \$10,000)**

DAFF reported 11 consultancy contracts on AusTender valued at \$4.07 million from 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022. This compares to 302 consultancy contracts with DAWE valued at \$82.01 million in the 2021-22 financial year. This information is based on an AusTender report sourced on 06 October 2022.

A breakdown of DAFF consultancy contracts from 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022 by division and outcome is at **Attachment A** and the Big 4 is at **Attachment B**.

These contracts are reported on AusTender within 42 days after the contract has been signed. AusTender report is real-time reporting that publishes key details of contracts awarded and does not reflect expenditure.

The department has engaged a range of commercial services firms, under a Partner Model, to help implement its large and complex delivery and reform agenda, while also contributing to an uplift in the capability of departmental staff. This model complements our existing workforce to deliver more efficient streamlined engagement and service delivery, access to specialist expertise and surge capacity while adhering to the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

Consultancy Expenditure

DAFF spent \$5.52 million on consultancies between 1 July 2022 to 31 August 2022. The total includes \$5.04 million in departmental and \$0.48 million in administered consultancy expenditure.

The consultancy expenditure published in the former DAWE Annual Report for 2021-22 is: \$87.47 million and \$51.01 million in 2020-21.

The Annual Report for the former DAWE includes the top 5 organisations that provided consultancy services. The below table also provides a description of their consultancy services:

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DAWE Annual Report 2021-2022: Organisations receiving a share of reportable consultancy contract expenditure

Organisations receiving a share of reportable consultancy contract expenditure 2021-22	Expenditure \$	Description of Services (not detailed in Annual Report)
Price Waterhouse Coopers Consulting (Australia) Pty Ltd	\$37,529,996	PWC provides strategic consultancy services to the department.
Noetic Solutions Pty Limited	\$7,670,949	Noetic Solutions has provided services for the review and analysis of strategic business planning for the department's programs.
Nous Group Pty Ltd	\$4,977,668	Nous Group has provided services for the evaluation and implementation of the department's regulatory business frameworks.
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	\$4,808,373	Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu provide general consultancy services to the department.
GoSource Pty Ltd	\$4,504,823	GoSource provides the establishment and support of critical ICT Services in the department.

Reportable Big 4 Consultancy Contracts

The table below shows total reportable contracts published on AusTender for the Big 4 Consultancy Companies for the whole of the department (DAWE) and will not align with figures provided by the Partner Model.

BIG 4	DAFF 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022*	DAWE FY 2021 – 2022*
Consultancy Contracts		\$4,738,885
Other Contracts	20,590	\$6,830,691
Deloitte Touche Tomatsu	20,590	\$11,569,576
Consultancy Contracts		\$215,600
Other Contracts		\$1,840,247
EY (formerly Ernst & Young)		\$2,055,847
Consultancy Contracts		\$426,675
Other Contracts		\$2,282,199
KPMG		\$2,708,874
Consultancy Contracts	\$3,087,054	\$22,832,835
Other Contracts	628,692	\$681,514
PWC	\$3,715,747	\$23,514,350
Consultancy Contracts Total	\$3,087,054	\$28,213,995
All Contracts Total	\$3,736,337	\$39,848,647

* Data sourced from AusTender on 06 October 2022.

**Data sourced from AusTender on 21 September 2022.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A breakdown of DAFF consultancy contracts from 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022 by division and outcome is at **Attachment A**.

The department adheres to the Department of Finance definition of a consultant. The services involve the development of intellectual output that assists the department's decision making.

The output produced must reflect the independent views of the service provider. The output needs to be the sole or substantial element of the contract in terms of relative value and importance. A consultant's output can include non-consultancy work, but if a substantial element of the service is consultancy, then the contract must be defined as a consultancy.

Consultancy contracts reflect the need for independent information or professional skills particularly relating to legal work, audit services, threatened species in the context of bushfire recovery, biosecurity services including research into outbreak of diseases within the agricultural industry.

Please note that AusTender data will vary depending on when a report has been run, since contracts are updated on AusTender daily and existing contracts may be varied in length of time and/or value.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: DAFF list of reportable Consultancy Contracts from 1.07.2022 to 31.08.2022*
**source: AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) – as at 06 October 2022 (subject to change).*
- Attachment B: DAFF list of reportable DAFF Big 4 Consultancy Contracts from 1.07.2022 to 31.08.2022*
**source: AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) – as at 06 October 2022 (subject to change).*
- Attachment C: DAWE list of reportable Consultancy Contracts from 1.07.2021 to 30.06.2022*
**source: AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) – as at 06 October 2022 (subject to change).*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

FID05

EXPORTS COST RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS

CURRENT ISSUE

- It is government policy to cost recover for export regulation to ensure the general taxpayer does not bear the burden of regulatory activity for the export sector.
- New regulatory fees and charges for seven agricultural export arrangements took effect on 1 July 2022. The new prices are described in the department's consultation Cost Recovery Implementation Statements 2022–23, available on the department's website.
- The 2020–21 Budget¹ invested in trade reform initiatives to put downward pressure on the costs to be recovered from industry.
 - \$71.1 million was committed to freeze prices for 2020–21 and implement stepped increases to return to full cost recovery by 2023–24.
 - These charges are outlined in each cost recovery implementation statement.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- In the 2020-21 Budget the previous government froze fees and charges in 2020–21, to be followed by stepped increases in fees and charges through to 2023–24 for agricultural export regulatory activity delivered by the department.
 - Funding to 2023–24 covers the projected shortfall in cost recovery while the department reforms its export regulatory systems.
 - In 2020–21, 80 per cent of total regulatory costs were cost-recovered; 87 per cent in 2021–22; 94 per cent is projected to be recovered in 2022– 23 and 100 per cent in 2023-24.
- In 2021–22, the combined operating position for exports cost recovery arrangements was a deficit of \$16.3 million.

¹ See TRD01 – Congesting Busting for Agricultural Exports Package (SB21-000087).

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- As this deficit is funded by appropriation, the cost recovery reserve balance remains at 2019–20 levels (deficit of \$43.7 million) (**Attachment A, Table 1**).
- The 2022–23 projected full-year cost recovered revenue for all export arrangements is \$123.6 million, against projected expenses of \$136.3 million.

2022–23 Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

- The department released 2022–23 cost recovery implementation statements for public consultation between 28 June to 19 August 2022.
- The cost recovery implementation statements mapped out the stepped annual increases in fees and charges from 2021–22 to return to full cost recovery in 2023–24.
 - *If asked*: the increase in fees and charges from 2021–22 and 2022–23 will not recover the current deficit accrued by export arrangements in the past (\$43.7 million).
- During the consultation period, the department:
 - held five industry meetings, primarily with industry consultative committees or representative groups
 - received six submissions, including online survey responses and other correspondence.
- The department will provide the feedback received during consultation to the government, to be considered when making decisions on the final cost recovery implementation statements and any regulatory amendments.
- The department committed to an annual industry engagement process to review and update cost recovery implementation statements.

Sensitivities

- At a meat industry consultative meeting in December 2021 committee members discussed the legislated prices for 2022–23 and forward years, as published in the 2021–22 cost recovery implementation statement. Some committee members (primarily the Australian Meat Industry Council) expressed dissatisfaction that prices were legislated for 4 years as described in the cost recovery implementation statements, against feedback provided during consultation.
 - The decision to legislate prices over four years is published in the 2021–22 cost recovery implementation statements. The new export legislation has been designed to minimise impacts on export businesses, including providing industry forward year price expectations.
 - A decision was made to legislate prices over the forward estimates, consistent with the approach with the other cost recovered industries.

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- Where a cost recovery implementation statement update reveals that the existing fee or charge structure no longer meets the financial or regulatory requirements of the arrangement, the department may propose revised fees and charges. In this circumstance, the cost recovery implementation statement update will be the first step in consultation on changes to prices, followed by opportunities for stakeholder feedback.

If asked: The department implements a transparent cost recovery implementation statement process, with an annual process to review prices and recommend legislative change to the minister as required, accounting for cost reductions as they arise.

- Targeted industry and public consultation periods provide all stakeholders the opportunity to continue to present their views as part of an annual cost recovery implementation statement update and consultation cycle.
- Live animal export and Grain industries have raised concerns relating to pricing impacts on smaller operators. The department is considering ways to address impacts on smaller operators and infrequent exporters including impacts on other industry participants.

If asked about arrangement revenue, expenses and net balances for 2022–23:

- The projected revenue, expenses and net balance for the seven agricultural exports arrangements in 2022–23 are outlined in section 8.1 of each consultation 2022–23 Cost recovery implementation statements are available on the department website, summarised as follows:

2022-23 Cost base (\$m)	Meat	Seafood and Egg	Dairy	Non- prescribed goods	Grain	Horticulture	Live Animal exports
Revenue	74.4	4.0	4.2	3.6	13.6	10.4	13.3
Expense	76.6	3.9	4.7	4.0	13.8	11.7	21.4
Surplus / (Deficit)	(2.1)	0.1	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.2)	(1.3)	(8.1)

If asked about breakdown of regulatory cost for 2022–23 by direct and indirect:

- The breakdown by direct and indirect expense of projected 2022–23 regulatory cost for seven agricultural export arrangements is outlined in section 4.2 of each consultation 2022–23 Cost Recovery Implementation Statement, as follows:

Expense (\$m)	Meat	Seafood and Egg	Dairy	Non- prescribed Goods	Grain	Horticulture	Live Animal
Direct	58.9	2.6	3.3	2.6	8.6	7.8	15.1
Indirect	17.7	1.3	1.4	1.4	5.2	3.9	6.3
Total	76.6	3.9	4.7	4.0	13.8	11.7	21.4

If asked about the impact on individual payers:

- The fees and charges recover the cost of effective regulation for all agriculture and food exports. The cost recovered services enable Australian exporters to access global markets.
- In most cases the cost of regulatory services is less than one per cent of the value of agricultural exports.
 - Meat - 0.2 per cent of the export value of a beef carcass worth \$2,926 ^a (\$4.97 in 2022–23)
 - Grain - 0.1 per cent of the export value of a tonne of grain (E.g. wheat) worth \$566 ^b (33 cents in 2022–23).

*These prices are indicative and may vary based on destination, quality, and market conditions/ impacts

a <https://www.mla.com.au/> average price of \$9.36 with an average weight per carcass of 312.6kg

b [Weekly commodity price update - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](#) this is an average price for wheat and may differ for other grain commodities.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

FID06**OCTOBER 2022-23 BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS****CURRENT ISSUE**

What measures were announced for the portfolio at the October 2022-23 Budget?

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The October 2022-23 Budget was handed down by the Treasurer on 25 October.
- The Government is investing **more than \$1 billion** over five years in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio.
 - The Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry October 2022-23 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) was tabled in Parliament following the Treasurer's Budget speech.
- The following attachments provide further detail:

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Budget media release	<u>Attachment A</u>
Reconciliation of measures announced in the Minister's media release	<u>Attachment B</u>
March 2022-23 Budget measures retained in the October 2022-23 Budget	<u>Attachment C</u>
Key excerpts from Budget Paper No. 2 relevant to the DAFF portfolio	<u>Attachment D</u>

The Budget measures for the portfolio include:

- \$204.8 million for investing in the **future of forest industries**, including \$100.0 million for an Australia-wide National Institute for Forest Products Innovation, \$86.2 million for grants to establish new forestry plantations, \$10.0 million to support the training and development of the forestry workforce and \$8.6 million to continue the Regional Forestry Hubs and expand their role.

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- \$134.1 million to bolster Australia's **biosecurity system**, including \$61.6 million to boost frontline biosecurity capability, \$14.0 million for frontline biosecurity preparedness in Australia and to support neighbouring countries, \$46.7 million to support continuous improvement in Australia's livestock traceability systems, and \$11.7 million for expanded detector dog capability (variances between the sum of individual measures and the total package are due to rounding).
- \$20.8 million for improve planning, tools, systems and grants to help Government and farmers **prepare for drought**, including \$14.3 million for grants to drive adoption of established drought resilience research and \$6.6 million to maintain existing capability for future drought preparedness (variances between the sum of individual measures and the total package are due to rounding).
- \$4 million to establish an **Inspector-General of Animal Welfare**.
- \$8.1 million to support the **commercialisation of seaweed** as an emissions-reducing livestock feed supplement.
- \$12.3 million to support regional **agricultural trade events** and forums that promote agricultural production sectors in Australia.
- \$2.6 million for DAFF to support planning and design work for border services facilities at **Western Sydney International Airport** (note: this was not highlighted in the Minister's media release)

How much funding has been invested in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio in the October 2022-23 Budget?

- **More than \$1 billion over five years:**
 - \$386.6 million over five years from 2022-23 for decisions taken in the October 2022-23 Budget, including five measures from the March 2022-23 Budget that have been reframed.
 - \$379.9 million over six years from 2022-23 of measures retained from the March 2022-23 Budget to be implemented as previously announced (the 2027-28 component is \$5 million).
 - \$302 million is available over five years from 2023-24 from the Natural Heritage Trust for sustainable agriculture investment.
- \$500 million from the National Reconstruction Fund, announced by the Minister for Industry and Science, is also identified for projects in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and fibre.
- The '**Building a better future**' Budget document refers to **\$1.2 billion** for backing Australian agriculture.
 - this includes the \$500 million from the National Reconstruction Fund but excludes the \$302 million available from the Natural Heritage Trust.

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What happened to the March 2022-23 Budget measures?

- Due to the timing of the federal election, the previous Government did not have the time to take the appropriation bills through Parliament – the March 2022-23 Budget measures were not appropriated.
 - This means that while those March measures were announced, there was no funding provided by the Parliament to enact them.
 - Nonetheless, these measures remained extant decisions of the previous Government and formed part of the ‘baseline’ for the October Budget.
- In preparing the October Budget, which supersedes the March Budget, the Government reviewed those prior decisions to decide which measures aligned with the Government’s priorities and would be funded.
- The Government decided to:
 - change the implementation approach for five measures to improve the quality of spending but with no reduction in funding – these are reframed measures;
 - implement 14 measures as announced by the former Government – these are retained measures; and
 - reverse four measures.

The March Budget measures that the Government has decided to keep are not in the October Budget PBS. Where can I find them?

- Because these measures were prior Government decisions, they were already accounted for as the starting point for the October Budget.
 - This means that where the Government has agreed in the October Budget to implement a measure announced in the March Budget, it is not re-published as a measure in the October PBS, to avoid double counting.
- These measures, which we refer to as retained measures, can be found in the 2022-23 March PBS for the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for Outcomes Three and Four.
- Measures with Special Purpose Payments (i.e. payments to the states and territories) can be found in the Department of the Treasury’s PBS.
- There are two exceptions:
 - the \$112.9 million measure Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation was published in the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook. The Government has agreed to implement this measure as announced, and it is published in the October PBS as a measure ‘not previously reported in a portfolio statement’.

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- measures funded from the Future Drought Fund are not published separately, as they draw from the \$100 million annual allocation from the Fund. The fund is listed on page 45 of the October PBS.
- Of the 14 measures retained from the March Budget, 13 are payment measures and one is a savings measure.
- Refer to **Attachment C** for a navigation guide for retained measures

How much funding has been cut from the department in the October Budget?

- the reversal of four measures from the March 2022-23 Budget for a total saving of \$47.1m over four years from 2022-23.
 - National Agricultural Workforce Strategy: \$0.308 million in 2022-23.
 - Support Regional Agricultural Shows: \$14 million over two years.
 - Extend Support for Agricultural Shows and Field Days: \$2.8 million in 2022-23.
 - National Centre for Digital Agriculture Innovation and Adoption Hubs: \$30.017 million over four years (belonging to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts).
- The Government has also taken \$15.8 million of savings from the portfolio in relation to the APS Reform Plan and savings from external labour, advertising, travel and legal expenses.
 - \$14.3 million is attributable to the department (\$13.049 million in 2022-23 for savings from external labour, advertising, travel and legal expenses and \$1.216 million over three years for APS Reform Plan)
 - \$1.5 million is attributable to the portfolio entities Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Authority (APVMA), the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)
 - APVMA is \$0.005 million over three years for the APS Reform Plan and \$0.024 million in 2022-23 for savings from external labour, advertising, travel and legal expenses.
 - AFMA is \$0.059 million over three years for the APS Reform Plan and \$0.535 million in 2022-23 for savings from external labour, advertising, travel and legal expenses.
 - RIC is \$0.908 million in 2022-23 for savings from external labour, advertising, travel and legal expenses.
- *If asked – how did you work out the amount for savings?*
 - This was a decision of Government.

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- The purpose of the 2022–23 DAFF PBS is to inform Senators and Members of Parliament of the proposed allocation of resources to Government outcomes by entities within a portfolio.
- The PBS facilitate understanding of proposed annual appropriation in Appropriation Bills (No 1) and (No 2) 2022–23. As such, the DAFF PBS provides information on new measures and their impact on the financial and/or non-financial planned performance of programs supporting those outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Minister Watt’s Budget media release

Attachment B – Reconciliation of initiatives in Minister’s Budget media release

Attachment C – Summary of retained March 2022-23 Budget measures

Attachment D – Excerpts of October 2022-23 Budget Paper (No.2)

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

ATTACHMENT AMinister's media release**Investing to protect and grow agriculture into the future**

25 October 2022

The Albanese Government is delivering on its commitment to back the bush, making critical investments in biosecurity and the timber industry to protect and grow Australia's vital agricultural and forestry communities.

"The Government's focus is investing to protect and grow our vibrant agriculture sector now and into the future and our biosecurity system is a pivotal part of this," Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt said.

"The arrival of new pests and diseases into Australia can have devastating and long-lasting impacts on producers, regional communities and agricultural exports.

"This year we have seen both foot and mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD) emerge in Indonesia, putting Australia on heightened alert.

"Australia remains FMD and LSD-free, thanks to the strongest biosecurity response ever implemented, but we must remain vigilant.

"We are injecting \$134.1m into the biosecurity system to ensure this continues to be the case.

"This is the first step towards delivering our election commitment of a sustainable biosecurity funding model that allows the system to respond to increasing threats.

"Building on our earlier investments to support Indonesia in tackling these diseases and boost our own frontline efforts, we are fast-tracking \$61.6m over the next two years toward this effort.

"Originally budgeted over four years, this funding will greatly assist our overall efforts to fill the gaps in our biosecurity system while strengthening our defences in Northern Australia."

Traceability

"The Government is also doubling funding for traceability initiatives which would greatly assist in protecting our livestock industry in the event of such an outbreak," Minister Watt said.

"Increasingly, consumers want to know the products they're buying are authentic, clean, green and sustainable.

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“We are working with industry and states and territory Agriculture Ministers on a national approach to improve agricultural traceability, with a commitment to implement a new scheme by January 1, 2025.

“This includes a significant contribution of \$46.7m towards Australia’s livestock traceability ‘contact tracing’ system to maintain our world class system and ensure fast recovery from any potential disease outbreaks and protect Australia’s export trade.

“This is more than double what the previous Morrison Government had budgeted for this program.

“Improved traceability provides transparency in the supply chain and reassurance for consumers – and enhances our biosecurity as well.

“Delivering on our election commitment, we have also committed \$11.7m through the budget for an additional 20 detector dogs and handlers to be deployed in airports and mail centres around the country.

“Detector dogs and their handlers are a vital part of our biosecurity system, playing a key role at our border in preventing the entry of diseases such as FMD,” said Minister Watt.

A Sustainable Forestry Sector

Australia’s timber industry plays an important role in regional Australia.

“It employs thousands of workers, while providing critical timber supply,” said Minister Watt.

“That’s why we are delivering on our election commitment and providing \$100m for an Australia-wide institute to deliver forestry research and development; \$8.6m to extend the life of the 11 regional forestry hubs until 2027; and \$10m for forestry workforce training needs.

“Together these measures will strengthen the forest industry’s capacity to make greater use of the available timber resource and drive innovation and growth,” said Minister Watt.

Investing in the future

“The agricultural sector has had two bumper years, and it is important to look to the future and be ready for the challenges that lie ahead,” said Minister Watt.

“That’s why we have dedicated \$20.8m for the government to be prepared for the next drought and to increase adoption of established drought resilience research, so we are ready to support farmers and communities when they need it most.

“And I am pleased to announce \$302 million has been committed through the Natural Heritage Trust to support sustainable agriculture practices and assist land managers to engage in carbon and biodiversity markets.

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“We are also providing \$4m for an inspector-general for animal welfare, and \$12.3m to support regional trade events, like Beef Australia 2024 in Rockhampton.

“The Albanese Government will also deliver on its commitment to introduce mandatory country of origin labelling, greatly assisting consumers find fresh, local seafood, supporting our world-class fisheries industry.”

Key agricultural budget initiatives:

\$61.6 million fast tracked to bolster Australia’s biosecurity system

\$11.7 million for more detector dogs

\$46.7 million increased funding for traceability initiatives

\$204.8 million for the forestry sector

\$20.8 million to prepare for the next drought

\$4 million to establish a new Inspector-General for animal welfare

\$12.3 million to support regional trade events

\$8.1 million to develop Australia’s seaweed farming

\$302 million to invest in sustainable agriculture through the Natural Heritage Trust

<https://minister.agriculture.gov.au/watt/media-releases/investing-protect-and-grow-agriculture-future>

ATTACHMENT B**Reconciliation of initiatives in Minister's media release**

Minister Watt's media release comprises funding for DAFF under several sub-headings.

Item	Amount	Where it's found in the PBS
<p>We are injecting \$134.1m into the biosecurity system</p>	<p>\$134.1 million over 4 years (DAFF, Treasury [SPP])</p> <p>Consisting of:</p> <p>a) \$61.6 million over 2 years to bolster biosecurity capability</p> <p>b) \$46.7 million over 3 years to improve on-farm biosecurity</p> <p>c) \$14 million to improve Australia's biosecurity systems and support neighbouring countries battling FMD</p> <p>d) \$11.7 million over 4 years for expanded detector dog capability</p> <p>a + b + c + d = \$134.1 million (variances between the sum of individual measures and the total package are due to rounding).</p>	<p>Part of Bolstering Australia's Biosecurity System – protecting Australia from escalating exotic animal disease risks (Budget Paper 2 (BP2) page 44). Includes:</p> <p>\$61.6 million from reframing March measure with funding profile at footnote (d) (PBS p 27). Includes \$2.8 million for SPP 900 (PBS p 59).</p> <p>\$48.3 million in new resourcing for DAFF (PBS p 24).</p> <p>\$20.1 million from reframing March measure with funding profile at footnote (c) (PBS p 27). \$20.0 million is from reframing SPP 813 (PBS p 59).</p> <p>\$4.0 million from existing administered resources '<i>Stronger Farmers, Stronger Economy – strengthening research, skills and management of natural resources – immediate assistance fund</i>' (PBS p 57)</p>
Traceability		
<p>\$46.7m towards Australia's livestock traceability 'contact tracing' system</p>	<p>\$46.7 million over 3 years (DAFF, Treasury [SPP])</p>	<p>Published as 'National Livestock Traceability Reform to Enhance Agricultural Biosecurity and Exports'</p> <p>\$26.6 million in 2022-23 (PBS p 24).</p> <p>\$20.1 million from reframing March measure refers footnote (c) (PBS p 27). Includes \$20.0 million in SPP 813.</p>

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\$11.7m through the budget for an additional 20 detector dogs and handlers	\$11.7 million over 4 years	Published as 'Biosecurity Dogs and Trainers' (PBS p 24)
A Sustainable Forestry Sector		
\$100m for an Australia-wide institute to deliver forestry research and development	\$100.0 million over 5 years.	Published as 'Australia-wide National Institute of Forest Products Innovation' (PBS p 23). Includes \$25.0 million in 2026-27 not published in the PBS.
\$8.6m to extend the life of the 11 regional forestry hubs until 2027	\$8.6 million (from 2024-25 to 2026-27)	Published as 'Extend Regional Forestry Hubs' (PBS p 23). Includes \$4.0 million in 2026-27 not published in the PBS.
\$10m for forestry workforce training needs	\$10.0 million over 4 years	Published as 'Forestry Workforce Training Program' (PBS p 23).
\$86.2 million to support development of new plantations (included in package in PBS and Budget initiatives at end of media release)	\$86.2 million over 4 years	The forestry package includes this \$86.2 million in reframed 'Support Plantation Establishment' measure. Footnote (a) refers (PBS p 27).
Investing in the Future		
\$20.8m for the government to be prepared for the next drought and to increase adoption of established drought resilience research	\$20.8 million over 2 years. Consisting of: a) \$6.6 million over two years to maintain existing capability for future drought preparedness b) \$14.3 million over two years to drive adoption of	Published under the Improving Drought Readiness, Resilience and Preparedness package (PBS p 25). \$6.6 million in new resourcing published as 'Maintain existing capability for future drought preparedness and support delivery of the National Drought Agreement and National Drought Plan' (PBS p 25) \$14.3 million is from reframing the Future Drought Fund – Extension and Adoption of Drought Resilience Farming Practices –

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	<p>established drought resilience research</p> <p>a + b = \$20.8 million (variances between the sum of individual measures and the total package are due to rounding).</p>	Grants Program. Footnote (f) refers (PBS p 27).
\$302 million has been committed through the Natural Heritage Trust		Funding held by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
\$4m for an inspector-general for animal welfare	\$4.0 million over 4 years	Published as 'Animal Welfare Strategy – Inspector-General of Animal Welfare – establishment' (PBS p 25).
\$12.3m to support regional trade events	\$12.3 million over 3 years	<p>\$0.3 million in new resourcing published as 'Support for Regional Trade Events' (PBS p 26).</p> <p>\$12.0 million is from reframing Support for Regional Trade Events. Footnote (i) refers (PBS p 27).</p>
Key Agricultural Budget Initiatives		
\$61.6 million fast tracked to bolster Australia's biosecurity system	\$61.6 million over 2 years	\$61.6 million from reframing March measure with funding profile at Footnote (d) (PBS p 27). Includes \$2.8 million for SPP 900 (PBS p 59).
\$11.7 million for more detector dogs	\$11.7 million over 4 years	Published as 'Biosecurity Dogs and Trainers' (PBS p 24).
\$46.7 million increased funding for traceability initiatives	\$46.7 million over 3 years (DAFF, Treasury [SPP])	<p>Published as 'National Livestock Traceability Reform to Enhance Agricultural Biosecurity and Exports'</p> <p>\$26.6 million in 2022-23 (PBS p 24).</p> <p>\$20.1 million from reframing March measure refers Footnote (c) (PBS p 27). Includes \$20.0 million in SPP 813 (PBS p 59).</p>
\$204.8 million for the forestry sector	<p>\$204.8 million over 5 years to 2026-27.</p> <p>Consisting of:</p> <p>a) \$100 million over 5 years for an</p>	<p>Published as 'A Better Plan for Forestry and Forest Products package' (PBS p 23).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$89.6 million in new resourcing on p 23.

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	<p>Australia-wide institute to deliver forestry research and development</p> <p>b) \$8.6 million to extend the life of the 11 regional forestry hubs until 2027</p> <p>c) \$10 million for forestry workforce training needs</p> <p>d) \$86.2 million over 5 years to support development of new plantations</p> <p>a + b + c + d = \$204.8 million</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$29.0 million in 2026-27 resourcing not published in the PBS. • \$86.2 million in reframed 'Support Plantation Establishment' measure. Footnote (a) refers (PBS p 27).
\$20.8 million to prepare for the next drought	\$20.8 million over 2 years.	Published under the Improving Drought Readiness, Resilience and Preparedness package (PBS p 25).
\$4 million to establish a new Inspector-General for animal welfare	\$4.0 million over 4 years	Published as 'Animal Welfare Strategy – Inspector-General of Animal Welfare – establishment' (PBS p 25).
\$12.3 million to support regional trade events	\$12.3 million over 3 years	<p>\$0.3 million in new resourcing published as 'Support for Regional Trade Events' (PBS p 26).</p> <p>\$12.0 million is from reframing Support for Regional Trade Events. Footnote (i) refers (PBS p 27).</p>
\$8.1 million to develop Australia's seaweed farming	\$8.1 million over 3 years	Published as 'Powering Australia – Development of Australia's Seaweed Farming' (PBS p 25).
\$302 million to invest in sustainable agriculture through the Natural Heritage Trust		Funding held by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

ATTACHMENT CSummary of retained measures from the March 2022-23 Budget

Measure	Amount from 2022-23	Narrative
Reprioritisation of activities of Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	\$1 million reduction (\$2.5 million in 2021-22)	DAWE March 2022-23 PBS (March PBS page 28)
Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing	\$112.5 million over four years (\$0.387 million in 2021-22)	Announced in the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook, first published in the October 2022-23 Budget
Japanese encephalitis response (Treasury appropriation)	\$5 million in 2022-23 (a further \$5 million in 2021-22)	\$69 million in total, with payments to other departments. Department of the Treasury PBS.
Supporting Communities to Manage Pests and Weeds (Treasury appropriation)	\$16 million over three years from 2022-23 (\$4 million in 2021-22)	Department of the Treasury PBS.
<u>Australian Export and Trade Support</u>		
Digital Services to Take Farmers To Markets	\$127.4 million over 4 years (\$74.2 million operating and \$53.2 million capital)	DAWE March PBS pages 29 and 34
Trade Information Stage 2: Providing a Centralised Information Source	\$2.7 million in 2022-23	DAWE March PBS page 29

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Tell Us Once Trade System	\$7.743 million over two years	DAWE March PBS page 29. The measure was retained in the October Budget, but funding re-profiled over two years.
<u>Forestry and Fishing – supporting the forestry and fishery industry</u>		
Improve the Long-term Sustainability of the South East Trawl Fishery and Support Fishers	\$21.0 million in 2022-23. AFMA \$3.0 million in reduced receipts	DAWE March PBS page 30 Package announced in March as \$24.0 million for the AWE portfolio. AFMA received appropriation that supplements reduced receipts of \$3.0 million.
Strengthen Australia's Illegal Logging Traceability and Timber Identification Systems	\$4.4 million over 2 years.	DAWE March PBS page 30
<u>Future Drought Fund</u>		
National Delivery of Climate Services for Agriculture	\$7 million in 2023-24	Funded from the \$100 million annual allocation. https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund#how-the-fund-works Factsheet – Future Drought Fund: Improving resilience with better climate information nationally
Long term trials	\$40 million over six years (\$5 million in 2026-27 and \$5 million in 2027-28)	Funded from the \$100 million annual allocation. https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund#how-the-fund-works Factsheet - Future Drought Fund: Long-Term Trials of Drought Resilience Farming Practices
Drought Resilience Commercialisation Initiative	\$10 million over two years	Funded from the \$100 million annual allocation. https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/fdf_fact_sheet_commercialisation.docx

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		Factsheet – Drought Resilience Commercialisation Initiative
Helping Regional Communities prepare for Drought.	\$21.6 million over two years	Funded from the \$100 million annual allocation. https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/helping-regional-communities-prepare-for-drought-initiative
Drought resilience scholarships	\$1.6 million over two years	Funded from the \$100 million annual allocation. https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund#how-the-fund-works Factsheet - Future Drought Fund: Drought Resilience Scholarships
Total	\$379.9 million over six years from 2022-23	Excludes \$1 million reduction from 2022-23 from the measure <i>Reprioritisation of activities of Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment</i>

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

ATTACHMENT DExcerpts of Budget Paper No.2**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry****A Better Plan for Forestry and Forest Products**

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	1.5	25.5	29.6	33.0
Department of the Treasury	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Payments	-	1.5	25.5	29.6	33.0

The Government will provide \$204.8 million over 5 years from 2022–23 to support industry training, research and development to improve innovation and encourage sustainable and productive growth for Australia’s timber production. Funding includes:

- \$100.0 million over 5 years from 2022–23 to establish the Australia-wide National Institute for Forest Products and Innovation to support research and commercialisation in forestry industries
- \$86.2 million over 5 years from 2022–23 for grants to private industry and state-owned forestry corporations to establish new forestry plantations
- \$10.0 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to support the delivery of qualifications, competencies and credentials to meet the training and accreditation needs of forestry and wood products industries
- \$8.6 million over 3 years from 2024–25 to extend funding for the Regional Forestry Hubs and expand their role to provide extension services from 2022–23.

This measure will redirect funding from components of the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled *Forestry and Fishing – supporting the forestry and fishery industry*.

This measure delivers on the Government’s election commitment as published in the *Plan for a Better Future*.

See: Budget Paper 2 (BP2) page 43, DAFF PBS (PBS) page 23

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Animal Welfare Strategy – Inspector-General of Animal Welfare – establishment

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

The Government will provide \$4.0 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to establish an Inspector-General of Animal Welfare by expanding the functions of the office of the Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports to include animal welfare objectives for exported livestock.

The expanded office would strengthen animal welfare standards by increasing accountability and transparency for reporting of animal welfare breaches, boost livestock export practices and help maintain Australia's competitiveness in export markets.

This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in the *Plan for a Better Future*.

See: BP2 page 44, PBS page 25

Bolstering Australia's Biosecurity System – protecting Australia from escalating exotic animal disease risks

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	38.3	3.8	3.1	3.1
Department of the Treasury	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Payments	-	38.3	3.8	3.1	3.1

The Government will provide \$134.1 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$3.3 million per year ongoing) to bolster biosecurity capability in Australia and support neighbouring countries to address the risk of exotic animal diseases. Funding includes:

- \$61.6 million over two years from 2022–23 to strengthen Australia's frontline biosecurity capability, including enhancing the domestic detection and response capability in northern Australia, supporting domestic preparedness and biosecurity outcomes in neighbouring countries
- \$46.7 million over 3 years from 2022–23 to improve on-farm biosecurity and support the transition to a national livestock traceability system
- \$14.0 million in 2022–23 to improve Australia's biosecurity systems and provide support for neighbouring countries battling foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease
- \$11.7 million over 4 years from 2022–23 (and \$3.3 million per year ongoing from 2026–27) for expanded detector dog capability at Australia's borders.

This measure will redirect funding from some components of the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled *Agriculture – continuing to deliver Agriculture 2030* and the *Immediate Assistance Fund* program administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

This measure includes the Government's election commitment as published in the *Plan for a Better Future*.

See: BP2 page 44, PBS page 24

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Government Spending Audit – Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – efficiencies

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	-11.1	-6.0	-	-
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	-	-11.8	-11.4	-3.4	-3.4
Total – Payments	-	-22.9	-17.4	-3.4	-3.4

As a result of its Spending Audit, the Government will improve quality of spending by redirecting funding from 2019–20 Budget and 2022–23 March Budget measures. This totals \$47.1 million over 4 years from 2022–23 in relation to agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Savings include:

- \$30.0 million over 4 years from 2022–23 for the partial reversal of the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled *Regional Accelerator Program – establishment*, including redirecting uncommitted funding for the *National Centre for Digital Agriculture Innovation and Adoption Hubs*
- \$14.0 million over two years from 2022–23 for the partial reversal of the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled *Agriculture – continuing to deliver Agriculture 2030*, including not proceeding with Round 2 of the *Agricultural Shows Development Grant* program
- \$2.8 million in 2022–23 for the partial reversal of the *Agriculture Shows and Field Days* program, including redirecting uncommitted funding from Round 2 of the program
- \$0.3 million in 2022–23 for the partial reversal of the 2019–20 Budget measure titled *National Agricultural Workforce Strategy* program.

This funding will offset the Government’s election commitments and will also be redirected to fund other Government priorities.

This measure was identified as part of the Spending Audit, which has focused on the quality of spending, uncommitted funding, duplicative measures and reprioritising existing funding towards higher priority initiatives and budget repair.

See: BP2 page 45, PBS page 24

Improving Drought Readiness, Resilience and Preparedness

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	3.5	3.1	-	-

The Government will provide \$20.8 million over two years from 2022–23 to support Australia’s readiness to respond to drought events. Funding includes:

- \$14.3 million over two years from 2022–23 to drive adoption of established drought resilience research
- \$6.6 million over two years from 2022–23 to maintain existing capability for future drought preparedness and support delivery of the National Drought Agreement and National Drought Plan.

This measure will redirect funding from the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled *Future Drought Fund – Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan: improving readiness and resilience*.

See: BP2 page 44, PBS page 25

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Powering Australia – Development of Australia’s Seaweed Farming

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	2.4	3.6	2.0	-

The Government will provide \$8.1 million over 3 years from 2022–23 to support commercialisation of seaweed as a low emissions feed and support projects that lower barriers to market entry. The funding will support the establishment of the National Hatchery Network, policy reform, and priority research and development activities.

This measure delivers on the Government’s election commitment as published in the *Plan for a Better Future*.

See: BP2 page 44, PBS page 25

Support for Regional Trade Events

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	-

The Government will provide \$12.3 million over 3 years from 2022–23 to sponsor regional trade events including Beef Australia 2024, Casino Beef Week, the second Dairy Symposium, LambEx, Hort Connections 2023 and 2024, and other horticulture conferences and agritech industry events.

This measure will redirect funding from some components of the 2022–23 March Budget measure titled *Agriculture – continuing to deliver Agriculture 2030*.

See: BP2 page 44, PBS page 26

Cross Portfolio**Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses**

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Various Agencies	-	-642.5	-809.2	-975.8	-1,142.5

The Government will achieve savings of \$3.6 billion over 4 years from 2022–23 by reducing spending on external labour, advertising, travel and legal expenses. The savings from this measure will offset the Government’s election commitments.

This measure will be implemented using a staged approach, with only the 2022–23 financial year impact allocated to general government sector agencies. The allocation of the remaining financial year impacts in the 2023–24 Budget will be guided by the Government’s broader Australian Public Service initiatives, including the Audit of Employment.

This measure delivers on the Government’s election commitments as published in the *Plan for a Better Future*.

See: BP2 page 83, PBS: DAFF page 25. APVMA pages 26 and 146. RIC pages 26 and 227. AFMA page 121.

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Support for the Aviation Sector

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	-	23.1	63.9	40.0	-
Department of Home Affairs	-	7.1	3.2	-	-
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	-	1.3	1.2	-	-
Total – Payments	-	31.6	68.3	40.0	-

The Government will provide \$139.9 million over 3 years from 2022–23 to support the aviation sector. Funding includes:

- \$60.0 million over two years from 2023–24 to upgrade Hobart Airport runway and airfield facilities
- \$55.0 million over two years from 2022–23 to upgrade border services facilities at the Newcastle Airport international terminal
- \$17.9 million over two years from 2022–23 to undertake planning and design work for border services facilities at Western Sydney International Airport
- \$7.0 million over two years from 2022–23 to undertake the Aviation White Paper
- extending the *Per-and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances Airports Investigation* program to 30 June 2027 to continue to undertake investigations at Australian civilian airports to understand the risks and develop corresponding management plans for any identified contamination
- establishing a Jet Zero style council to inform the development of policy settings to encourage emissions reduction in the aviation industry.

This measure includes the Government's election commitment as published in the *Plan for a Better Future*.

See: BP2 page 165, PBS page 26

Prime Minister and Cabinet

An Ambitious and Enduring APS Reform Plan

Payments (\$m)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Various Agencies	-	..	-	-	-

The Government will provide \$72.9 million over 3 years from 2022–23 to strengthen the capability of the Australian Public Service (APS). Funding includes:

- \$40.8 million for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Australian Public Service Commission to develop and implement an ambitious reform plan to strengthen the APS
- \$25.0 million over two years from 2023–24 for an APS Capability Reinvestment Fund, to fund projects to build organisational capability in the APS
- \$7.1 million over two years from 2022–23 for the Department of Finance to implement an interim policy and reporting framework as part of the Government’s commitment that the APS, excluding security agencies, will commit to net zero emissions by 2030, with costs to be met from within existing resources.

The cost of this measure will be offset through savings from within the APS.

See: BP2 page 169, PBS: DAFF page 26, APVMA pages 26 and 146. AFMA page 121.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

FID07

BIOSECURITY COST RECOVERY ARRANGEMENT

CURRENT ISSUE

How cost recovery is applied in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry for biosecurity regulatory activities.

KEY ISSUES

- The department recovers the cost of many of the regulatory functions we perform for industry. The 'biosecurity' regulatory activities include:
 - assessing and managing the biosecurity risks arising from people, goods, and conveyances (vessel and aircraft) entering Australia.
 - assessing compliance of imported food with relevant food standards and public health and safety requirements.
- The department operates cost recovery arrangements in accordance with the Australian Government Charging Framework. Cost recovered charges are underpinned by whole of government policies and supporting legislation.
- The Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement has not been comprehensively reviewed since 2015. A proposed review in 2019-20 was delayed due to the global pandemic. A review commenced in 2021-22 is nearing completion.
- The department engages with industry, generally through consultative committees to explain revenue, expenses and cost allocation, as well as business reform impacts on the arrangements.
- Stakeholder consultation will be an important part of the review of the arrangement, including industry feedback on a draft 2022-23 Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS), expected to be released in November 2022.
- Approval of a new fees and charges to be set out in a 2022-23 CRIS will require certification by the department's Secretary and endorsement from both the Agriculture and Finance Ministers.
- Amendments to legislation for updated or new charges will need to be agreed by the Federal Executive Council, to implement any new prices.

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- On 1 November, the department released the discussion paper: *Sustainable funding and investment to strengthen biosecurity*.
- The discussion paper will seek industry views and practical ideas on what a sustainable funding model should look like. The proposed model should recognise the distribution of benefit, risk and costs across wide-ranging stakeholders, and options to remove unnecessary system costs while enhancing operational efficiency.

FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Revenue from regulatory activity is estimated to be \$289.3 million in 2022-23.
- Regulatory charges described in the CRIS are imposed on three key groups – importers, conveyance (vessel and aircraft) operators, and approved arrangement participants who perform the documentary assessment of goods at their own sites using their own resources.
- In addition to cost-recovered revenue from industry, the department charges for other biosecurity activities related to international mail, offshore arrangements and passenger movements, estimated to be \$17.2m in 2022-23.
- The biosecurity cost recovery reserve balance at 1 July 2022 was \$14.9 million.

