

Incoming Minister Brief – policy chapter



OFFICIAL

Contents

Incoming Minister Brief – policy chapter	1
Australian Agriculture	4
Top Eight Priorities.....	12
Biosecurity	12
s 47C(1)	
Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea	14
Climate	15
Forestry.....	16
Sustainable biosecurity funding (incl. the Biosecurity Protection Levy).....	17
Ag Vet Chemicals	19
Other priorities for the next 6-12 months.....	20
Cost of Living.....	20
Drought.....	22
Agricultural Workforce.....	23
Legislation	24
First Nations	24
Fisheries	24
Reforming the Research and Development Corporations (RDCs).....	25
Biosecurity	26
Live Animal Exports - MV Bahijah livestock vessel.....	26
Trade and Market Access	27
Regulation	29
There are a number of reviews and reports you must action	29
Issues to manage with other ministers.....	32
Engagement with State and Territory Ministers.....	32
Competition/cost of living.....	33
Agricultural Workforce.....	33
Climate Adaptation.....	34
s 47B(a); s. 47C(1)	
Murray-Darling Basin Plan.....	34

s 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Australian Agriculture

Australian agriculture currently accounts for:

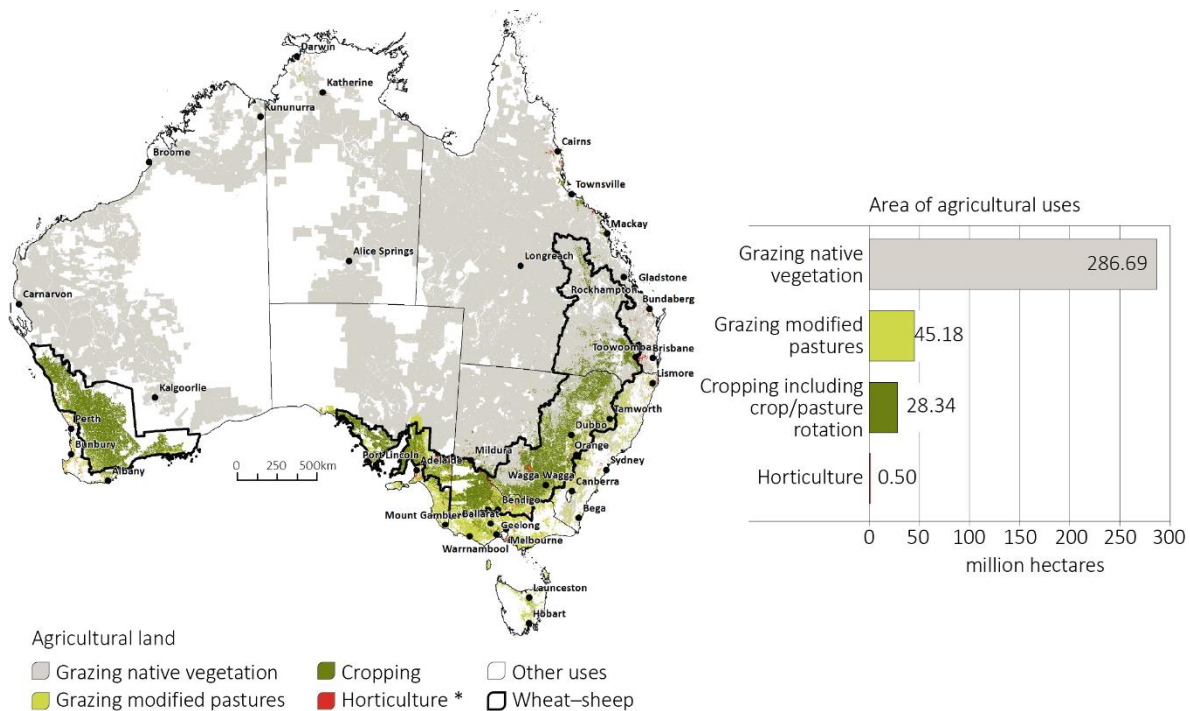
- 55% of Australian land use
- 74% of water consumption (including fisheries and forestry)
- 13.6% of goods and services exports
- \$82 billion of gross value of production of production (farm gate) in 2023-24 (\$88 billion including fisheries and forestry)
- 2.7% of value added (GDP)
- 2.2% of national employment, approximately 300,000 jobs.

The mix of Australian agricultural activity is determined by climate, water availability, soil type and proximity to markets.

Livestock grazing is widespread, occurring in most areas of Australia, while cropping and horticulture are generally concentrated in areas relatively close to the coast.

Agriculture accounts for over half of Australia's land use so the sustainable management of this land is an important issue for both farm businesses, the general public and the natural environment.

Agricultural production zones



OFFICIAL