BIOSECURITY OVERVIEW

2020-21 revenue	\$282.8m ¹
2021-22 revenue	\$286.3m ²
2022-23 full year forecast revenue	\$289.3m ³

1. As per 2020-21 DAWE Annual Report, Note 2A

2. As per 2021-22 DAWE Annual Report, Note 2A

3. Excludes revenue for the Hitchhiker Measure as cost recovery has not yet commenced

- An increase of \$3.0 million or 1.0% is forecast in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22.
 - Revenue forecasts have been set conservatively in anticipation that high inflation rates will lead to reduced imports of commodities.
 - Increased ability to travel is also expected to translate to a slowing of imports as consumers invest in holidays rather than goods.
 - Forecast currently excludes revenue for activities to manage the threat of hitchhiker pests (announced in the May 2021-22 Budget).
- Cost recovery revenue is categorised by revenue streams. Forecast cost recovered revenue of \$289.3 million for 2022-23 includes:

Import clearance activities	\$252.1m
Seaports	\$ 24.1m
Post entry quarantine	\$ 13.1m

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- Forecast additional regulatory revenue of \$17.2 million in 2022-23 includes:

International mail	\$15.4m
Offshore arrangements	\$ 1.5m
Passenger movements	\$ 0.3m

BACKGROUND

- The last comprehensive review of the Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement was in 2015, following significant changes to legislation and harmonisation of fee-for-service regulatory activities.
- A minor update was made in 2019-20 when fees for Full Import Declarations and Vessel Arrival fees, were increased to cover additional work requested by the Government at the time.
- The department is currently undertaking a comprehensive review with new prices expected to be released for public consultation later in November 2022, subject to government and departmental decisions.
- The review includes:
 - Revision of the cost base (expenses) for biosecurity regulatory activity
 - Revision of forecasts of the volume of regulatory activity
 - Inclusion of the 2021-22 Budget measure to manage the threat of hitchhiker pests and diseases
 - Proposed new prices resulting from costs of current regulatory services and volume forecasts
- Industry has been provided review updates through regular engagement at industry consultative committees throughout 2021-22 and 2022-23.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

FID08**MOG ARRANGEMENTS**

- On 1 June 2022, the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Federal Executive Council, made an Administrative Arrangements Order (AAO) which took effect 1 July 2022. The Prime Minister announced a range of changes to the Australian Public Service, including the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) will become the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), with a number of functions transferring to establish a new Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
 - An updated AAO was subsequently issued on 23 June 2022 to account for additional decisions taken by ministers in relation to the movement of functions between agencies. These will also take effect on 1 July 2022.
 - Mr Andrew Metcalfe AM has been appointed as Secretary of DAFF and Mr David Fredericks PSM has been appointed as Secretary of DCCEEW.
- Implementation of the MoG changes was informed by the MoG Guiding Principles including that all 3 entities will be sustainable and viable into the future, that Departments undertake impartial consideration of the transition, that we pursue good faith negotiations that ensure cost effective transitions, minimal disruption and balanced decision making to manage risk.
- Initially DAWE and DISER collaboratively built a DCCEEW Transition Team comprising of SES officers from both departments responsible for establishment arrangements along with receiving agency responsibilities.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- To ensure the Government had two independent, sustainable, and viable established entities, the DAWE MoG Taskforce anticipated a three-phase approach.
- Phase 1: 1 June to 1 July – complete: planning, preparation, and establishment of DCCEEW and DAFF by 1 July 2022. This included establishing interim organisational structures, appropriate delegations and authorisations, initial funding transferred for operational requirements, internet and intranet live, abn and bank accounts active, Executive Suites available for Executive Teams, emails and transition to DesktopOne for the Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, and support staff.

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SB22-000072

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- An initial section 75 appropriation transfer was signed 22 June 2022 to assist with the establishment of DCCEEW.
- Phase 2: 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 – complete: implementation of MoG arrangements within the 13-week implementation timeframe established for MoG changes. This includes finalisation of staff lists, continuation of the review and development of delegations and authorisations, development of shared capability arrangement models (ie in Finance and ICT), finalisation of section 75 appropriation transfers.
- Phase 3: 1 October ongoing: embedding the MoG arrangements post implementation. Activities can include formation of ICT service delivery model, employee accommodation and property transfers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Section 75, under the PGPA Act, allows the transfer of appropriation in to accommodate the transfers of function. The Taskforce agreed to transfer the appropriation in four tranches:
 - 1st tranche 75 occurred on 23 June: transferred all current year Administered Appropriation, Special Appropriation, and a portion of current year Departmental Appropriation.
 - 2nd tranche 75 occurred on 23 September: transferred all Prior year Administered Appropriation.
 - 3rd tranche 75 occurred on 5 and 6 October: transferred remaining current year Departmental Appropriation and the Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Administered Appropriation.
 - 4th tranche section 75 on 1 November: to transfer prior year departmental appropriation.
 - The transfer of appropriation will be incorporated in the anticipated 25 October Budget.
- Between 1 July 2022 and 29 September 2022, a total of 2,690 APS employees were transitioned from DAFF to DCCEEW under a Machinery of Government change. Three determinations under Section 72 of the Public Service Act were executed by the Public Service Commissioner:
 - 1st tranche section 72 occurred took effect July 2022 transitioning 26 SES to DCCEEW.
 - 2nd tranche section 72 took effect 15 September 2022, transitioning 2,588 SES and APS employees to DCCEEW.
 - 3rd tranche section 72 took effect 29 September 2022, finalising and transitioning 76 SES and APS employees to DCCEEW.

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- More information on section 72 Staffing transitions is in KIB SB22-000077

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The costs associated with implementing MoG changes are to be borne by impacted agencies, with DAFF establishing a cost centre for MoG-related expenses incurred by DAWE.
- We do not have final costs associated with the MoG and have not completed a reconciliation at this point as several practical aspects of the MoG are still underway.
- As at 31 October, DAFF recorded ordinary direct costs associated with the MoG to be \$1.87 million. The \$1.87 million expenditure is based on the coding in our system and will be reviewed, analysed and adjusted when appropriate.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Digital Services Division

DSD01

CYBER SECURITY

CURRENT ISSUE

The department continues to focus on mitigating cyber security risks through implementing effective cyber security measures. In light of recent global events, this brief provides advice on the current work program for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's cyber security program.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The department is focussed on mitigating cyber security risks through implementing effective cyber security measures.
- The department acts upon advice from the Australian Signals Directorate, the Attorney General's Department and key ICT providers. This includes implementing the Australian Signals Directorate's strategies to mitigate cyber security incidents (the 'Essential Eight') and the Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF).
- As part of its regular business the department holds information on individuals and businesses. This includes data such as name, address, and contact details of both businesses and individuals, as well as information required to facilitate the department's agricultural export and biosecurity compliance functions.
- The department manages its data in line with requirements under the Privacy Act (1988) relating to the Notifiable Data Breach Scheme (the Scheme).
- These arrangements are set out in the department's Data Incident Management Manual and cover cyber security, physical security, information, commercial and employment law, communications, and information management.
- Department systems that store this data are hosted within Australia and employ a range of cyber security mitigations and protections as outlined in the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Information Security Manual and Essential Eight framework.
- The department undertakes a regular program of cyber security and penetration testing of systems. This testing is used to provide assurance that systems are built to withstand contemporary methods of cyber security compromise.

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- Recent Cyber Events:
 - Following the announcement by Optus on 22 September 2022 of a data breach, DAFF was contacted by our Optus Government representatives. It was confirmed the compromised customer details were those of private Optus consumers, and no departmental data was breached.
 - In July 2022, the department was notified by the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) about a potential vulnerability of an Atlassian wiki system. As a result of analysis performed by the department, no personally identifiable or classified information was found to be compromised.
- The department maintains a range of plans to deal with critical incident management, cyber security policy, and data incident management. These plans form the basis of the department's response in the event of a cyber attack.
- The department's Security and Business Continuity committee oversee an ongoing program of business continuity testing, which includes the testing of security incident response procedures.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Legal and Governance Division

LGD01

MANAGEMENT OF FOI REQUESTS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND MINISTER

CURRENT ISSUE

All Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are coordinated by the Information and Employment Law Team in Legal and Governance Division and are managed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- All FOI matters are dealt with in accordance with the process and timeframe requirements under the FOI Act, regulations and guidance from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).
 - This includes applying charges in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act (Charges) Regulations 2019*.
- Under the FOI Act, the department and the minister are separate entities.
- Minister Watt has arrangements in place to receive and respond to FOI matters with advice and assistance from the department.
- Department advice and assistance includes providing legal advice and assistance with preparing decisions and responses to reviews, induction and training where required, preparing authorisation instruments and meeting reporting requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How are the ministers prepared to deal with FOI requests?

- FOI information and guidance has been provided to the office of Minister Watt.
- This included information on:
 - the right of access under the FOI Act
 - requirements for acknowledging and determining requests and reviews, including timeframes
 - consultation considerations, exemption provisions and review rights

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- accessing departmental advice and assistance to respond to FOI matters as they arise.
- The Minister has an authorisation in place for staff in their office to make decisions under the FOI Act.

FOI requests received by the minister (all figures are as at 30 September 2022)

- Minister Watt has not received any FOI requests since 1 June 2022 when he became Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- There is currently one matter under external review by the OAIC.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Legal and Governance Division

LGD02

ANAO AUDIT OF PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

CURRENT ISSUE

In December 2021, the Auditor-General commenced an audit of the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's 2021–22 annual performance statements.

This is part of an ongoing program of work by the ANAO to drive improvements in the transparency and quality of performance reporting by Commonwealth entities. DAWE was one of six agencies audited for the 2021-22 financial year.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The ANAO is expected to issue a qualified audit conclusion in the completed auditor's report. This will be provided to the Minister of Finance, following the request to undertake the audit under section 40 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 and will be tabled in the Parliament.
- On 18 October 2022, the ANAO issued the draft final management letter for the DAWE 2021-22 Audit with 11 findings: 6 significant ('A' findings), 3 moderate ('B' findings) and 3 minor ('C' findings).
 - Ten performance measures (7 agriculture, 1 biosecurity and 2 environment measures) in DAWE's 2021–22 performance statements do not meet the requirement for reliable and verifiable information sources and methodologies in subsection 16EA(b) of the PGPA Rule. These are the basis for the qualified opinion in the auditor's report and 5 of the 6 'A' findings.
 - There is a new 'A' finding that is not a basis for a qualified conclusion. This relates to department's preparation of performance statements, particularly the timely provision of measures and appropriate supporting evidence.
 - The 2 'B' findings relate to the absence of a 'clear read' between DAWE's 2021–22 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS), corporate plan and annual performance statements; and biosecurity performance measures that used a target of establishing a baseline which the ANAO said was not supported by a sufficient rationale or basis for assessing DAWE's performance in achieving its biosecurity purpose in 2021–22 or over time.

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SB22-000074

OFFICIAL

- The 3 'C' findings are all unresolved findings from the Interim Management Letter. They relate to perceived completeness of performance information; the use and disclosure of 'pre-defined ranges' to support the achievement of results; and the omission of key activities and measures relating to significant programs and areas of work the department is responsible for.
- The qualifications do not necessarily indicate a failure to deliver against the outcomes of the former agency but rather the need to consider the accounting standards expected by the ANAO when measuring and reporting against the agency's performance measures.
- The department's executive, Portfolio Audit Committee and divisions found this first year audit a challenging process to navigate, particularly:
 - in the absence of clear APS guidance on best practice and process, and
 - a lack of criteria/guidelines on appropriate standards to meet.
- Unlike financial statements, there are no commonly agreed performance accounting standards. This made it difficult to be certain the department was responding appropriately to the ANAO's requests and interpreting the requirements of the PGPA Act and Rule in the same way as the ANAO.
- The ANAO will continue to audit non-financial performance statements on an annual basis.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***What action has the department taken?***

- As outlined in the DAWE 2021-22 Annual Report, the department made changes to the performance measures and provided appropriate caveats and disclosures in performance results where there are known issues.
- The accountable authority statement, which is required to be provided with the performance statements in the DAWE Annual Report 2021-22, has been modified to note that disclosures have been made in the performance statements where it is considered that certain measures do not meet the requirements of the PGPA Act.
- The Secretary's Review in the DAWE Annual Report 2021-22 includes a paragraph acknowledging the first ANAO review of non-financial performance statements and noting the department's "ongoing commitment to the performance reporting system through positive and cooperative engagement. While we acknowledge there is work to be done in some areas, we look forward to building on the improvements we have already made as part of this review process."

ATTACHMENTS**ATTACHMENT A – Draft statement on the performance statement audit process**

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**ATTACHMENT B - DAWE APSs Audit 2021-22 Draft Final Management Letter 18
October 2022**

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ATTACHMENT A

DRAFT STATEMENT - Performance statement audit process

- The department supports the important work of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) in driving improvements to the transparency and quality of entities' performance reporting through these audits.
- The department also acknowledges that it, like many agencies across the Commonwealth, is on a journey of maturity in relation to reflecting its success in delivery and performance into an evolving accounting framework.
- Unlike financial accounting standards, there are no common performance accounting standards and so we are developing our practice and processes in accordance with the feedback from the ANAO and our own ongoing improvement processes.
- We look forward to continuing this work for DAFF.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Legal and Governance Division

LGD03

INSPECTOR GENERAL BIOSECURITY PROCESS – OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

CURRENT ISSUE

- During **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** 3-year term (from 25 July 2019 – 24 July 2022) as the Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IGB), he completed nine IGB reviews and each report is available on the [IGB website](#).
- On 10 March 2022, the then Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, Minister Littleproud, appointed **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** as the Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IGB) under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act). He commenced in the role on 25 July 2022.
- **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** is in the process of developing his annual review program.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Any questions in relation to specific IGB reviews are most appropriately answered by the Inspector-General.
- The IGB provides reports to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and publishes these reports on the IGB website (unless they contain information that is considered prejudicial to the public interest).
- The IGB is independent of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Director of Biosecurity (Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry).
- The Act specifies that the IGB may review the performance of functions, or exercise of powers, by biosecurity officials, including the Director of Biosecurity.
- The Act also requires the IGB to set an annual review program and this program is published on the IGB's website. The IGB may consult with the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as well as the Director of Biosecurity regarding the IGB's annual review program.
- The annual review program can be varied and/or re-prioritised at the discretion of the IGB.

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SB22-000075

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***IGB recommendations***

- The IGB website lists a total of 54 review reports published since 2009.
- There are currently 12 IGB review reports that have outstanding recommendations:
 - Table 1, **Attachment A** shows the list of IGB published reports including status of recommendations.
 - Table 2, **Attachment B** includes further summary details relating to each report.

IGB support arrangements

- The IGB is appointed on a part-time basis (capped at 175 days per annum) for a three-year term from July 2022 to July 2025.
- The IGB is remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal's Determination (refer their website) for part-time office holders.
- The maximum amount that the IGB could have been remunerated in 2020–21 was \$233,275. In 2020–21 the previous IGB ([s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)) was paid \$151,693.
- 3.25 administrative staff (departmental officers who are off-line) support the IGB (to assist with stakeholder engagement, technical/policy advice, report drafting). Other departmental officers (i.e. parliamentary, communications, and finance) may assist the IGB in his role.
- Pre-COVID-19, regular travel was undertaken by the previous IGB and on occasion, he was accompanied by a member of his support staff.
- [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) has commenced travel activities (noting the requirement to observe state and territory health directives) and he is expected to visit all areas across the department where biosecurity operations are underway.
- The annual IGB budget of \$630,000 includes the IGB and staff costs, expenditure for office space and ICT equipment, website maintenance, travel, and legal assistance.

IGB–Minister meetings

- [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) met with Minister Littleproud on 4 April 2022 (virtual meeting).
- [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) commenced his 3-year term as the IGB on 25 July 2022. A meeting with Minister Watt is yet to be scheduled.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – List of IGB published reports including status of recommendations

Attachment B – List of IGB published reports including summary details and status of recommendations

Contact Officer: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Attachment A

Table 1: List of Inspector-General of Biosecurity published reports including status of recommendations

Review title	Date IGB signed report	IGB Recommendations		
		Number recorded	Number completed	Number in progress*
2022–23/03 — Efficacy and adequacy of department's X-ray scanning and detector dog screening techniques to prevent entry of biosecurity risk material into Australia	7/07/2022	14	0	14
2021–22/03 — Effectiveness of preventative biosecurity arrangements to mitigate the risk of entry into Australia of the serious plant pest <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	14/06/2022	14	0	14
2021–22/02 — Robustness of biosecurity measures to prevent entry of khapra beetle into Australia	22/12/2021	13	0	13
2021–22/01 — Accountable implementation of Inspectors-General recommendations (2015–2021)	24/11/2021	10	0	10
2020–21/02 — Confidence testing for at-border delivery of critical human biosecurity functions – Ruby Princess cruise ship incident	29/04/2021	42	22	20
2020–21/01 — Adequacy of department's operational model to effectively mitigate biosecurity risks in evolving risk and business environments	18/02/2021	19	1	18
2019–20/03 — Biosecurity risk management of international express airfreight pathway for non-commercial consignments	3/07/2020	25	17	8
2019–20/01 — Effectiveness of Approved Arrangements in managing biosecurity risks in Australia	24/07/2019	13	9	4
2018–19/05 — Pest and disease interceptions and incursions in Australia	29/05/2019	5	3	2
2018–19/01 — Military biosecurity risk management in Australia	27/07/2018	5	3	2
2017–18/02 — Hitchhiker pest and contaminant biosecurity risk management in Australia	13/07/2018	9	8	1
2017–18/01 — Uncooked prawn imports: effectiveness of biosecurity controls	12/12/2017	22	19	3
Total		191	82	109

* The number in progress may involve significant change in policy and/or implementation as well as consultation with other national and international agencies. In progress recommendations may be partially completed.

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 SB22-000075

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Attachment B

Table 2: List of Inspector-General of Biosecurity published reports including summary details and status of recommendations

Review	Purpose	Summary	IGB Recommendations		
			Recorded	Completed	In progress*
2022–23/03 — Efficacy and adequacy of department's X-ray scanning and detector dog screening techniques to prevent entry of biosecurity risk material into Australia	To examine whether the department's x-ray scanning and detector dog screening techniques are adequate and effective for preventing the entry of biosecurity risk material into Australia.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 7 July 2022. All recommendations are in progress.	14	0	14
2021–22/03 — Effectiveness of preventative biosecurity arrangements to mitigate the risk of entry into Australia of the serious plant pest <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	To examine current biosecurity measures that the department applies to prevent the entry into Australia of bacterial plant-pathogens of the <i>Xylella</i> genus (<i>Xylella</i> spp.), including <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> and its subspecies and genetic strains and <i>Xylella taiwanensis</i> .	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 14 June 2022. All recommendations are in progress.	14	0	14
2021–22/02 — Robustness of biosecurity measures to prevent entry of khapra beetle into Australia	To examine the adequacy of the department's preventative biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of khapra beetle entering Australia.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 22 December 2021. All recommendations are in progress.	13	0	13
2021–22/01 — Accountable implementation of Inspectors-General recommendations (2015–2021)	To assess the department's methods for ensuring that Interim Inspector-General (IIGB) and Inspector-General (IGB) review findings and recommendations are used to strengthen Australia's biosecurity system. It examined progress in implementing 163 IIGB and IGB recommendations to the Director of Biosecurity contained in 15 review reports published between 3 May 2016 and 28 February 2021	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 24 November 2021. All recommendations are in progress.	10	0	10
2020–21/02 — Confidence testing for at-border delivery of critical human biosecurity functions – Ruby Princess cruise ship incident	To examine the adequacy of Agriculture's processes for managing current biosecurity risks and identify and respond to emerging risks associated with the Vessels Pathway, with particular emphasis on commercial cruise ships and cargo and live animal export ships.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 29 April 2021. Recommendations 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41 and 42 are completed. The remaining recommendations involve policy development, collaboration with stakeholders, in particular Health Dept.	42	22	20
2020–21/01 — Adequacy of department's operational model to effectively mitigate biosecurity risks in evolving risk and business environments	To examine whether the department's biosecurity operational model is appropriate for the risk mitigation and regulatory tasks it needs to perform both now and in the future.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 18 February 2021. Recommendation 5 is noted as the IGB's responsibility, and subsequently completed. Remaining recommendations are in progress.	19	1	18
2019–20/03 — Biosecurity risk management of international express airfreight pathway for non-commercial consignments	To examine the effectiveness of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's controls and processes to manage biosecurity risks associated with the entry of non-commercial airfreight consignments.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 3 July 2020. The department has finalised recommendation 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24 and 25. The remaining recommendations focus on the department's approach to biosecurity risk management including assessment.	25	17	8
2019–20/01 — Effectiveness of Approved Arrangements in managing biosecurity risks in Australia	To assess the effectiveness of the Department of Agriculture's system of approved arrangements under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> , their ability to manage biosecurity risks, and what if any improvements should be made.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 24 July 2019. The department has finalised recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11. The department's biosecurity risk owners attend audits as part of their verification and assurance processes. Remaining recommendations in progress.	13	9	4
2018–19/05 — Pest and disease interceptions and incursions in Australia	To review considered recent interceptions, border breaches and incursions of plant and animal pests and diseases to improve the Australian biosecurity system.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 29 May 2019. The department has finalised recommendation 1, 2 and 5. The department has increased the number and prioritised the use of detector dogs. Recommendation 3 requires consultation with state and territory governments, and Industry. Other recommendations focus on verification, data capture, analytics etc requiring significant project management and therefore remain in progress.	5	3	2

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 SB22-000075

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Review	Purpose	Summary	IGB Recommendations		
			Recorded	Completed	In progress*
2018–19/01 — Military biosecurity risk management in Australia	To examine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the mechanisms and support provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to the Australian Government Department of Defence, including the Australian Defence Force, and foreign defence forces contribute to achieving a commitment to biosecurity principles by those forces The adequacy and practicality of biosecurity risk management measures and mechanisms to ensure defence force compliance with their implementation. 	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 26 July 2018. Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 focussed on workforce resourcing and prioritisation and are completed. Recommendations 4 and 5 involve finalising a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Defence. The remaining two recommendations are nearing completion (anticipate December 2022).	5	3	2
2017–18/02 — Hitchhiker pest and contaminant biosecurity risk management in Australia	To examine the effectiveness of Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' management of biosecurity risks associated with hitchhiker pests and contaminants that enter Australia on sea and air conveyances, cargo containers and break-bulk cargo.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the review report on 13 July 2018. Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are completed. Recommendation 9 involves working collaboratively with various stakeholders: state/territory government agencies, industry; and port authorities and therefore remains in progress.	9	8	1
2017–18/01 — Uncooked prawn imports: effectiveness of biosecurity controls	To review the circumstances leading to the 6 January 2017 suspension of uncooked prawn imports into Australia and biosecurity considerations relevant to future trade in uncooked prawns.	The IGB (s. 22(1)(a)(ii)) signed the summary report on 12 December 2017. The majority of recommendations are completed. The remaining recommendations are ongoing or are in progress as these involve activities such as: policy development, collaboration and consultation with stakeholders (national and international), science-based reporting, and the design and implementation of the department's improved process relating to import conditions.	22	19	3
Total			191	82	109

* The number in progress may involve significant change in policy and/or implementation as well as consultation with other national and international agencies. In progress recommendations may be partially completed.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Legal and Governance Division

LGD04

STATUS OF ELECTION COMMITMENTS

CURRENT ISSUE

- The department is tracking the status of the budget and election commitments made by the Australian Government relevant to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry portfolio.
- Specific details on each commitment can be provided by the responsible divisions (as identified at **Attachment A**).

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- As at October 2022, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is tracking 22 commitments. (These exclude the recent October 2022–23 Budget measures, although tracking on these commitments will commence shortly).
- A summary and status of delivery on commitments is provided at **Attachment A**.
- Preparatory work continues on these commitments.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Developing sustainability credentials for export markets

- The government is committed to supporting the agriculture sector to develop consistent sustainability credentials in order to access and grow export markets. Effective, data-enabled, traceability systems to support credentials can create transparency and provide ongoing evidence for market access (TRD03 refers).
- An industry-government roundtable will be convened to bring together key agriculture and trade subject matter experts to share approaches to sustainability-based credential development steps.

Adoption of livestock traceability reforms

- Agriculture Ministers have agreed to work towards 1 January 2025 for a harmonised national individual electronic identification (eID) system for sheep and goats. Work is underway, through a new government-industry Sheep and Goat Traceability Task Force (SGTTF), for which the Commonwealth is secretariat (TRD03 refers).

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SB22-000081

OFFICIAL**What is the status of the government's biosecurity election promise and finalisation of the previous government's cost-recovery measure?**

- The department will be undertaking stakeholder consultation on sustainable funding and investment to strengthen biosecurity in November 2022.
- Changes to the system are complex and require careful consideration to get right.
- Delivery of the election commitment is on track. The department will make recommendations to the government in 2023.
- The department is reviewing current cost recovery as one part of this agenda.

ATTACHMENT:

A: Minister Watt – Summary of commitments and delivery status.

B: 2022-23 Budget Statement Press release

OFFICIAL

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Attachment A

The table below summarises the government's commitments relevant to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry portfolio as at October 2022.

COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY STATUS	DIVISION
A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR REGIONS			
National Reconstruction Fund – Agriculture, forestry & fisheries component	<p>The \$15b National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) will provide loans, guarantees and equity to support projects that create secure well-paid jobs, drive regional development, and invest in Australia's national sovereign capability, broadening and diversifying Australia's economy.</p> <p>\$500 million of the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and fibre, to unlock potential and value-add to agricultural produce in sectors like food processing and textile manufacturing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department has been engaging on the design of the NRF with the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) who are leading on the implementation of the NRF (including the \$500 million for agriculture, forestry fisheries, food and fibre) 	Trade Reform Division – All questions should be referred to DISR
Bolstering Australia's biosecurity system	<p>The government has committed to 'Bolstering Australia's biosecurity system' through long-term, sustainable funding; addressing potential impacts of lumpy skin disease (LSD); adoption of livestock traceability reforms; reducing the impact of pests and weeds; boosting funding for Indigenous Protected areas, including doubling the number of Indigenous Rangers; and providing additional biosecurity detector dogs and handlers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department is developing a sustainable funding model for biosecurity and expects to commence a public consultation process in November 2022. The department is reviewing the current biosecurity cost recovery arrangement. Funding announced in 2022-23 Budget: 	<p>Agriculture Policy Taskforce</p> <p>Biosecurity – <small>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</small></p>

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COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY STATUS	DIVISION
National Livestock traceability reform to enhance agricultural biosecurity and exports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$14 million funding package to address foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease announced July 2022. ○ \$11.7 million over four years from 2022-23 with \$3.3 million ongoing secured through the October 2022-23 Budget for additional detector dogs. ○ \$61.6 million over two years from 2022-23 ongoing secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to further manage the risk of exotic animal diseases, including boosting biosecurity capability in northern Australia. ○ \$46.7 million over three years from 2022 23 to support continuous improvement in our livestock traceability systems, contingent on commitments from states and territories, secured through the October 2022-23 Budget. ● Livestock traceability reforms commenced and on track through the government-industry Sheep and Goat Traceability Taskforce (SGTTF) 	Trade Reform Division (traceability)
Large Agriculture Events	Commitment to deliver \$12.3 million to support large agricultural events: \$6 million for Beef Australia and the remaining to be split across, Casino Beef Week, Lambex, Hort Connections and other horticultural and agritech events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding announced in budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$12.3 million over three years from 2022-23 secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment. 	Agricultural Policy Division
2nd Dairy Symposium (part of the Support	The government has committed to holding a 2 nd Dairy Symposium. The Symposium will provide an opportunity to facilitate discussions between the government and dairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In progress 	Agricultural Policy Division

OFFICIAL

COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY STATUS	DIVISION
Regional Trade Events commitment)	stakeholders on issues and challenges facing the industry and also consideration of the operation of the Dairy Code.		
Accurate and clear food labelling	To support meat and plant industries the Government will improve existing regulations that deliver accurate and clear food labelling for products so that consumers have informed choice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress 	Agricultural Policy Division
Developing sustainability codes for export markets through the Future Traceability Hub	Supporting the agricultural sector to develop consistent codes around sustainability and develop a world-class traceability ecosystem will help Australian farmers access and grow global markets. A focus on European import requirements will ensure we keep pace with global markets, and harness zero-carbon opportunities for agriculture in addressing climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced and on track through the department's Future Traceability Hub, and planned stakeholder engagement. 	Trade Reform Division

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COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY STATUS	DIVISION
STRENGTHENING ANIMAL WELFARE			
Phase out of live sheep exports	Phase out of live sheep exports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for how and when stakeholder engagement will occur is being considered. 	Trade Reform Division
Inspector General of Animal Welfare	<p>Establish an office of the independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare and increase accountability and transparency for reporting of animal welfare breaches. The Inspector-General of Animal Welfare will strengthen reports to the Parliament on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new and emerging live export markets number of head exported and mortalities any allegations of breaches of animal welfare standards and investigations undertaken any sanctions or other action taken for breaches of Australia's animal welfare standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding announced in 2022-23 Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$4 million over four years from 2022-23 secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment via an expansion to the current office of the Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports, to create an Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports (IGAWLAE) The IGAWLAE will strengthen animal welfare assurance and increase accountability and transparency for animal welfare in livestock exports. Stakeholder consultation will occur prior to finalisation of IGAWLAE design 	Plant and Live Animal Exports Division
Australian Animal Welfare Strategy	<p>Develop an Australian Animal Welfare Strategy that will re-establish a national framework for priority setting and associated national standards and measures of improvement for animal welfare outcomes.</p> <p>Initiative will need to consider the commitment for an Inspector-General of Animal Welfare (IGAW).</p> <p>\$5million over 4 years to renew Australia's Animal Welfare Strategy (AWS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress. 	Agricultural Policy Division

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COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY STATUS	DIVISION
A FUTURE GROWN IN AUSTRALIA			
Accelerate the adoption of wood processing innovation fund	<p>The government has committed to continue the \$112.9 million Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation measure.</p> <p>A competitive grant opportunity will be run and is expected to fund 25 projects between \$1 and \$5 million to upgrade capacity or capabilities of mills including contributing to industry's capacity to reduce its carbon footprint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding reported in 2022-23 Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$112.9 million over five years from 2022-23 secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment. 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
National Institute for Forest Products Innovation	\$100 million to establish a National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI), with a central hub in Launceston (at the University of Tasmania (UTAS)).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding announced in 2022-23 Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 million for an initial five years, from 2022-23, secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment. 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
Support Plantation Establishment	<p>The government has reframed this program and committed \$86.2 million for the establishment of new plantations to secure future domestic wood supply.</p> <p>This program has been reframed to a grants program to ensure the private sector and farm foresters have the best opportunity to establish new plantations to secure future domestic wood supply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding announced in 2022-23 Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$86.2 million over five years from 2022-23 secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment. 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division

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COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY STATUS	DIVISION
Regional Forestry Hubs	\$8.6m to extend the 11 Regional Forestry Hubs to 30 June 2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding announced in 2022-23 Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$8.6 million from 2024-25 to 2026-27 secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment. 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
Protecting Australia from Illegally logged Imports	\$4.4 million over two years in departmental funds to trial timber identification methods for future use under Australia's illegal logging laws and explore technology options for collecting information from timber importers & processors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding continues in Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$4.4 million from 2022-23 to 2023-24 secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment. 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
Support for training and accreditation in forestry sector	<p>\$10 million to support programs that will deliver qualifications, competencies and other credentials to meet the training and accreditation needs of forest wood products, pulp paper and fibre sectors.</p> <p>The delivery of the program will be informed by a scoping study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding announced in 2022-23 Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$10 million over four years from 2022-23 secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment. 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
Wood Volume Analysis	Conduct an analysis of the national wood volume.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress 	ABARES Division

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COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY STATUS	DIVISION
Commercial opportunities for fire mitigation	Conduct an analysis of the commercial opportunities from fire mitigation activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
Forest industry roundtable	Minister will hold a tripartite roundtable with the forestry sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
Establish a Strategic Forest & Renewable Materials Partnership	Develop a strategic, tripartite partnership approach so that there is a constant line of communication between industry stakeholders and the Government to consult together on government funding and programs, capitalise on opportunities, and avoid duplication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division
Development of Australia's seaweed farming	The Government has committed to provide \$8.1 million to support investment in the Australian seaweed industry and scale-up production of emissions-reducing seaweeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding announced in 2022-23 Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$8.1 million over three years from 2022 23 secured through the October 2022-23 Budget to deliver this commitment. 	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division

COMMITMENT	DESCRIPTION	DELIVERY STATUS	DIVISION
PEOPLE			
Improve job security in the APS	<p>The government has committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target insecure work in the APS by identifying where work can be done more efficiently and effectively by public servants in direct, permanent jobs. reduce the reliance on contractors, consultants and labour hire companies for work that can be done by public servants. This will increase the number of direct permanent jobs in the APS. abolish the average staffing level (ASL) cap. conduct an audit of employment within the APS, and as a model employer, take steps to create more secure employment where temporary forms of work are being used inappropriately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department is reviewing strategies, policies and processes to support this election commitment. 	
Boosting First Nations employment in the APS	<p>The government has committed to lead by example and commit to a target of increasing First Nations employment in the Australian Public Service from 3.4 per cent currently to 5 per cent by 2030.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department has several First Nations employment initiatives in place to increase representation in its workforce, including participation in an APSC-led cross-agency project and Steering Group on Affirmative Measure recruitment. The department has established a First Nations Platform for Shared Benefits Realisation Program which includes a workforce stream focusing on the future development of our Indigenous workforce. 	

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Attachment B



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, 25 October 2022

INVESTING TODAY TO PROTECT AND GROW
AGRICULTURE INTO THE FUTURE

The Albanese Government is delivering on its commitment to back the bush, making critical investments in biosecurity and the timber industry to protect and grow Australia's vital agricultural and forestry communities.

"The Government's focus is investing to protect and grow our vibrant agriculture sector now and into the future and our biosecurity system is a pivotal part of this," Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt said.

"The arrival of new pests and diseases into Australia can have devastating and long-lasting impacts on producers, regional communities and agricultural exports.

"This year we have seen both foot and mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD) emerge in Indonesia, putting Australia on heightened alert.

"Australia remains FMD and LSD-free, thanks to the strongest biosecurity response ever implemented, but we must remain vigilant.

"We are injecting \$134.1m into the biosecurity system to ensure this continues to be the case.

"This is the first step towards delivering our election commitment of a sustainable biosecurity funding model that allows the system to respond to increasing threats.

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SB22-000081

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RETURN TO INDEX

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“Building on our earlier investments to support Indonesia in tackling these diseases and boost our own frontline efforts, we are fast-tracking \$61.6m over the next two years toward this effort.

“Originally budgeted over four years, this funding will greatly assist our overall efforts to fill the gaps in our biosecurity system while strengthening our defences in Northern Australia.”

Traceability

“The Government is also doubling funding for traceability initiatives which would greatly assist in protecting our livestock industry in the event of such an outbreak,” Minister Watt said.

“Increasingly, consumers want to know the products they’re buying are authentic, clean, green and sustainable.

“We are working with industry and states and territory Agriculture Ministers on a national approach to improve agricultural traceability, with a commitment to implement a new scheme by January 1, 2025.

“This includes a significant contribution of \$46.7m towards Australia’s livestock traceability ‘contact tracing’ system to maintain our world class system and ensure fast recovery from any potential disease outbreaks and protect Australia’s export trade.

“This is more than double what the previous Morrison Government had budgeted for this program.

“Improved traceability provides transparency in the supply chain and reassurance for consumers – and enhances our biosecurity as well.

“Delivering on our election commitment, we have also committed \$11.7m through the budget for an additional 20 detector dogs and handlers to be deployed in airports and mail centres around the country.

“Detector dogs and their handlers are a vital part of our biosecurity system, playing a key role at our border in preventing the entry of diseases such as FMD,” said Minister Watt.

A Sustainable Forestry Sector

Australia’s timber industry plays an important role in regional Australia.

“It employs thousands of workers, while providing critical timber supply,” said Minister Watt.

“That’s why we are delivering on our election commitment and providing \$100m for an Australia-wide institute to deliver forestry research and development; \$8.6m to extend

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the life of the 11 regional forestry hubs until 2027; and \$10m for forestry workforce training needs.

“Together these measures will strengthen the forest industry’s capacity to make greater use of the available timber resource and drive innovation and growth,” said Minister Watt.

Investing in the future

“The agricultural sector has had two bumper years, and it is important to look to the future and be ready for the challenges that lie ahead,” said Minister Watt.

“That’s why we have dedicated \$20.8m for the government to be prepared for the next drought and to increase adoption of established drought resilience research, so we are ready to support farmers and communities when they need it most.

“And I am pleased to announce \$302 million has been committed through the Natural Heritage Trust to support sustainable agriculture practices and assist land managers to engage in carbon and biodiversity markets.

“We are also providing \$4m for an inspector-general for animal welfare, and \$12.3m to support regional trade events, like Beef Australia 2024 in Rockhampton.

“The Albanese Government will also deliver on its commitment to introduce mandatory country of origin labelling, greatly assisting consumers find fresh, local seafood, supporting our world-class fisheries industry.”

Key agricultural budget initiatives:

- \$61.6 million fast tracked to bolster Australia’s biosecurity system
- \$11.7 million for more detector dogs
- \$46.7 million increased funding for traceability initiatives
- \$204.8 million for the forestry sector
- \$20.8 million to prepare for the next drought
- \$4 million to establish a new Inspector-General for animal welfare
- \$12.3 million to support regional trade events
- \$8.1 million to develop Australia’s seaweed farming
- \$302 million to invest in sustainable agriculture through the Natural Heritage Trust

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S. 42(1)

S. 42(1)

S. 42(1)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Legal and Governance Division

LGD06**GENDER DIVERSITY ON BOARDS****CURRENT ISSUE**

Since 1 July 2016, the Australian Government has committed to a gender diversity target of women holding 50% of government board positions overall, and women and men each holding at least 40% of positions at the individual board level. The current Government has continued with this policy.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- At 25 October 2022, the department's gender balance for women on agriculture, fisheries and forestry portfolio boards is 49.6% (57 of 115 positions, with 58 held by men).
- The Gender Balance on Australian Government Boards Report, prepared annually by the Office for Women, outlines performance against the government's target for gender balance on Australian Government boards.
- The annual gender balance on the department's portfolio boards since 2016 has been:

Date	Boards	Total reportable positions	Women	Men	Yearly change in % for Women
30 June 2022 [^]	34	242	46.3% (112)	53.7% (130)	-0.6
30 June 2021 [^]	34	241	46.9% (113)	53.1% (128)	-1.6
30 June 2020 [^]	35	237	48.5% (115)	51.5% (122)	+1.1
30 June 2019 ^{^#}	31	214	46.3% (99)	53.7% (115)	+3.0
30 June 2019 [*]	20	135	47.4% (64)	52.6% (71)	+4.1
30 June 2018 [*]	19	97	43.3% (42)	56.7% (55)	+9.1
30 June 2017 [*]	18	114	34.2% (39)	65.8% (75)	+0.9
30 June 2016 [*]	19	135	33.3% (45)	66.7% (90)	N/A

Source: Figures provided to Office for Women

* Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio

[^] Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio

Figures provided to Office for Women but not published in annual report.

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- The department reports to the Office for Women on gender balance on boards twice a year—31 December and 30 June.
- Apart from gender diversity, the department is not required to keep statistics or report on other diversity groups or Indigenous representation on portfolio boards.
- As of December 2021, women held a record 50.2 per cent of Australian Government board positions, the highest overall result since targets were announced in 2016.
- The gender balance on individual Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio boards at 25 October 2022 is at **Attachment A**.

ATTACHMENTS

A: Gender balance on individual Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio boards.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Attachment A

Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio Boards at 25 October 2022	Positions	Women	Men	Women %	Men %
AgriFutures Australia (Rural Industries RDC)	7	4	3	57.1	42.9
AgriFutures Australia (Rural Industries RDC) Selection Committee	5	2	3	40.0	60.0
Australian Fisheries Management Authority Commission	7	3	4	42.9	57.1
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Board	5	3	2	60.0	40.0
Cotton Research and Development Corporation	7	3	4	42.9	57.1
Cotton Research and Development Corporation Selection Committee	5	2	3	40.0	60.0
Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs Advisory Committee	7	3	4	42.9	57.1
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	8	3	5	37.5	62.5
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Selection Committee	5	3	2	60.0	40.0
Forest and Wood Products Council (FIAC)	11	5	6	45.5	54.5
Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee	5	4	1	80.0	20.0
Grains Research and Development Corporation	8	3	5	37.5	62.5
Grains Research and Development Corporation Selection Committee	5	2	3	40.0	60.0
Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food Security in the Red Meat and Cattle Sector	1	0	1	0	100
National Fishing Advisory Council	13	7	6	53.8	46.2
Regional Investment Corporation Board	4	4	0	100	0
Wine Australia	7	4	3	57.1	42.9
Wine Australia Selection Committee	5	2	3	40.0	60.0
Total Overall Appointments	115	57	58	49.6	50.4

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: People Property and Security Division

PPSD01

DEPARTMENT STAFFING NUMBERS AND CONTRACTORS

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

Headcount

- Headcount figures exclude the Secretary position.
- On **30 September 2022** the department's APS headcount was **5,421**.
- On **1 July 2022**, the Administrative Arrangement Order (AAOs) took effect:
 - Environment and Water functions from Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
 - DAWE became the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).
- Between **1 July 2022** and **29 September 2022**, a total of **2,690** APS employees were transitioned from DAFF to DCCEEW under a Machinery of Government change. Three determinations under Section 72 of the Public Service Act were executed by the Public Service Commissioner:
 - Public Service (Machinery of government changes) Determination (No. 1) 2022-2023 (**effective 1 July 2022**)
 - **26** SES were part of the initial transition to DCCEEW.

Classification	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total
SES1	19		19
SES2	4	1	5
SES3	2		2
Grand Total	25	1	26

- Public Service (Machinery of government changes) Determination (No. 13) 2022-2023 – (**effective 15 September 2022**)
 - **2,588** SES and APS employees were transitioned to DCCEEW, this includes amendments and variations made to this instrument on 29 September 2022.

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Classification	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Ongoing (temp transfer to former Agency)	Ongoing (temp transfer from former Agency)	Total
APS1	7	96			103
APS2	19	3			22
APS3	59	109			168
APS4	140	65			205
APS5	303	45			348
APS6	591	93	4	1	689
EL1	649	34	2	4	689
EL2	306	28			334
SES1	21	1			22
SES2	6				6
SES3	2				2
Grand Total	2,103	474	6	5	2,588

- Public Service (Machinery of government changes) Determination (No. 17) 2022-2023. (**effective 29 September 2022**)
 - **76** SES and APS employees were transitioned to DCCEEW as part of the third and final transfer of staff.

Classification	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Ongoing (temp transfer to former Agency)	Total
APS1		4		4
APS3	1	6		7
APS4	1	8		9
APS5	8	1		9
APS6	25	5		30
EL1	5	5	2	12
EL2	4			4
SES1	1			1
Grand Total	45	29	2	76

- Action is underway to correct minor discrepancies in the movements between DAFF and DCCEEW via Section 26 transfer.
- On **30 June 2022**, DAWE's APS headcount was **7,783** and included:
 - **542** Parks Australia Division employees.
- **Table 1** shows the breakdown of headcount by employment type.

Table 1: Departmental APS headcount by employment type

Employment Type	30 June 2022	30 September 2022
Ongoing	6,858	4,904
Non-ongoing	545	301
Casual	370	216
Grand Total	7,783	5,421

OFFICIAL**External Workforce**

- On **30 September 2022**, DAFF had **1,779** contractors (including labour hire). This represents **24.7%** of the total workforce.
- On **30 June 2022**, DAWE had **2,623** contractors (including labour hire).
- As a result of the Administrative Arrangement Order under the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes a large contingent of contractors were transitioned to DCCEEW in September, resulting in the overall reduction in DAFF's contractors.
- The department has a significant reform agenda and continues to supplement its permanent workforce with contractors to ensure it can deliver on its purpose, objectives, and priorities. DAFF's high contractor base is required to expedite major transformation to support the MoG and DesktopOne Programs for each department. DAFF has retained these contractors to support delivery of these projects to support both departments on the following basis:
 - Specialist capability is not available on an ongoing basis, such as within the information technology industry where the market for skills is more readily available on a contract basis.
 - Where a surge in demand is temporary and contractors represent a more efficient way to secure labour quickly.
 - Where there is a need to backfill APS staff who are on long term leave or where there is a temporary vacancy, and it is not appropriate to backfill on a permanent basis.
 - Funding is provided for specific budget measures for the temporary use of contractor workforce.
- While the labour market is competitive, the department has a strong focus on recruiting and retaining the workforce required to deliver on its objectives. From 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 there were a total of 164 external recruitment advertised to fill positions across the department, specific to DAFF.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following are the definitions of measures used in this brief.

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Term	Definition
Headcount ¹	<p>The number of employees directly employed by the organisation at a point in time.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All full-time and part-time, ongoing and non-ongoing employees engaged for a specified term or task or for duties that are irregular or intermittent (casuals), including those on leave, such as maternity leave, long service leave, etc.

Sources:

¹<https://www.apsc.gov.au/appendix-common-workforce-metrics>

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: People Property and Security Division

PPSD02**COVID-19 INTERNAL RESPONSE INCLUDING RISK ASSESSMENT****CURRENT ISSUE**

The Department of Fisheries and Forestry continues to lead an agile, evidence and risk-based response to COVID-19 to protect our people, customers and stakeholders.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The National COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) was re-activated in August 2022 in response to the third wave of COVID-19 driven by Omicron BA.4 and BA.5, which saw the country grapple with its worst month on record for COVID-19 infections.
- During the third wave the department reviewed and monitored its COVID-19 workplace risk assessments closely with business leads and Health and Safety Representatives nationally, maintaining key COVID-19 controls across the workforce including COVID PPE requirements in operational settings to protect frontline workers.
- In line with state and territory health officials recommending people work from home during the third wave, managers were asked to review business continuity planning and enable workers to work from home where possible, ensuring the continued safe and effective delivery of critical services to the Australian public.
- Throughout the August period, the number of staff reporting positive COVID-19 tests as a result of non-work-related exposure increased significantly in line with community estimations. 216 cases were recorded for the month of August, all non-work related.
- Across August and September, the department reinvigorated its internal COVID-19 safety campaign, with new electronic and print media released across all department workplaces nationally. The updated promotion included new signage, screensavers and banners reminding all staff to keep up with COVID safe behaviours in the workplace.
- COVID-safe controls continue to be in place in all departmental workplaces. These include enhanced touchpoint cleaning in offices, signage, regular messaging, hygiene stations in each work area, hand sanitisers in our building entry points, and ensuring 1.5 metre spacing of people using workstations.

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- As at 30 September 2022, only 9 employees have tested COVID-19 positive as a result of their departmental duties—this is despite departmental workers continuing to work in higher-risk environments such as abattoirs, airports and seaports. The department has a COVID-19 Safe Workplace Plan which is updated in response to the changing nature of the pandemic and amended government advice and protocols.
- The department undertook further consultation with Health and Safety Representatives on its COVID-19 Safe Workplace Risk Assessment controls at the end of September 2022 and is preparing to further ease workplace controls in line with Commonwealth, State and Territory Health and Government advice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- As at 30 September 2022, the dedicated inbox for COVID-19 inquiries had managed more than 27,000 inquiries.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic up to 30 September 2022, the department recorded:
 - 3510 positive, non-work related COVID-19 tests
 - 9 positive, work related COVID-19 tests

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - DAFF COVID-19 report

Attachment B – Safe Workplace Plan

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Attachment A

Business continuity report - 01 JUL 2022 to 30 SEP 2022

State/territory	APS Employee	Vendor	Contractor	Work related (total)	Non-work related (total)
ACT	389	0	0	0	389
NSW	115	0	0	0	115
NT	12	0	0	0	12
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	115	0	0	0	115
SA	37	0	0	0	37
TAS	58	0	1	0	59
VIC	130	0	2	0	132
WA	44	0	0	0	44
Total	900	0	3	0	903

Total of work & non work-related cases	903
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Business continuity report - total (1 February 2020 onwards)

State/territory	APS Employee	Vendor	Contractor	Work related (total)	Non-work related (total)
ACT	1667	0	5	8	1664
NSW	445	0	0	0	445
NT	44	0	0	0	44
Overseas	9	0	0	0	9
QLD	381	0	0	0	381
SA	123	1	0	0	124
TAS	181	0	1	0	182
VIC	473	0	7	0	480
WA	175	0	0	1	174
Total	3498	1	13	9	3503

Total of work & non work-related cases	3512
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Attachment B

Overview

This document summarises the ongoing departmental approach to protecting all workers.

Supporting documents are available on the [COVID-19 information hub](#).

Approach

With the ever-changing COVID-19 environment, we continue to comply with Australian and state/territory government health directions and take a responsive, risk-based approach to ensuring the health and safety of our people. This is informed by government advice and health directives, risk assessments, consideration of hazards and risks associated with our business and undertaking, and risk appetite.

Where operational areas require more specific plans, these are developed in consultation with relevant operational areas and health and safety representatives and are informed by State/Territory or Industry advice, and with the input of external specialists (where appropriate).

Aim

We aim to continue to provide a safe workplace for our people in all of our workplaces and the workplaces our people attend. We will ensure that our policies align with relevant APSC and [Australian Government Department of Health](#) advice and [Safe Work Australia National COVID-19 safe workplace principles](#) and Occupational Physician advice. We ensure our people comply with relevant state/territory health directions.

Review

Where our people are working from their usual workplaces, or during lockdowns continuing to perform their essential work or working from home, we will continue to review our control measures to ensure we provide a safe workplace consistent with Australian Government and state/territory health authority advice. We undertake surveys of our staff to understand the efficacy of communications around COVID controls and ensure that staff are feeling supported and safe in the workplace.

Measures of success

1. Continuing to maintain a safe working environment
2. Continuing to maintain business continuity and critical business delivery

3. Ensuring our staff are assured of their safety in their usual workplaces through reinforcement of COVID-safe behaviours, adhering to COVID-19 reporting protocols and maintaining enhanced cleaning and hygiene equipment

COVID-19 safe workplace management tools

We continue to use and review our safe workplace management tools to maintain a safe workplace for our staff.

- We are strongly encouraging and supporting all workers to participate in Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout program, especially where they are identified as working in high infection risk roles or where mandated by state/territory health directions.
- Our [Protocols for reporting cases of COVID-19](#) are monitored, reviewed and consulted with business areas and Health and Safety Representatives. The Protocols provide instructions for staff who test positive to COVID-19, and outline the roles, responsibilities and actions for staff if they or someone who reports to them is confirmed to have COVID-19. They include guidance on notification and cleaning requirements and are informed by checklists and decision trees.
- Staggered return to usual work plans and pre-return checklists with HSRs
- WHS risk assessments
- Task/role specific risk assessments
- Travel and vehicle use advice
- Export Meat Establishment COVID plan
- [Shared desk guidance](#) and a shared desk use/cleaning register for any shared desk arrangements in the workplace
- Signage supporting room capacity limits, physical distancing behaviours and reminders on COVID-safe behaviours including proper hygiene
- Guidance on [physical distancing in the workplace](#) and processes around [travelling for work](#) (domestic and international, by car or plane)
- [Personal protective equipment advice](#) including facts sheets for [Role specific requirements](#):
 - [Handwashing technique](#)
 - [IT support \(working from home\)](#)
 - [Meat establishments](#)
 - [Attending third-party premises](#)
 - [Working in laboratories](#)
- [Visitor restrictions, health declarations and guidance for any visitors to departmental workplaces.](#)
- sanitiser and disinfectant wipes throughout the workplace
- Advice on [touchpoint cleaning and individual workstation cleaning](#), and [cleaning/avoiding contamination when using a fleet vehicle.](#)

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- E-learning packages on COVID-safe behaviours, the use of personal protective equipment and transitioning to remote work. This continues to be relevant in our new normal as regions go into lockdown and staff work from home where possible or continue from their usual workplaces providing essential services.
- Toolbox talks:
 - [Handwashing technique](#)
 - [Personal hygiene](#)
 - [COVID-safe behaviours](#)

Return to usual workplaces

- At times, our staff may be required to work from home to comply with public health orders/directions or guidance
- We have in place risk-based controls to ensure their ongoing safety while working at home and in the transition to returning to their usual workplace. Decisions are informed by Department of Health advice and may differ across jurisdictions consistent with local health authority advice. We take a flexible and conservative approach, focusing on ensuring the health and safety of our people.
- We have developed a considered return to usual work plan informed and supported by robust risk assessments that have been consulted and reviewed with all Health and Safety Representatives
- With our Health and Safety Representatives, we have undertaken site checklists for each worksite prior to your return to validate our safety controls
- We will continue communicate with staff regularly through Chief Operating Officer updates, frequent HSR information sessions, relevant state/territory updates and the [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Information Hub](#).
- We will stand up national and state/territory incident management teams as appropriate to manage the business continuity implications of COVID-19 restrictions to our work environment.
- Our Enabling Services Working Group continues to meet regularly to facilitate business continuity, our continued recovery and build on lessons learned. The group comprises the following business areas:
 - Business Continuity
 - Communication
 - Culture and Change
 - ICT
 - Property
 - Work Health and Safety
- Our Enabling Services Vaccine Working Group will ensure that all safety and industrial elements of the department's program are considered.
- Staff are expected to understand and comply with the [Protocols for reporting cases of COVID-19](#), including advising the [COVID-19 Response team](#) if they or their staff member is tested for COVID-19.

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- We advise staff not to attend their workplace if they are unwell and to seek medical advice. This is one of our primary controls.
- We ensure workstations are at least 1.5m apart and continue to cordon off desks, equipment and work areas as necessary so staff can maintain physical distancing in our buildings.
- We continue to review maximum occupancy for common areas, meeting rooms and offices, and have installed signage for staff awareness. We continue to encourage staff to meet via Microsoft Teams unless face to face meetings are absolutely essential.
- We make alcohol-based hand sanitiser available at all building entrances and work locations with limited access to soap. Hygiene stations containing alcohol-based cleaning wipes, gloves and soap are available throughout departmental buildings.
- Our communication campaign focuses on ongoing COVID-safe behaviours, including:
 - reminding staff about the importance of hand sanitising and physical distancing
 - highlighting positive aspects for staff of returning to their usual workplace
 - supporting and encouraging vaccination.
- We have also displayed workplace signage to remind staff about physical distancing, COVID-Safe behaviours, and personal hygiene throughout our buildings.
- Our COVID-19 Information Hub [Our new normal](#) page advises staff on:
 - COVID-safe behaviours
 - COVID-19 reporting
 - visitors to the department
 - departmental functions and social activities
 - departmental buildings
 - desks and equipment
 - end-of-trip facilities
 - cleaning
 - planning holidays
 - travel and vehicle use advice
 - restrictions checker
- We regularly update the [COVID-19 information hub](#) with advice on state/territory restrictions, COVID-19 reporting, leave/work arrangements for staff directed to self-isolate, getting vaccinated and mental health and wellbeing.
- [Returning to your usual workplace](#) and [Return to your usual workplace \(IT FAQs\)](#) provide advice for staff returning from periods working from home.
- COVID-19 Information Hub [Travel](#) page advises staff to avoid non-essential travel and meet virtually via Microsoft Teams.

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- We ask staff to record their vaccinations in SIRUS to assist us to enable us to comply with state/territory directions and meet operational requirements. We provide privacy information to those staff.
- The National Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Procurement Working Group has established a national PPE procurement framework and secured suppliers to ensure ongoing PPE procurement.
- ESG are working on the critical worker process, risk assessment and RAT procurement
- We continue to consult with business areas and health and safety representatives (HSRs) on changes to our workplace controls.
- We continue to ensure our staff comply with local health authority requirements, such as proactive testing for airport quarantine workers, and redeploy those who are unable or unwilling to comply.
- We continue to redeploy staff to office-based roles where necessary.

Employee wellbeing

We are committed to the mental and physical health and safety of our people by encouraging a safety-first workplace culture where we take care of each other and safety is prioritised.

We continue to support staff and their immediate family through making our [Employee Assistance Program](#) available and encouraging staff to contact the service if they are feeling anxious, stressed or uncertain as a result of the ongoing, evolving nature of the pandemic. We provide targeted support programs for staff during lockdown events.

Key contacts

We will continue to make these inboxes available to assist you:

- COVID-19 Response Team: WHS2020@awe.gov.au
- People Support: PeopleSupport@agriculture.gov.au
- IT Support: COVID-19ISD@awe.gov.au
- Communication Support: COVID19Comms@awe.gov.au
- Employee Assistance Program: Phone 1800 273 865 or email areuok@smghealth.com.au

Continuing to support our frontline workers

We continue to enhance our controls to ensure the ongoing health and safety of our workers at airports, ports, meat-processing facilities and third party premises (TPPs). This includes:

- ensuring compliance with state and territory health authority directions

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- working in partnership with local state/territory agencies, and with Australian Border Force at airports or mail facilities
- engaging with Comcare to ensure that our processes and systems of work are robust and meet its expectations as the national health and safety regulator
- offering staff redeployment to office-based workplaces where possible
- Implemented Third Party Premises reporting protocols for suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19
- reducing inspection activities where possible, informed by biosecurity risk
- providing role-specific information on the COVID-19 information hub [Role specific](#) page
- advising staff to maintain physical distancing and providing personal protective equipment (PPE) including (as appropriate):
 - face masks
 - face shields
 - gloves
 - gowns
- providing exclusive office space, and hygiene and breakout facilities for our staff at third party premises
- completing assessment checklists for staff moving between establishments or returning from leave
- supporting staff to comply with reasonable requests by meat establishments – for example, temperature checks
- supporting staff to stay home if unwell
- maintaining an external assurance process with third party premises and Approved Arrangements and advising through publication of an industry advice notice
- providing automated COVID-safe email booking reminders for inspections
- conducting off-site and third-party premises screening checklists
- facilitating worker permit requirements as required
- continuing regular communication with elected health and safety representatives and unions

Appendix A

Task	Explanation
Monitor and review risk assessments	Managers review high-risk worker risk assessments monthly. Staff return to their usual workplace as soon as relevant health directions permit and it is considered safe.
Consultation	Ongoing consultation and information-sharing with relevant staff representatives including HSRs and unions
COVID-19 Reporting	Daily reporting/tracking of departmental staff positive test results, and weekly reporting of internal inquiries

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Daily information monitoring	Daily environmental scan of relevant COVID-19 health advice, media releases, information and resources
Chief Operating Officer Updates	Ongoing communication and messaging to staff about COVID-19 matters and workplace impacts
WHS2020 inbox	Response to inquiries and ongoing provision of guidance and advice on health and safety matters including COVID-19 testing and reporting protocols, workplace cleaning, risk assessments and personal protective equipment
People Support inbox	Response to inquiries and ongoing guidance and advice on COVID-19 related people matters including leave, flexible working arrangements and return to workplace scheduling.
COVID-19 Information Hub	Regular updates to FAQs for a range of people, IT, property and leave-related questions.
Contact with external agencies	Ongoing liaison and collaboration with external agencies including Department of Health, Australian Border Force and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Cleaning and supplies	Additional touchpoint cleaning in workplaces – for example, lift buttons, railings, door handles – and provision of soap, hand sanitiser, cleaning wipes and gloves for staff to regularly clean equipment and common areas such as kitchens.
Promptly addressing non-adherence	Ongoing monitoring and prompt action following advice of non-adherence to workplace instructions and signage (script to be provided to relevant business areas as needed)
Meetings, presentations and toolbox talks	Planning, implementation, monitoring and information sharing and discussion of local business area questions or concerns – as required

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: People, Property and Security Division

PPSD03

NEW CANBERRA OFFICE (CQ2)

CURRENT ISSUE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's new Canberra Office (CQ2) project on 70 Northbourne Avenue is currently under construction and is on track for completion by 21 October 2022.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The department's property strategy for Canberra city is to consolidate three sites into one building in 2022, which include 18 Marcus Clarke Street (27,118 m²), 7 London Circuit (8,887 m²) and 44 Mort Street (3,072 m²) with a total area of 39,077 m².
 - The Mort Street lease was relinquished in June 2020 upon lease expiry. This represented a saving of **s. 45(1)**
- On 6 December 2019, the Minister for Finance endorsed the department's lease proposal over 33,040 m² at 70 Northbourne Avenue for 15 years with one five-year option and a whole-of-life cost of **s. 45(1)**
- The whole-of-life cost of the current lease arrangements for 18 Marcus Clarke Street and 7 London Circuit is **s. 45(1)** (over 20 years), excluding 44 Mort Street. The new lease arrangement will realise savings of **s. 45(1)** over a 20-year period when compared to the existing lease arrangements.
- On 7 October 2020, an expediency motion was passed in the House of Representatives approving the capital works over 32,664 m² at 70 Northbourne Avenue at a cost of **s. 45(1)**
 - The Minister for Finance approved the lease of 33,040 m² and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works approved capital works for 32,664 m². The difference of 376 m² is a result of the Developer's refined proposed area for the construction of the new building between approvals.
- This proposal will reduce the department's footprint by 6,413 m² (39,077 m² minus 32,664 m²) and provide an occupancy density of approximately 12 m² (refer to

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SB22-000079

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Attachment A). This will factor in physical distancing and remain below the Commonwealth target of 14 m².

- The Minister for Finance approval was supported by a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) that compared the status quo (current lease arrangements) to the proposals from the market. The CBA identified 18 Marcus Clarke Street net lettable area of 27,118 m². This excluded 1,760 m² covering storage of 566 m² plus a separate lease for the ground floor of 1,197 m².
- The Developer has been granted three extensions and the building construction is on track for completion by 21 October 2022.
 - The extensions have been granted as a result of a slightly delayed start to the project and design changes requested by the department.
 - The department has arranged short term lease extensions for 18 Marcus Clarke Street and 7 London Circuit to 31 January 2023 to support project delivery.
- As of 21 September 2022, the committed project expenditure was **s. 45(1)** (excluding GST). The project is expected to be completed within budget.
- The department currently occupies 37,765 m² office accommodation across its primary sites in Canberra (18 Marcus Clarke 28,878 m² and 7 London Circuit 8,887 m²). At completion of the project, the department will occupy an estimated 33,040 m² of office accommodation in Canberra, being a movement of 4,725 m² (refer to **Attachment B**).
- Upon practical completion, the office accommodation measurement will be revised to 32,832 m² for inclusion in the lease following the building surveyor's final onsite measurements.
- Following practical completion, the building will also undergo a review for a formal National Australian Built Environment Rating System rating, which will take approximately 12-18 months.
- The department continues to engage with staff and the CPSU through a variety of communication channels as the project progresses.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Reporting**

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works requested six-monthly reports throughout the design and construction phase of the project to remain informed of any changes to the design, scope or cost. The report was also requested to inform the Committee of ongoing changes to office accommodation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that could be implemented across the broader public sector.
- This first six-monthly report was submitted to the Committee on 29 March 2021, the second on 22 September 2021 and the third on 7 March 2022.

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- No questions were raised by the Committee for any of these reports.
- The department will also submit a Post Implementation Report to the Committee within three months of project completion.

Procurement activities

- The project includes a total of 26 trade packages. As of 21 September 2022, all 26 packages have been let.
- The tender documentation for the fitout trade packages includes clauses regarding recycled content. Potential suppliers have been made aware that the department is seeking to maximise the use of recycled content in the project and that this will be a consideration when evaluating tenders.

Flexible working and spaces

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department continues to look at the ways we work together and how we can better use our workspaces to support a more sustainable way of working while enhancing performance.
- The department is expanding to support several Budget initiatives, which is creating seating pressures across our sites. At the same time, our hybrid and flexible working arrangements have resulted in some under-used seating. As a result a 1:1 desk assignment will not be provided, which in turn ensures that Commonwealth resources are being used as efficiently as possible.
- The 70 Northbourne Avenue fitout can accommodate 3,631 staff on a flexible 7:10 model.
- By employing a flexible seating approach to our current spaces, we will better meet the demands on our available accommodation and continue to support where and how our people are working.

Governance and Engagement activities

- Throughout the process of moving towards more hybrid and flexible ways of working, we have consulted and engaged with staff across the department to better understand their needs and consider our best path forward.
- Our findings throughout this engagement and the broader flexible seating process is complementing the efforts of the groups we have established to manage and support our transition into the new CQ2 building.
- The department established the Canberra Office Accommodation Project Board (COAP) to oversee the Department's transition to the new building in 2022, ensuring that delivery of the CQ2 Project is well managed and controlled through monitoring and governance. The COAP Board's final meeting was held on 15 April 2022, and a CQ2 Multi-Disciplinary Team has been established to oversee the department's transition to the new building.

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- The Department established the CQ2 Working Group to support the COAP Board in managing the department's delivery of activities and initiatives supporting the program of work. Members are from the enabling areas and are business owners in the various areas of the Department with direct responsibility for people, information technology, property, security, emergency management and business continuity-related matters.
- The Department also established the CQ2 Reference Group, comprising a cross section of staff representatives (in Canberra) who participate in monthly meetings to discuss the progress of the CQ2 Project. Reference group participants are a key stakeholder/consultation group that provide value feedback to the project team and staff in relation to consultation and engagement activities.
- The Department continues to engage with the Commonwealth Public Sector Union and provided the latest CQ2 Project update at the Department's Staff Consultative Committee meeting on 25 August 2022. Further updates will continue to be provided through these forums as the project progresses.

ATTACHMENT A

Comparison of Canberra city lettable areas and rental rates with CQ2**(as per the Cost Benefit Analysis)**

	18 Marcus Clarke Street	7 London Circuit	44 Mort Street*	Total	CQ2	Movement
NLA m ²	27,118 m ²	8,887 m ²	3,072 m ²	39,077 m ²	32,664 m ²	-6,413 m ²
Cost m ²	s. 45(1)					
Lease Expiry	8/10/2022	8/10/2022	8/06/2020	--	--	--

* The 44 Mort Street lease covering 3,072 m² was relinquished in June 2020 upon lease expiry. ^{s. 45(1)}

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

ATTACHMENT B

Comparison of existing property portfolio and the future property portfolio with CQ2

	18 MC	7LC	Current Total	CQ2	New Total (CQ2)	Movement
NLA	28,878 m ²	8,887 m ²	37,765 m ²	33,040 m ²	33,040 m ²	-4,725 m ²
Staff	1,929	674	2,603	3,001	3,001	398
Workpoints	1,929	674	2,603	2,711	2,711	108
Capacity (8:10)	2,411	842	3,253	3,388	3,388	135
Fitout density (area/workpoints)	14.9 m ²	13.19 m ²		12.19 m ²		
Proposed occupancy density (8:10) (area/capacity)	11.98 m ²	10.55 m ²		11.01 m ²		

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RETURN TO INDEX

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Strategic Policy Advisor

SIPA01

INDIGENOUS PLATFORM

CURRENT ISSUE

First Nations assets are critical to achieving outcomes across the portfolio and has been a strong focus of the department for the last 18 months.

Through the key sectors of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food production, biosecurity, trade and exports and the primary industry value chains is determined to embrace and embed First Nations knowledge, perspectives, and unrealised potential into everything that we do. We will do this through partnerships and investments in First Nations peoples and through innovations and ideas led by First Nations knowledge.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has had a senior executive Strategic Indigenous Policy Advisor (on secondment from the National Indigenous Australian's Agency) working full time with staff and the senior leadership team for 18 months to understand our business, reshape our approach to working with First Nations peoples.
- As a consequence of this work, we have established the Indigenous Platform for Shared Benefits in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (The Platform). The Platform creates a defined transformational agenda to working with First Nations peoples, by developing an action orientated approach to generating value and sustained benefits.
- This work will broaden opportunities by working with First Nations peoples, through developing the capability of staff, as well as by working with industry partners, such as the National Farmers Federation and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation.
- The Platform aligns our core business with the government's First Nations priorities and commitments, and for the department to be able to feature in a leadership role in the whole of government elevation of First Nations-led policy reform.

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SB22-000090

- The department has a long history of working with First Nations people, particularly in relation to biosecurity in Northern Australia, but we are excited by the opportunity to expand this work into different areas and economic opportunities, such as trade market development and agriculture productivity.
- The board sees this as fundamental to meeting the portfolio's objectives, rather than an optional activity.
- In the next 6 months the focus is on the development of action-orientated plans that locks in actions across:
 - business as usual
 - opportunities that create innovative ideas
 - areas for reform that may create more effective policy levers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Platform will focus on First Nations opportunities and safeguarding our core drivers of protection and production across the portfolio:
 1. First Nations Workforce - Skills and Jobs (Industry and APS)
 2. First Nations Enterprise and Trade
 3. Indigenous-led traditional knowledge (cross-cutting).
- Opportunities under each area of focus is at **Attachment A: The Platform Areas For Action**
- The Platform is supported by a strong focus on working in partnership with First Nations peoples and through our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2021-2024.
- Our RAP is a strategic document that supports our priorities and strengthens ongoing relationships and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and First Nations communities.
- Our RAP comprises 100 initiatives across 15 actions. As of 30 June, the then Department Agriculture, Water and the Environment was on track to deliver 12 of the 15 actions during the lifetime (3 years) of the RAP.
- Reconciliation Australia has advised that each department (us and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) will need to develop a new RAP by July 2023, if we choose to continue to have a RAP. Alternatively, we can develop our own plan, with alignment to the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Strategy 2020-24.
- In the interim, we will continue to progress 95 of the 100 initiatives that are still relevant to us.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: The Platform Areas For Action

ATTACHMENT A: THE PLATFORM AREAS FOR ACTION**THE PLATFORM AREAS FOR ACTION**

1. First Nations Workforce - Skills and Jobs (Industry and Australian Public Service):
 - increasing First Nations representation in the Australian Public Service to 5% by 2030
 - Delivering Ag 2030
 - Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030
 - joined up government initiatives that provide benefits across portfolio's and to First Nations peoples: First Nations Clean Energy Strategy, Jobs and Skills Summit outcomes, new National Skills Agreement, and Agricultural Workforce Tripartite Agreement.
2. First Nations Enterprise and Trade:
 - First Nations participation and benefits across value chains
 - value-creation on First Nation land and water estates
 - premium pricing
 - International Free Trade Agreements
 - biosecurity
 - Indigenous Procurement Policy
 - First Nations entrepreneurship.
3. Indigenous-led traditional knowledge (cross-cutting):
 - management of natural capital markets
 - sustainable and restorative land management practices
 - participation in carbon markets
 - blue carbon restoration and conservation
 - increased productivity across a wide range of scientific activity
 - National Biodiversity Certificates scheme
 - protect against the impacts of climate change.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: ABARES Division

ABARES01

WATER POLICY

CURRENT ISSUE

There is significant stakeholder interest in the social and economic impacts of the remaining water recovery under the Basin Plan. The Australian Government is committed to implementing the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in full, bringing the Basin back to a healthier and sustainable level, while continuing to support the agriculture sector for the benefit of all Australians. However, there will be significant resistance to further water recovery, particularly with buybacks, from some sectors of the community.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The Murray Basin Plan has had bi-partisan support since it was legislated in 2012 to bring the Basin back to a healthier and sustainable level while continuing to support and grow the agriculture sector.
 - The initial Basin Plan target was a long-term average annual yield target of 3200 GL. This was amended in 2018 to 2525GL to take into account 605GL of supply measures and 70GL of northern Basin toolkit measures. These measures are aimed at achieving equivalent environmental outcomes with less water.
 - Meeting this target and implementing the Basin Plan in full demonstrates Australia's environmental credentials on a global scale, and our commitment to sustainable farming practices which underpin Australian agriculture's international green reputation generating long term benefits for the sector.
- The government's Water for Australia plan sets out our commitment to establish a National Water Commission, and a five-point plan to safeguard the Murray Darling Basin by upholding the Plan. The government will:
 - Deliver on water commitments – including the 450GL for South Australia.
 - Increase compliance, and improve metering and monitoring.
 - Restore transparency, integrity and confidence in water markets and water management.
 - Increasing First Nations ownership and involvement in decision-making.
 - Update the science.

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- Detailed questions on our Water for Australia Plan should be directed to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) at the senate estimates hearing on water scheduled 11 November 2022.
- Current water recovery
 - To date about 2100GL of surface water and 35GL of groundwater has been recovered.
- Remaining recovery
 - There is about 500GL of remaining water recovery consisting of about 50GL of 'bridging the gap' and just under 450GL of 'efficiency measure' water.
 - Under the Basin Plan the 'efficiency measures' must achieve neutral or improved socio-economic outcomes (see additional information for details).
- Social and economic impacts
 - The Basin Plan is a contentious issue. The environment has suffered from decades of over extraction of water. But communities reliant of the irrigation sector are concerned about the social and economic impacts of reduced agricultural production arising from water recovery.
 - The Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP has committed to recovering the full amount of water set out in the Basin Plan and that all options to recovery water are on the table.
 - The government is committed to working with stakeholders across the Basin to determine how best to recover the water. The department will work with DCCEEW to help identify the pros and cons of the different recovery methods, and ensure we recover the remaining water, while also minimising the impacts on the agriculture sector and basin communities.
 - The NSW and Victorian governments have been very vocal on this topic, insisting that any further recovery should not have negative impacts on regional communities. The South Australian Government has been emphasising that recovering the water is necessary for the environment and was a precondition for their agreement in 2012. Environment groups have been saying similar things.
- Funding for dams
 - The government is commitment to responsible investment in water infrastructure to enhance water supply and support sustainable water security for communities, industry and the environment.
 - The government's commitment to responsible investment also includes the deferral of a small number of water infrastructure projects where there is presently no state, territory or local government partner, no clear pathway to delivery or no strong economic case. These projects may proceed following

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proper consideration and if they deliver good value to the community. Alternatively other more cost-effective solutions may be considered.

- The Hells Gates Dam project will no longer proceed because a detailed business case determined it is not deliverable, has insufficient water allocation, and would result in significant detrimental impacts on the environment and First Nations cultural heritage.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Victorian social and economic impacts report
 - Potential social and economic impacts on regional communities arising from the recovery of the remaining water under the Basin Plan are a key area of contention. The NSW and Victorian governments have been vocal on this topic.
 - The Victorian government recently released the report *Social and Economic Impacts of Basin Plan Water Recovery in Victoria* by Frontier Economics and Tim Cummins and Associates. The report focuses on the impact of water recovery on the Victorian dairy sector. The department has several technical concerns with the report that result in the impact being overstated. In particular, the department believes the report significantly overstates the impact on the dairy sector from water recovery. However, these sorts of reports highlight the concerns some stakeholders and Basin states have with the remaining water recovery.
- Social and economic neutrality of the 450GL
 - As set out in the Basin Plan, recovery of this water is deemed to improve (or at least be neutral) social and economic outcomes if water entitlement holders participate in water recovery programs.
 - In addition, Ministerial Council (MinCo) agreed to criteria in 2019 which effectively rules out any water recovery if it has any negative impacts on anybody.
 - The MinCo criteria has made it difficult to make much progress on the 450GL.
 - The NSW and Victoria governments and industry bodies do not want the MinCo criteria changed. South Australia wants the criteria changed to make it easier to recover water.
- Water recovery options
 - Broadly there are 4 different types of water recovery:
 - buybacks – purchases from willing sellers
 - investment on on-farm efficiency projects where a portion of the saved water is returned to the government
 - investment in off-farm efficiency projects where a portion of the saved water is returned to the government

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- projects that enable an adjustment to the sustainable diversion limits in the Basin Plan, on the condition that the projects deliver equivalent environmental outcomes using less water.
- These options have varying effects on taxpayers, water markets, the irrigation sector and regional economic activity.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Taskforce

APT01

AGRICULTURE POLICY TASKFORCE OVERVIEW

CURRENT ISSUE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) established the Agriculture Policy Taskforce to advise the Secretary on preparedness for a nationally significant exotic animal disease outbreak, while not detracting from the surge of frontline biosecurity services to current risks.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry established the Agriculture Policy Taskforce on Monday 8 August 2022. It will operate for a time-limited period at the discretion of the Secretary.
- The Taskforce is led by Deputy Secretary [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) and reports to the Secretary.
 - The Taskforce has fourteen dedicated officers from within the department's ASL.
 - One SES Band 3 Officer
 - Two SES Band 2 Officers
 - Three SES Band 1 Officers
 - Four Executive Level 2 Officers
 - Two Executive Level 1 Officers
 - One APS 6 Officer
 - One APS 5 Officer
 - Two individuals were seconded from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).
 - The Taskforce is supported by relevant subject matter experts from across the department as required, and a small cohort of officers have been seconded for short periods (2-6 weeks) to contribute to specific pieces of work.
- The Taskforce is resourced internally, and has no budget allocated.

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- The Taskforce will examine and make recommendations about the department and broader government's capacity, capability and potential responses to a nationally significant exotic animal disease outbreak.
 - Key messages and recommendations from the Taskforce will be communicated to the Executive Board/Executive Leadership Team.
- The Taskforce is developing a fit for purpose and sustainable funding model for biosecurity, consistent with the government's election commitment.
 - This is widely recognised as critical to ensuring that Australian Government arrangements can continue to respond effectively to emerging biosecurity threats.
 - Early action is a priority in the current environment; but this will be a multi-year agenda.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Agriculture Policy Taskforce is different to the Joint Interagency Taskforce: Exotic Animal Disease Preparedness (EAD) that was established by the Minister and jointly led by DAFF and Emergency Management Australia.
- The department's submission to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee on the *Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness, in particular with respect to foot-and-mouth disease*, was provided on Friday 26 August 2022.
- Policy and Program Stream
 - The Policy and Program Stream is providing advice to government on potential policy responses in the event of an incursion.
 - This work is focused on preparedness to ensure that the government can provide individual, business and community support.
 - The Policy and Program Stream is working with state and territory jurisdictions to dovetail potential policy responses across the country.
- Biosecurity Sustainable Funding Stream
 - Significant funding has been invested in the biosecurity system over the past decade; mainly in response to specific pest and disease threats. However, there are still gaps to be addressed to make sure the system is responsive and adaptable to new risks. To enable this, funding will need to be sufficient and certain.
 - The Biosecurity Sustainable Funding Stream will consider a broad range of revenue and co-investment options to support:

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- current and emerging operating requirements, including surge capacity and critical business transformation.
 - efficient clearance of goods at the border
 - stronger national biosecurity preparedness and response in the face of a potential pest or disease outbreak.
- Stakeholder engagement will be important
 - A discussion paper is expected to be released for public consultation in November 2022 via the department's *'Have Your Say'* platform.
 - [The department's review of current industry cost-recovery fees and charges is being finalised. This will stabilise funding to air and sea cargo activity while longer-term and broader reforms are considered.]
- Contingent Capability
 - The Taskforce has engaged Nous Group Pty Ltd, under Activity Order Strategy and Leadership Improvements, to scope and design an all-hazards crisis response capability.
 - Strategic priorities, in relation to EAD preparedness, are being actioned across the portfolio and government.
 - Implementation of recommendations outlined within the Joint Interagency Taskforce: EAD Preparedness report, which was provided to the Minister on Monday 5 September 2022.
 - Development of crisis communication plans, particularly for the first 3 days of an EAD incursion.
 - Investment in a connected and cohesive data solution to provide decision makers with timely and relevant data before, during and following an EAD incursion.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

APD01

AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

CURRENT ISSUE

Access to suitable labour both domestically and from overseas remains a key issue facing agricultural businesses.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Australian agriculture is facing ongoing skills and labour shortages, largely exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced the number of overseas workers and placed restrictions on the movement of Australian workers.
- Despite these challenges, overall production remains strong.
- Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa holder numbers are growing. As at September 2022, over 55,700 WHM visa holders were in Australia. There are a further 74,100 WHM visa holders who can travel to Australia.
 - While still below pre-COVID WHMs numbers (over 137,000 in Australia in March 2020), we are clearly seeing backpackers return (there was just over 19,000 WHMs in Australia in March 2022).
- There are also more than 27,500 workers, under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme, currently in Australia (as at 31 August 2022), with more than 40,000 pre-screened workers (as at June 2022) awaiting job offers.
- Minister Watt is supporting the agriculture sector address these challenges through ensuring outcomes of the Jobs and Skills Summit (the Summit) benefit the agriculture sector.

Jobs and Skills Summit (1-2 September 2022)

- The Summit confirmed a combination of measures is required to address Australia's workforce challenges, including in the agriculture sector.
- Measures underway and expected to support the agriculture sector include:
 - Partnering with state and territory governments to accelerate the delivery of 465,000 fee free TAFE places, with 180,000 to be delivered next year.

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Last updated: 27 September 2022

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SB22-000018

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- An increase in the permanent Migration Program ceiling to 195,000 in 2022-23, including 34,000 places specifically for regional visas within the skill stream.
- \$36 million for the Department of Home Affairs to recruit 500 staff to address the visa backlog.
- A one-off income credit so that Age Pensioners who want to work can earn an additional \$4,000 over this financial year without it affecting their pension.
- Increase the duration of post study work rights of international students in areas of verified skills shortage to strengthen the pipeline of skilled labour in Australia.
- Measures currently being developed include:
 - Reforms to the vocational education and training (VET) framework to improve flexibility through micro-credentials and better inclusion of work-based learning.
 - Review of migration settings such as labour market testing and skilled migration occupation lists.
 - Reforms to the *Fair Work Act 2009* to ensure stronger protections for workers.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) is working with responsible portfolio agencies to progress these measures as necessary.
- On 2 September 2022, Minister Watt along with agriculture, meat processing and union representatives signed an Agricultural Workforce Tripartite Statement.
 - The statement acknowledges the opportunity to resolve longstanding challenges in the agriculture sector, including serious skill and labour shortages and the right of workers to good pay and working conditions.
 - This includes an agreement to establish a new tripartite working group to develop initiatives to address short and long-term workforce issues.
- The Working Group met for the first time on 21 October 2022 and will continue to meet over the next 12 months. It is focussed on providing structured input into the Employment White Paper and resolving some of agriculture's complex workforce challenges. Draft Terms of Reference, including proposed membership included at **Attachment A**.

Additional measures

- While Summit outcomes will play a significant role in supporting the sector, they are not the only answer.
- The government is improving and expanding the PALM scheme, including relocating the Australian Agricultural Visa within PALM to deliver more flexibility. Further details at **Attachment B**.

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- The agriculture sector also has access to multiple labour agreements, which enable businesses to sponsor skilled overseas workers when there is need that cannot be met by Australians. These include horticulture, meat, pork, fishing and dairy.
- The government is also considering the recommendations of the *National Agricultural Workforce Strategy*.

Worker exploitation

- The government is dedicated to improving protections and safeguards for vulnerable workers and has no tolerance for exploitation of any worker.
- The government has committed to implementing the recommendations of the Migrant Workers Taskforce, including harmonising labour hire regulations and criminalising wage theft.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Statistics from the 2021 ABS Census indicate around 239,000 people were employed in agricultural occupations, a slight rise from 228,000 in 2016.
- However, Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector employed fewer workers in August 2022 (287,300) than in August 2021 (314,600) (Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey).
 - However due to the seasonal nature of agriculture work, it is expected to see fluctuations in the number of workers employed.
- The effects of COVID-19 on the agricultural workforce have been most directly felt in the horticulture sector, where there is high usage of overseas workers.
- The Food Supply Chain Alliance estimates 172,000 workers are needed to fill food supply chain workforce gaps. However, the majority of these are in the supply chain, not on farm.
 - Reports from AUSVEG and the Australian Fresh Produce Alliance claim the horticulture sector is short around 10,000 individual workers.
- The department considers 10,000 horticulture workers to roughly align with ABARES estimates. However, estimating workforce shortages is difficult and ABARES estimates of decline of workers is not the exact same as workforce shortages.
- ABARES research indicates employment in horticulture declined by 8% (11,100 workers) in Australia from 2019–20 to 2020–21, with declines in all states and sub-sectors.

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ATTACHMENT A: DRAFT terms of reference for Agricultural Workforce Working Group**AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE WORKING GROUP****Terms of Reference****Purpose:**

The new tripartite working group will pursue solutions to better skill, attract, protect and retain workers in the agriculture and processing sectors. The group will also collaborate with the Australian Government to ensure the agriculture sector benefits from announcements made at the Jobs and Skills Summit in relation to skills, migration, and worker protections.

It will be known as the Agriculture Workforce Working Group (the Working Group).

Focus:

The Working Group will be a solutions-oriented forum for employer and worker representatives, departmental officials, and the Minister to consider:

- Agriculture specific skills, apprenticeships and training programs, including in the regions, to uplift capability for workers and employers
- Attracting Australians to the sector by promoting well-paid, secure, local employment and careers
- Maximising value and security from visa classes, including the successful PALM scheme, to support the farm and processing sectors
- Further protections for workers to ensure they are treated fairly, including in relation to labour hire and deductions
- Encouraging wider participation in the industry among women, First Nations, youth, people with disability and older Australians
- Improved housing for key workers in regional areas, and
- Building capability for data collection on the agricultural workforce

The Working Group will operate in a collegiate manner and from a foundation of trust.

Membership and Secretariat:

The members of the Group are:

<i>Government</i>	
Senator the Hon. Murray Watt	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
<i>Unions</i>	
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	President, Australian Council of Trade Unions
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	National Secretary, Australian Workers' Union
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	National Secretary, United Workers Union

OFFICIAL

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (alternate to be inserted)	National Secretary, Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union
<i>Employer groups</i>	
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (alternate to be inserted)	President, National Farmers' Federation
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (alternate to be inserted)	CEO, Australian Meat Industry Council
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (alternate to be inserted)	Executive Officer, NFF Horticulture Council
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (alternate to be inserted)	National Council Member, Australian Dairy Farmers

The group will be supported by an independent facilitator with a Secretariat provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department).

Members will nominate an alternate participant who will attend meetings in their place in instances where the primary member is unable to be present. However, this should only occur in unavoidable circumstances. Members will be expected to consult with members and other parts of industry to ensure they are representing a broad range of views.

Relevant experts, including officials from other departments will be invited to attend meetings when necessary.

Meeting arrangements:

The Working Group will have its first meeting in October 2022 and will meet once a month until September 2023 (excepting January 2023).

Meetings will be both virtually and face-to-face. Based on its workplan, the Working Group may decide which meetings are to be held in person.

Officer-level working groups:

The Working Group may commission sub-groups to undertake work on specific issues or seek information from the department or other groups. Sub-group membership will be determined by Working Group members and may vary depending on the action items. Subgroups will be required to report back to the Working Group at subsequent meetings.

Agenda and papers:

The agenda and papers for each meeting will be prepared in consultation with the facilitator and approved by the Minister and the Secretary.

Members are encouraged to prepare papers and raise issues for discussion or consideration by the Working Group.

Members will seek approval for papers from the Minister and the Secretary through the Secretariat no later than two weeks prior to the meeting and will provide final copies of papers to the Secretariat no later than one week prior to the meeting.

The agenda and papers will be circulated to all members by the Secretariat at least three business days prior to each meeting.

OFFICIAL**Communique:**

A short communique will be prepared after each meeting.

The communique will be prepared by the Secretariat and agreed by all members. The communique will be published on the department's website no later than one week after each meeting.

Members are encouraged to use the communique to provide feedback to their constituents/members about the broad issues that were discussed.

Workplan:

The department will prepare a draft workplan for the Working Group's consideration, based on the tripartite agreement released on 2 September 2022. The Working Group will finalise its workplan at the first meeting.

Administrative issues:

Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed, to be negotiated with the Secretariat. Sitting fees will not be paid.

OFFICIAL

ATTACHMENT B: PALM scheme reforms and Relocation of Australian Agriculture VisaPALM scheme reforms

- The government is strengthening Australia's Pacific partnerships by delivering a comprehensive package of reforms to improve and expand the PALM scheme. Reforms include:
 - Allowing longer-term PALM workers to bring their families to Australia, subject to Australian employer sponsorship
 - Reducing the burden of upfront costs for employers of seasonal workers.
 - Relocating the Australian Agriculture Visa program within the PALM scheme to deliver more flexibility for employers
 - Improving workplace standards for PALM workers and implementing recommendations of the Migrant Workers' Taskforce
 - More effectively promoting the scheme in the Pacific and Timor-Leste in cooperation with Pacific governments.

Relocation of Australian Agriculture Visa (AAV) program

- The government has committed to honouring the AAV Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vietnam. Discussions with Vietnam on meeting these obligations are ongoing.
- More broadly, the government has announced the relocation of the former AAV into the PALM scheme and will be considering possible adjustments to the PALM scheme to reflect the key features of the AAV valued by industry in the co-design process for the program.
- Possible features for incorporation include:
 - Ability for workers to change employers
 - Streamlined employer accreditation options to reduce administrative requirements, and
 - Expanding the definition of agriculture to enable recruitment of more workers in urban areas.
- Consultations are underway on this process, noting that the specific features to be integrated into the PALM scheme will ultimately be a decision for government.
 - Unlike the AAV, the PALM scheme will continue to target unskilled, low-skilled and semi-skilled workers (ANZSCO levels 3-5). Higher skilled workers (ANZSCO levels 1 and 2) will not be eligible to participate.

Has moving the MoU with Vietnam to under the PALM scheme delayed the arrival of workers?

- Negotiations with Vietnam are similar to those that were required to operationalise workers under the AAV. Delays are not considered a government issue.
- For further advice, refer to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

APD02

DOMESTIC FOOD SECURITY AND SUPPLY

CURRENT ISSUE

Food supply chains are susceptible to a range of shocks, with recent disruptions due to COVID-19, global trade, natural disasters and high input costs. This is resulting in rising food costs, localised, short term issues of food accessibility, and some uncertainty for producers.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Australia's food supply chains are resilient and have generally managed well under challenging circumstances – for example, during COVID when panic buying resulted in food and grocery shortages and responding to localised food supply shortages during recent flooding events across the country.
- Australia is one of the most food secure countries in the world
 - We export around 70 per cent of agricultural output by value.
- The gross value of agricultural production continues to be incredibly strong at over \$80 billion for a second year
 - This is due to higher commodity prices and favourable seasons
 - Winter crop production this year was forecast to reach the fourth highest on record at 55.5 million tonnes
 - Planting of summer crops in 2022-23 is also forecast to be well above average.
- Most shortages we have seen in recent months have been localised, due to flooding in parts of NSW and Queensland. These shortages are not a result of insufficient food production.

What is the Australian Government doing to ensure food access and supply?

- To help mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities, the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund will invest in manufacturing in Australia, to help diversify Australian industry, open new trade opportunities and improve our sovereign capability.

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Last updated: 14 October 2022

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SB22-000019

- The government works closely with industry to gain early insights into potential disruptions to food supply and build the resilience of the food & grocery supply chain.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) works with industry representatives and state and territory governments to share information and plan for disruptions through the Food and Grocery Sector Group (FGSG) under the Department of Home Affairs' *Trusted Information Sharing Network*.
 - The FGSG's role is to enhance the food and grocery supply chain's capacity to prepare, respond, and recover from disruptions to food supply under all hazards.
- The department also works closely with the Office of Supply Chain Resilience and with state and territory governments to monitor critical supply chain vulnerabilities.
- The department has also been building preparedness for potential animal disease incursions, such as Foot and Mouth Disease and the impacts this could have on food supply.

Will the government establish a National Food Supply Chain Strategy as called for by the Food Supply Chain Alliance?

- Through the Agriculture Ministers' Meetings and Food Ministers' Meetings, we are committed to working with ministerial colleagues to ensure Australia's food industry and system is globally competitive and sustainable – and that all Australians have access to healthy and safe food.
- We will continue to work with, and listen to all stakeholders, including the not-for-profit sector to identify how our food system can be strengthened for all Australians.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Input costs

- Rising input costs such as fertiliser, fuel and freight are a significant and growing challenge for producers (see SB22-000026).
 - Australian farmers and food processors are sensitive to changes in fuel and energy prices and rely on global supply chains and imported inputs.
- The National Farmers' Federation and the Food Supply Chain Alliance continue to highlight ongoing labour shortages as "one of the few cost of living pressures' government can influence" which will impact prices and availability of food for consumers (see SB22-000018 for workforce issues).

High food prices

- Global food prices are historically high, and this is expected to continue into 2023. Domestic food prices, particularly for fresh produce, have increased due to rising input costs and workforce shortages.
 - This has been exacerbated by flooding in Queensland and New South Wales.
 - A third La Nina event has been confirmed by the Bureau of Meteorology, and there is an increased probability of further flooding events.



28 September 2022

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
MG 61
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Request for Inquiry Referral—Food Security in Australia

I write on behalf of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture. This morning the Committee resolved to request a formal referral from you for an inquiry into Food Security in Australia.

Food security is a national and global issue. While Australia is recognised as a leading producer and exporter of food, recent events have highlighted vulnerabilities in the supply of key agricultural inputs such as fuel, fertilizer and labour, and the vulnerability of supply chains to disruption. Australia and the world also face challenges to food production caused by climate change.

The Committee proposes an inquiry into food security with the following terms of reference:

The Committee will inquire into and report on strengthening and safeguarding food security in Australia, including examining:

- National production, consumption and export of food;
- Access to key inputs such as fuel, fertiliser and labour, and their impact on production costs;
- The impact of supply chain distribution on the cost and availability of food; and
- The potential opportunities and threats of climate change on food security.

The Committee would like to commence this inquiry as soon as possible.

Should your office or departmental officials have any questions in relation to this request, they are welcome to contact the [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

Correspondence in relation to this request may be forwarded directly to the Committee Secretariat via email at agriculture.reps@aph.gov.au.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

APD03

POULTRY STANDARDS

CURRENT ISSUE

Proposed new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry and the accompanying Decision Regulation Impact Statement were published on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) website on 18 August 2022. States and territories are now considering next steps with all Agricultural Ministers to meet and discuss in early 2023.

This has largely been driven by a changing social license on many animal welfare issues, including the use of traditional 'battery' cages. International drivers in animal welfare are also placing pressure on industry over certain practices, with concerns this pressure may impede market access.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The Independent Poultry Panel was commissioned by all state and territory Agricultural Ministers to finalise the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry ('the standards').
- Publication of the standards on 18 August 2022 was the culmination of an extensive stakeholder and public consultation process over several years, including 167,000 public submissions.
 - Development of new poultry welfare standards commenced in 2015 under an industry-government process lead by the Animal Welfare Task Group.
 - In 2019, Ministers agreed to establish an Independent Poultry Panel after the industry-government process was unable to reach an agreement.
 - The Independent Poultry Panel was formed in 2020 and commenced work, completing final standards and guidelines in December 2021.
- Consultation during the development of the standards included the establishment of a Stakeholder Advisory Group with representatives from the various poultry industries, animal welfare organisations, researchers, and government officials from each jurisdiction.

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SB22-000020

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- The standards balance extensive consultation with the consideration of contemporary animal welfare science.
- While the standards cover a range of welfare improvements (such as light, water and ventilation) for various types of poultry (ducks, chickens, pigeons, emus, ostriches), the main changes impact chickens for egg production and ducks produced for meat.
- The standards phase out the use of conventional laying hen ‘battery’ cages over 10 to 15 years (at the latest by 2036), with timeframes depending on the age of current infrastructure.
- The standards still support various egg production systems, including caged, barn and free-range systems. The standards allow the use of larger, furnished cages that provide welfare improvements. These include a nest area, scratch area, perch and foraging material. In many cases, existing cages can be adjusted.
- The standards support a range of options for indoor and outdoor housing systems for chickens, allowing farmers the option to operate a housing system that best suits their enterprise.
- Animal welfare is largely a state and territory responsibility, and implementation issues including any structural adjustment support is a matter for individual jurisdictions.
- While the standards propose a phased approach to banning conventional cages, states and territories could choose to legislate sooner, and consumers already have a choice about the products they purchase. Some retailers have already announced a ban on conventional cages.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The poultry standards are one of a suite of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines that aim to harmonise national animal welfare legislation, providing certainty, clarity and consistency to industry, consumers and trading partners.
- The Independent Poultry Panel was commissioned in October 2019 after several years of work under a previous government-industry process reached an impasse.
- The Independent Poultry Panel completed its work in late 2021.
- The department provided the secretariat to the Independent Poultry Panel and cost sharing for the work of the panellists was split between the Commonwealth, states and territories, with the Commonwealth paying over 50% of costs
- In 2020-21, total cost for the panel was \$147,562, not including secretariat support.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

APD04

GRASS-FED CATTLE INDUSTRY REFORM

CURRENT ISSUE

There is disagreement on reforms to industry representative arrangements in the grass-fed cattle industry. There are also claims that funding of \$550,000 (inc. GST) provided by the department lacks transparency and has not delivered the right outcome.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The grass-fed cattle industry has been discussing the need for a financially sustainable, democratically elected industry body for many years.
- While the Australian Government is supportive of this objective, the format of any industry representative arrangements is a matter for industry, not government.
- The department provided funding to assist the reform process to support industry with the consultation, design and transition work required. This has been completed.
- The department is aware of media reports that Cattle Producers Australia Limited is planning legal action in the Supreme Court of Queensland.
- As the matter may shortly be before the courts, it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

Current Status

- The Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) is transitioning to 'Cattle Australia'. It is the same legal entity but with a new constitution requiring the Board to be determined through a vote of all members.
 - Under the reforms, all grass-fed cattle producers are able to vote in the board election process; something that is currently not available to them.
 - A review of the new constitution is planned within two years, providing an opportunity for further refinements and industry feedback.
 - Changes to the CCA constitution can only be made by CCA's members.

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Last updated: 13 October 2022

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SB22-000021

OFFICIAL**The department's contract with the Cattle Council**

- The department entered into a contract with CCA using departmental funds (not a grant) for \$550,000 at the direction of the former Minister.
- The payment supported the consultation, design and transition work required to progress the reforms including:
 - services of a full-time independent chair and secretariat for six months
 - 20 stakeholder meetings and 11 steering committee meetings
 - drafting of a company constitution and plans on marketing and communication, risk management, resource management, and monitoring and evaluation.
- The payment was not tied to the delivery of a specific representative arrangement.
- Parts of the industry argue the reforms do not go far enough or are tainted; they want a new legal entity formed to replace CCA and have criticised CCA for taking over the process.
- All deliverables under the contract were achieved to the department's satisfaction and payments were made accordingly.
- The department had no role in the industry reform process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Industry groups have been attempting to reform the representative arrangements for the grass-fed cattle industry since 2014.
- The former Minister was supportive of the industry's efforts and agreed to provide funding to assist. The department has provided \$511,500 (inc. GST), with a final payment of \$110,000 (inc. GST) still to be paid.
 - \$550,000 (inc. GST) to the CCA to conduct an industry consultation, prepare a constitution for a new representative body and a transition plan.
 - \$33,000 (inc. GST) to the CCA for a project plan and communication strategy.
 - \$38,500 (inc. GST) to an independent facilitator for meetings between CCA and Cattle Producers Australia in December 2020 and February 2021.
- Key parts of the industry agree with the reform which have been ultimately supported by 74% of State Farming Organisations and 91.5% of direct CCA members.
 - There is strong opposition from a small but vocal group of organisations. Led by Cattle Producers Australia, they argue the process has been compromised because it was not agreed by the industry steering committee that guided the process and is inconsistent with the original industry plan.

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- They want an entirely new legal entity to replace CCA and different policy council and voting allocation arrangements. They also argue that CCA has not been transparent on how the \$550,000 provided by the department was used.
- The department was not part of the industry steering committee and played no role in selecting its members or chair. The \$550,000 provided to the CCA was impartial to any reform outcome and did not tie the CCA or the steering committee to any particular decision or process. The department considers that the \$550,000 has been appropriately acquitted.
- Although the former Minister supported the reforms, successive governments have been clear that it is not government's role to intervene in models of representation.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

APD05

FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

CURRENT ISSUE

The Australian Government has decided not to proceed with the grant funding for agricultural shows announced by the previous government in the March 2022 Budget. This decision is part of the government's audit of all budget measures.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The government has decided not to proceed with two measures announced by the previous government in the March 2022 budget:
 - \$14 million for Round 2 of the Agricultural Shows Development grant program - to build and upgrade showground infrastructure
 - \$2.8 million for Round 3 of the Supporting Agricultural Shows and Field Days grant program - to reimburse costs of shows cancelled due to COVID.
- While the government recognises the important and substantial contribution agricultural shows make to the Australian economy and way of life, it has made the hard decision necessary for responsible budget repair.
- Over \$80 million has been provided to support the agricultural show sector over the last two years. This includes:
 - \$39.1 million for Capital City Royal Shows that were forced to cancel due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021
 - \$13.8 million for other (generally smaller) agricultural shows and field days that were forced to cancel due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021
 - \$20 million to upgrade and build showground infrastructure in 2020-21 (projects delayed due to COVID-19 and the impact of extreme weather events, are expected to be completed by 31 January 2023)
 - \$8.3 million to support travelling showmen and women (this program is still in progress, with the Victorian Showmen's Guild distributing funds to local operators).

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SB22-000022

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- Over 450 Agricultural shows and field days have been supported since 2020 (across all programs except for the Supporting Agricultural Showmen and Women program).
- Five Showmen’s Guilds and Associations were also supported, distributing rental relief and guild membership fees (a reimbursement or moratorium) to hundreds of travelling show businesses (under the Supporting Agricultural Showmen and Women program which is still in progress).
- Not every support program can continue indefinitely.
- With restrictions lifted nationally, and continued support from the state and territory governments, the sector is well placed to return to pre-COVID conditions.
- As supporting agricultural shows is ordinarily the responsibility of state and territory governments, most of the funding was designed to be a point-in-time support for agricultural shows to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.
 - This was in addition to other COVID-19 support packages available to businesses and communities more generally.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<u>Contribution of Agricultural Shows:</u>	
Economic benefits generated:	\$1 billion (annually)
Visitor numbers:	6 million people (annually)
Volunteer numbers:	50,000 people (annually)
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the competitiveness of agricultural industries by promoting new technologies and high-quality produce, contributing to industries’ \$100 billion by 2030 target • support community cohesion and connection in regional communities • play an important role in the social and economic fabric of regional Australia • provide vital community infrastructure, such as vaccination and testing sites, or as evacuation centres during natural disasters

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

APD06

WINE TOURISM AND CELLAR DOOR GRANTS PROGRAM

CURRENT ISSUE

Round Four of the Wine Tourism and Cellar Door Grant program (the Program) is continuing in 2022-23, but the Program's opening has been delayed as it was considered by government under the Audit of Wasteful Spending.

The Program provides \$10 million per financial year for eligible wine and cider producers for grants of up to \$100,000.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The 2022-23 Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio Budget Statement, released on 25 October 2022, includes \$10 million per year for the Program over the forward estimates.
- The decision to continue the Program reflects its importance for wine and cider businesses, particularly small wineries and cellar doors that have made financial decisions based on this program continuing.
- The department is working with Wine Australia to open Round Four of the Program as soon as possible, which will cover sales made in 2021-22.

Outlook for Australia's wine sector

- The government recognises the contribution of the grape and wine sector to the economic prosperity of regional Australia.
 - Australia's wine sector is a thriving example of a locally grown and manufactured agricultural industry.
- There are ongoing challenges facing the sector, including:
 - impacts of natural disasters such as bushfires, hailstorms and floods,
 - declining tourism due to COVID-19 restrictions,
 - the rising cost of inputs and shipping, and
 - [s. 33\(a\)\(iii\)](#)

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Last updated: 27 October 2022

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SB22-000099

OFFICIAL

- Australian wine exports declined by 1 per cent in volume to 627 million litres and 11% in value to \$2.01 billion in the year ending 30 September 2022.
 - **s. 33(a)(iii)**

Other Australian Government support

- The government is committed to working with industry to grow and recover through the challenges facing the sector, including expanding new international market access and growing demand for Australian wines through:
 - \$2.815 million in Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation (ATMAC) grants for Australian Grape and Wine, to explore new markets and promote Australian wine;
 - a further \$500,000 ATMAC grant for the Food and Wine Collaboration Group, which includes Wine Australia;
 - **s. 33(a)(iii)**
 - **s. 33(a)(iii)**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Program is an ongoing measure which provides \$10 million each financial year for eligible wine producers to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 on eligible cellar door sales made during the previous financial year.
- The objective of the Program is to support wineries and cellar door operators who attract visitors to Australian wine regions and help promote agri-tourism.
- The Program was established following reforms to the Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) rebate in 2016-17, including reducing the WET rebate cap from \$500,000 to \$350,000.
- To be eligible, in the previous financial year, producers must have:
 - made at least \$1.207 million in wine sales, and accrued additional, domestic cellar door sales (note: \$1.207 million in wine sales equates to when a producer would reach the current \$350,000 WET rebate cap);
 - owned or leased a physical cellar door; and
 - paid the WET on all eligible sales used as part of the application.
- There have been three rounds of the Program to date, which have all been heavily oversubscribed.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

APD07

FLOOD IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE

CURRENT ISSUE

Flooding has caused significant damage and disruption to rural communities in parts of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- As at 31 October 122 Local Government Areas (LGA's) have been approved for Disaster Recovery Allowance representing:
 - \$24.9 billion of agricultural production (35% of total agricultural production)
 - 29,414 farms (approximately 34% of all farms in Australia).
- Many farmers are still surveying damage, however:
 - We expect extensive damage to farm buildings, fencing and roads.
 - There are already issues with feed supply due to road damage and crop losses.
 - Increased moisture increases risk of pest and disease and foot rot in livestock.
- Supply chain impacts on storage, processors and transport will impact food prices.
 - the Treasurer expects the price of fruit and vegetables to be 8% higher over the next two quarters due to 2022 flooding.
- Nationally, the losses in affected regions will be offset by close to record production expected in South Australia and Western Australia.

Department actions

- We are monitoring the impacts of flooding on agricultural sector and feed this into the Australian Government Crisis and Recovery Committee.
- We have temporarily suspended debt collection and compliance activities and are suppressing financial correspondence in impacted areas.
 - Affected customers, levy payers or levy collection agents can contact the department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and we will consider these requests case-by-case.

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Support measures (see also **Attachment A**):

- People impacted by flood disasters may be eligible for assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).
- The Australian Government has a range of rural assistance options that are always available and may help people and businesses impacted by flooding. Additional support to farmers and rural businesses includes:
 - Farm Household Allowance
 - Withdrawals from the Farm Management Deposit Scheme
 - Regional Investment Corporation Loans
 - Rural Financial Counsellors (led by NEMA)



October 2022

Flood recovery support for farmers

Support is now available for people in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales affected by flooding.

If you are impacted by floods, please follow all instructions given by authorities and call 000 if you are in immediate danger.

Information about support and assistance can be found via the [National Emergency Management Agency \(NEMA\)](#) website.

Disaster recovery support and financial assistance

The Australian Government is providing financial help for people in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales affected by the ongoing extensive flooding.

People in Local Government Areas affected by these flood disasters can apply for support made available via the jointly funded Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, or where applicable for Commonwealth recovery payments like the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and/or Disaster Recovery Allowance.

For financial assistance and eligibility please visit the NEMA website:
<https://nema.gov.au/financial-help-floods-Oct23>.

For disaster recovery services in your local government (LGA) area visit
<https://nema.gov.au/disaster-assist>.

Support in your area

There are many people and organisations you can talk to about your options. They include farm industry groups, banks and advisers such as agronomists and accountants, to federal, state and local governments, charities and other non-government organisations.

Local government and community organisations provide free support services such as:

- family support services
- one-to-one counselling
- outreach support
- community mental health and wellbeing events
- advice and referrals.

Find local support and information on programs and services at Services Australia.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/natural-disaster>.



Rural Financial Counsellors

Rural Financial Counsellors (RFC) are qualified professionals who can provide support that is unique to your situation, at no cost to you. They will listen to you and help develop an action plan with the necessary steps to get you out of financial difficulty.

For immediate help with household expenses or emergency assistance following a natural disaster, your local Rural Financial Counselling Service can provide information on the full range of government assistance programs.

Find your nearest Rural Financial Counselling Service visit the rfcsnetwork.com.au website or call 1300 771 741.

Mental health support services

Individuals affected by flooding can access mental health support face-to-face, online or via phone services.

- Call Lifeline on **13 11 14** for crisis support.
- Head to Health connects Australians to information, advice, and free or low-cost phone and online mental health services and support.
- Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are a great place to find local services. The Australian Government funds PHNs to engage with local mental health resources in addition to what is available through Head to Health. [Find your local PHN.](#)

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry also provides longer term support measures including:

Farm Household Allowance

The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) is available to farming families in financial hardship (based on their current circumstances, not the last tax return – and for hardship of any reason). The program provides practical support for eligible farmers through a package of assistance including, fortnightly payments and additional allowances such as rent assistance, case support and a professional farm financial assessment.

The program also includes a \$10,000 activity supplement to develop skills and increase capacity for financial self-reliance.

To apply for FHA, call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on **132 316** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm local time). For more information, visit agriculture.gov.au/fha.

Farm Management Deposit Scheme

Individuals may access previously lodged Farm Management Deposits (FMD).

A FMD account allows primary producers to make tax deductible deposits during years of good cash flow and withdraw them during bad years. Primary producers affected by natural disasters, such as floods, may withdraw their FMDs to assist with cashflow. This may include withdrawals within the first 12 months of deposit without losing taxation benefits, subject to meeting eligibility requirements. For more information visit agriculture.gov.au/fmd.

Stay up to date:

In an emergency, things can change rapidly. It's important to stay up to date.

www.nema.gov.au

www.agriculture.gov.au

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: AGVET Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement

ACFFED01

REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

CURRENT ISSUE

The use of Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) as the mechanism to balance the social, economic and environmental values of Australia's native forests is under pressure.

RFAs have been criticised in the Samuel Review as not providing the same level of assessment as other *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) mechanisms. The extension of the North East NSW RFA is the subject of a legal challenge by the North East Forest Alliance in the Federal Court. In 2021, the Western Australian Government announced it will end native forest harvesting from 2024. This follows Victoria's 2019 announcement that it will end native forestry from 2030.

RFAs play an important role in ensuring forest resources are sustainably managed. The department continues to work with RFA states to ensure native forests continue to provide the products, employment and ecosystem services Australia needs.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

What is the benefit of Australia's native forest industry and what is the government doing to support it?

- Australia's native forests are an important source of sustainable wood products, such as hardwood flooring and appearance grade timber. Australia's plantation estate is not able to replace the type and quality of wood produced from Australia's native forests.
- Forest industries play an important role in managing our native forest estate including responding to, and mitigating the risk of, bushfires. The native forestry sector is also an important employer in regional areas.
- As a signatory of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, the Australian Government is committed to forest management that is sustainable and has multiple outcomes including timber production.
- The government recognises that forests and sustainably harvested forest products will play an important role in meeting global climate goals through the carbon they capture and store.

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- During the election campaign, the Prime Minister wrote to Tasmanian forest workers to say that he would not shut down the native forest industry in Tasmania.

Does the government maintain support for RFAs as a mechanism to protect threatened species? What have RFAs achieved over the last 20 years?

- The government considers the best way to protect threatened species is to ensure that long-term impacts are considered at a landscape scale which RFAs deliver.
- An important result of the RFA negotiations was the establishment of a world-class Comprehensive Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system protecting the environmental and heritage values of forests through national parks and other conservation reserves.
 - The area of native forest in conservation reserves in RFA regions has almost doubled – from 5.4 million hectares before RFAs were signed (between 1997 and 2001) to 10 million hectares in 2019.
 - Almost 50% of native forests in RFA regions are now part of the CAR reserve.
- In addition, the RFAs recognise that the states are responsible for Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM) on public native forests available for harvesting outside the CAR reserve.
- State governments are the managers and regulators of forest estates and are responsible for ensuring that forestry operations are conducted consistent with regulatory frameworks.
 - All RFA states continue to refine their regulatory frameworks and compliance operations, with changes discussed as part of RFA annual meetings.
 - The RFAs and the regulatory arrangements, policies and procedures that underpin them, are designed to be flexible and adaptive. This ensures state forest management arrangements adjust to changing circumstances in order for the RFAs to continue to deliver ESFM.
- The performance of each RFA has been subject to independent five-yearly reviews. Successive independent reviews have found that the Parties to the RFAs were broadly meeting their milestones and commitments.

Western Australia forestry announcement

- On 8 September 2021, the Western Australian Government announced that native forest harvesting will cease from 2024.
- The Australian government is awaiting advice from the Western Australian Government about its future approach to forest management and will work with WA to consider what this decision means for the future of WA's RFA.

OFFICIAL***Where is the Major Event Review up to in Victoria?***

- On 2 December 2020, the Australian and Victorian governments announced a Major Event Review would be conducted to assess the impacts of the 2019–20 bushfires on the Victorian RFAs. An independent panel was appointed to conduct the review.
- The Panel provided its final report to the Australian and Victorian governments on 12 April 2022. It is available on the department's website.
- The report has 37 recommendations, 14 of which relate to both Parties to the Victorian RFAs (the Australian and Victorian governments), and one relates to the Commonwealth. The remainder are directed at the Victorian government.
- Minister Watt and Victorian Minister D'Ambrosio have agreed to develop a response to the report by early 2023. **The department is working with Victorian officials to support advice to Ministers on the response.**

What is the government's response to the North East Forest Alliance v Commonwealth challenge to the validity of the North East NSW RFA?

- Justice Perry has reserved her judgment in the matter. I can't discuss the case specifically while it is before the Courts.
- Regardless of the outcome of the Federal Court action, the government will continue to work with states to ensure Australia's native forests are effectively managed.

What is the government's response to the Samuel's report that there is insufficient oversight of RFAs and reporting mechanisms are weak?

- The independent review of the EPBC Act is critical of the environmental protections afforded to Matters of National Environmental significance under the Regional Forest Agreement framework. It argues that there is a lack of effective oversight by the Commonwealth and that environmental protections are not equivalent to those required under the EPBC Act.
- The reviewer recommended amending the EPBC Act to replace the RFA 'exemption' with a requirement for state forest management systems to achieve accreditation against a suite of National Environmental Standards.
- Minister Plibersek has committed to responding to the EPBC Act Review by the end of the year.
- The renewed RFAs include improved assurance and reporting mechanisms including.
 - Annual meetings between the Australian and State government officials to monitor the implementation of the RFAs, including compliance matters.
 - More outcomes focused five-yearly reviews to monitor performance of the RFAs, including consideration of Matters of National Environmental Significance and how conservation advice and recovery plans have been implemented.

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- Ability for either Party to initiate audits.
- Graduated dispute resolution mechanisms.
- The improvements in the renewed RFAs are more than ‘incremental’ and are already proving to be effective.
 - Annual meetings have been held in line with the timeframes required under the RFAs and are improving communication and the relationship with RFA states.
 - Through these annual meetings, discussions on the scope of the outcomes focused five-yearly reviews have already commenced.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries Forestry and Engagement

ACFFED02

AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING AND MINISTER WATT'S ROUNDTABLES**CURRENT ISSUE**

The Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM) provides an opportunity for agriculture ministers to work collaboratively and cooperatively to address issues of mutual concern.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES**Meetings**

- In 2022, AMM met on 20 July 2022 (virtual) and 9 September 2022 (virtual).
- The next AMM is scheduled for 7 December 2022.

AMM priorities

- At the 20 July and 9 September meetings, AMM identified 3 priorities: biosecurity, workforce and climate change. AMM will also consider other important issues such as animal welfare and agvet chemicals as necessary.
- Over the past 18 months, AMM concluded its previous work program by:
 - coordinating COVID-19 response and recovery around domestic border closures, agricultural workforce supply and industry issues
 - implementing the National Drought Agreement
 - delivering a coordinated national work plan for climate change in agriculture
 - undertaking actions to strengthen key nationally significant biosecurity systems reflecting emerging risks.

Ministerial Forums Review

- On 17 June 2022, National Cabinet tasked First Secretaries with providing advice on the role of ministerial councils in progressing national priorities, with a focus on productivity (PM&C lead).

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- National Cabinet considered the First Secretaries recommendations on 30 September and agreed to:
 - a revised structure for the federal relations architecture
 - updated principles to guide Ministerial Councils in their operations to support more collaborative inter-jurisdictional relations.
- AMM will report to National Cabinet annually on its priorities, forward workplan (for endorsement), progress against the established workplan and any changes to terms of reference.
- We expect AMM will update its workplan and terms of reference, in light of National Cabinet's decision.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**AMM supporting structures**

- The AMM is supported by the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) and its associated subcommittees (for example, the National Biosecurity Committee, Climate Change Task Group, AMM working group on drought, Animal Welfare Task Group and the Agricultural Labour Working Group).

National engagement by Minister Watt

- In addition to AMM, Minister Watt hosted national-level engagement on key matters through industry roundtables (**Attachment A**).

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A Roundtables and selected industry meetings convened by Minister Watt

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Attachment A

Roundtables and selected industry meetings convened by Minister Watt

Date	Event	Location
21 June 2022	Agriculture Industry Roundtable	Canberra, Parliament House
22 June 2022	Red Meat Roundtable	Virtual
22 June 2022	Grains, Oilseeds and Pulses Industry Meeting	Virtual
18 August 2022	Workforce Roundtable (unions, employer groups, and education skill representatives)	Sydney
19 August 2022	Industry Leaders Catchup, hosted by Rockhampton Mayor	Rockhampton, Qld
22 August 2022	Workforce Roundtable (industry stakeholders)	Brisbane
31 August 2022	Meeting/Roundtable with industry and unions ahead of Jobs Summit	Canberra, Parliament House

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries Forestry and Engagement

ACFFED03

RISING INPUT COSTS AND WHAT AGRICULTURE IS DOING TO SUPPORT THE INDUSTRY**CURRENT ISSUE**

Australia relies heavily on imports of key agriculture inputs including fuel, fertilisers, pesticides, and diesel emissions fluid (DEF; also known as AdBlue). Agricultural inputs are under pressure due to conflict and the global pandemic with direct impact on global supply chains, transport, manufacturing, and logistics.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES**What is driving rising input costs?**

- Price increases for agriculture inputs have been driven by global forces.
 - Increasing energy costs and export restrictions on both nitrogen and phosphate fertilisers drove up the price of fertilisers globally over the last couple of years, with prices 3 times higher than average (ABARES Agriculture Overview: September).
 - Prices for fuel and fertilisers increased further because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 (the Black Sea Region is a major source of energy and fertilisers).

What effect is this having on the agriculture sector?

- The rising cost of inputs is having significant but variable impacts across the sector.
 - Agriculture is sensitive to changes in energy prices through higher input costs in fuel and energy-intensive inputs including fertilisers and pesticides.
 - Production in some sectors, such as broadacre cropping, some horticulture commodities and fishing, is heavily mechanised. Cropping also tends to be affected more than other sectors by high energy prices, particularly with regard to fertiliser.
 - High commodity prices for some sectors, such as grains and oilseeds, are offsetting some of the pain. Impacts are more severe in sectors such as horticulture, parts of which have not seen significant increases in prices at the farm gate.

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SB22-000026

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- Increasing transport costs directly impact all key agriculture inputs, including pesticides. This, combined with community expectations, is leading to an increase in adoption of lower pesticide agriculture practices
- Global supply chain disruptions continue to impact the Australian agriculture industry through reduced supplies, higher costs, and constrained logistics
(TMAID02 – Global Supply Chain Disruptions)

What is the Australian Government doing to support the industry?

- Managing the rising costs of inputs and critical supply chain risks requires a whole-of-government effort in consultation with industry. The government has already announced several measures to mitigate these risks:
 - The Department of Industry, Science and Resources, through the Office of Supply Chain Resilience, is leading whole-of-government coordination to identify and monitor critical vulnerabilities in Australia's supply chains.
 - The \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund will deliver \$500 million for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food, and fibre to encourage investment in value adding to produce products for both domestic and export markets.
 - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts is working to position Australia's multimodal freight supply chains to face the challenges of the next 20 years and beyond by developing a National Freight and Supply Chain strategy.
 - The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts is also commencing work to establish a maritime strategic fleet. The first step is appointing a taskforce to advise government on what can be done to improve ongoing access to fuel supplies and other essential imports.
 - AdBlue availability had been a problem in 2021. On 15 September 2022, the Minister for Energy and Climate Change the Hon Chris Bowen MP announced the investment of \$49.5M over 4 years to improve security of supply of AdBlue. Minister Bowen has also been working to respond to the energy crisis – shoring up supply is a priority.
 - The Buy Australia Plan will use government spending power to act on climate change, support energy projects and maximise the use of Australian-made goods, products, and materials.

What will be the long term effects of rising input costs?

- Rising input costs will be increasingly passed on in the form of higher food prices both domestically and internationally.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries Forestry and Engagement

ACFFED04

FORESTRY PROGRAMS AND NEW MEASURES**CURRENT ISSUE**

A Better Future for our Regions and *A future Grown in Australia*, released by the Australian Government during the 2022 election, establish the government's commitment to Australia's forest industries aimed at strengthening, supporting and continuing a sustainable forestry sector both now and into the future.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES**What are the initiatives being supported?**

The provision of over \$300 million in support measures to enable Australia's forest industries to innovate and improve the capacity and capability of the sector:

National Institute for Forest Products Innovation

- \$100 million to establish a National Institute for Forest Products Innovation, with a central hub in Launceston at the University of Tasmania.

Accelerate the adoption of wood processing innovation fund

- The government has committed to providing **\$112.9 million** in grants to wood processors to lead to better utilisation of logs and fibre, value adding to existing productions and supporting the industry to reduce its carbon footprint.

Support Plantation Establishment

- The government has committed \$86.2 million for the establishment of new plantations to secure future domestic wood supply.

Regional Forestry Hubs

- \$8.6 million to continue the 11 Regional Forestry Hubs across Australia.

Protecting Australia from Illegally logged Imports

- \$4.4 million over two years in departmental funds to trial timber identification methods for future use under Australia's illegal logging laws and explore technology options for collecting information from timber importers & processors.

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SB21-000378

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Support for training and accreditation in forestry sector

- \$10 million to support programs which will deliver qualifications, competencies and other credentials to meet the training and accreditation needs of forest wood products, pulp, paper and fibre sectors.
- Private training providers are the primary deliverers of training in Forestry growing and management sectors. Private training providers deliver 86.6% of training, while TAFEs deliver 11.7% and schools 1.7% (2020 data).

Strategic Forest and Renewables Materials Partnership

- Develop a Strategic Forest and Renewables Materials Partnership. This strategic, tripartite partnership will establish a constant line of communication between industry stakeholders and the government.

Forest industry roundtable

- Convene a roundtable with the forestry sector, unions, states and territories to develop a Timber Fibre Strategy to ensure our existing forestry resources are being best utilised.

Wood Volume Analysis

- Conduct an analysis of the national wood volume.

Commercial opportunities for fire mitigation

- Conduct an analysis of the commercial opportunities from fire mitigation activities.

Removal of the Water Rule

- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is working through the initial steps to implement this election commitment.
- The government is committed to removing the water rule for plantation and farm forestry projects to better enable participation in the Emissions Reduction Fund.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is working with DCCEEW on matters associated with the removal of the water rule where they intersect with the Departments portfolio interests.
- This will encourage plantation expansion and farm forestry across Australia and support Australia's future timber supplies while delivering low-cost emissions abatement.

A full list of initiatives and associated funding are at [Attachment A](#).

What are the key issues facing the forestry sector?

- Current predictions made by ABARES estimate if domestic production rates remain at 2015-16 levels, by 2050 there will be a shortfall of 3.4 million cubic metres of domestic production and demand for softwood sawlogs.

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- Australia is exposed to illegally logged timber imports, with estimates they comprise up to 10 per cent of Australia's timber imports and may decrease prices by between 7 and 16 per cent.
- Native forest industries are being affected by reduced volumes as a result of the continuing effects of the 2019-20 bushfires and flooding, adverse weather and litigation affecting harvest operations. Western Australian and Victorian decisions to cease native forestry will exacerbate these challenges.
- The sector is among others in facing significant challenges in attracting and retaining staff.

How will the government's initiatives help resolve the current issues?

- Collectively, these initiatives will help to lay the foundations to support the industry to grow, enable strategic planning in key forestry regions, identify and reduce barriers to investment, and improve access to training.
- The government is committed to supporting Australia's Forest industries including the reservation of \$500 million of its \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund specifically for agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food and fibre.
- Many of these initiatives are currently in their early development phase.
- The government will work in partnership to deliver outcomes for the Australian forest industry, workers and consumers. **The department is supporting government in this approach as work to implement forestry commitments progresses.**

What is the Government's position on the One Billion Trees? What is the Government doing to achieve this goal?

- Investment in new plantations has slowed and Australia is facing domestic timber supply shortages if not supplemented by increased imports. Analysis by industry and Forest and Wood Products Australia suggests Australia needs 400,000 ha of new commercial plantations to meet future timber needs.
- The government is committed to working with industry to support the forestry industry in getting trees in the ground to meet Australia's future timber needs.
- Expansion of the plantation estate has been minimal in recent years which is why the government through its *A Better Future for our Regions* and *A future Grown in Australia* will implement mechanisms to support future wood supply increases.
- The government has committed \$86.2 million to support plantation establishment across the commercial plantation sector and farm forestry.
- This work will be supported by the existing regional forestry hub network, plantation loans offered by the Regional Investment Corporation, and the removal of the water rule.

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What else is the government doing to support the sector more broadly?

- The government's role is to ensure the right policy settings are in place to help the industry grow the plantation estate and be more innovative and sustainable into the future, including through the establishment of broader economic settings needed for a viable forestry sector.
- This includes:
 - \$15.1 million **Construction Softwood Transport Assistance Program** from 2021-22 to 2022-23 to support the transportation of bushfire-salvaged softwood to timber mills that have capacity to manufacture structural timbers for the domestic building industry.
 - Up to \$37.5 million for **Plantation Concessional Loans** in 2021-22, administered by the Regional Investment Corporation, to support plantation development in regional Australia in areas where commercial forestry is traditionally undertaken, and support plantation recovery following the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires.
 - Increasing the governments contribution to eligible **forestry research and development** by providing Forest and Wood Products Australia access to additional funding of \$2.5 million across 2022-23 and 2023-24, and then from 2024-25 additional ongoing annual funding of up to \$2.3 million. This funding will be used to matched industries increased levy for forest research and development.
- In response to trade challenges, especially the China trade bans, the **Agri-business Expansion Initiative**, through Austrade, is helping forestry businesses diversify trade opportunities.
 - Under the Initiative, Forest and Wood Products Australia, in partnership with the Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub, have received a \$1.3 million Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation Program grant to explore opportunities to create new wood products utilising pulp logs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Recent Forestry Industry Challenges**

- The 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires directly impacted 85,000 hectares of commercial plantation forests (4.8% of the national total) and 2 million hectares of public native forest available for timber production (20% of the national total).
- The forestry sector employs 73,000 people.
- The sector has an aging labour force, nearly one third of employees are over the age of 50.

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- In recent years there have been modest increases in Australia's plantation estate (not including areas of plantation which have been replanted after harvest or following the 2019-20 bushfires).
 - 2,800 hectares of new plantations were planted in 2018-19, 1,500 hectares in 2019-20 and a further 1,500 hectares 2020-21.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A New Forestry measures summary table

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

FORESTRY INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED AS 2022 ELECTION COMMITMENTS

ATTACHMENT A

Program	Description	2022-2023 \$m	2023-2024 \$m	2024-2025 \$m	2025-2026 \$m	2026-2027 \$m	TOTAL \$m
National Institute for Forest Products and Innovation (NIFPI)	Expands the work of the regional NIFPIs including additional funding for extending the Regional Forestry Hubs.	10.0	15.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	100.0
Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation Program (AAWPI)	Provision of grant funding targeted at better usage of logs and fibre, value adding and supporting the industry to continue to reduce its carbon footprint.	15.9	35.5	35.5	25.6	-	112.9*
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Provision of grant funding to establish new plantations to secure future wood supply.	0.3	10.2	25.2	30.2	20.3	86.20
Extension of Regional Forestry Hubs	Funding to extend the Regional Forestry Hubs to align with the NIFPI.	2.0	-	-	3.3	3.3	8.6
Protecting Australia from Illegally logged Imports	Funding to support Australia's illegal logging traceability and timber identification systems.	2.8	1.6	-	-	-	4.4
Support for training and accreditation in forestry sector	Support for programs which deliver qualifications, competencies and other credentials which meet the specific training and accreditation needs of the forest, wood products, pulp and paper and fibre sectors.	0.5	1.5	4.0	4.0	-	10.0
Strategic Forest and Renewables Materials Partnership	Establish a strategic, tripartite partnership approach so there is a constant line of communication between industry stakeholders and the Government to consult together on government funding and programs, capitalise on opportunities, and avoid duplication.	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Program	Description	2022-2023 \$m	2023-2024 \$m	2024-2025 \$m	2025-2026 \$m	2026-2027 \$m	TOTAL \$m
Forest industry roundtable	Convene a roundtable with the forestry sector, unions, states and territories to develop a Timber Fibre Strategy to ensure our existing forestry resources are being best utilised.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Volume Analysis	Analysis of the national wood volume and the commercial opportunities from fire mitigation activities.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial opportunities for fire mitigation	Conduct an analysis of the commercial opportunities from fire mitigation activities.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Rule (DECCEW lead)	The government is committed to removing the water rule for plantation and farm forestry projects to better enable participation in the Emissions Reduction Fund.	-	-	-	-	-	-

*AAWPI total includes \$0.4m in 2021-22

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries Forestry and Engagement Division

ACFFED05

AQUACULTURE IN COMMONWEALTH WATERS**CURRENT ISSUE**

The former Australian Government and Tasmanian Government signed a fisheries management arrangement and associated memorandum of understanding on 1 April 2022 that enables a research trial of aquaculture in the Commonwealth waters of Bass Strait adjacent to Tasmania.

The 2017 National Aquaculture Strategy includes a long-standing action to open areas of Commonwealth waters beyond 3 nautical miles offshore for aquaculture.

The trial will test the economic, environmental and operational feasibility of offshore aquaculture and will inform future Australian Government decisions on a long-term framework for aquaculture in Commonwealth waters. The trial is expected to be led by the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) an independent not-for-profit company, funded under the Australian Government's CRC program.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES**Can you provide an update on the status of the trial?**

- The Blue Economy CRC is currently developing a research proposal to submit to the Tasmanian Government. The proposal will be subject to further stakeholder consultation.
- The trial is expected to be led by the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) to answer questions about the feasibility and environmental impact and benefits of offshore, deeper water aquaculture.
- Tasmania is the largest aquaculture producing state and the headquarters of the Blue Economy CRC. For these reasons, the former Australian Government made arrangements for the trial with the Tasmanian Government.
- The trial would take place under a permit granted under Tasmanian law as applied to the proposed trial area in Bass Strait.
- The research trial area is a 0.5km² area about 11km off the coast of Burnie, Tasmania. This location was guided by advice from the Blue Economy CRC and was chosen with the aim to minimise impacts to existing users.

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SB22-000028

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- The trial is limited for a period of up to 3 years.
- The results of the trial, along with further stakeholder consultation, will inform future decisions on a framework for aquaculture in Commonwealth waters.

How can the community have confidence there will be no negative environmental impacts from the trial?

- The trial will provide for an assessment of environmental considerations and testing of offshore infrastructure.
- Other Commonwealth laws, such as the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), will continue to apply.
- The requirements under relevant Tasmanian regulations and the EPBC Act will ensure the research trial meets strict environmental conditions, including pollution and wildlife interactions.

What were the outcomes of the public consultation on the proposed trial area?

- The department undertook public consultation on the proposed trial area via its *have your say* webpage from 4-24 February 2022 and 1352 submissions were received.
 - Comments and concerns were raised on a range of issues beyond the specific location of the trial including: economic benefits of the trial; fishing industry concerns regarding the size of the trial area; impacts to other marine users; sustainability of the aquaculture industry; and environmental and animal welfare impacts.
- A summary of the feedback received is available on the department's *have your say* website.
- In response to concerns raised regarding the size of the trial area, the trial area was reduced to further minimise impacts to existing marine users.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Aquaculture was estimated to be worth over \$2.1 billion nationally in the 2021-22 financial year and is outpacing the growth of wild-catch fisheries.
- Aquaculture currently takes places in inshore waters and is managed and regulated by the states.
- The Australian and state governments and industry have had longstanding discussions regarding allowing for the expansion of aquaculture into Commonwealth waters. Approvals are required before any commercial production can begin.
- The department has previously consulted the states and other government agencies with interests in access to Commonwealth waters and is working with the Blue Economy CRC on next steps.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries Forestry and Engagement

ACFFED06

STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND TRANSITION IN THE SOUTH EAST TRAWL FISHERY

CURRENT ISSUE

- The 2022-23 Budget provided \$24 million structural adjustment package to support industry through the implementation of management changes in the South East Trawl Fishery. This fishery is also known as the Commonwealth Trawl sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is working to advise the Australian Government on the design of a program to purchase surrender of boat Statutory Fishing Rights.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The package includes:
 - \$20 million in 2022-23 to purchase the surrender of Commonwealth Statutory Fishing Rights in the South East Trawl Fishery
 - \$1 million in 2022-23 to administer the structural adjustment, including funding to better understand the fishery dynamics to inform the structural adjustment and longer term management settings
 - \$3 million over three years from 2022-23 to partially waive AFMA levies for remaining vessels in the South East Trawl Fishery.

	\$ millions	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Structural adjustment and transition in the South East Trawl fishery:		22.0	1.0	1.0	24.0

- Australia remains a global leader in the management of our world-class fisheries. We hold this reputation because we are willing to take decisive action when needed to protect our precious and unique fisheries resources for the long term.
- Despite significantly reduced catch levels, the South East Trawl Fishery has seen six non-target fish stocks reduce below sustainable levels. These are redfish, blue warehou, eastern gemfish, jackass morwong, John Dory and silver trevally.

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- Newly available science tells us external environmental factors such as climate change are affecting fish species productivity, location and abundance in south-eastern Australia.
- To mitigate against potential overfishing of several stocks, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) has announced significant catch limit reductions and closures of key fishing grounds off south-eastern Australia.
 - Catch limit reductions were implemented from the start of the 2022-23 fishing season on 1 May 2022.
 - Spatial closures will be introduced from 1 May 2023.
- The \$24 million structural adjustment package will provide fishers with critical financial support to transition out of the South East Trawl Fishery or downsize their operations should they wish to do so. Reducing the size of the fleet will also help improve the economic viability for those that remain in the fishery.
- The department is continuing to engage with concession holders in the South East Trawl fishery on the design of the program and how they can participate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- AFMA consulted widely with concession holders and key industry associations on the closures. The department joined AFMA at port visits in Eden (13 April 2022), Ulladulla (14 April 2022) and Lakes Entrance (1 June 2022) to hear industry views about the structural adjustment package.
- The department has undertaken significant preparatory work to facilitate the procurement of boat Statutory Fishing Rights. The department will continue to refine the program design following further consultation with industry, with tender documentation to be released on AusTender soon thereafter.
- At its meeting on 9 March 2022, the AFMA Commission agreed to the urgent introduction of reduced catch limits for redfish, jackass morwong, John Dory and silver trevally, as well as closures of fishing grounds in the South East Trawl Fishery.
- AFMA has recently finalised the design of the closures based on industry feedback, received over several rounds of consultation including meetings in key fishing ports, to minimise the impacts on the fishing industry while still achieving conservation goals for at-risk species. The AFMA Commission has determined that the closures will be in place from the start of the next fishing season (i.e., 1 May 2023).
 - Total lost catch within the closures is estimated to be 674 tonnes with a commercial value of approximately \$4.4 million, or 12 per cent of the South East Trawl Fishery's Gross Value of Production.

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- While these interventions are necessary, the reduction in catch limits and closures in the South East Trawl Fishery has the potential to impact industry viability across the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery from Barrenjoey Point (north of Sydney) around the New South Wales, Victorian and Tasmanian coastlines to Cape Jervis in South Australia.
- The structural adjustment package is to support fishing operators directly impacted by the management changes in the fishery. Closure areas were refined following industry feedback to lower the impact on Danish Seine boats, which will also reduce the impact on onshore processing facilities, particularly in Lakes Entrance.
- The Australian Fisheries Management Authority is a statutory independent regulator responsible for the efficient management and sustainable use of Australia's Commonwealth fisheries resources.
 - There are strict rules to reduce the environmental impacts of fishing to ensure stocks remain strong into the future.
 - Management decisions are based on the best available science and robust evidence-based data.

s. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Exports and Veterinary Services Division

EVSD02

AGVET CHEMICALS

CURRENT ISSUE

The Guardian has recently published over 10 articles focussed on domestic produce and consumers and were critical of Australia's regulation of agriculture and veterinary (agvet) chemicals relative to other countries (summary at **Attachment A**). **s. 47G(1)(a)**

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Australia's pesticide and veterinary medicines regulatory system is robust, rigorous, evidence-based and responsive to the risks of pests and diseases for the Australian community and to protect Australia's trade and the health and safety of people, animals and the environment.
- There are reasons other than food safety for differences in the agvet chemicals registered in a country compared to those registered in Australia, including environmental conditions, farming practices and grown commodities, pest and disease pressures, and application technology.
- The Department has recently had a consultant doing a stocktake of Australian domestic chemical monitoring. This is initial work to further investigate an issue raised in the Ken Matthew's review about opportunities to improve feedback loops within Australia's agvet chemical management system. The department is considering the report which was delivered in the last few days. It is proper for us to continue to look for opportunities to test and where appropriate improve Australia's regulatory systems.

Role of the National Residue Survey (NRS)

- The NRS tests animal and plant products from participating industries for pesticide and veterinary medicine residues, and environmental contaminants to verify Australia's system of controls for these residues.
- The NRS undertakes testing programs for some commodities. The NRS testing programs are mandatory for animal products that are exported, but voluntary for plant products.

Contact Officers
NRS: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**
Agvet Chemicals: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**
Last updated: 1 November 2022

SES Leads
NRS: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**
Agvet Chemicals: **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**
SB22-000101

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- Of the NRS animal programs, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs provide the largest number of samples for residue monitoring. Other meat programs cover products derived from camels, buffalo, eggs, deer, goats, honey, horses, kangaroos, poultry (chicken, duck, turkey, spatchcock and quail), ratites (emu and ostrich) and wild boars. There are two seafood programs covering aquaculture and wild-caught seafood.
- Three plant industries participate in NRS testing (grain, pome-apple/pear, macadamias) with testing funded by industry levies. The almond industry participates through a direct contract arrangement.
- NRS results are provided to trading partners as part of market access negotiations and as part of government-to-government assurance to maintain international market access. NRS residue results are used by domestic growers participating in quality assurance programs.
 - NRS results are published on the department's website (National Residue Survey results and publications - DAFF (agriculture.gov.au)).

Domestic product residue monitoring

- The state and territory governments are responsible for control of use of agvet chemicals.
- Australia does not have a harmonised and federal government-run domestic agvet chemical residue monitoring system.
 - Monitoring residues in all domestic produce is not part of the remit of the NRS.

Independent Review of the Pesticides and Veterinary Chemicals Regulatory System in Australia

- On 5 September 2019, the then Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, announced a comprehensive independent review of the regulatory framework for agvet chemicals. The independent panels' final report was published on 25 June 2021.
- The review took a first principles approach, examining the agvet chemicals regulatory framework's aims, structure and operation, and made recommendations to ensure the reviewed system is contemporary, and fit for purpose.
- The government is considering its review response and will publish this when this consideration is completed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Australian regulatory system for agvet chemicals**

- The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) regulates agvet chemicals up to the point of supply to manage the risks of pests and diseases for the Australian community and to protect Australia's trade and the health and safety of people, animals and the environment.
- Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) sets standards for agvet chemicals in food and works closely with the APVMA to assess agvet chemical residues in the diet to ensure that the maximum residue limits in produce do not pose a risk to health through dietary exposure.
- The state and territory governments are responsible for control of use of agvet chemicals.

s. 47G(1)(a)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Summary of the Guardian media coverage

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Attachment A - Summary of The Guardian media coverage

Date	Article title and author	Key points
11 Jul 22	Why are pesticides banned overseas still used in Australia and what does it mean for the environment? Australia news The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	UK environmentalists concerned that food is produced in Australia with pesticides banned in UK Approach taken by Australian regulators based on risk rather than hazard
27 Sep 22	Australian food is grown with dangerous chemicals banned in other countries Food safety The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	More than 70 chemicals no longer in use in Europe because of toxicity, still in routine use in Australia References rodenticides (particularly one that APVMA did not register) and suspected endocrine disrupters used on grapes
27 Sep 22	The dirty dozen: 12 pesticides that are banned elsewhere but still used in Australia Food safety The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Australia uses dozens of chemicals that are banned in other countries due to toxicity to humans, animals or the environment
28 Sep 22	Who tests your food for pesticides in Australia? Food safety The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	More than 7% of pears tested by NRS found to exceed MRL Majority of fruit and vegetables are tested under a self-regulatory scheme (FreshTest) FSANZ last tested for pesticides in 2013-14
29 Sep 22	Blueberry blues: how the cash crop is causing a contamination crisis in Coffs Harbour New South Wales The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Chemicals used on berries in water by community groups, rather than regulators
29 Sep 22	How can I reduce my pesticide exposure – and is washing fruit and vegetables enough? Food safety The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Despite high use of pesticides in Australian agriculture, risk from residues in Australian produce was extraordinarily low Results from FSANZ testing presented as chemicals detected in food (not necessarily non-compliant) Organic produce may contain naturally occurring pesticides
29 Sep 22	With the right incentives, organic farming could be Australia's way to a pesticide-free future Carolyn Suggate The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Organic industry is a leader in integrity in food and farming sector, with transparent supply chain and rigour in testing regime to provide assurance of no chemical residue Incentives to grow more food with less artificial influence
30 Sep 22	Department admits it has 'little information' on pesticide residue in Australian food Food safety The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Department tender evidence that department does not have enough data on environmental and health effects of pesticides NRS testing is regular for meat for export, but only a handful of fruit and vegetables destined for export are tested: grains, apples,

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		pears, macadamias and almonds
4 Oct 22	There are real alternatives to widespread pesticide use. Australia must embrace the change Sarina Macfadyen and Nancy Schellhorn The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	CSIRO talking to food producers about a new suite of solutions to pest control Australian farmers are heavily reliant on the use of pesticides to control weeds, diseases, and insect pests; trend is becoming worse although pesticide use data is patchy (sales only)
7 Oct 22	How big pesticide reaches into every element of rural life in Australia Pesticides The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Multinational chemical firms subsidise agronomists and farm safety programs and fund the pesticide regulator
7 Oct 22	https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/sep/27/australian-food-is-grown-with-dangerous-chemicals-banned-in-other-countries by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Australia has a global reputation as a source of clean food, in fact the country has some of the most lax regulation of pesticide use in the western world UK Pesticide Action Network says Australia authorises twice the number of highly hazardous pesticides than the UK; MRLs are much higher; the issue of pesticide regulation passes under the radar in Australia National Toxics Network says Australia is a dumping ground for pesticides long banned by other countries
13 Oct 22	Podcast: Farm-fresh or toxic? Australia's use of pesticides Australia news The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Australia has a global reputation as a source of clean food, but much of our produce is grown with dangerous chemicals banned across the western world Federal authorities admit that information on the environmental and health effects of agvet chemicals is lacking
15 Oct 22	60 years on since Silent Spring, David Pocock enters the debate on food and pesticides David Pocock The Guardian by s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	David Pocock one to watch on biodiversity, agricultural sustainability and the climate crisis issues Pocock says there is a growing awareness that we probably should be concerned about the level of pesticides in our food Compares arguments in favour of glyphosate to those for the use of DDT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Farm Resilience Division

FRD01

DROUGHT, INCLUDING FUTURE DROUGHT FUND

CURRENT ISSUE

What is the Australian Government doing to prepare for the next drought?

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

Key Points

- For most of the country, Australian agriculture is in the midst of an exceptional rebound from the last drought.
- However, we know that drought is a case of when, not if, and we need to be preparing while times are good.
- We also know the changing climate is likely to mean more frequent, longer lasting, and intense droughts.
- We are working to ensure we're well prepared to respond when drought inevitably comes.
- As part of the 2022 October Budget, the Government \$20.8 million for improved planning, tools, systems and grants to help government and farmers prepare for drought.
- This included \$6.6 million over two years from 2022-23 to ensure Government is prepared to respond effectively to drought. This resourcing will allow for several significant drought policy initiatives to be delivered over the next two years, these are:
 - A new National Drought Agreement between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.
 - A new National Drought Plan at the Australian Government level.
 - Development of a Drought Decision-Making Framework that will facilitate more consistent and timely decisions on government support during drought.

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SB22-000032

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- Continued work on the shared responsibilities framework, which seeks a collective understanding of the roles of the different players involved in drought support.
- Improved communication and engagement, including biannual Drought Roundtables and biennial Drought forums.
- Improved monitoring, evaluation and reporting to ensure programs are working together and resources are spent effectively.
- The ongoing resourcing need for drought functions from 2024-25 is expected to be considered following the delivery of these initiatives.
- The Budget also included \$14.3 million for the Future Drought Fund's Extension and Adoption of Drought Resilience Farming Practices grants program.
 - This will provide grants for projects that drive adoption of proven drought resilience farming practices, based on Australian and international research and development.
 - It is a reframing of a program announced by the previous government.
 - The program will now support larger projects (up to \$3m v \$1m), over a longer period (2.5 years v 1.5), and it will be rolled out through a single grant round (not 2).
 - These changes are about providing quicker and more effective support for farmers to trial and adopt drought resilient practices.
- We are also supporting farmers, industry and communities to take practical actions to build drought resilience through established programs under the Future Drought Fund.
 - We'll soon ask the Productivity Commission to review the Fund to inform future directions and programs.

Are Future Drought Fund programs announced in the March Budget proceeding?

- Yes.
 - Two measures are already underway (extension of the *Climate Services for Agriculture; Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought*)
 - Grant and procurement processes for the others are in train.

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Spending under the Future Drought Fund

- To 30 September 2022: (**Attachment A** has details)
 - \$420 million has been allocated to programs over the period 2020-21 to 2027-28.
 - \$253.03 million has been contracted; and \$167 million is the subject of grant and other processes in train.
 - \$169.59 million of the contracted amount has been spent.

Review of the Future Drought Fund

- The Future Drought Fund Act requires a regular review of progress by the Productivity Commission.
 - The Act requires a review start by February 2023, and finish by September 2023, with a new Funding Plan needing to be in place by February 2024.
- We'll start that process soon. It will inform the development of a new Funding Plan, and programs to deliver against the Plan.

What's being done under the Future Drought Fund?

- Farm business planning – building the skills of farmers to plan for, respond to, and rebuild from, drought conditions as an inevitable reality of farming.
 - Over 6,800 farmers have participated in over 4,600 learning sessions and events so far.
- Regional resilience planning – working with local councils and other regional stakeholders to plan for drought.
 - 19 of an initial tranche of 23 regions have planning underway.
- Practice change – driving adoption of drought resilient farming practices
 - 8 regionally based and focused hubs providing advice and support.
 - 150 projects to trial, demonstrate and support practice change.
- Climate information – helping people can understand how the seasonal outlook and changing climate might impact them, and what they can do.
 - A Climate Services for Agriculture platform is live, providing regional and commodity specific climate information
 - A Self Assessment Tool allows farmers to evaluate their climate resilience and identify priorities for action.
- Helping communities prepare for future droughts

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- 93 community projects underway, 900 people supported to drive change as drought leaders, mentors and mentees
- 35 regions targeted for tailored support to build community resilience.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A FDF programs and funding as at 30 September 2022

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Attachment A: FDF Program Funding (as at 30 September 2022)

Program	Allocated	Contracted	Spent
BETTER CLIMATE INFORMATION			
Climate Services for Agriculture (CSA)	\$28.98m	\$28.98m	\$14.95m
Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR SAT)	\$9.87m	\$9.87m	\$6.69m
Total	\$38.85m	\$38.85m	\$21.64m
BETTER PLANNING			
Farm Business Resilience program	\$75.97m	\$15.97m*	\$15.97m
Regional Drought Resilience Planning program	\$40.85m	\$11.45m*	\$10.12m
Total	\$116.82m	\$27.42m*	\$26.09m
BETTER PRACTICES			
Adoption and Innovation Hubs	\$79.10m	\$79.10m	\$45.00m
National Enabling Activities	\$8.01m	\$1.38m	\$1.38m
Drought Resilience Innovation Grants	\$33.96m	\$28.93m	\$18.82m
NRM Drought Resilience Grants	\$13.43m	\$13.43m	\$13.43m
Drought Resilient Soils and Landscape Program	\$23.11m	\$23.11m	\$14.55m
Long Term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices	\$40.00m	-	-
Grants to Support the Adoption of Drought Resilient Practices	\$14.27m	-	-
Drought Resilience Commercialisation Initiative	\$10.00m	-	-
Drought Resilience Scholarships	\$1.60m	-	-
Total	\$223.48m	\$145.95m	\$93.18m
BETTER PREPARED COMMUNITIES			
Phase 1 - Networks to build drought resilience	\$3.75m	\$3.75m	\$3.75m
Phase 1 - Drought Resilience Leaders	\$7.44m	\$7.44m	\$7.44m
Phase 2 – Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative	\$29.65m	\$29.65m	\$17.49m
Total	\$40.84m	\$40.84m	\$26.68m
Grand Total	\$420.00 m	\$253.03m	\$169.59m

*Note - the Farm Business Resilience and Regional Drought Resilience Planning programs are currently subject to negotiations with the states and territories to determine funding

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Farm Resilience Division

FRD02**NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST****CURRENT ISSUE**

The October Budget allocates \$302 million over 5-years from 2023-24 from the Natural Heritage Trust to support sustainable agriculture.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The Natural Heritage Trust is a long running investment in environment protection, natural resource management and sustainable agriculture.
- The current phase of activity – the National Landcare Program phase 2 – concludes this financial year.
- In the October Budget, the Australian Government has committed to a new \$1.1 billion 5 year phase of investment, starting in 2023-24.
- It includes \$302 million in dedicated funding for sustainable agriculture, aimed at the following objectives:
 - greater uptake of sustainable farming and land management practices
 - supporting the agriculture sector with the transition to a net zero economy
 - sustainable practices are recognised and rewarded
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will work with stakeholders over the coming months to identify how we can best work together to make progress against these objectives.
 - This will inform detailed design of programs, and grant and procurement processes.
- Other aspects of the government's \$1.1 billion investment from the Natural Heritage Trust are the responsibility of the Ministers for the Environment and for Indigenous Affairs.
- The agriculture sector also has an important role to play in those programs, as managers of over 50 per cent of Australia's land mass.

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SB22-000095

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The \$1.1 billion investment through the Natural Heritage Trust is made up of:

Agriculture Portfolio

- \$302.1 million over 5 years from 2023-24 to support sustainable agriculture and land management practices.

Environment Portfolio

- \$439.2 million over 5 years from 2023-24 to protect and conserve Australia's iconic species and landscapes.
 - \$231.5 million over 5 years from 2023-24 to continue and expand the Indigenous Protected Areas program which supports Traditional Owners to manage their Country for conservation.
 - \$90 million over 5 years from 2022-23 to employ and upskill up to 1,000 Landcare Ranger jobs to deliver on ground actions to protect and restore Australia's environment and heritage.
 - \$57 million over 6 years from 2022-23 to support the recovery and conservation of the koala and its habitat.
- The current National Landcare Program phase 2 (\$1.065 billion over 2017-18 to 2022-23) supports the following investments in sustainable agriculture:
 - \$76.25m as part of the Regional Land Partnerships program, for sustainable agriculture projects which have a focus on managing soil erosion and acidification, climate adaptation and replenishing native biodiversity.
 - \$33m to support Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators, to provide direct advice and support to farmers and other land managers.
 - \$136m for the Smart Farms program, which provides grants to a broad range of organisations for sustainable agriculture projects.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Portfolio Strategy and Climate Policy Division

PSCPD01

AGRICULTURE AND NET-ZERO

CURRENT ISSUE

Our agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries are at the forefront of the impacts of climate change. A warming world will increase the incidence and severity of natural hazards such as drought, flooding, fires and disease outbreaks, which in turn poses significant risks to the performance and profitability of our agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is supporting our portfolio industries to address these risks and challenges, and to seize the opportunities that innovation and a low-emissions future offers.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

Has the department assessed or consulted with stakeholders on the impacts of the Climate Bill 2022 and/or the 43% emissions reduction target?

- Responsibility for the *Climate Bill 2022* sits with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE). The department is working closely with DCCEE to implement the Government's climate change agenda and to ensure that agricultural perspectives and priorities are incorporated.
- The emissions reduction target was an election commitment of the Government; the legislation reflects that commitment. Under the Paris Climate Agreement, nationally determined contributions are economy-wide targets. There are no sector-specific targets that would impact our portfolio industries.

How is the department helping portfolio industries to reduce emissions?

- The agriculture sector has a crucial role to play in Australia's transition to a low-emissions future, and it understands the environmental and trade risks of inaction
- Our portfolio industries are proactive and implementing initiatives to address climate change and mitigate the emerging trade risks.
 - Key examples include Meat and Livestock Australia's *Carbon Neutral by 2030*, and the National Farmers' Federation's *Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework*.

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- The department is supporting and partnering with industry to ensure that efficient, emissions-reducing techniques are integrated into core agricultural practices, while maintaining productivity and profitability. Some specific examples include:
 - An \$8 million election commitment to support the Australian Sustainable Seaweed Alliance to commercialise seaweed for use as a low-emissions feed supplement.
 - Our world-leading agricultural innovation system is spearheaded by our 15 Research & Development Corporations, which manage approximately \$800 million p.a. in R&D through the unique model of industry levies (\$500 million) and government funding (\$300 million).
- Carbon sequestration and participation in the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) represents another opportunity for the sector to contribute to net-zero.
 - Additional questions about the ERF and the review into Australian Carbon Credit Units should be referred to the DCCEEW and the Clean Energy Regulator.
 - The department is working with these two agencies to make the scheme more accessible to farmers and landholders, and to ensure it balances carbon abatement with maintaining agricultural output and strong regional economies.

How is the department helping portfolio industries to become more sustainable and/or adapt to the impacts of climate change?

- Moving towards sustainable and climate-smart production in our portfolio industries is critical for maintaining long-term productivity and maximising farm-gate returns.
- For further detail on this work, questions can be referred to:
 - Farm Resilience Division, regarding farm sustainability and drought resilience.
 - Trade Reform Division is leading the Future Traceability work to assist farmers establish their sustainability credentials and realise export opportunities.
 - Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, which is monitoring the impacts of climate change on farm profitability and undertaking analysis of changes to international agrifood policies on global emissions from agriculture.
 - The Biosecurity and Compliance Group, which is considering how climate change will impact their biosecurity risk modelling.

Has the department provided advice to the Minister for Agriculture regarding taxing agricultural emissions?

- The Minister has recently confirmed there are no plans to introduce a price on agricultural emissions. Neither the government's legislated emissions reduction target nor the Global Methane Pledge impose sectoral emissions targets.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The department is engaging with DCCEEW and other government agencies on a number of climate-related cross-cutting policy reviews, to ensure that the interests of portfolio industries are being represented. These include:
 - Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), administered by DCCEEW. The review will ensure that ACCUs and Australia's carbon crediting framework are strong and credible and will be supported by participants, purchasers and the broader community. Consultation closed on 26 September, and the Review Panel will provide the Government with recommendations by 31 December 2022.
 - : The Review is also considering whether current frameworks are appropriately managing negative social, economic and environmental impacts of the ACCU system, including on agricultural productivity and regional communities.
 - Reforming the Safeguard Mechanism, administered by DCCEEW. Consultation on the exposure draft legislation that would enable reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism to help industry reduce emissions closed on 28 October.
 - : Currently, the only two facilities in our portfolio industries which exceed the safeguard threshold of 100,000 tonnes are two paper mills in Tasmania and Victoria. No other relevant facilities come close to exceeding the threshold, with the next closest emitting around 50,000 tonnes.
 - National Electric Vehicle Strategy, administered by DCCEEW. The Strategy will ensure Australians can access the best transport technologies and help meet our emissions reduction targets. Public consultation closes on 31 October.
 - : As part of this strategy, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts will be consulting on Fuel Efficiency Standards to help improve the supply of new electric vehicles into the Australian market. Consultation has not yet opened.
 - National Biodiversity Market, administered by DCCEEW. Public consultation on the design of a voluntary national biodiversity market closed on 16 September.
 - : The Government is expanding on the design of the legislation introduced to Parliament by the previous government. The key change is opening up eligibility to all landholders including farmers, First Nations and conservation groups, rather than limiting the scheme to just agricultural land.
 - : Given the expanded remit, the Minister for the Environment became responsible for the scheme through recent Machinery of Government Changes. The change of ministerial oversight does not diminish the opportunity for farmers to benefit from the scheme.
 - : Farmer's views have been considered during the recent consultation period, and DAFF remains closely engaged on the design of the market.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Portfolio Strategy and Climate Policy

PSCPD02

CLIMATE – METHANE PLEDGE

CURRENT ISSUE

The Global Methane Pledge (the Pledge) is a voluntary commitment to contribute to a collective goal of reducing global methane emissions by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030. By joining the Pledge, Australia joins the rest of the world's major agricultural commodity producers in pursuing opportunities to reduce methane emissions.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

What are the implications of Australia joining the Pledge?

- The Global Methane Pledge is a non-binding commitment to undertake voluntary actions to reduce collective global methane emissions. For agriculture, Pledge participants commit to **seek abatement opportunities** through technological innovation, as well as incentives and partnerships with farmers.
- There are no binding actions or targets involved with the Pledge. Countries decide for themselves which actions they will take to meet their commitment. The 30% reduction is a collective, global goal across all sectors and countries – there is no expectation that each country or each sector will reduce emissions by this amount.

Did the department consult with stakeholders before joining the Pledge?

- The Minister and his office spoke with a number of key agricultural stakeholders prior to joining the Pledge. This included: the National Farmers' Federation, Meat and Livestock Australia, the Red Meat Advisory Council, the Cattle Council and others to discuss the potential of Australia joining the Pledge and industry interests.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry also spoke with a range of industry stakeholders in the course of its usual engagement with industry bodies and RDCs.
- The livestock industry is already pushing ahead with an ambitious sustainability agenda. They recognise the benefits to farm resilience, maintaining and increasing market access, and facilitating knowledge sharing with international partners. For those reasons, stakeholders are overwhelmingly supportive of Australia joining the Pledge.

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Last updated: 25 October 2022

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SB22-000092

Did the Government reverse a previous commitment, made whilst in opposition, not to join the Pledge?

- When it was announced in October 2021 that Australia would not be joining the Pledge, the then-Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy called upon the Coalition Government to “work with farmers to reduce methane emissions... [and] work cooperatively with the agriculture sector” to pursue abatement opportunities including the development of asparagopsis seaweed as a feed additive”.
- That position is consistent with the action the Government is taking, and reflects the Pledge commitment to “seek abatement opportunities” through technology innovation, as well as incentives and partnerships with farmers.

Will the Pledge result in a tax on methane emissions, a reduction in livestock numbers and/or an increase in the cost of living?

- There is no tax component to the Pledge, nor does it require participants to reduce agricultural production or livestock numbers. Ministers Watt and Bowen have written to the NFF to provide assurances on this issue – see **Attachment A**.
- There are many promising opportunities to reduce agricultural methane emissions without reducing production – in fact, many of these methods have productivity benefits for farmers. Government is partnering with industry to research, commercialise and scale these opportunities.

How is the department supporting the agriculture sector to reduce methane emissions?

- Industry and governments are working together to realise opportunities to reduce methane emissions in agriculture, focusing on the use of feed supplements and improved livestock and manure management practices.
- The department is implementing the Government’s \$8 million election commitment to encourage the development of an Australian seaweed farming industry.
- Outside of our portfolio, DCCEE administers the Methane Emissions Reduction in Livestock (MERiL) program, which recently announced its second stage of projects, providing \$5 million in funding to 11 projects trialling low-emissions feed technologies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Prior to Australia joining, the Global Methane Pledge had 122 participants, including major livestock producing and exporting countries such as Brazil, Argentina, the US, Canada and the EU.
- In 2020, 47% of Australia's methane emissions came from agriculture, with a further 29% from fugitive emissions from the resources sector, and 10% from waste.
 - Of the agricultural methane emissions, 89% came from enteric fermentation and 11% came from manure management.

OFFICIAL

**ATTACHMENT A – Ministers Watt and Bowen letter to NFF s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
re: Global Methane Pledge**

Dear s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

As part of the Australian Government signing up to the Global Methane Pledge, we would like to take this opportunity to confirm the following matters that we have discussed.

The Global Methane Pledge is an aspirational commitment with 122 signatories including the United Kingdom and Canada, and many of the world's largest livestock producers such as the United States, Brazil, and Argentina. Signatories to this Pledge commit to undertaking domestic action across sectors. Further, the commitment is to contribute to global efforts to reduce methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030, noting that since 2005 Australia has already reduced its methane emissions by 15 per cent.

We acknowledge and welcome the work by the National Farmers Federation and Australia's agricultural sector on the advancements that have already been made, noting that this work is ongoing. This includes Meat and Livestock Australia's CN30 commitment, the Red Meat Advisory Council's Australian Beef Sustainability Framework, and other partnerships on researching the potential of methane-reducing feed supplements. Already under the CN30 program, Meat and Livestock Australia has approved or contracted \$54.5m in feed supplements, forages and genetics projects to support methane reduction in livestock

The Pledge does not require Australia to focus solely on agriculture, or reduce agricultural production or livestock numbers. In particular, as a result of signing the Pledge, the Australian Government will not legislate or introduce taxes or levies to reduce livestock emissions. Rather, the Government will take an economy-wide approach in partnership with relevant sectors. For example, the Safeguard Mechanism will contribute to the Pledge as many large industrial facilities reduce their emissions overtime.

The Government recognises and will continue to support agriculture and invest in innovation and technology as indicated in our Powering Australia plan, starting with an \$8 million investment for the seaweed industry to support commercialisation of the feed supplement asparagopsis. Additional investment funding will also be available from the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund, which is designed to, among other things, help Australia manufacture the requisite components for low emissions technology and add value in agricultural sectors.

We note the importance of ensuring Australian agricultural producers can continue to access premium international markets, which are signalling their expectations for improved climate outcomes. The Albanese Government sees the Pledge as an opportunity to demonstrate this commitment and provide an avenue to communicate the efforts of our agriculture sector to reduce emissions to-date, and employ technological solutions into the future.

We thank you for your support of this important initiative and signal, and look forward to working with you on delivering climate change outcomes for the agricultural sector.

[Letter ends]

Sent electronically 22 October 2022

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade Market Access and International Division

TMAID02**GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS****CURRENT ISSUE**

Global supply chain disruptions continue to impact the Australian agriculture industry through reduced supplies, higher costs and constrained logistics.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES**What is the Australian Government doing about the impacts of global supply chain disruptions on the Australian agricultural industry?**

- As an island nation, it is essential that Australia maintains connectivity to key markets.
- The supply chains we see today differ from the supply chains pre-COVID-19 and they are unlikely to return to their original state.
 - The freight environment has irreversibly changed, including reduced frequency and reliability of services, and air and sea freight prices not likely to return to pre-pandemic levels.
 - Businesses must account for higher prices and ‘new-look’ supply chains.
- Australian businesses are not alone.
- The government continues to monitor the international environment and work closely with industry and our trading partners to understand supply chain risks and to minimise disruption.
 - Through the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund – including \$500 million of funding for Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Food and Fibre – we will support Australian industry, including the agricultural sector, to increase its resilience to future supply chain disruptions by becoming more self-reliant.
 - Austrade’s Export Supply Chain Service (ESCS) was launched on 1 August 2022 to maintain connections with agribusiness and food exporters, government partners and other supply chain and logistics’ stakeholders.

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SB22-000037

OFFICIAL

- The ESCS is providing strategic supply chain updates, freight and logistic insights, and intelligence and will partner with Austrade's Agriculture and Food Global Engagement Managers to support our agricultural exporters shape their strategies.
- The government is committed to ensuring the international trading environment remains open and transparent, and that the rules-based trading system is maintained to deliver the most efficient outcomes for the Australian agricultural industry.

What is causing global supply chain disruptions?

S. 33(a)(iii)

How is the Australian agricultural industry being impacted by supply chain disruptions?

- The Australian agricultural industry is being impacted by increased freight, fertiliser and fuel costs.
 - Global freight costs are at record highs, with high freight costs limiting Australian industry's ability to export greater distances beyond the region.
 - The cost of fertiliser remains very high worldwide, despite falling a little in recent months.

S. 33(a)(iii)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

S. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

S. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade Market Access and International Division

TMAID04

TRADE DIVERSIFICATION

CURRENT ISSUE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is delivering on the Australian Government's commitment to expanding and diversifying access to export markets for Australia's agriculture, fishery and forestry industries.

While the decision on where and when to export is a commercial decision for industry, the department plays a key a role in negotiating and maintaining market access for commodities across markets.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The department remains committed to supporting Australia's agriculture, fishery and forestry industries in expanding and diversifying their export markets. This helps build the agriculture sector's resilience to trade disruptions and is key for industry to meet their ambition to grow the sector to \$100 billion in farm-gate value by 2030.
- Australia exports around 72% (by value) of agricultural production each year. In 2021-22, this trade was worth \$71.2 billion (ABARES).
- In 2021-22, the department secured 95 market access outcomes (maintained, new, improved, and restored) valued up to \$1.77 billion across 34 trading partners.
 - This includes 46 new or improved market access opportunities worth an estimated \$337 million in 2021-22.

Agri-Business Expansion Initiative

- The department is continuing to deliver the Agri-Business Expansion Initiative (ABEI) – boosting support for Australian agriculture, fishery and forestry exporters to expand and diversify their export markets and position them for long-term growth.
 - ABEI is an \$85.9 million commitment by the prior government over 3 years from 2020-21 (DAFF: \$43.0 million, Austrade: \$42.9 million). Funding terminates on 30 June 2023.
- ABEI contributes to the department's core objective to maintain and improve, as well as deliver new and restored market access for Australian agriculture, fishery and forestry exporters. Activities supported by this initiative include:

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SB22-000039

OFFICIAL

- Deploying additional short term 'surge' Agriculture Counsellors (currently in London, Bangkok and Hanoi) alongside the existing overseas network of 22 Agriculture Counsellors to promote Australia's agricultural trade interests and help our export sector to grow.
- Delivering 23 grants to trade-disrupted industries under the Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation program since January 2021 (\$20.2 million in total). \$6.3 million in grant funding remains available in this final year.
- Boosting scientific and technical capacity for negotiation of market access outcomes.
- Partnering with Austrade and industry to establish a strong market intelligence capability, to better collect and disseminate the information that exporters need to expand and take advantage of trade opportunities.

[Refer questions on Austrade's activities under ABEI to Austrade]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Trade Diversification Plan**

[Refer questions on the Trade Diversification Plan to DFAT]

- During the 2022 Federal Election the government announced the Trade Diversification Plan to support exporters to pursue opportunities in new markets.
- The Trade Diversification Plan has four main pillars: delivering an Export Market and Product Diversification Strategy; building economic ties with India; revitalising our trade with Indonesia; and supporting greater regional trade cooperation.

National Reconstruction Fund

[Refer questions on the National Reconstruction Fund to DISR]

- During the 2022 Federal Election the government announced it is reserving \$500 million of the National Reconstruction Fund specifically for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and fibre. This is intended to help diversify the agri-food sector, open new possibilities for trade and create more jobs and economic activity in the regions.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade Market Access and International Division

TMAID05

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE

CURRENT ISSUE

Access to export markets is fundamental to Australia's agriculture sector.

While there is a necessary international focus on the sustainability of agriculture and its contribution to global warming, some international actors are moving to unilaterally impose their domestic prescriptions for improved practice on trading partners.

As such, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is taking a leadership role in global policy debates, carrying the message that sustainability and 'climate-smart' agricultural production should be based on scientific and evidence-based approaches. A 'one size fits all' approach to sustainable practices will undermine efforts to achieve sustainable productivity growth and ultimately threaten global food and fibre security.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

s. 33(a)(iii)

- The department is harnessing the Special Representative for Australian Agriculture and its network of overseas counsellors to build alliances with other countries in various international fora.

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SB22-000040

OFFICIAL

- The department also supports independent, robust studies to encourage the transition to climate-smart agriculture, including through the research efforts of ABARES.

What is your department doing to make sure all the international climate agreements the government is signing up to aren't hurting farmers?

- The Australian Government is committed to climate action, and to restoring Australia's leadership on this issue on the international stage. Considered participation in key international agreements will enhance our sustainability and climate-smart credentials, unlocking new export opportunities for premium food and fibre.

S. 33(a)(iii)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Australian Chief Plant Protection Office

ACPP001

VARROA MITE

CURRENT ISSUE

Varroa destructor has been detected in Australia and an eradication response is being undertaken. The NSW government is leading the national response under pre-agreed national emergency response arrangements and has the full support of the Australian Government. The coordinated and decisive response is giving Australia the best opportunity to eradicate this pest.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Varroa destructor was initially detected in sentinel hives at the Port of Newcastle on 22 June 2022.
- Varroa mites can hitchhike with bees on incoming vessels or cargo, the current detection has not been directly linked to any specific import or a vessel detection.
- It is not known how the pest arrived in Australia, and we may never know. While the initial detection was in sentinel surveillance hives at the Port of Newcastle, NSW have traced the centre of the outbreak further away from the port within the Newcastle area. Investigations by NSW as to possible entry point are ongoing and indicate that the incursion may not be the result of a swarm hitchhiker event. NSW have advised that it is considered unlikely that either the Port of Newcastle or the RAAF Base Williamtown were a first point of entry.
- NSW consider that based on genetic analysis that the varroa mites that have arrived in Australia are from a single introduction (there is only one genotype identified) and genetically most similar to mites from southern USA and Puerto Rico.
- As at 1 November 2022, there are 102 infected premises, 16,830 (approx. 95%) of 17,626 hives have been euthanised at 1,905 of the total 2,074 known sites identified within the 10 km eradication (red) zones.
 - The location of the majority of infected premises range from Sydney to the Hunter Valley region, with one property in northwest NSW near Narrabri and one property just northwest of Coffs Harbour. All cases are linked to the initial detection near Newcastle.

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OFFICIAL

- The identification of infected premises is the result of intensive surveillance within the 10 km eradication zone areas around where infected hives are found. The number of infected premises within the eradication zone is likely to increase, as NSW are currently focusing on euthanasia and will go back and inspect euthanised hives at the completion of the process. NSW considers that the incident has been delimited.
- Under the national response arrangements 16 of the 35 affected pollinator industries including the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) and Almond Board of Australia, are members of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) which provides technical oversight of the response.
- A response plan has been approved by governments and relevant industry under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed to co-fund the response activities in NSW across governments and industries. Under those agreed arrangements the Commonwealth will meet 25% of the costs.
- NSW with Commonwealth and industry assistance is continuing response activities to undertake eradication actions.
- The new version of the response plan is being drafted to cover ongoing eradication efforts and future proof of freedom activities. This new version is currently being considered by the Consultative Committee for Emergency Plants Pests.
- The CCEPP has met on 8 occasions to discuss the detection and response. Most recently the CCEPP held a full day face to face workshop in Canberra on 7 October 2022 to discuss the progress of the response and the next stages. The meeting was attended by all jurisdictions and the majority of affected industry parties. A CCEPP meeting is scheduled for 4 November to discuss the next version of the response plan to continue the response activities.
- The National Management Group has met on 3 occasions to discuss the detection, most recently on 16 September 2022. The National Biosecurity Committee discussed the detection and cost sharing arrangements at its formal meeting in September 2022 and had previously discussed briefly on two other occasions in July and August 2022.
- The Australian Government has committed additional assistance of \$125,000 (GST exclusive) over one year to the AHBIC to fund industry-embedded Varroa Response Coordinator position.
- The Varroa Response Coordinator will act as an Industry Liaison Officer role to assist the incident management team with technical honey-bee specific issues; manage communication and engagement with stakeholders including government and industry; engage with industry; and provide an education and extension role to beekeepers.

Compensation

- Under the response plan, NSW is administering an \$18 million compensation package which is available to affected registered beekeepers for reimbursement of all equipment, hives and bees that are destroyed in the eradication process, as well as the costs of honey losses from those hives.
- There are a range of other Commonwealth services that beekeepers and primary producers may be eligible for, for example:
 - The Rural Financial Counselling Service support primary producers and small business and can provide free and impartial financial counselling.
 - Farm Household Allowance is a payment for farming families in financial hardship.

Pollination and Hive Movement

- Hive movement restrictions are the legislative responsibility of state and territory governments and have been imposed as part of the emergency response to prevent further spread and impact of varroa mite while the outbreak is being delimited and eradication undertaken.
- To enable pollination of key crops, NSW has a permit system in place for the movement of hives within low-risk areas.
- Victoria has established a permit system to allow for the movement of hives from Victoria, SA and Queensland to assist with pollination services.
- NSW is working with Raspberries and Blackberries Australia and Strawberries Australia to limit impacts to affected growers in the eradication zone near Coffs Harbour during the berry pollination which usually occurs in October.
- NSW are preparing a report to declare freedom in the general surveillance zone. Once agreed by the CCEPP it is expected that Victoria, QLD and SA will remove restrictions to hives in the general surveillance zone in NSW.
- Agriculture Ministers agreed to work together on a coordinated and proactive response to securing pollination services for next season.
 - The Agriculture Senior Officials' Committee will continue discussions on this matter at their meeting on 17 November 2022, before reporting back to Agriculture Ministers on 7 December 2022.

Wild European Honey Bee Management Program

- Following on from the euthanasia and destruction of recreational and commercially managed hives within the eradication zones, the next phase in the eradication of Varroa mite includes the complete removal of wild European honey bees (WEHB) from the eradication zones.

OFFICIAL

- Euthanasia of wild European honey bees has commenced and will be completed using a commonly available insecticide fipronil. Fipronil bait stations will be located and operated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries within the 10 kilometre zones around each of the premises where Varroa mite was detected (the Varroa mite eradication zones).
- To ensure the safety of people, animals, livestock and the environment this work is strictly controlled by NSW DPI, in accordance with an Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority permit [PER84929v2]. The fipronil bait stations are designed to exclude other animals and insects, and to prevent contamination of soil and water. While the fipronil bait stations are in active use the baited area will be supervised by trained staff.
- NSW has sought and obtained an exemption for the use of fipronil baiting under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act from the Department of Climate, Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
- The first round of bait stations deployed in the Jerry's Plains area (northwest of Newcastle) is scheduled to be completed by 4 November 2022. Bait stations were deployed in Denman (west of Jerry's Plains) and Nana Glen (Coffs Harbour) on 31st October 2022 and are being set up to commence baiting in Somersby (Central Coast) and Narrabri. Bait stations operation will continue a scheduled time periods for up to 12 months to ensure all WEBH have been euthanised in the eradication zones.
- As the plan rolls out across the eradication zones, NSW are notifying registered beekeepers within proximity to where bait stations are being deployed and directly contacting landholders where bait stations are being installed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Varroa destructor (Varroa mite) attacks European honey bees and is considered the greatest threat to Australia's honey and honey bee pollination plant industries.
- Australia is one of the few countries in the world to remain free of varroa mite.
- ABARES estimates the cost over 30 years of an incursion at the port of Sydney is \$5.2 billion without containment and \$3.8 billion with containment.
- Varroa costs are highest for almonds and canola, each incurring around \$875 million with uncontained spread and \$650 million with contained spread, over 30 years.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Animal Division

BAD01

PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

CURRENT ISSUE

African swine fever (ASF) has spread globally since 2007 and has proved difficult to control in Europe and Asia, re-entering the Caribbean and is now on our doorstep in Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (PNG). The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is constantly reviewing this changing situation to appropriately manage the biosecurity risk to Australia.

The 2021–22 Budget provided an additional \$58.6 million over four years to protect Australia from the threat of ASF and other significant diseases, continuing the government's commitment under the \$66.6 million ASF Response Package announced in 2019.

Total expenditure for 2021-22 was \$13.1 million against the budget allocation in the PBS of \$14.8 million.

The department continues to respond to the threat of ASF and other significant diseases through this package.

KEY POINTS

- ASF is a serious, usually fatal disease of pigs for which no treatment or effective vaccine currently exists.
- ASF has never occurred in Australia. An outbreak would have significant impacts on pig health and production, the export trade and our favourable biosecurity status. Industry estimates a large-scale outbreak of ASF in Australia could cost \$2 billion over 5 years.
- Since September 2019, ASF has spread to several near neighbours, including Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Thailand, PNG and Malaysia.
- The department has implemented a range of measures to reduce the likelihood of ASF entering Australia, including:
 - approx. \$1.1 million invested in capacity-building with our near neighbours:
 - funding to the local authorities for ASF preparedness, response and recovery work. Repeat visits by Australian technical experts to provide on-the-ground support and expertise in Timor-Leste and PNG. Provision of education resources and boosting laboratory capacity and surveillance capability. This activity has been supported by recent visits to Timor-Leste, PNG and Indonesia by Australia's Chief and Deputy Chief Veterinary Officers and senior biosecurity officials. This has been further complemented by the recent Ministerial visit to Indonesia.

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OFFICIAL

- \$8.4 million invested in strengthened border controls
 - additional frontline screening at airports and mail centres by an additional 6 detector dogs and 69 biosecurity officers (incl. 9 specialist dog handlers), and the installation of 3D X-Ray machines at the Sydney and Melbourne Gateway facilities
- \$816,000 invested in increased targeted operations:
 - intelligence-led investigations of products moving across our borders to test the effectiveness of existing biosecurity measures and to detect non-compliance
- national simulation exercises:
 - held between December 2019 and October 2021 involving state and territory governments and industry bodies, including Australian Pork Limited, SunPork Fresh Foods, Rivalea and Swickers.
- The US is Australia's largest source of imported pig meat and major supplier of pig-derived products for vaccine/therapeutic manufacturing, biomedical research and diagnostics. Supply of these commodities may be impacted in the event of an ASF outbreak in the US.
- The department has reviewed and accepted the established ASF protection zone for US external territories in the Caribbean which would permit trade in porcine commodities to continue from the remainder of the US to Australia with minimal impacts if an outbreak were to occur in Puerto Rico or US Virgin Islands.

BACKGROUND

- Further measures implemented to enhance preparedness and response to any incursions:
 - Border
 - increased infringement notice amounts and visa cancellations for serious breaches of the Biosecurity Act 2015
 - Offshore, Onshore and Technical Market Access
 - performing rapid risk assessments of changing biosecurity threats and suspending/amending permit conditions for countries with an outbreak of ASF
 - funding engagement of industry liaison officers to assess industry's biosecurity preparedness
 - funding training for abattoir workers to identify signs of disease and help jurisdictions respond to ASF incursions
 - dedicated capacity to safeguard export interests and import supply chains via activities like negotiating pre-emptive zoning arrangements with key partners
 - pre-emptive zoning arrangement formalised with Singapore in August 2020 facilitating safe exports of Australian pig meat in the event of an ASF outbreak in Australia. Work continues on improvements to this arrangement.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Animal Division

BAD02**LUMPY SKIN DISEASE – INDONESIA****CURRENT ISSUE**

The presence and continued spread of lumpy skin disease (LSD) throughout Asia – particularly to Indonesia – has created a heightened risk of a disease incursion in Australia.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Australia is free from LSD.
- LSD is a real threat to Australian livestock industries. An incursion would result in market access losses that have been conservatively estimated at \$7.39 billion per annum across a range of commodities and markets.
- LSD was detected in Indonesia on 2 March 2022 and there are confirmed cases of LSD in five provinces in Sumatra and one province in Central Java. As at 1 November 2022, there are reports of 9 cases of LSD in Central Java on Indonesia's national animal health information system website. Given the implications of eastwards spread in Indonesia and the risk to Australia, the department is maintaining a watching brief on the situation.
- The October 2022 Federal Budget reframed the *Boosting Australia's Biosecurity System – protecting Australia from escalating exotic animal disease risks* package. This provides a \$134.1 million investment for biosecurity, including:
 - \$61.6 million over 2 years from 2022-23 to strengthen Australia's frontline biosecurity capability, including in northern Australia, support domestic preparedness and biosecurity outcomes in neighbouring countries
 - \$14 million in emergency funding for frontline biosecurity preparedness in Australia, as well as funding to continue to support Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea to prevent and respond to the spread of FMD and LSD
 - \$46.7 million to support continuous improvement in our livestock traceability systems, by maintaining our world-class system and ensuring we can recover quickly from any disease incursions

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- \$11.7 million over 4 years from 2022-23 (and \$3.3 million per year ongoing from 2026-27) to expand our detector dog capability at the border, by investing in an additional 20 detector dogs and handlers.
- The Australian Government has supported Indonesia's LSD control program through the provision of vaccine and communication campaigns and materials worth \$910,000 of Official Development Assistance.
 - 435,000 LSD vaccine doses to support the vaccination campaign in Indonesia have already been delivered.
- The Australian Government has also committed to the following funding packages in response to the imminent threat of LSD:
 - \$14 million to bolster Australia's frontline defence and provide more technical support for countries currently battling FMD and LSD.
 - \$10 million cooperation package to assist Indonesia as it responds to the outbreaks of FMD and LSD, including \$4.4 million for the purchase of both FMD and LSD vaccines.
 - \$550,000 to Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) for the *Indonesia Biosecurity Support Project*, to enhance biosecurity capacity in Indonesia's commercial feedlot sector to curb the spread of FMD and LSD.

[See **Attachment A** for funding breakdown and expenditure]

- A National LSD Action Plan, released on 13 October 2022, developed in partnership between the Australian government, state and territory governments, industry and other groups, will support Australia's cattle and buffalo industries and effectively manage the risk of LSD. This includes a trade preparedness strategy to mitigate potential market access losses.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRE-BORDER

- On 15 July 2022, Minister Watt announced a **\$14 million biosecurity package to bolster Australia's frontline defence and provide more technical support for countries currently battling FMD and LSD.**
 - Of this, \$5 million will be provided for immediate support for Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea including:
 - support for FMD and LSD vaccine distribution includes personnel and cold chain logistics
 - technical assistance to support and strengthen laboratory capacity, and

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- epidemiological assistance to support on-ground control efforts in Indonesia to model the likely spread of disease within Indonesia and the region.
 - The remaining \$9 million will support prevention and preparedness activities for LSD and FMD in Australia (see BORDER).
- On 9 August 2022, Minister Watt and Minister Wong collectively announced a **\$10 million biosecurity support package** to further support Indonesia's response to FMD and LSD. This will:
 - provide \$4.4 million for additional doses of FMD vaccines (approx. 3 million) from reputable commercial suppliers with expected delivery in October
 - provide biosecurity expertise and other technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, and
 - support development of a national livestock identification system for Indonesia.
- On 14 July 2022, Minister Watt also announced that the department has provided **\$550,000 to Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA)** for the *Indonesia Biosecurity Support Project* to enhance biosecurity capacity in Indonesia's commercial feedlot sector to curb the spread of FMD and LSD.
 - This contribution will also fund an in-country risk assessment and mitigation plan, development of feedlot manuals, and training delivery on biosecurity and emergency response in Indonesia.
 - The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$2.08 million.
- The CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness are working with the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture to provide technical laboratory support and supply of essential materials to underpin FMD and LSD testing.

BORDER

- The Australian Government has committed \$9 million (of the \$14 million package mentioned above) to **support prevention and preparedness activities** for LSD and FMD in Australia. Enhanced **border measures and activities that have been implemented** to date include:
 - 18 new biosecurity officers in airports and mail centres.
 - Melbourne Airport – 4 Biosecurity officers
 - Perth Airport – 3 Biosecurity officers
 - Sydney Airport – 4 Biosecurity officers
 - Brisbane Airport – 4 Biosecurity officers

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- The remaining 3 positions are expected to be recruited to Adelaide, Cairns and Darwin by late October.
- two detector dogs have been relocated from Sydney to Darwin and Cairns to support increased surveillance activities in these locations.
- the establishment of a North Australian Coordination Network to bring together Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia governments in partnership with key industries and local communities to improve Australia's surveillance and preparedness coordination in the north.
 - On 13 October 2022, the Minister announced that the Network will be established with funding of \$4.33 million for an initial two-year period. There will be a lead government coordinator employed by the Northern Territory Government and a lead industry coordinator employed by the NT Cattlemen's Association.
- targeted communication and engagement material for northern Australia and in the traveller and mail pathways, to encourage biosecurity compliance and help to achieve a shared responsibility towards preventing the entry and establishment of these diseases.

National LSD Action Plan

- Australia's **first ever National Lumpy Skin Disease Action Plan** sets out **27 activities and 8 objectives** to improve Australia's preparedness for LSD across the pre-border, border and post border biosecurity continuum.
- Many of these activities in the action plan are already underway, and Government and industry partners will continue to work together on these.
- The plan was developed in partnership between the Australian government, state and territory governments, industry and other groups
- It sets out practical and agreed steps for all parties to work together to improve Australia's preparedness for LSD.
- Government and industry organisations already have strategic animal health plans that broadly cover components included in the Action Plan. The intent is not to duplicate activities, but rather to create links between plans, and to bring together into a single, high level action plan to make the best use of resources.
- The eight objectives are:
 - **International engagement** – Strengthen collaboration and engagement within the region to strategically address the risks of LSD.
 - **Border biosecurity and trade** – Augment industry-government collaboration and communication on the border biosecurity risks of LSD to Australia and strategically address technical market access barriers.
 - **Diagnostic capability and capacity** – Ensure that Australia's national diagnostic network provides reliable LSD testing capability and capacity.
 - **Surveillance** – Optimise government and industry investment in surveillance.
 - **Preparedness and response** – Enhance the LSD preparedness and emergency response capacity and capability of industries and governments, and clearly define roles and responsibilities.
 - **Awareness and communications** – Facilitate stronger engagement between governments and industry through a comprehensive and adaptable communication strategy for LSD.
 - **Research and innovation** – Improve Australia's preparedness and response for LSD by developing research priorities driven by industry and government needs, and creating knowledge that is freely accessible to industry; and
 - **Recovery** – Mitigate the economic and social effects of an outbreak of LSD by developing options for a recovery strategy.

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- A joint industry-government steering committee will guide the implementation of the plan and represent the shared interests of government and industry partners.
 - Progress against activities in the action plan will be collated and formally reported to the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) through the Animalplan 2023-27 Steering Committee, which includes industry and government representatives. The department will provide central coordination for the plan, by liaising with lead organisations and collaborators, as well as developing and implementing the activities within the plan where required.

POST BORDER

- On 4 August 2022, Minister Watt announced the establishment of an **Exotic Animal Diseases Joint Taskforce (the Joint Taskforce)**. The Joint Taskforce, which was convened by the department and Emergency Management Australia, delivered a report to Minister Watt on 5 September 2022. While it found that Australia's Emergency Animal Disease system is sound it outlined 14 recommendations for consideration to ensure that Australia is better prepared should there be an incursion of an exotic disease like FMD or LSD.
 - This report is available publicly on the department's website.
- On 9 August 2022, Minister Watt launched Australia's first **National Biosecurity Strategy**.
- The Department has established the **Agriculture Policy Taskforce** to connect across five streams to examine and make recommendations about the department's current capacity, capability and potential responses to a nationally significant exotic animal disease outbreak which included:
 - Biosecurity funding sustainability
 - Emergency Management Preparedness
 - Trade and International Response
 - Agriculture Policy and Program
 - Senate Inquiry.
- [Refer to **APT01** for full details].

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- The **estimated probability of an outbreak** of LSD in Australia occurring within the next 5 years is **28%**.
 - The Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA) facilitated two structured expert judgement (SEJ) exercises this year – one in April for LSD, and one in June for FMD. The exercises looked at the probability of an LSD or FMD outbreak occurring in Australia within the next 5 years.
 - SEJ exercises are not based on modelling, and the results and estimated probabilities should be interpreted and used with caution. Results from SEJ processes can be affected by a low diversity of participants, the rapidness of the exercise, and the level of uncertainty expressed during the session.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A Funding breakdown table.

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Attachment A – Funding breakdown and expenditure table.

\$10 million biosecurity cooperation package to assist Indonesia as it responds to the outbreaks of FMD and LSD Announced 9 August 2022 (joint announcement with Watt and Wong) – funded through DFAT, facilitated by DAFF	
\$4.4 million – purchase of FMD vaccines Funding allocated.	3 million doses of vaccines have been purchased and are expected to arrive in Indonesia by 15 October 2022.
\$2.2 million – purchase of PPE, disinfectants, training for on-ground staff, communications support. Funding allocated.	To date approximately 400 Indonesian vets, paravets and other personnel have received technical training for FMD control and eradication. Purchase of PPE and disinfectants is in progress.
\$1.6 million – targeted technical support (FMD vaccine manufacturing capacity, epidemiological modelling & biosecurity training) Funding allocated.	Support for epidemiological modelling is currently being progressed and development of surveillance approaches including through environmental monitoring. Support for biosecurity communications and biosecurity training is also being explored with the Indonesian Quarantine Agency (IAQA).
\$0.9 million – see funding for national livestock identification system for Indonesia Funding allocated.	Seed (start-up) funding and technical support to establish a fit for purpose national livestock identification system for Indonesia.
\$0.9 million – provision of Australian biosecurity experts as technical advisors to support quarantine and emergency animal disease response and control efforts in Indonesia. Funding allocated.	DAFF has progressed a proposal with FAO for a secondment of a technical officer.

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<p>\$14 million biosecurity package to bolster Australia’s frontline defence and provide more technical support for countries currently battling FMD and LSD.</p> <p>Announced 15 July 2022 – split into two components: International and National</p>	
<p>\$5 million – international component</p> <p>For immediate support for Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea</p>	
<p>\$2.56 million – support for FMD and LSD vaccine distribution; vaccination of cattle in feedlots to be delivered by industry partners; and establishment of a regional vaccine bank</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>Technical discussions have been held with prospective FMD and LSD vaccine manufacturers, and cost estimates have been received for a regional FMD and LSD vaccine bank.</p> <p>A project proposal has been received from Livecorp seeking funding for vaccine support for the Indonesian feedlot industry. Internal administrative processes are in train to fund the project.</p>
<p>\$1 million – technical expertise to support and strengthen laboratory capacity</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>A proposal from the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness has been received to deliver the diagnostics and capacity building support and internal administrative process for funding are in train.</p>
<p>\$1.44 million – technical assistance and operational inputs to support on-ground control efforts in Indonesia and epidemiological support (including in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste).</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>A technical expert in FMD control and vaccine production has recently completed a 4 week deployment to Indonesia and a report has been received by the department with recommendations for further technical support.</p> <p>A collaborative field diagnostic workshop for FMD, LSD, ASF and training in the use of the DAFF-funded Animal Health Information System was delivered in PNG from 12-15 September 2022.</p>
<p>\$9 million – national component</p>	

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For frontline biosecurity and industry preparedness measures to protect Australia against the risks posed by FMD and LSD.	
<p>\$2.4 million – 18 new biosecurity officers in airports and mail centres</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>Biosecurity Officer recruitment status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Melbourne Airport - 4x Biosecurity officers - Perth Airport 3x Biosecurity officers - Sydney Airport 4x Biosecurity - Brisbane Airport 4x Biosecurity <p>The remaining 3x positions are expected to be recruited to Adelaide, Cairns and Darwin by late October.</p>
<p>\$0.160 million – targeted communications</p> <p>Funding has been spent.</p>	<p>Communications and engagement around biosecurity compliance for travellers arriving in Australia, people ordering goods from overseas, and communities across northern Australia.</p>
<p>\$0.52 million – detector dog deployment</p> <p>Funding has been spent.</p>	<p>Two detector dogs have been relocated from Sydney to Darwin & Cairns to support increased surveillance activities in these locations.</p>
<p>\$1.5 million (approx.) – resourcing.</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>ASL to support ongoing departmental preparedness activities across multiple divisions & operational objectives; and contractors for work duties that can be performed without requiring biosecurity officer training such as handing out pamphlets to travellers, cleaning shoes, and administrative tasks as urgently needed at the airports.</p>
<p>\$4.33 million – Northern Australian Network Coordination</p> <p>Funding has been spent.</p>	<p>The establishment of a North Australian Coordination Network to bring together Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia governments in partnership with key industries and local communities to improve Australia's surveillance and preparedness coordination in the north (two year program).</p>

\$1.5 million to support Indonesia's response to the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

Announced 14 July 2022 (joint announcement with Watt and Wong) – funded through DFAT, facilitated by DAFF

1 million doses of FMD vaccines have been delivered to Indonesia. All these vaccines have now been administered.

Funding spent.

\$550,000 to Meat and Livestock Australia for the Indonesia Biosecurity Support Project.

Announced 14 July 2022

To enhance biosecurity capacity in Indonesia's commercial feedlot sector to curb the spread of FMD and LSD.

Funding spent.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Animal Division

BAD03

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

CURRENT ISSUE

Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) was first detected in southern Australia in February 2022. JEV is considered endemic in the Torres Strait and far-northern parts of Australia.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Japanese encephalitis (JE) is an acute mosquito-borne viral disease primarily causes reproductive losses in pigs and encephalitis in horses, as well as people.
- JEV has been confirmed in 83 piggeries in 4 jurisdictions (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia) with a likely exposure date after 1 July 2021, and in 98 feral pig samples from the NT and Far North QLD (as at 12 October 2022).
- The normal lifecycle of JE is between waterbirds (e.g. herons and egrets – ‘reservoir species’) and mosquitoes. Infected mosquitoes can transmit the virus to humans and animals. Infected animals or people do not directly transmit the virus, however infected pigs, like waterbirds, transmit the virus to mosquitoes.
- The movement of infected mosquitoes or migratory waterbirds may have played a part in the virus’ introduction and spread to southern Australia.
- Given the vector-borne transmission, environmental reservoirs and spatial distributions of detections across eastern Australia, JEV is not eradicable or containable.
- With this outbreak, human cases were also identified across the four affected jurisdictions and required action from both human and animal health departments.
- The department worked closely with the Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) on a coordinated response, developing a joint Japanese Encephalitis Response Plan in early March 2022.
 - The plan provided an agreed framework for national coordination and response arrangements (including surveillance, vector management and communications) for managing JEV.
 - To coordinate the animal health response, the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (CCEAD) was convened, with a representative

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SB22-000051

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from the DHAC invited to update the committee on the human health response. This committee includes the chief veterinary officers from all states and territories and representatives from the affected industries – in this case, the pork and horse industries, and Animal Health Australia.

- JEV is a category 1 disease under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and is entirely funded by government. Industry does not contribute to response costs for category 1 diseases but plays a crucial role in how these outbreaks are managed through CCEAD.
- On 11 March, the then Health and Agriculture ministers announced the commonwealth would provide \$69 million to reduce the risk of JEV to people and animals. The commonwealth provided \$69 million to manage the outbreak of JEV in people and animals. Of that funding, \$10 million was provided to support state and territory agriculture departments respond to the outbreak up until 30 June 2022.
- Decisions on funding were managed by the National Strategy Group (NSG). NSG was closely modelled on the National Management Group that manages funding decisions under the EADRA. The Department of Health and Aged Care was part of NSG, in addition to all states, territories and representatives from the pork and horse industries, and Animal Health Australia.
- JEV is no longer being managed as an animal health emergency and affected jurisdictions have transitioned to a program-based response.
- Chief Veterinary Officers and Chief Medical Officers met on 8 July 2022 and 17 October 2022 to collaborate on the joint response to JEV and to commence planning for the expected appearance of the disease again in late 2022-early 2023.
- A National Animal Health Surveillance Plan was developed which outlines the surveillance components of the national animal health sector response to detection of JEV in pigs in multiple locations in south-eastern Australia in 2022.
- There is no JEV vaccine currently approved for domestic pigs or horses in Australia.
 - Work is underway with the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) to conduct trials to determine whether a vaccine manufactured overseas against the genotype 3 strain will be effective in pigs against the genotype 4 strain circulating in Australia.
 - The department has received two applications from Australian research institutions seeking approval to conduct proof of concept trials for new JEV vaccines for pigs. These applications have been prioritised based on the critical national need for JEV vaccines in this livestock species.
 - The pig industry must rely on robust mosquito management to protect their herds from JEV until a vaccine solution is found.

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- An inactivated vaccine is approved for vaccinating horses that are being exported, to meet importing country requirements. The department is continuing to work with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and the horse industry to obtain an emergency use permit, for use in domestic horses. When granted, this will allow import of greater quantities and wider use of the vaccine by the Australian horse industry.
- JEV is not a food safety concern. Commercially produced pork meat or pork products are safe to consume.
- JEV will continue to pose a risk to inhabitants and workers in northern areas of Australia, particularly vulnerable First Nations' communities. State and territory health departments are engaged with First Nations' communities on JEV awareness and management.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- As at 19 October 2022:
 - There are 32 confirmed human cases of JEV in Australia with definitive laboratory evidence: New South Wales (13), Northern Territory (2), Queensland (2), South Australia (5) and Victoria (10).
 - 7 people have been reported to have died as a result of JEV. New South Wales (2), South Australia (2), Victoria (1), Queensland (1) and Northern territory (1).
- The government has coordinated the distribution of 130,000 human vaccines to affected states and territories.
- As surveillance progresses and geographic areas of risk become clearer, a vaccination strategy will be further developed through the Communicable Disease Network Australia in consultation with the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Animal Division

BAD04**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE****CURRENT ISSUE**

The emergence and rapid spread of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Indonesia has created a heightened risk of a disease incursion in Australia.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Australia is free from FMD.
- While ABARES estimated that a large FMD incursion across multiple states would have a direct economic impact of around \$80 billion over 10 years, it is important to remember Australia's pre-border, border and post-border biosecurity continuum remains one of the strongest in the world.
- Since FMD was first reported in Indonesia on 9 May 2022, it has been detected in 25 of 37 provinces in Indonesia, including Bali, and there is an increased risk of an incursion into Australia.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry subsequently changed its risk profile and strengthened biosecurity requirements for imported goods, incoming passengers and mail.
- The October 2022 Federal Budget reframed the *Boosting Australia's Biosecurity System – protecting Australia from escalating exotic animal disease risks* package. This provides a \$134.1 million investment for biosecurity, including:
 - \$61.6 million over 2 years from 2022-23 to strengthen Australia's frontline biosecurity capability, including in northern Australia, support domestic preparedness and biosecurity outcomes in neighbouring countries
 - \$14 million in emergency funding for frontline biosecurity preparedness in Australia, as well as funding to continue to support Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea to prevent and respond to the spread of FMD and lumpy skin disease
 - \$46.7 million to support continuous improvement in our livestock traceability systems, by maintaining our world-class system and ensuring we can recover quickly from any disease incursions

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SB22-000052

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- \$11.7 million over 4 years from 2022-23 (and \$3.3 million per year ongoing from 2026-27) to expand our detector dog capability at the border, by investing in an additional 20 detector dogs and handlers.
- The Australian Government has committed to the following funding packages in response to the imminent threat of FMD:
 - \$14 million to bolster Australia's frontline defence and provide more technical support for countries currently battling FMD and LSD.
 - \$10 million cooperation package to assist Indonesia as it responds to the outbreaks of FMD and LSD, including \$4.4 million for the purchase of both FMD and LSD vaccines.
 - \$1.5 million to purchase vaccines to support Indonesia's response to the FMD outbreak.
 - \$550,000 to Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) for the *Indonesia Biosecurity Support Project*, to enhance biosecurity capacity in Indonesia's commercial feedlot sector to curb the spread of FMD and LSD.

See **Attachment A** for funding breakdown and expenditure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRE-BORDER

- On 15 July 2022, Minister Watt announced a **\$14 million biosecurity package to bolster Australia's frontline defence and provide more technical support for countries currently battling FMD and LSD**.
 - Of this, \$5 million will be provided for immediate support for Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea including:
 - support for FMD and LSD vaccine distribution includes personnel and cold chain logistics
 - technical assistance to support and strengthen laboratory capacity, and
 - epidemiological assistance to support on-ground control efforts in Indonesia to model the likely spread of disease within Indonesia and the region.
 - The remaining \$9 million will support prevention and preparedness activities for LSD and FMD in Australia (see BORDER).
- On 9 August 2022, Minister Watt and Minister Wong collectively announced a **\$10 million biosecurity support package** to further support Indonesia's response to FMD and LSD. This will:

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- provide \$4.4 million for additional doses of FMD vaccines (approx. 3 million) from reputable commercial suppliers with expected delivery in October
 - provide biosecurity expertise and other technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, and
 - support development of a national livestock identification system for Indonesia.
- On 14 July 2022, Minister Watt and Minister Wong collectively announced a **\$1.5 million package** to support Indonesia’s response to the recent outbreak of FMD. This was for the initial purchase of 1 million doses of FMD vaccines for Indonesia which have been delivered and administered.
 - On 14 July 2022, Minister Watt also announced that the department has provided **\$550,000 to Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA)** for the *Indonesia Biosecurity Support Project* to enhance biosecurity capacity in Indonesia’s commercial feedlot sector to curb the spread of FMD and LSD.
 - This contribution will also fund an in-country risk assessment and mitigation plan, development of feedlot manuals, and training delivery on biosecurity and emergency response in Indonesia.
 - The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$2.08 million.
 - The CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness are working with the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture to provide technical laboratory support and supply of essential materials to underpin FMD and LSD testing.

BORDER

- The Australian Government has committed \$9 million (of the \$14 million package mentioned above) to **support prevention and preparedness activities** for LSD and FMD in Australia. Enhanced **border measures and activities that have been implemented** to date include:
 - 18 new biosecurity officers in airports and mail centres.
 - Melbourne Airport – 4 Biosecurity officers
 - Perth Airport – 3 Biosecurity officers
 - Sydney Airport – 4 Biosecurity officers
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 - The remaining 3 positions are expected to be recruited to Adelaide, Cairns and Darwin by late October.
 - two detector dogs have been relocated from Sydney to Darwin and Cairns to support increased surveillance activities in these locations.

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- the establishment of a North Australian Coordination Network to bring together Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia governments in partnership with key industries and local communities to improve Australia’s surveillance and preparedness coordination in the north.
 - on 13 October 2022, the Minister announced that the Network will be established with funding of \$4.33 million for an initial two-year period. There will be a lead government coordinator employed by the Northern Territory Government and a lead industry coordinator employed by the NT Cattlemen’s Association.
- targeted communication and engagement material for northern Australia and in the traveller and mail pathways, to encourage biosecurity compliance and help to achieve a shared responsibility towards preventing the entry and establishment of these diseases.
- **Amendments to Section 17** (Meat and meat products) of the *Biosecurity (Conditionally Non-prohibited Goods) Determination 2021* came into effect on 7 September 2022.
 - Personal consignments of specified meat products which are derived from bovines, ovines, caprines and porcines are no longer allowed entry if they are the product of a country which is not recognised by Australia as FMD free.

POST BORDER

- On 4 August 2022, Minister Watt announced the establishment of an **Exotic Animal Diseases Joint Taskforce (the Joint Taskforce)**. The Joint Taskforce, which was convened by the department and Emergency Management Australia, delivered a report to Minister Watt on 5 September 2022. While it found that Australia’s Emergency Animal Disease system is sound, it outlined 14 recommendations for consideration to ensure that Australia is better prepared should there be an incursion of an exotic disease like FMD or LSD.
 - This report is available publicly on the department’s website.
- On 9 August 2022, Minister Watt launched Australia’s first **National Biosecurity Strategy**.
- The Department has established the **Agriculture Policy Taskforce** to connect across five streams to examine and make recommendations about the department’s current capacity, capability and potential responses to a nationally significant exotic animal disease outbreak which included:
 - Biosecurity funding sustainability
 - Emergency Management Preparedness

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- Trade and International Response
 - Agriculture Policy and Program
 - Senate Inquiry.
- Refer to **SB22-000023** for full details.
 - The **estimated probability of an outbreak** of FMD in Australia occurring within the next 5 years is **11.6%**.
 - The Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA) facilitated two structured expert judgement (SEJ) exercises this year – one in April for LSD, and one in June for FMD. The exercises looked at the probability of a LSD or FMD outbreak occurring in Australia within the next 5 years.
 - SEJ exercises are not based on modelling, and the results and estimated probabilities should be interpreted and used with caution. Results from SEJ processes can be affected by a low diversity of participants, the rapidness of the exercise, and the level of uncertainty expressed during the session.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Funding breakdown table.

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\$0.9 million – provision of Australian biosecurity experts as technical advisors to support quarantine and emergency animal disease response and control efforts in Indonesia. Funding allocated.	DAFF has progressed a proposal with FAO for a secondment of a technical officer.

<p>\$14 million biosecurity package to bolster Australia’s frontline defence and provide more technical support for countries currently battling FMD and LSD.</p> <p>Announced 15 July 2022 – split into two components: International and National</p>	
<p>\$5 million – international component</p> <p>For immediate support for Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea</p>	
<p>\$2.56 million – support for FMD and LSD vaccine distribution; vaccination of cattle in feedlots to be delivered by industry partners; and establishment of a regional vaccine bank</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>Technical discussions have been held with prospective FMD and LSD vaccine manufacturers, and cost estimates have been received for a regional FMD and LSD vaccine bank.</p> <p>A project proposal has been received from Livecorp seeking funding for vaccine support for the Indonesian feedlot industry. Internal administrative processes are in train to fund the project.</p>
<p>\$1 million – technical expertise to support and strengthen laboratory capacity</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>A proposal from the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness has been received to deliver the diagnostics and capacity building support and internal administrative process for funding are in train.</p>
<p>\$1.44 million – technical assistance and operational inputs to support on-ground control efforts in Indonesia and epidemiological support (including in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste).</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>A technical expert in FMD control and vaccine production has recently completed a 4 week deployment to Indonesia and a report has been received by the department with recommendations for further technical support.</p> <p>A collaborative field diagnostic workshop for FMD, LSD, ASF and training in the use of the DAFF-funded Animal Health Information System was delivered in PNG from 12-15 September 2022.</p>
<p>\$9 million – national component</p> <p>For frontline biosecurity and industry preparedness measures to protect Australia</p>	

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against the risks posed by FMD and LSD.	
<p>\$2.4 million – 18 new biosecurity officers in airports and mail centres</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>Biosecurity Officer recruitment status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Melbourne Airport - 4x Biosecurity officers - Perth Airport 3x Biosecurity officers - Sydney Airport 4x Biosecurity - Brisbane Airport 4x Biosecurity <p>The remaining 3x positions are expected to be recruited to Adelaide, Cairns and Darwin by late October.</p>
<p>\$0.160 million – targeted communications</p> <p>Funding has been spent.</p>	<p>Communications and engagement around biosecurity compliance for travellers arriving in Australia, people ordering goods from overseas, and communities across northern Australia.</p>
<p>\$0.52 million – detector dog deployment</p> <p>Funding has been spent.</p>	<p>Two detector dogs have been relocated from Sydney to Darwin & Cairns to support increased surveillance activities in these locations.</p>
<p>\$1.5 million (approx.) – resourcing.</p> <p>Funding has been allocated.</p>	<p>ASL to support ongoing departmental preparedness activities across multiple divisions & operational objectives; and</p> <p>contractors for work duties that can be performed without requiring biosecurity officer training such as handing out pamphlets to travellers, cleaning shoes, and administrative tasks as urgently needed at the airports.</p>
<p>\$4.33 million – Northern Australian Network Coordination</p> <p>Funding has been spent.</p>	<p>The establishment of a North Australian Coordination Network to bring together Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia governments in partnership with key industries and local communities to improve Australia's surveillance and preparedness coordination in the north (two year program).</p>

OFFICIAL**\$1.5 million to support Indonesia's response to the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**

Announced 14 July 2022 (joint announcement with Watt and Wong) – funded through DFAT, facilitated by DAFF

1 million doses of FMD vaccines have been delivered to Indonesia. All these vaccines have now been administered.

Funding spent.

\$550,000 to Meat and Livestock Australia for the Indonesia Biosecurity Support Project.

Announced 14 July 2022

To enhance biosecurity capacity in Indonesia's commercial feedlot sector to curb the spread of FMD and LSD.

Funding spent.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD)

BAD05

RABIES

CURRENT ISSUE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry released the *Review of the rabies virus risk in imported dogs, cats and canine semen from approved countries – draft report* for public consultation on 20 October 2022. The department is proposing significant changes to the import conditions for dogs and cats from approved countries where rabies is present. The consultation period closes on 21 November 2022.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Rabies virus is the most significant disease of biosecurity concern associated with dog and cat imports.
- Australia is free from rabies virus.
- Rabies virus can be transmitted from infected animals to humans and once clinical signs develop is almost always fatal.
- Rabies kills about 60,000 people each year around the world.
- The current import conditions manage the biosecurity risk for rabies virus offshore. This reduced the need for extended periods of post-entry quarantine in Australia. However, this approach alone no longer manages the risk sufficiently.
 - Since the last review in 2013, there have been significant increases in the volume of imports and increasing commercialisation of the trade.
 - Many countries, including Australia, have reported increases in detected and suspected fraudulent certification and other documentation associated with the dog and cat trade.
- The proposed import conditions changes strengthen residency and identification requirements, and increase the post-entry quarantine period to a minimum thirty day for animals from approved countries where rabies is present.
- By implementing strong biosecurity measures, the chances of an incursion will be reduced, protecting Australia's people and animals, and maintaining our rabies-free health status.

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SB22-000094

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- Being separated from our pets for a prolonged period can be stressful and upsetting, but the proposed measures in the policy review are for the benefit of both imported and domestic pets, as well as the broader community.
- Stakeholders can provide comments on technical aspects of the proposed measures until 21 November 2022.
 - The department will carefully consider all submissions from stakeholders and where appropriate make changes before finalising the review

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The department understands that there may be significant concerns about changes to Australia's import conditions for dogs and cats. Guidance material will be updated with any changes prior to implementation to allow owners to prepare their pets correctly.
- The department will also assess any individual importer equivalency requests in line with a set of standard principles through our normal processes.
 - These principles will be developed to ensure that biosecurity risk is effectively managed but also takes account of additional information that can provide, in particular, assurance about the identity of individual animals.
- In the meantime, anyone planning to import a dog or cat into Australia should be aware that conditions may change after the review is finalised. Affected import permit holders will be contacted directly if this occurs.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Operations Division

BOD01

BIOSECURITY AND CARGO DELAYS

CURRENT ISSUE

Biosecurity inspection delays at the border on commercial cargo imports continue mainly at the ports of Sydney and Melbourne. Industry groups are seeking immediate solutions to stabilise and improve biosecurity related cargo clearances.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Global supply chain disruption continues to create significant challenges for the importation of cargo into Australia. For biosecurity, these trends have seen a movement of *just in time* cargo to *just in case* cargo, manifesting in increased workload volumes and therefore regulatory inspection delays of up to four weeks in Melbourne and Sydney.
 - There has been an 11.7% increase on overall cargo volumes coming into Australia (in 2021-22).
 - This is while biosecurity risks continue to increase.
- International trade logistics continue to be under enormous disruptive and prevailing pressures, all of which culminate at our ports, with contributing factors including:
 - the rerouting of ships to avoid combat zones and port closures,
 - a shift from just in time to just in case cargo, in response to unreliable and unpredictable supply chains,
 - shipping delays and port congestion,
 - finite port facilities and logistics capabilities on shore,
 - residual COVID-19 pandemic pressures.
- Responding to these challenges effectively is significantly important. We must manage increasing biosecurity risks while maintaining an acceptable level of protection for Australia but we also must support trade flows to our primary industries and Australian consumers.

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SB22-000053

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- Biosecurity clearance is one of the last activities at the border prior to release of goods. Goods awaiting biosecurity inspection or treatment are subject to increasing demurrage costs applied by shipping lines, which is contributing to frustrations and the current scrutiny of industry.
- In recent months, several biosecurity threats have emerged in Australia's neighbouring countries, which have placed further demand on biosecurity resources. These include Lumpy skin disease in Indonesia, and more recently an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease in Bali.
- With Australia's Christmas and New Year seasonal trade traditionally being the department's busiest times for commercial imports of biosecurity concern, it is anticipated further delays and congestion are to be expected.
- Industry representational groups have met with the Department to discuss their concerns and are seeking immediate solutions to stabilise and improve cargo clearances.
- To take immediate action, the Department has established a dedicated Cargo Service Delivery Rapid Response Team to increase its focus and capacity to deal with biosecurity inspection delays.
- The Rapid Response Team is being well-resourced. Its short-term role is to address the critical biosecurity inspection delays and where relevant, system access as well as booking and assessment delays.
- The department and Rapid Response Team have consultation processes underway to engage with peak industry bodies, brokers, importers, and port operators. Early products and deliverables from that work are anticipated to be:
 - a port-by-port analysis of issues that identify biosecurity roadblocks viz those that are trade and logistics related
 - identification of a roadmap on short term opportunities
 - expansion of our current industry engagements efforts including regular grouped and individual engagement, and improved communications
 - targeted triage and resolution of issues.
- The department will invest in medium to longer term solutions with industry, such as the new AA class 14.4 Inspection - Rural Tailgate. This being the first of many possible Approved Arrangements that provides the department with the legal framework under Chapter 7 to authorise biosecurity industry participants to perform biosecurity activities such as inspections.

OFFICIAL**FAST FACTS**

- On average, 2.5 million shipping containers will arrive in Australia each year.
- Hitchhiker pests, with the potential to inflict significant damage on our agricultural industries, environment and broader economy, are being found in increasing numbers on or within shipping containers.
- Global movement of containers with pests on or in them (known as hitchhiker pests) are increasing due to climate change, intensification of agriculture, accelerated movement of people and products, emerging risks, supply chain complexity and poor global shipping container hygiene.
- Detections of khapra beetle have increased exponentially since last financial year. Khapra Beetle is Australia's number two national priority plant pest and the number one plant priority pest for grains (an industry valued at \$10.5 billion in 2019-20).
- Our current data, system capabilities, intelligence and risk settings are unable to deal with this growing level of complexity.
- The costs of preventing hitchhiker pests from arriving in Australia are significantly lower than the cost of an outbreak and eradication efforts or the impacts of these pests establishing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Recruitment of biosecurity officers to fill commercial cargo related inspections positions is continuing. The department is competing for resources in a very tight labour market.
- The department is fast tracking a review to stabilise its cost recovery base to ensure alignment of its biosecurity inspection capacity with increasing cargo volumes and associated biosecurity risks and threats.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Operations Division

BOD02

BORDER ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**CURRENT ISSUE**

An outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) was detected in Indonesia in May 2022, and spread to Bali, a popular tourist destination for Australians in July 2022. The Government immediately ramped up biosecurity operations to address the enhanced risk.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES**Biosecurity Response Zones and foot mats/baths**

- Biosecurity Response Zones (BRZ) have been established at all airports that receive direct flights from Indonesia, and at ports which are First Ports of Entry under the Biosecurity Act.
 - These zones enable expanded response measures to be employed, including directing arriving travellers to walk over sanitisation foot mats.
 - The BRZ will be in place until 30 June 2023 in both airports and ports
- Sanitisation foot mats have been deployed nationally and are being used for all travellers arriving from Indonesia on direct flights, or on cruise vessels that have been in Indonesia during their voyage.
 - Deployment of mats in airports commenced 26 July, and for cruise ships on 24 September (for the arrival of the first cruise vessel carrying travellers from Indonesia since reopening of the border).
- Foot baths are also deployed for all commercial vessels (other than cruise ships) at the first point of arrival where the last port was Indonesia.

Goods Determination changes

- Import conditions for goods for personal use that carry an FMD risk (including meat of bovine, caprine, porcine or ovine origin) have been revised, and are no longer permitted unless they are commercially packaged and labelled as coming from a country recognised by Australia as free from FMD.

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SB22-000053

OFFICIAL**Intervention at airports and mail centres**

- Intervention of international mail items has increased and all parcels from Indonesia are not only screened, but are also physically opened and inspected.
- Travellers who have been in Indonesia in the past seven days are being referred to a biosecurity officer for assessment

ATTACHMENTS**A: Timeline of Border Response Activities****B: Bali traveller journey biosecurity touchpoints**

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

ATTACHMENT A

Timeline of Border Response Activities

11 May 2022	Due to the outbreak of FMD in Indonesia, Indonesia was removed from the department's FMD free list. An import advice was issued to notify of the department's intention to change import conditions for goods sourced from or manufactured in Indonesia.
13 May 2022	The department implemented profiles for 100% of all travellers arriving directly from Indonesia for intervention.
27 May 2022	FMD signage and flyers were deployed at all Australian international airports.
3 June 2022	Expanded the testing of seized meat and meat products from travellers and mail arriving from Indonesia.
7 June 2022	Digital signage implemented at all Australian international airports.
24 June 2022	The department commenced 100% inspection of all non-letter class mail arriving from Indonesia.
7 July 2022	Updated the arrivals requirement for livestock vessels to enforce the use of footbaths while vessels are in port in Australia, including an additional second footbath at the top of the gangway on the vessel.
12 July 2022	Minister letters sent to s. 47G(1)(a) airlines seeking assistance with FMD response on flights travelling Indonesia-Australia route. FMD message included on the Smartraveller website.
14 July 2022	Digital advertising for travellers in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin airports, and Denpasar and Jakarta airports in place. Social media advertising in Australia and Indonesia in place. Information sent to 160+ Bali resorts requesting distribution to guests travelling to Australia.

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SB22-000053

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RETURN TO INDEX

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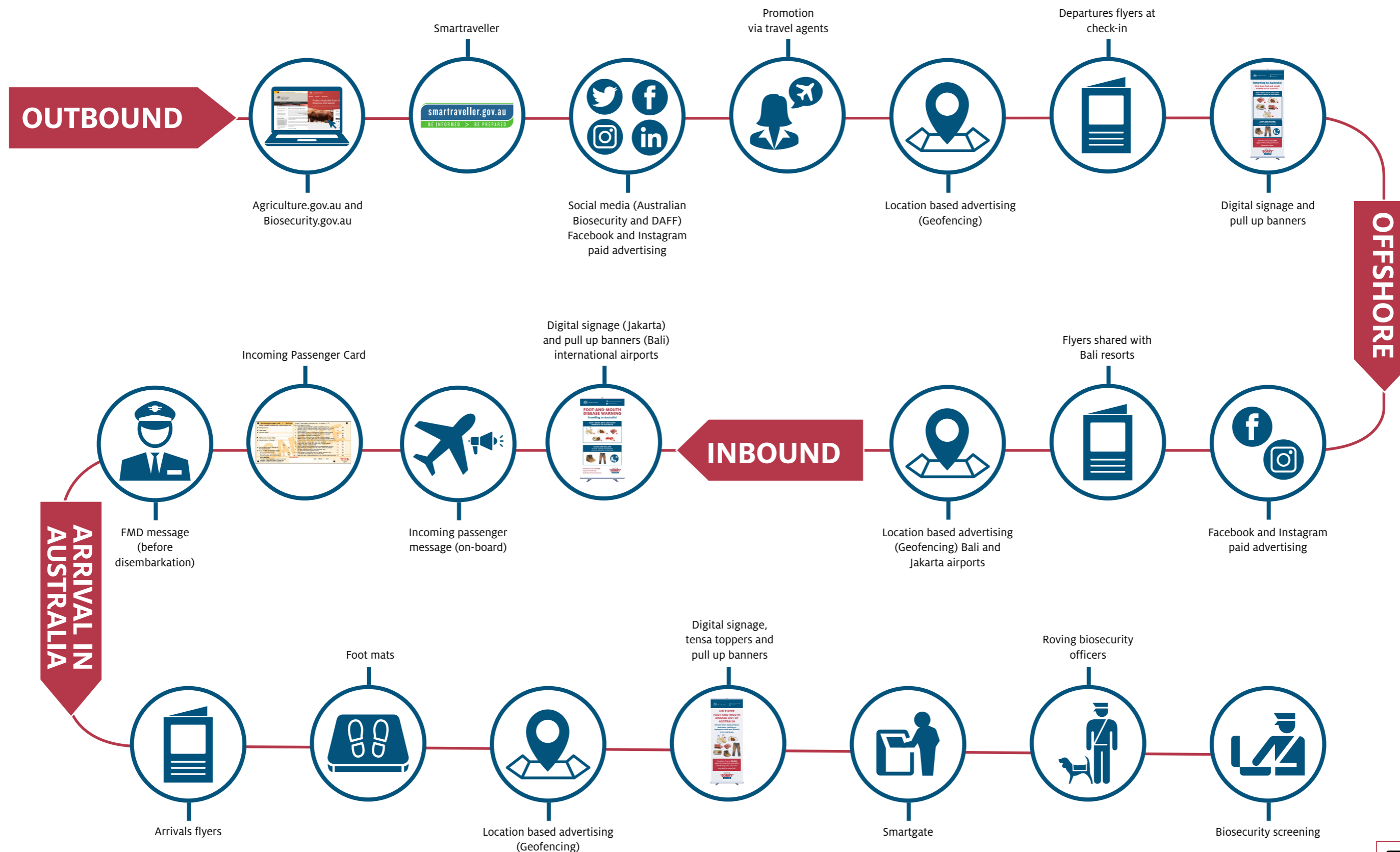
19 July 2022	Commenced the deployment of sanitisation foot mats to Australian international airports receiving direct flights from Indonesia.
20 July 2022	Signage (banners) in place at Denpasar airport check-in area for flights to Australia.
22 July 2022	The Director of Biosecurity made a determination, <i>Biosecurity (Foot and Mouth Disease Biosecurity Response Zone) Determination 2022</i> declaring Biosecurity Response Zones (BRZs) at international airports receiving direct flights from Indonesia. The BRZ is in place for three months and will expire on 22 October 2022.
27 July 2022	Completed the deployment of sanitisation foot mats to Australian international airports receiving direct flights from Indonesia. The department worked with ABF to implement an additional question on to the SmartGate, "Have you been in Indonesia in the last 7 days?". Any travellers who answer yes to the question will be referred to a biosecurity officer for assessment.
29 July 2022	Biosecurity officers deployed pre-primary line to ask travellers arriving from countries other than Indonesia if they have been in Indonesia in the last 7 days. ABF also implemented manual questioning of travellers on Indonesian travel history at primary line. Travellers that have been in Indonesia in the last 7 days are referred for further biosecurity intervention.
3 August 2022	Minister letters sent to s. 47G(1)(a) airlines seeking assistance with FMD response for all flights travelling Indonesia – Australia route.
5 August 2022	Implemented FMD messaging to be played at Australian international arrival terminals.
5 September 2022	Completion of upskilling of detector dogs fleet to detect new target odours for FMD risk.
7 September 2022	An amendment to s17 of the <i>Biosecurity (Conditionally Non-prohibited Goods) Determination 2021</i> (Goods Determination) has been made to no longer allow the importation of personal consignments of certain meat products from countries not listed in the department's FMD-free Country List .

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21 September 2022	<p>Director of Biosecurity made a determination to establish biosecurity response zones (BRZ) at international ports that are First Points of Entry under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>.</p> <p>This <i>Biosecurity (Biosecurity Response Zone for Foot and Mouth Disease—Relevant Ports) Determination 2022</i>, commences 24 September 2022, enables enhanced biosecurity measures to be implemented at ports to mitigate the risk of FMD entering Australia.</p>
24 September 2022	<p>First cruise vessel for this season from Indonesia arrived in Cairns.</p>
19 October 2022	<p>An amendment to extend the original <i>Biosecurity (Foot and Mouth Disease Biosecurity Response Zone) Determination 2022</i> was made by the Director of Biosecurity was signed to extend its operation to 30 June 2023.</p>



BALI TRAVELLER JOURNEY BIOSECURITY TOUCHPOINTS



This document illustrates opportunities for travellers to see and hear biosecurity information and may vary depending on the traveller's actions. Paid advertising elements may vary over time.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Operations Division

BOD03**DETECTOR DOGS CAPABILITY INCREASE****CURRENT ISSUE**

The Bolstering Australia's Biosecurity System – Detector Dog Capability Increase Budget Measure provides \$11.7 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to strengthen Australia's biosecurity system. It also provides \$3.3 million ongoing for expanded detector dog capability at the border.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The measure will deliver on the Australian Government's election commitment to strengthen Australia's biosecurity system and boost biosecurity services at airports, ports and mail centres by providing an additional 20 biosecurity detector dogs and an additional 20 detector dog handlers.
- The increase in numbers of detector dog handlers and dogs will be achieved over the first two years of the measure.
 - 8 additional detector dogs and handlers will be onboarded in 2022-23
 - 12 additional detector dogs and handlers will be onboarded in 2023-24
- The increase in numbers will bring the department's current detector dog fleet to a total of 62 dogs (from current 46 operational dogs).
- As the new detector dogs and handlers are onboarded over the next two years, they will be deployed into Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane and possibly also into smaller ports. Exact locations are subject to biosecurity operational needs assessments as the new dogs are added to the fleet.
- The role of detector dogs and their handlers in the biosecurity system is becoming increasingly important in protecting Australia from exotic pests and diseases. Detector dogs are a fast, versatile, and mobile detection tool that can effectively screen across a range of operational environments, including airports, mail centres and seaports.

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SB22-000096

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- Biosecurity detector dogs are trained to detect over 250 different biosecurity risk commodities across seven target groups:
 - fresh fruit and vegetables,
 - fresh plant material (including cuttings),
 - viable seeds and bulbs,
 - meat,
 - eggs,
 - brown marmorated stink bugs.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry currently procures novice detector dogs from the Australian Border Force breeding program. Selected dogs are then progressed through the department's own biosecurity detector dog training program before being deployed to operational environments.
- Detector dog handlers are biosecurity officers recruited and trained by the department to develop the specialised skills required to effectively deploy and maintain the proficiency of a detector dog. The department's detector dogs may only be deployed by biosecurity officers who have successfully completed the detector dog handler training program. This makes detector dog handlers an equally critical resource.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Plant and Science Services Division

BPSSD01

US APPLES

CURRENT ISSUE

A review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh apple fruit from the Pacific Northwest USA states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho recommends that Australia permit the importation of mature, commercially produced fruit from these states, subject to a range of biosecurity requirements. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry published the final report on 31 October 2022.

The department has engaged closely with the Australian apple industry throughout the risk assessment process.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- This risk analysis was conducted in response to a formal market access request from the USA, first received in June 1999. Changes in legislation, assessment priorities, and the pests being assessed caused delays in the process. Formal commencement of this risk analysis under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* was announced on 1 November 2018.
- As a member of the World Trade Organization, Australia must meet its international obligations by assessing market access requests. Our trading partners use the same principles when assessing Australian market access requests.
- The final report identifies 20 quarantine pests associated with apples from the USA that require risk management measures to reduce the biosecurity risk to an acceptable level. These pests include a fruit fly, mites, thrips, mealybugs, leafroller and fruit moths and fungi.
- The final report recommends a range of risk management measures and mandatory commercial production practices to reduce the risks posed by the quarantine pests.
- The release of the final report is the completion of the risk analysis process. Before imports can commence, the department will:
 - verify that the USA can meet the import conditions and develop an operational workplan for documenting procedures to meet Australian requirements for managing the pest-specific risks
 - publish import conditions on our Biosecurity Import Conditions system (BICON)

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SB22-000055

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- issue import permits.
- The timeframe for these steps will depend on when the USA responds to the draft operational workplan that the department has provided. The earliest imports could commence would be early 2023.
- The decision to commence imports will be a commercial decision between an exporter in the USA and an importer in Australia who can meet the import conditions. If imports commence, the feasibility of trade ultimately depends on Australian consumers. Consumers can make informed decisions about what they buy based on quality, price and country of origin specified in labelling laws.
- The department plans to audit Pacific Northwest USA commercial apple production and export inspection processes during the first season of imports.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The risk analysis process is a well-established method for assessing and managing the biosecurity risk posed by imports. The report is based on the latest scientific information and reflects Australia's approach to managing biosecurity risks.
- Australia's international trade obligations mean that risk analyses cannot take into account the potential economic impact of market competition, or the net national benefit resulting from imports.
- The department released a draft report for 90 days public consultation on 23 October 2020. Comments were received from 62 stakeholders, including the apple industry peak body, Apple and Pear Australia Ltd (APAL), the United States Department of Agriculture and 50 members of the public. The department has liaised with APAL throughout the process.
- The report has been thoroughly reviewed to ensure the concerns raised by stakeholders have been appropriately considered and addressed.
- An embargoed copy of the final report was provided to the USA on 31 August 2022 to assist with the preparations required before trade can begin. The embargo period between 31 August and the publication of the report on 31 October 2022 allows more time to engage with the Australian apple industry prior to publication.
- Australia has import policies for fresh apple fruit from China, New Zealand and Japan. All imports must meet Australia's biosecurity import conditions.
- APAL wrote to Minister Watt on 10 October 2022 claiming that recent biosecurity incursions indicate that the biosecurity system is not working and requesting that the government continues to restrict the importation of apples from PNW-USA.

Attachment A: Summary of final report for PNW-USA apples



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Forestry**

Final report for the review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh apple fruit from the Pacific Northwest states of the United States of America

Summary

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) has prepared this final report to assess the proposal by the United States of America (USA) for market access to Australia for fresh apple fruit from the Pacific Northwest states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington, USA (PNW-USA) for human consumption.

Australia permits the importation of fresh apples from New Zealand and the People's Republic of China, for human consumption, provided they meet Australian biosecurity requirements.

This final report recommends that the importation of commercially produced mature fresh apple fruit to Australia from all production areas of the PNW-USA be permitted, subject to a range of biosecurity requirements.

This final report contains details of pests that are of biosecurity concern to Australia and are potentially associated with the importation of fresh apple fruit from the PNW-USA, and the risk assessments for the identified quarantine pests. The final report also contains the recommended risk management measures to reduce the level of biosecurity risk to an acceptable level, that is, to achieve the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) for Australia.

Twenty pests have been identified in this risk analysis as requiring specific risk management measures to reduce the biosecurity risk to an acceptable level. Fourteen of these pests are arthropod pests and 6 are fungal pathogens.

The 20 quarantine pests requiring risk management measures are:

- fruit fly: apple maggot (*Rhagoletis pomonella*)
- mites: flat scarlet mite (*Cenopalpus pulcher*) and McDaniel spider mite (*Tetranychus mcdanieli*)
- thrips: eastern flower thrips (*Frankliniella tritici*) and western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*)
- mealybugs: apple mealybug (*Phenacoccus aceris*) and grape mealybug (*Pseudococcus maritimus*)
- leafroller and fruit moths: codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*), European leafroller (*Archips rosana*), fruit tree leafroller (*Archips argyrospila*), large fruit tree tortrix (*Archips podana*), oblique-banded leafroller (*Choristoneura rosaceana*), orange tortrix (*Argyrotaenia franciscana*) and Pandemis leafroller (*Pandemis pyrusana*)
- fungi: apple blotch (*Phyllosticta arbutifolia*), Gymnosporangium rusts (*Gymnosporangium clavipes*, *G. juniperi-virginianae* and *G. libocedri*), speck rot (*Phacidiopycnis washingtonensis*), and Sphaeropsis rot (*Sphaeropsis pyriputrescens*).



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Forestry**

The recommended risk management measures take into account regional differences in pest distribution within Australia. One of the arthropod pests requiring risk management measures, *Frankliniella occidentalis*, has been identified as a regional quarantine pest for the Northern Territory and one arthropod pest, *Cydia pomonella*, has been identified as a regional quarantine pest for Western Australia.

Frankliniella occidentalis was also assessed as a regulated article for all of Australia as it is capable of harbouring and spreading (vectoring) emerging orthospoviruses that are quarantine pests for Australia.

This final report recommends a range of risk management measures, combined with an operational system, to reduce the risks posed by the 20 quarantine pests to achieve the ALOP for Australia. These measures include:

- for mites, mealybugs and thrips:
 - pre-export visual inspection and, if found, remedial action
- for apple maggot:
 - pest free areas, pest free places of production or pest free production sites, or
 - an appropriate pre-export phytosanitary treatment approved by the department
- for leafrollers:
 - in-field controls, and pre-export inspection, and if found, remedial action, or
 - an appropriate pre-export phytosanitary treatment (such as methyl bromide fumigation) approved by the department
- for codling moth:
 - pest free areas, pest free places of production or pest free production sites, or
 - systems approach approved by the department, or
 - an appropriate pre-export phytosanitary treatment (such as methyl bromide fumigation) approved by the department
- for Gymnosporangium rusts:
 - pre-export visual inspection and, if found, remedial action
- for Sphaeropsis rot, speck rot and apple blotch:
 - systems approach approved by the department.

The unrestricted risk estimate (URE) for three pests, apple leafcurling midge (*Dasineura mali*), fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*) and European canker (*Neonectria ditissima*), achieved the ALOP for Australia, taking into consideration commercial production practices already in place in PNW-USA. Specific commercial



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Forestry**

production practices are therefore recommended to be mandatory for *D. mali*, *E. amylovora* and *N. ditissima*. These commercial production practices include:

- for apple leafcurling midge
 - in-field monitoring and controls, packing house procedures including sorting, grading and packing house sanitation, and pre-export visual inspection and, if found, remedial action
- for fire blight
 - in-field monitoring and controls, fruit maturity testing, packing house sanitation, and pre-export visual inspection and, if found, remedial action
- for European canker
 - in-field monitoring and controls, packing house sanitation, and pre-export visual inspection and, if found, remedial action.

Upon finalisation of this policy, the USA must be able to demonstrate to the department that processes and procedures are in place to implement the recommended risk management measures. This will ensure safe trade in fresh apples from the USA. Import conditions can then be published in the Australian Government's Biosecurity Import Conditions (BICON) system on the department's website, which can be accessed at bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0.

The department received written submissions on the draft report from 62 stakeholders, but 6 submissions contained no written response to the draft report. The department has made a number of changes to the report following consideration of stakeholder comments and subsequent review of the literature. These changes include:

- minor amendments to Chapter 3 to enhance clarity on commercial production and pest management practices
- amendments to Chapter 4 'Pest risk assessments for quarantine pests'
 - The likelihood of importation for *Cenopalpus pulcher* in Section 4.1, *Tetranychus mcdanieli* in Section 4.2, and *Grapholita molesta*, *Grapholita prunivora* and *Grapholita packardi* in Section 4.12 have been assessed specifically for PNW-USA apples, instead of adopting from the existing policies. For *C. pulcher*, the URE of Low, which does not achieve the ALOP for Australia, has not changed. For *T. mcdanieli*, the URE has changed from Very Low, which achieves the ALOP for Australia, to Low, which does not achieve the ALOP for Australia. For *G. prunivora* and *G. packardi*, the URE has changed from Low, which does not achieve the ALOP for Australia, to Very Low, which achieves the ALOP for Australia. For *G. molesta*, the URE of Very Low, which achieves the ALOP for Australia, has not changed.
 - The typing error for the likelihood of importation for *Argyresthia conjugella* (apple fruit moth) in Section 4.13 has been amended from Very low to Low. Subsequently, the likelihood of entry has been amended from Very Low to Low, and the likelihood of entry, establishment and spread has also been



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Forestry**

amended from Very low to Low. However, these changes have not resulted in a change in URE of Very Low for this pest.

– For *Coprinopsis psychromorbida* the likelihood of spread in Section 4.16 was re-assessed and the rating changed from Low to Moderate. The URE of Negligible for *Coprinopsis psychromorbida* has not changed, which achieves the ALOP for Australia.

– *Neofabraea perennans* has been removed from the risk assessment at Section 4.19 as it is considered to be present in Australia and is not under official control.

– The risk assessment for *Parlatoria pergandii* in Section 4.6 has been updated to incorporate components of the *Final group pest risk analysis for soft and hard scale insects on fresh fruit, vegetable, cut-flower and foliage imports* (scales Group PRA) (DAWE 2021).

– Where relevant, references have been updated, new references have been added and changes have been made to the likelihood assessments of importation, distribution, establishment and/or spread, and the potential consequence assessments.

- amendments to Appendix A ‘Initiation and categorisation for pests of apple fruit from the Pacific Northwest states of the USA’ to include additional information and references

– *Lambertella corni-marais*, *Apple hammerhead viroid*, *Apple rubbery wood virus 1*, *Apple rubbery wood virus 2* and *Citrus concave gum-associated virus* have been added.

– Status of *Neofabraea perennans* in Australia has been updated to reflect that it is present in Australia (and is not under official control).

– Status of *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (plum curculio) has been updated to clarify its absence from the PNW-USA.

– Status of *Aculus malivagrans* (synonym *Vasates malivagrans*) has been updated as present in the PNW-USA and Australia.

- addition of Appendix B ‘Issues raised in stakeholder comments’, which summarises the key technical issues raised by stakeholders, and how the issues were considered by the department in this final report

- minor corrections, rewording and editorial changes for consistency, accuracy, clarity and web-accessibility

- updates to weblinks to cited references where appropriate.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Plant and Science Services Division

BPSSD02

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF BIOSECURITY REPORT ON BIOSECURITY ARRANGEMENTS TO MANAGE *XYLELLA*

CURRENT ISSUE

The department remains committed to keeping our highest priority plant pest, *Xylella*, out of Australia and safeguarding our plant and horticultural industries.

In June 2022, the Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IGB) recommended fourteen improvements to our overarching biosecurity arrangements and frontline defences to prevent *Xylella* from entering Australia.

In the context of current focus on Commonwealth actions to protect against serious biosecurity threats, the IGB report may raise industry concerns about whether the department's risk management measures for *Xylella* are adequate.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- On 14 June 2022, the IGB finalised a review on the “Effectiveness of preventative biosecurity arrangements to mitigate the risk of entry into Australia of the serious plant pest *Xylella fastidiosa*”.
- The review recognises the complexity in regulating import pathways for *Xylella* and provides valuable suggestions for improvements. The department applies stringent risk management measures to over 20,000 species of imported nursery stock to prevent *Xylella* entry.
- The IGB made 14 recommendations across the following themes:
 - enhanced assurance and verification across the biosecurity system to analyse risk and to verify biosecurity controls are effective
 - completion of the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for *Xylella* and review of policy settings underpinning nursery stock imports
 - enhanced data maturity, information management and staff capability to manage imported goods at the border
 - enhanced surveillance and preparedness for a biosecurity response if *Xylella* is detected in Australia
 - improved horizontal integration across our policy, intelligence, compliance and operations areas.

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SB22-000056

OFFICIAL

- We agreed with thirteen of the IGB's recommendations, noting that further consideration would be required for recommendation 2 (suggesting that the department introduce a requirement for molecular testing), and part of recommendation 6 (recommending that the department establish Mickleham Post Entry Quarantine as the lead national reference laboratory for *Xylella* spp.) (**Attachment A**).
- Work has already commenced to implement the recommendations, including through the department's Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 reform agenda. For example:
 - The department is working towards issuing the draft *Xylella* pest risk analysis by the end of 2022 for public consultation
 - The department is examining the appropriate policy settings for regulation of tissue culture for *Xylella* host plants as part of the pest risk analysis
 - The department has commenced development of a strategy to underpin an assurance program for overseas facilities supplying tissue culture free of media
 - The department is expanding deployment of its laboratory information management system across all its laboratories, including Mickleham.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- *Xylella fastidiosa* ('*Xylella*') is a plant pathogenic bacterium and Australia's highest rated National Priority Plant Pest.
- *Xylella* has the potential to cause devastating disease in over 500 species of food and fibre crops and plants of environmental importance for Australia.
- The *National Xylella Action Plan 2019-2029* provides a nationally agreed approach to enhancing Australia's capacity to prevent the introduction of *Xylella*, and to prepare for a rapid and robust response should it be detected in Australia.
 - The Plan was endorsed by Plant Health Committee, whose membership comprises of the Chief Plant Health Managers (or equivalent) in each state and territory and the Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer.
 - The Plan outlines a suite of actions across governments, industry and the Australian plant research community over the short to long term (3-10 years).
 - A key action identified in the Action Plan is finalisation of the PRA. The department is on track to release a draft PRA for external consultation by the end of 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Attachment A | Agency response to IGB review on <i>Xylella</i> preventative biosecurity arrangements |
|--------------|---|

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Plant and Science Services Division

BPSSD03

KHAPRA BEETLE

CURRENT ISSUE

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has been managing several khapra beetle interceptions, and is implementing actions to address the risk of khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*).

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- The department observed an increase in khapra beetle interceptions during 2020 and 2021. Some detections have been in consignments that khapra beetle had no previous association with, and from countries not known to have khapra beetle.

Effective incident management

- Three khapra beetle interceptions in August and October 2020 and August 2021 resulted in the establishment of a DAFF Incident Management Team and triggered national response arrangements under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed to ensure appropriate action was taken to manage the interceptions.
- Tracing, inspection, surveillance and treatment were undertaken to ensure the interceptions did not pose an ongoing biosecurity risk. Surveillance plans have been developed for the ongoing monitoring of the locations.
- Evidence has demonstrated the response has been successful, with no further khapra beetle detected. The response is ongoing until sufficient evidence is gathered (through the ongoing monitoring) to clearly confirm absence.

Urgent actions implemented

- Khapra beetle has been intercepted in a range of commodities including rice and spices and also in other goods (including other plant products and inanimate objects). Inspections have determined that 73% of the interceptions are likely to have been caused by contamination from sea containers.
 - The likely cause of container contamination is previous carriage of high-risk goods from khapra countries. Several containers have had their floors removed which revealed moderate to heavy infestations under the floor.

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SB22-000057

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- As a result of the increased detections and the contamination of sea containers, the department is implementing additional import conditions (termed urgent actions as they were implemented before a pest risk assessment was done) to reduce the risk of khapra entering Australia on plant products and sea containers.
- The import conditions are being implemented in several phases:
 - In 2020, a ban on high-risk plant products within unaccompanied personal effects, low value freight (lodged through self-assessed clearance), and via international travellers and mail articles.
 - In April 2021, offshore treatment of containers packed with high-risk plant products in a khapra beetle country.
 - In July 2021, offshore treatment of containers packed with all types of goods in a khapra beetle country and destined for unpack in a rural grain growing area in Australia; extended to rural nut growing areas in Australia on 15 December 2021.
 - In September 2021, revised phytosanitary certification and new offshore treatments for high-risk plant products via commercial pathways.
 - In April 2022, revised phytosanitary certification for other-risk plant products and seeds for sowing.
 - The final phase of the sea container import conditions is planned to commence in March 2023 and will introduce offshore treatments for a broader range of sea containers (including less than full-container-load containers).
- The department is engaging with stakeholders on the implementation of the import conditions to raise awareness and ensure import conditions will be effective. This includes trading partners, importers, domestic industry, treatment providers, and stakeholders in the shipping industry.
- Since implementation of the measures, the number of consignments of imported goods where khapra beetle was detected has reduced from 19 (20/21 FY) to 4 in 21/22 FY, and 5 in 22/23 year to date. The reduction may be attributed to the import conditions, as well as the engagement and education of international and domestic stakeholders on the risks of khapra beetle.

The department announced commencement of Khapra Beetle Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) in July 2022.

- It is expected that the draft report will be published for stakeholder comments in early 2023. The PRA meets Australia's obligations under the WTO-SPS Agreement to review the urgent phytosanitary measures. It will evaluate the efficacy of the measures and ensure ongoing measures are scientifically justified. The current measures will remain in place until the pest risk analysis is completed. Stakeholders can [subscribe online](#) to receive regular updates and contribute to the development of the draft report.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Khapra beetle is Australia's second highest National Priority Plant Pest (2019). It is a serious pest of stored grains, rice, oilseeds and dried foodstuffs. Most interceptions of khapra beetle in international trade are found in products including rice, chickpeas, beans, peanuts, lentils and coriander seed – these have been classified as high-risk plant products. Khapra beetle can also be hosted by other plant products including dried fruit and vegetables and other species of seeds and nuts and these are classified as other-risk plant products.
- Khapra beetle is not present in Australia and poses a major threat to our grains, rice and nut industries. An outbreak in Australia would cost Australia \$15.5 billion over 20 years through eradication efforts and revenue losses (Economic consequences for species representing different pest groups affecting portfolio industries (2014) ABARES, Canberra).
- Australia has committed \$96.9 million over 4 years (2021 to 2024) towards building a stronger biosecurity system to protect Australia from hitchhiker pests in sea containers and goods.
 - Hitchhiker pests have the potential to inflict significant damage on our agricultural industries, environment and broader economy, and are being found in increasing numbers in shipping containers and cargoes. The global spread of pests hitchhiking via international container and cargo movements has been increasing due to climate change, intensification of agriculture, increased trade volumes, accelerated movement of products, supply chain complexity and poor global shipping container hygiene. These pests are a significant threat to Australia's \$61 billion agricultural sectors, economy, and the environment.
 - To reduce risk of hitchhikers entering on sea containers and cargo the department will use integrated pre-border, border and post-border measures that focuses primarily on increasing the management of hitchhiker risk offshore.
 - We are investing in the use of innovative detection technologies, enhanced data capture on container history, and enhanced data analytics including analysis of new data types such as images and genetic information.
 - This will be supported by more industry partnerships and engagement including increased use of industry arrangements supported by appropriate assurance mechanisms to manage lower risk cargoes and containers; expanding compliance-based intervention and increased awareness and participation by industry to manage sea container risks.
- As of October 2022, approximately \$28 million has been spent on this initiative. Key achievements to date include:
 - Engaged internationally to champion global awareness and solutions

OFFICIAL

- Completed a risk assessment for hitchhiker pests to inform management actions
- Implemented regulatory measures to reduce the hitchhiker risk for Australian imports
- Held an industry co-design workshop to develop a framework to manage residual sea container hitchhiker risks not addressed through the application of import conditions
- Engaged with shipping industries and data aggregators to source container data history to support targeted intervention
- Currently developing an IT solution to improve our ability to ingest industry data on containers and goods, and to speed up the Department's processes for managing goods and containers for hitchhikers (and other pests)
- Engaged CEBRA to analyse the effectiveness of the proposed future state for the management of sea containers for managing hitchhiker pests, including the introduction of Approved Arrangements to manage medium risk container inspections and the introduction of an Approved Arrangement 'lite' category for managing lower risk container inspections
- Entered a contract to develop alternative sea container designs to minimise opportunities for hitchhiker pests to establish in containers
- Developed a rapid molecular test to enable simultaneous detection of multiple honeybee 'hitchhiker' pests. This would provide a more timely, cost effective and reliable detection method than is currently used.
- Developing a registration prototype for offshore treatment providers to enable participants to register as providers for treatment of containers bound for Australia
- Contracts for innovative hitchhiker detection technologies have been established, including cameras on sea cranes, hyperspectral handheld cameras, and environmental DNA.
- Education and awareness campaign to raise awareness of industry participants

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division

BSRD01

NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

CURRENT ISSUE

The National Biosecurity Strategy (NBS) was endorsed by all agriculture ministers on 20 July 2022 (**Attachment A**). The strategy, which sets out the priority areas for a strong and efficient biosecurity system was publicly released by Minister Watt on 9 August 2022.

The National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) will oversee the strategy's implementation, working with a NIC comprised of biosecurity stakeholders.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Implementation of the Strategy is a priority for all governments.
- Agriculture Ministers endorsed an approach to implementation of the Strategy at their meeting on 9 September 2022 (**Attachment B**), including the establishment of a National Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Committee (NIC).
- The NIC has now been formed and met on 28 October 2022. Agriculture Ministers stipulated the NIC consists of representatives from government and key biosecurity system participants; including:
 - Industry representatives from Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia
 - Australian Food and Grocery Council
 - National Farmers Federation
 - Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance
 - Invasive Species Council
 - Council of Rural Development Corporations
 - Freight and Trade Alliance
 - ACTU
 - Four representatives of the NBC (3 plus the Commonwealth)
 - a member of the NBC as Chair

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SB22-000058

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- The NBC was tasked with implementing the decision of Agriculture Ministers and agree the initial Chair would be the SA NBC representative (Head of biosecurity, Nathan Rhodes) with WA, VIC and Commonwealth NBC representatives also participating in the Committee. The Secretariat is to be provided by the Commonwealth.
- Next steps for the NIC includes commencing work on a National Implementation Plan and a National Action Plan/Plans outlining specific work to be undertaken. This work will be developed in consultation with working groups focused on the Strategy's priority areas.
- The six priority areas for collective action are: biosecurity culture; partnerships; preparation and response; skills; investment; supporting technology and science.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The department engaged independent services from PricewaterhouseCoopers to support the development of the NBS. [s. 47G\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- The strategy is separate to, but has parallels with, efforts of the 'Biosecurity Collective', led by the Invasive Species Council, to make the 2020s the Decade of Biosecurity.

ATTACHMENTS

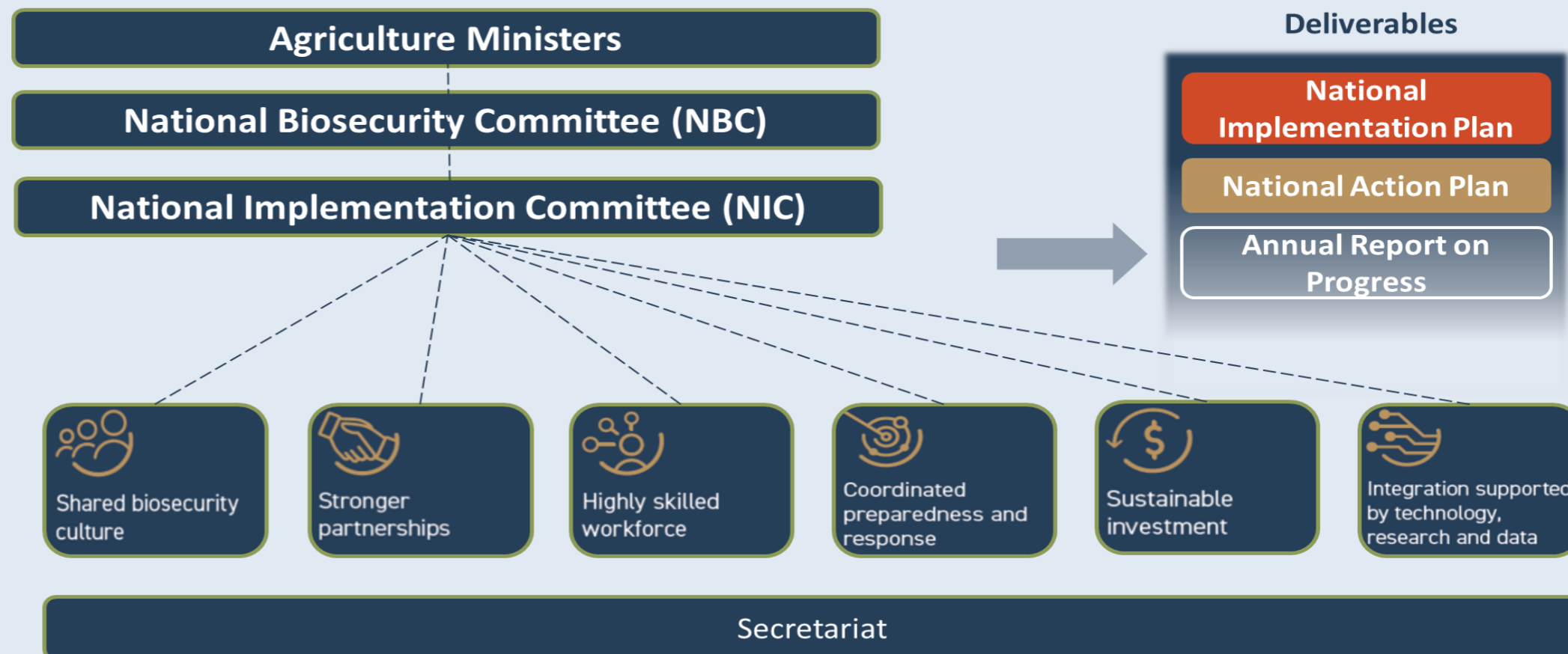
Attachment A: National Biosecurity Strategy

Attachment B: National Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Approach

NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

Connected Resilient Shared

IMPLEMENTATION



TO BE SUCCESSFUL OUR IMPLEMENTATION WILL:

- be a **collaborative** process that involves a wide range of stakeholders
- **align with and complement** other relevant strategic agendas
- have clear governance arrangements that embed opportunities for **greater stakeholder involvement in decision-making**, supporting our priority to enhance our shared biosecurity culture
- Include mechanisms to ensure we are all **accountable** for implementation and that we **transparently** monitor and evaluate our progress
- Focus on tangible actions in each of our priorities to deliver a **more resilient system** that can adapt to changes in our risk environment

MONITORING OUR PROGRESS

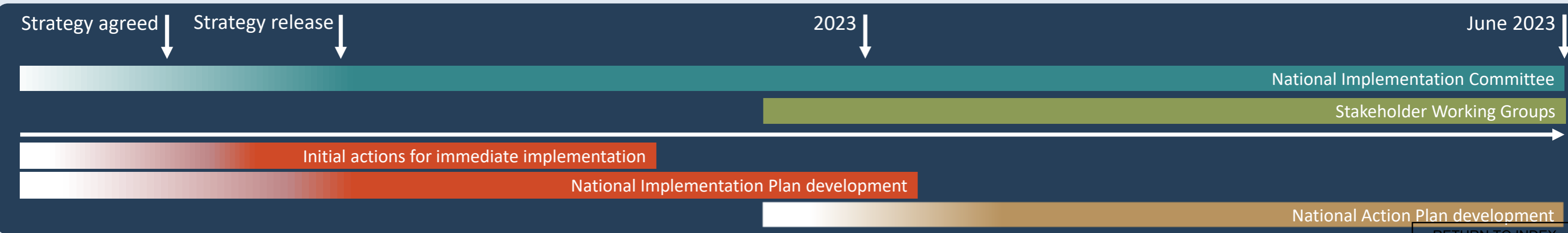
- Progress against the national action plan will be monitored regularly to keep us on track and ensure that we adapt where needed, remaining focused on the continual improvement of our system.
- An annual report will be developed to provide and update on the strategy's implementation, emerging issues and stakeholder priorities.
- A formal review of the strategy will be undertaken after five years, or sooner if there is significant change to the risks, challenges or opportunities facing us.

A **National Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Committee (NIC)** will be established, consisting of biosecurity stakeholders, including representatives from plant and animal industries, freight and logistics, aquatic industries, environmental groups, research organisations and Indigenous stakeholders. The NIC will work together with the NBC to develop, oversee, implement, monitor and review the national implementation plan and the national action plan. They will initially be supported by expert stakeholder working groups for each priority area, who will further build upon and refine the initial actions in this strategy for inclusion in the national action plan.

Our next steps will be to:

- identify those initial actions that can be implemented immediately.
- Design a **national implementation plan** that sets out governance arrangements and guides future planning. The NIP will be developed during a 6 to 12 month planning stage. This will outline the governance structure and framework for implementation over the next 10 years.
- The implementation plan will support a **national action plan**, which will also be developed during the planning stage. The plan will build upon the initial actions in this strategy and detail the efforts needed to deliver our vision and priorities, ensuring they are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely. It will include a monitoring and evaluation framework to provide transparency on who is responsible for specific activities and to support ongoing monitoring and reviews.

To support the achievement of the strategy's vision and priorities and to help drive coordinated and collaborative activity across Australia, a diverse range of stakeholders will be involved in implementation, underpinned by an inclusive governance approach.



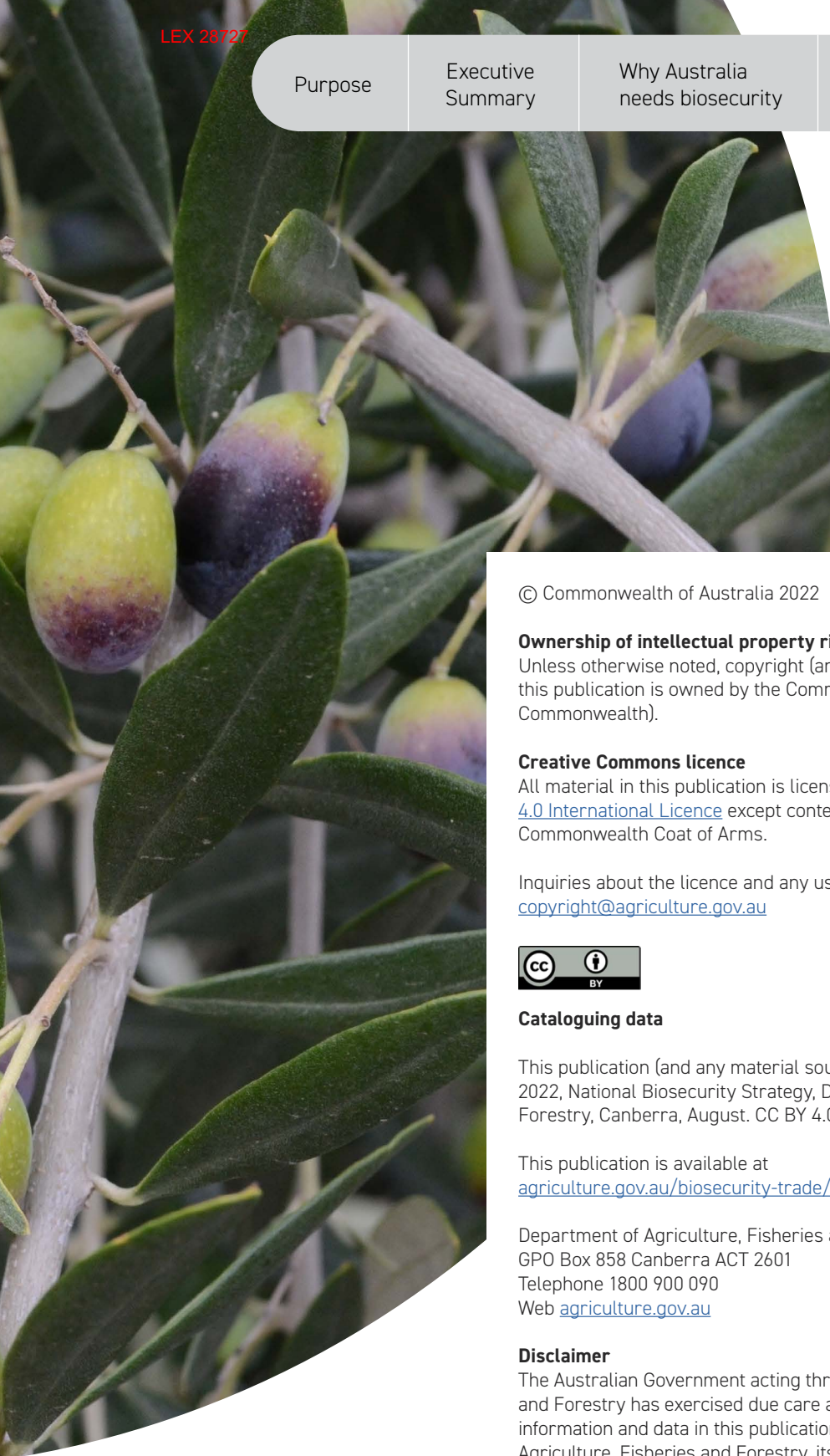
NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

Connected

Resilient

Shared





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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

Ministerial foreword

We are pleased to present Australia's first National Biosecurity Strategy – our strategic roadmap for Australia's biosecurity system over the next 10 years.

Our biosecurity system plays a critical role in maintaining a strong agricultural sector, supporting our environment, biodiversity and the way of life we all enjoy. However, the risks we're facing are closer and more threatening than ever before. This has never been clearer than current efforts to combat foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in neighbouring countries.

Our system – collectively – needs to be continually strengthened so that we can better address these challenges as they emerge. This national strategy – a product of the combined thinking of government, industry and the community, and developed with the support of a reference group of biosecurity stakeholders – provides the path ahead, guided by 6 priority areas to coordinate our efforts.

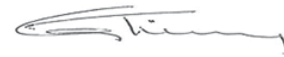
We look forward to working with industry, environmental groups, Indigenous Australians, research organisations, and the community to develop a more connected, resilient and shared national biosecurity system that is up to the task of countering the threats facing Australia.



Commonwealth of Australia
Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



New South Wales
The Hon Dugald Saunders MP
Minister for Agriculture



Victoria
The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Agriculture



Queensland
The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry
Development and Fisheries



Western Australia
The Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC
Minister for Agriculture and Food



South Australia
The Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Tasmania
The Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
and Water



Northern Territory
The Hon Paul Kirby MLA
Minister for Agribusiness
and Fisheries



Australian Capital Territory
Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment
and Heritage

NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STRATEGY REFERENCE GROUP

Australian Banana Growers' Council

CSIRO

Freight and Trade Alliance

Invasive Species Council

National Farmers' Federation

Seafood Industry Australia

Torres Strait Regional Authority

Rural Research and Development Corporations
representative – Australian Pork Limited

Purpose of the National Biosecurity Strategy

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STRATEGY?

The biosecurity risks facing us are becoming increasingly complex and harder to manage. In this challenging and changing environment, we need to continually evolve our system to ensure our biosecurity remains strong.

The National Biosecurity Strategy guides this evolution.

Our national system is greater than the sum of its parts. It's a multilayered network of people, critical infrastructure and technology, partnerships, processes and regulatory activities that function cohesively overseas, at our border and within Australia to protect our national interests.

Our strategy builds from this solid foundation, uniting us behind a collective vision and purpose to enhance the significant capability already within our biosecurity system.

As we all share the benefits of our biosecurity system, we all have a valuable role to play in supporting it. This strategy will help us to work more effectively together, driving improved collaboration, innovation, awareness and behavioural changes at local, regional, national and international levels.

This strategy outlines the current and future biosecurity environment and includes priority areas with initial actions for implementation. Importantly, it also sets the approach for us to work together to develop additional actions, drive its implementation and monitor our progress.

This strategy's scope covers exotic and established pests, weeds and diseases, including zoonotic diseases, but does not extend to human biosecurity.

It is informed by, and builds on, existing strategies and plans and the considerable efforts already being undertaken by the Australian, state and territory governments, industry, Indigenous Australians, landowners and managers, environmental groups and the community. The strategy was developed in consultation with these stakeholders, overseen by the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC).

Our 10-year strategy is a living document that will be reviewed every 5 years or sooner if there is a significant change to the risks, challenges or opportunities facing us.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EVOLVING AUSTRALIA'S BIOSECURITY SYSTEM

Our land, air, seas and waterways are deeply interwoven with our way of life – our people, environment and economy – which is why our biosecurity system is so valuable.

It's what protects us and the communities we live in from the harmful impacts of exotic and established pests, weeds and diseases. Even a single outbreak can have potentially devastating, costly and far-reaching impacts for Australia.

While our biosecurity system has served us well, biosecurity risks are growing and increasing in complexity, driven by factors such as climate change, unpredictable trade and travel patterns and changes in land use.

More than ever before – as highlighted by foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease outbreaks on our doorstep – we are dealing with multiple risks, on multiple fronts, at the same time.

To ensure we continue to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, we must act now and evolve how we work together.

OUR VISION

FOR AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE BIOSECURITY SYSTEM

A biosecurity system that protects Australia and our way of life –

Connected

Resilient

Shared

SHARED PURPOSE

BRINGING US TOGETHER

A risk-based system underpinned by science that protects Australia's people, our environment, economy and lifestyle from the biosecurity threats of today and tomorrow.

6 PRIORITY AREAS TO EVOLVE OUR SYSTEM

To achieve our vision and purpose, we will act in 6 priority areas. Our 6 priority areas have guided the development of initial actions and will help us to focus our efforts in the areas with the biggest impact.



Shared biosecurity culture

We will enhance our **culture of biosecurity action** so that everyone understands its importance and plays their part.



Stronger partnerships

We will strengthen and expand **partnerships and networks** between all stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels.



Highly skilled workforce

We will develop and sustain a **highly skilled workforce** to ensure we have the right capability and capacity, in the right place, at the right time.



Coordinated preparedness and response

We will boost our system's **adaptability and its capacity** to prevent, detect, manage, respond to and recover from outbreaks.



Sustainable investment

We will ensure **funding and investment** is sufficient, co-funded, transparent, targeted to our priorities and sustainable for the long term.



Integration supported by technology, research and data

We will create a more **connected, efficient and science-based** system to facilitate more timely, informed and risk-based decisions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WE WILL TAKE ACTION IN OUR 6 PRIORITY AREAS



Shared biosecurity culture

Build on and develop national awareness and education programs

Drive positive biosecurity behaviours and incentivise compliance

Revitalise national communication, engagement and reporting mechanisms

Determine opportunities to embed biosecurity as a consideration into broader decision-making, risk and business planning



Stronger partnerships

Enhance partnerships and engagement with Indigenous Australians

Collaboratively review and refine roles and responsibilities

Review governance arrangements to ensure they include relevant stakeholders

Strengthen the involvement of environmental agencies and environmental and community groups

Identify and implement opportunities for greater industry and community involvement in decision-making bodies

Deepen international partnerships and capacity building

Strengthen understanding of antimicrobial and pesticide resistance and zoonotic pathways

Coordinate our international advocacy efforts to help shape global standards, rules and conditions



Highly skilled workforce

Identify current and future skills needs in key areas

Develop a national workforce strategy to build, retain and deploy capability

Build upon and expand existing cooperative and partnership arrangements

Strengthen professional development programs



Sustainable investment

Work together to identify funding needs and determine priorities

Strengthen frameworks to agree and deliver priority investments

Advance co-funding and investment strategies with stakeholders

Increase the transparency of biosecurity funding

Complete the development of a system performance and evaluation framework



Coordinated preparedness and response

Undertake and promote regular national preparedness exercises

Advance regionally based planning activities

Continually review and update risk information to inform priorities

Actively embed continuous learning

Strengthen traceability arrangements

Enhance our national surveillance and early detection arrangements

Evolve our national information management frameworks



Integration supported by technology, research and data

Continue to invest in and roll out transformative technologies to digitise and automate processes

Increase stakeholder coordination to prioritise, drive and deliver national research outcomes

Actively share data and research widely

Enhance the accessibility and use of surveillance and interception data

Further support innovations to build science and research capacity

Encourage the uptake of existing and emerging technologies, systems and processes

Increase the use of citizen science, Indigenous knowledge and on the ground insights

Encourage greater private sector investment in the development and delivery of biosecurity innovations

OUR WAY FORWARD

DRIVING COLLABORATIVE ACTION

More than 30 initial actions across our 6 priority areas have been developed in collaboration with stakeholders.

Our next steps will be to:

- identify those initial actions that can be implemented immediately
- design a national implementation plan that sets out governance arrangements and guides future planning
- develop a national action plan that builds upon our initial actions and establishes a framework for monitoring and evaluation to keep us accountable.

As we all share in the success of our biosecurity system, a diverse range of stakeholders will be involved in developing, delivering and reviewing progress against the national action plan.

The plan will also be complemented by sector based, regional and other action plans developed by stakeholders.

The NBC will ultimately oversee the strategy's implementation, working with a National Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Committee comprised of biosecurity stakeholders.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

Australia is free from many harmful pests, weeds and diseases found elsewhere in the world. Our animal, plant, human and environmental health outcomes rely on strong biosecurity – that is, the controls and measures to manage the risk of these pests, weeds and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading within Australia.

KEY BIOSECURITY TERMS

EXOTIC

A pest, weed or disease that is not currently known to be present in Australia, or, if present, is subject to a nationally agreed eradication program.

ESTABLISHED

A self-sustaining pest, weed or disease that occurs in Australia and is not regarded as eradicable. An established pest, weed or disease may be widely distributed across Australia or regionally distributed. A regionally distributed established pest, weed or disease may be the subject of management measures to mitigate further spread.

THE REACH AND IMPACT OF OUR BIOSECURITY SYSTEM

SCALE OF BIOSECURITY ACTIVITY ACROSS AUSTRALIA

 **115m**

mail items received on average each year over five years (2016-17 to 2020-21)

 **2.6m**

shipping containers arrived in Australia (2020-21)

 **OVER
15,100**

inspections were conducted on international vessels (2020-21)

 **OVER
2,600**

detections made post-biosecurity control (2020-21)

SAFEGUARDING AUSTRALIA'S INDUSTRIES, ENVIRONMENT, LIVELIHOODS AND WAY OF LIFE



1.6m

jobs across the agricultural supply chain



\$251.5b

total flow of benefits per year arising from assets vulnerable to biosecurity hazards, including infrastructure, agriculture, forestry and seafood industries and companion animals (2021 estimate)



\$73.5b

in gross value of agricultural, forestry and seafood production (2020-21 estimate)



\$52.3b

in agricultural, forestry and seafood exports (2020-21 estimate)



\$50.4b

direct tourism contribution to Australia's GDP (2019-20 estimate)

ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF OUTBREAKS AND INCURSIONS



\$80b

direct economic impact to Australia over 10 years in present value terms in the event of a large multi-state foot-and-mouth disease outbreak (2020-21 estimate)



\$5b

annual cost to Australia for weed control measures and lost production (2018 estimate)



\$5.2b

potential cost to our producers and consumers of pollination-dependent crops over 30 years in the event of a varroa mite incursion (2022 estimate)



\$390b

cost of damages due to invasive species over the past 6 decades (2021 estimate)



MORE THAN

380

NATIVE SPECIES

of plants have proved capable of being infected by myrtle rust, with this number likely to grow (2020 estimate)



\$7.8-11.1b

potential cost to Australian horticultural industries over 50 years in present value terms if a worst-case *Xylella fastidiosa* incursion occurred (2021 estimate)

Why Australia needs biosecurity

We all enjoy the benefits of biosecurity. It protects our plants, animals and ecosystems, enables us to generate high-quality primary produce, provides access to export markets and supports our trusted international reputation with trading partners.

Strong biosecurity also supports other strategic priorities for Australia, from bioterrorism and national security, through to pandemic management and global food security.

As the risk landscape rapidly changes, our natural and productive ecosystems are becoming increasingly vulnerable to biosecurity risks. These risks can devastate native wildlife, impact our agricultural, seafood and forestry industries and compromise our clean air, water and land.

Even though our biosecurity system has served us well, we face the challenge of managing a range of growing and changing threats. We can't reduce our biosecurity risk to zero and even a single outbreak has the potential to affect our prosperity, environment, national security, ability to trade and way of life.

Pest, weed and disease outbreaks can potentially lead to:

- devastating impacts to agricultural and horticultural industries and their supply chains through lower yields or damage to crops, produce, livestock or fisheries, as well as increased costs for protection, response or ongoing management activities. These costs are often passed onto customers
- damage to our unique natural environment and ecosystems, plants and animals
- an inability for Australian primary producers to access export markets, as well as possible reputational damage to our premium, high-quality produce
- detrimental impacts to land and sea Country of value to Indigenous Australians and the wider community
- delays in access to essential produce due to supply chain disruptions and the impact of biosecurity response activities on stock levels or distribution channels
- negative impacts on our amenity, cultural heritage, way of life and human health. COVID-19, for example, demonstrated the significant impact zoonoses can have on our health, economy and day-to-day lives

A strong, resilient and adaptable biosecurity system is critical to ensure we manage these increasingly complex risks.

Image: Getty Images/Stockphoto



Image: Mark Stevenson



FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious animal disease that affects all cloven-hoofed animals, in particular cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer. FMD is of major concern because of the number of susceptible species and its highly contagious nature which makes it more difficult to control and eradicate. The virus can be spread via aerosols, in saliva, faeces and semen, on equipment, vehicles and footwear, as well as in meat and dairy products.

A widespread outbreak of FMD would have significant consequences for Australia's animal industries, with the closure of export markets potentially resulting in a direct economic impact of around \$80 billion over 10 years (2020-21 estimate). Additionally, large numbers of animals may have to be slaughtered and many farmers, livestock and feed transporters, meat processors and other industry members would be severely affected, with significant flow-on effects to regional communities.

Australia has strict, well-established processes to manage the biosecurity risks associated with travellers, crews, and livestock vessels returning to Australia from countries with FMD. These include profiling for biosecurity screening, detailed assessments and inspections by biosecurity officers of passengers upon arrival at their first point of entry in Australia. These measures have been expanded given the presence of FMD in Indonesia.

The most significant risk for the entry of FMD into Australia is through the illegal importation of meat and dairy products from infected animals that is then fed to pigs (known as swill feeding). The Australian Government has worked with states and territories, as well as industry, to establish nationally agreed definitions of swill feeding, and to improve compliance with the ban on swill feeding in Australia.

Australia maintains a FMD vaccine bank internationally. This contains enough FMD antigens to provide protection against the circulating strains of FMD that pose a risk to Australia's livestock industries.

The Australian, state and territory governments, together with the affected production industries, have rapid and effective emergency response plans in place to manage potential outbreaks. These have been, and continue to be, exercised to ensure we can act effectively should this be required.

The Australian Government continuously works with our closest neighbours, including Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, to help improve their FMD preparedness and response capability and the early diagnosis of the disease, by providing technical expertise and assistance in vaccine procurement.

KEY - IMPACTS

- Amenity
- Economy
- Environment

KEY - PRIORITIES

- Shared biosecurity culture
- Highly skilled workforce
- Sustainable investment
- Stronger partnerships
- Coordinated preparedness and response
- Integration supported by technology, research and data

How our biosecurity system works

Australia's biosecurity system is multilayered with prevention, management and response activities undertaken overseas, at and within our borders, including our external territories. Our system relies heavily on the support of all stakeholders, such as governments, industry, research organisations, agricultural and environmental groups, Indigenous communities and individuals.

Without strong partnerships at all levels, we can't have a strong biosecurity system.

OVERSEAS

The Australian Government and importers work with overseas counterparts to identify and mitigate biosecurity risks before they reach our border, while also undertaking capacity building activities, including in the Indo-Pacific region, to further our biosecurity, trade, security and national interests. Officials facilitate trade in line with our international obligations, apply import conditions and controls, and engage in risk and intelligence gathering, analysis and horizon scanning. Our overseas partners and industry provide vital intelligence on risks and traceability of products to support this work.

AT OUR BORDER

Robust regulatory, surveillance and quarantine arrangements are in place to prevent, detect and intercept risks at our national border before they can do us harm. The Australian Government operates border controls, including screening, assessment, inspections and quarantine processes, to support this effort. Travellers have a role to play through their awareness of the importance of biosecurity and declaring goods if required. Industry also helps to protect us by having systems in place to proactively manage risks, applying treatments where needed and participating in surveillance activities.

WITHIN AUSTRALIA




Industry, governments, Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations, environmental groups, landowners and managers and the wider community work at regional and local levels to prevent, plan for, detect and respond to outbreaks. The Australian, state and territory governments lead regulatory activities. Industry and governments coordinate and fund management and response activities under a range of deeds and agreements and all system participants work together on the ground to reduce the possibility and impact of further spread within and across borders. The general public plays a critical role in surveillance and the reporting of pest, weed and disease outbreaks. Research organisations work to enhance our understanding of biosecurity risks and examine new approaches to improve our system in areas like diagnostics, containment and treatments.

Our biosecurity system includes a wide range of stakeholders, from Traditional Owners, veterinarians, park rangers, landowners, farmers, entomologists and many more. The [National Biosecurity Statement \(2018\)](#) provided an overview of stakeholder roles and the national strategy builds from this strong foundation. One of our initial actions will see us work together to ensure everyone's roles are clear and reflect the future needs of our system.

AUSTRALIA'S BIOSECURITY SYSTEM



RESPONSIBILITIES

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |
| Australian Government | Industry | Research organisations |
|  |  |  |
| State, territory and local governments | Representative bodies (e.g. peak bodies, NRM organisations, environmental and community groups) | Individuals and communities |

OUR BIOSECURITY SYSTEM IN ACTION

Anticipate

Environmental scanning



Offshore surveillance



Collaboration / programs

with offshore industries and authorities



Import risk analysis / review of import conditions



Modelling



OIE notifiable disease lists



Screen

Inspections



Post entry quarantine



International mail screening



Diagnostics



Border assessments



Storage / destruction

Approved arrangements for storage / destruction of goods



Treatments



Screening



Prepare

Risk analysis



Contingency planning and training



Domestic border assessment



Traceability



Response plans

(e.g. Deeds, PlantPlan and AusVetPlan)



On-farm biosecurity plans



Simulation exercises



Prevent

Engagement and awareness



Offshore treatments / verification and certification



International arrangements



Import conditions / permits



Capability building in neighbouring countries



Partnerships



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Australian Government
- State, territory and local governments

- ▲ Industry
- ★ Representative bodies (e.g. peak bodies, NRM organisations, environmental and community groups)

- ◆ Research organisations
- ◆ Individuals and communities

Detect

Domestic border inspections



Onshore surveillance



Indigenous Rangers



Sentinel herds / plantings



Tracing



Identification and reporting of pests, weeds and diseases



Diagnostics



Respond

Awareness raising



Initial investigation



Emergency responses

(e.g. movement controls)



Pest risk analysis



Response plan activation



Community engagement and education



Recover and/or Adapt

Proof of freedom



Domestic quarantine



Community / industry / government led programs
(e.g. weed management)



Certification schemes
for product movement



Technical / financial recovery support



Business continuity planning



On the ground management and control of existing pests, weeds and diseases



Biosecurity activity categories sourced from Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA), Year 1 Report: Valuing Australia's Biosecurity System, Project 1607A - Milestone 6, 28 November 2017, University of Melbourne.

KHAPRA BEETLE

PEST, WEED AND DISEASE OUTBREAKS CAN HAVE FAR-REACHING IMPACTS

KHAPRA BEETLE COULD COST AUSTRALIA **\$15.5B OVER 20 YEARS** IF IT BECAME ESTABLISHED (2014 ESTIMATE)

In 2020-21, responses to 20 interceptions of the khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*) were managed across Australia.

Changes in global trade patterns, such as increased volumes of goods, container movements and declining container hygiene are some of the drivers of recent increases in khapra beetle interceptions.

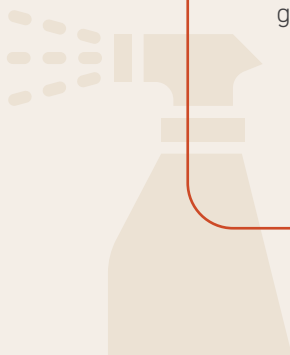


THE KHAPRA BEETLE IS SMALLER THAN A GRAIN OF RICE
Image: *Khapra beetle adult and larva on grains of rice*



AFFECTED CUSTOMERS HAD THEIR PURCHASES REPLACED AND THE GOODS WERE FUMIGATED

The incident affected around 300 retail customers across Australia who had their homes and cars inspected and treated with insecticides, with some of their food and pet food collected for destruction. This response prevented the pest from establishing in Australia which could have been severely damaging to our domestic grain producers.



KHAPRA BEETLE



AUSTRALIA EXPORTS
65-75%
OF THE GRAIN WE GROW

EXPORTING TO MORE THAN
50
COUNTRIES



Smaller than a grain of rice, khapra beetle is a serious pest that can contaminate stored grains, rice, oilseeds and dried foodstuffs. It is not established in Australia. Khapra beetle can cause losses of up to 75% from direct feeding. Infested produce also becomes contaminated with beetles, cast skins and hairs from larvae, which can pose a health risk and are difficult to remove from storage structures and transport vessels.

If khapra beetle were to establish here, many of our trading partners would refuse to buy our stored produce, particularly grains. Given Australia exports 65 to 75% of the grain we grow to more than 50 countries, this could cause significant economic losses.

Responding to a khapra beetle (or another exotic pest, weed or disease) outbreak can have wide ranging impacts across the supply chain.



IMMEDIATE ACTION WAS TAKEN ACROSS OUR BIOSECURITY SYSTEM



OCTOBER 2020 A DETECTION IN IMPORTED GOODS

The retailer worked closely with the Australian Government to remove the goods that were in this consignment from sale across Australia. It secured those goods that had made their way through the supply chain – from the port to the warehouse, to the distributor, to retailers and to customers' homes.

The Australian, state and territory governments began investigating and managing a detection of khapra beetle in a container of goods imported by a large retailer. This detection was initially reported by a member of the public who found khapra beetle in packaging material and notified biosecurity officials.



FURTHER BIOSECURITY MEASURES WERE IMPLEMENTED



Additional urgent measures were developed by the Australian Government in consultation with industry to better safeguard our agricultural sector and economy. This included stricter import conditions for high-risk goods and changes to container management. State and territory governments continue to undertake further monitoring and surveillance activities.

We are facing a changing biosecurity environment

Managing biosecurity risks is becoming more complicated as we face a range of compounding challenges on multiple fronts.

CHANGING OR INCREASING BIOSECURITY RISKS

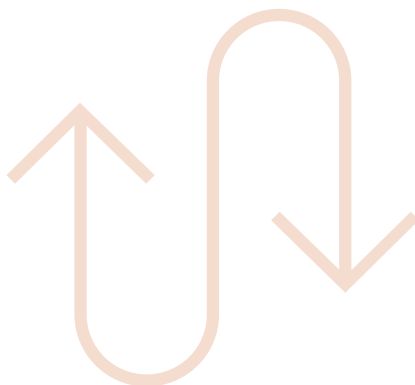


> CLIMATE CHANGE

is impacting the global environment, causing changes in weather patterns and more extreme weather events. It is altering the habitat, range and distribution of many pests, weeds and diseases, as well as increasing their ability to spread and establish in new areas.

For example, the buffalo fly, a harmful parasite that can irritate beef cattle, interrupt feeding and cause sores, is already present in Australia's north and has been moving further south as the climate changes. It is predicted that it will establish itself in South Australia and Western Australia by 2030.

Established pests, weeds and diseases reduce the ability of our natural ecosystems, plants and animals to cope with changing climatic conditions. As climate change increasingly affects global plant and animal habitats, it will have flow-on impacts for biosecurity risks associated with changes in trade and travel patterns and the effectiveness of our existing control measures.





> SHIFTING TRADE AND TRAVEL PATTERNS

have seen Australia's supply chains, trading partners and demand for goods continuously evolve and increase in complexity. This is changing the biosecurity risks reaching our international and domestic borders, while impacting how we work with trading partners and each other.

The increased movement of people, equipment and goods increases biosecurity risks, by providing more opportunities for pests, weeds and diseases to spread. Within Australia, interstate road freight is predicted to increase by 1.7% every year until 2030. Additionally, predicted increases in trade and vessel movements will result in a greater likelihood of the introduction of marine pests like Asian green mussel (*Perna viridis*), which poses a serious threat to our aquaculture, native species and ability to export seafood.



> DECREASING BIODIVERSITY

driven by invasive species, climate change and changing land uses weakens the resilience of our ecosystems to future outbreaks. It is estimated that 8 out of 10 land-based threatened species are at risk due to invasive species. This is a growing problem in Australia, and our external territories, which have unique and fragile ecosystems.

Around 20 new weed species are unintentionally introduced or become unmanaged populations each year, displacing native plant life and changing entire ecosystems, while creating fuel for bushfires and choking our waterways.

Additionally, the loss of genetic diversity in certain crops such as bananas, which are 95% Cavendish variety in Australia, exposes us to higher levels of risk in the event of a pest, weed or disease outbreak.



> CHANGING LAND USES

are altering the interface between urban and non-urban areas and the environment. As our population grows and spreads, it brings people closer to wildlife, natural habitats and agricultural areas, potentially increasing biosecurity risks. COVID-19 restrictions have accelerated this change in some areas, acting as a driver for Australians to relocate from our cities to regional centres in search of a different lifestyle.

As cities grow and peri-urban environments change, the risk of the introduction and spread of pests, weeds and diseases may increase through land development, habitat loss and the movement of people and goods into new areas. These changes to our urban and natural environment will also expose new people to biosecurity who may have limited awareness of its importance.



> INCREASING BIOSECURITY RISKS OVERSEAS

including in the Indo-Pacific, make us more susceptible to pests, weeds and diseases entering Australia. We have so far kept out many high-risk animal diseases such as rabies, foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and African swine fever. These diseases have the potential to spread rapidly and will have devastating impacts if they were to enter Australia due to the movement and location of livestock and the presence of pest animals, like feral pigs. Geographically some of these diseases are only 5 km from Australian shores, with the movement of people, goods and marine infrastructure creating additional risk.

Climate change is altering the movement patterns of some species and increasing arrival risks through natural pathways like wind and tide. Pests such as fall armyworm, citrus canker, fruit flies and rust species can be wind borne, making them harder to track and limiting prevention and risk management options.

Australia's vast northern coastline is the frontline for many of these risks, with modern biosecurity infrastructure, trained people and strong surveillance activities critical to protecting our nation.



> ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

has increased in recent years, leading to a higher risk of biosecurity threats. The growth and increasing complexity of trade and online shopping – exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic – has inadvertently opened new pathways for illegal plants and animals to reach Australia, impacting biosecurity risks. The increasingly lucrative illegal trade in plants and animals was valued at US\$7-23 billion per year globally in 2016.

Additionally, increasing illegal fishing practices heighten the risk of exotic marine animals invading Australian waters, with poorly maintained vessels often harbouring marine pests on their infrastructure above and below the waterline.



> MAJOR GLOBAL DISRUPTIONS

such as the COVID-19 pandemic, can shock supply chains and impact the movement of goods and people. While these changes are often temporary, they can act as a catalyst for permanent changes in behaviour and supply chain pathways. For example, retailers may seek to change or diversify suppliers to improve supply chain reliability and manage business continuity risks. Other global events, such as war and natural disasters, can also impact trade and pathways, increasing or changing the biosecurity risks that can reach our border. System resilience, adaptability and responsiveness are critical to maintaining strong biosecurity in the face of an uncertain and changing environment.

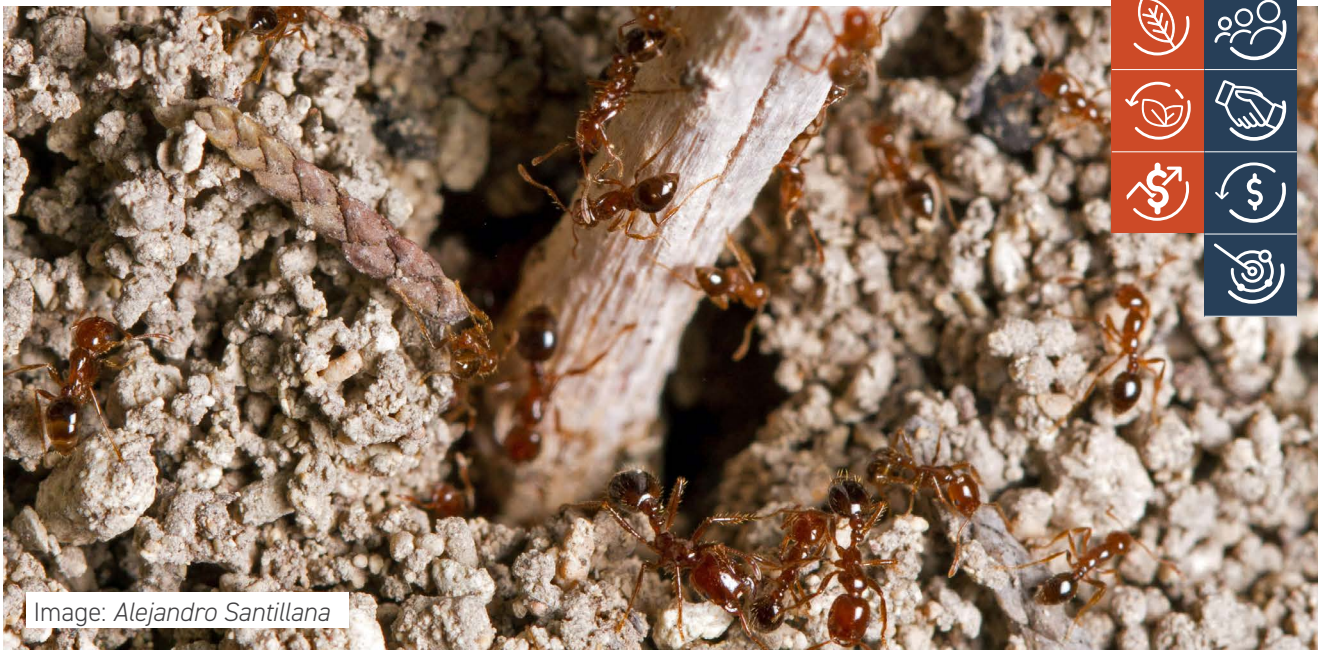


Image: Alejandro Santillana

RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT

Discovered in South East Queensland (SEQ) in 2001, red imported fire ants (fire ants) are highly destructive. They can destroy crops, damage machinery, render land unusable and hurt or kill animals and humans.

Studies have shown that there is potential for the fire ants to cost our economy \$45 billion over 30 years if their spread is left uncontrolled (2017 estimate).

Measuring just 2–6mm, fire ants are small, and their nests are often difficult to detect, especially during the warmer months. Fire ants are also extremely mobile and adaptable, flying, rafting on water and hitching a ride in organic materials.

Unlike other countries, including the United States and China, Australia is committed to eradicating fire ants through the National Fire Ant Eradication

Program. The program is Australia's largest biosecurity eradication initiative and is committed to ridding the nation of one of the world's most invasive pests.

Funded by all state and territory governments and the Australian Government, the program is governed by a National Steering Committee made up of representatives from each of the funding partners and led by an independent chair.

In partnership with local landowners, the program has stopped fire ants from spreading at rates experienced overseas and confined them to a small area of SEQ. It is estimated that without the interventions undertaken by the program, fire ants would have spread as far north as Bowen, west to Longreach and south to Canberra by 2022.

KEY – IMPACTS

- Amenity
- Economy
- Environment

KEY – PRIORITIES

- Shared biosecurity culture
- Highly skilled workforce
- Sustainable investment
- Stronger partnerships
- Coordinated preparedness and response
- Integration supported by technology, research and data

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a highly infectious disease of cattle and water buffalo. It can cause painful skin lesions on infected animals, with animal health, welfare and production impacts. The disease is spread primarily by biting insects like flies, mosquitos and ticks and can also be spread by contaminated equipment.

LSD is not present in Australia. However, it poses a serious and increasing threat given its rapid spread throughout Asia and its ability to be transmitted by wind borne insects. If LSD reaches our shores it will significantly impact domestic and international trade and cause severe economic losses for our cattle and water buffalo industries. If wild buffalo populations and cattle in northern Australia's extensive rangelands were exposed to LSD, reservoirs of the virus could establish, making eradication extremely difficult.

Biosecurity stakeholders are working closely together to prepare for an outbreak of LSD. Efforts are being focused in northern Australia, and include enhanced



surveillance activities, dedicated public awareness campaigns, training of producers and Indigenous and park rangers, additional animal inspections, partnering with Indigenous landowners and more.

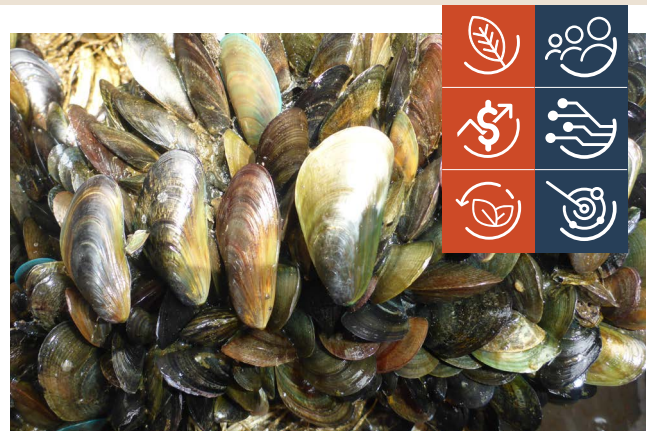
The Australian Government is also supporting our near neighbours in their ongoing efforts to prevent and control the spread of LSD within the region.

CHARRU MUSSEL

The charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) is an exotic marine pest not present in Australia that is spread through international shipping and threatens Australia's unique marine ecosystems and economy. The mussel forms dense clusters that outcompete native marine species, impact aquaculture production, damage infrastructure and foul vessels.

Native to the waters of South and Central America, the charru mussel has spread rapidly through North America and Asia. Like many marine pests, charru mussels can hitch a ride on boats and ships, either as biofouling or as larvae in a ship's ballast water. Charru mussels have been detected on vessels heading to Australia but have been successfully eradicated.

A combination of national regulations and surveillance activities are used to keep this pest out of Australian waters. As a further line of defence to prevent the



introduction of this and other marine pests, surveillance programs are also run by Australian, state and territory governments around the country.

Innovative tools like underwater drones and analysis of environmental DNA are used to support these activities. National education and engagement activities are employed to engage communities and users of Australia's vast coastline and marine environments in biosecurity.

KEY – IMPACTS

- Amenity
- Economy
- Environment

KEY – PRIORITIES

- Shared biosecurity culture
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VARROA MITE

Internal and external mites of bees, including varroa mite (*Varroa destructor* and *Varroa jacobsoni*), are National Priority Plant Pests. Varroa mite, particularly *Varroa destructor*, weakens and eventually kills European honeybees (*Apis mellifera*). An outbreak, like the June 2022 detection in Newcastle, NSW, could have significant repercussions for our economy, potentially costing producers and consumers of pollination-dependent crops – like almonds and pears – \$5.2 billion over 30 years (2022 estimate).

Australia is currently the only inhabited continent to successfully prevent the pest from establishing itself. While varroa mites have been detected on arrived bee swarms several times at ports across Australia, such as at the Port of Townsville (2016, 2019, 2020 – *Varroa jacobsoni*) and the Port of Melbourne (2018 – *Varroa destructor*), each time the swarms and the mites have been successfully eradicated or destroyed upon entry. This success is due to our strong partnerships, robust surveillance methods and coordinated preparedness activities across the system. National response arrangements were similarly agreed for the 2022 Newcastle outbreak.

The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program was established in 2016 after varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*)

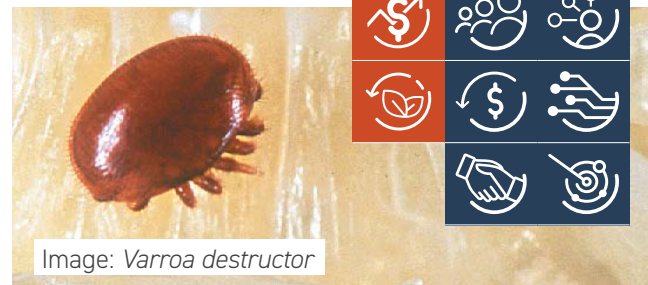


Image: *Varroa destructor*

was detected in Townsville. It was co-funded by industry, including the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, state and territory governments and the Australian Government under national response arrangements. This covered important surveillance activities like GPS tracking, community awareness campaigns and extensive inspections of bees and their colonies, including the examination by entomologists of around 880,000 honeybee wings in 2019-20 alone. *Varroa jacobsoni* was declared eradicated in 2021 following the success of the program.

Across Australia, the close collaboration between governments, industry and the community has allowed for the rapid and transparent sharing of resources and information to effectively prepare for and eradicate this pest. The 2022 outbreak highlighted the importance of such relationships, with response activities addressing potential impacts to commercial industries, recreational beekeepers and the environment.

PANAMA TR4

Panama disease tropical race 4 (TR4) is a National Priority Plant Pest that affects bananas and is present in parts of Australia. The pest blocks the tissues that carry water and nutrients in banana plants, eventually killing them. Without management, it could devastate Australia's banana industry. Panama TR4 can live in soil for decades without a host and is spread easily in contaminated soil, plant material and water. There is currently no cure for the disease and our only defence is to implement effective separation and decontamination processes. The success of these prevention and management measures relies on strong partnerships and awareness of system stakeholders, as well as sustainable funding to support ongoing activities.

The Panama TR4 Program is a joint initiative between the Queensland Government and the Australian Banana Growers' Council (ABGC) to control and contain the disease. Since the region's first detection in 2015, the program has focused on early detection through surveillance on commercial banana farms in Far North Queensland and compliance activities on



Image: T. Pattison, DAF

known infested properties. The program also seeks to generate community support for efforts to protect against the disease through communications and engagement activities.

With the ABGC co-funding the Panama TR4 Program since 2019, a management board of equal government and industry representation has been established to govern and deliver the program's strategic direction until mid-2023. Beyond July 2023, industry will lead disease management. Continued success will require us to harness the potential of our shared biosecurity culture, supported by broad community engagement and awareness activities.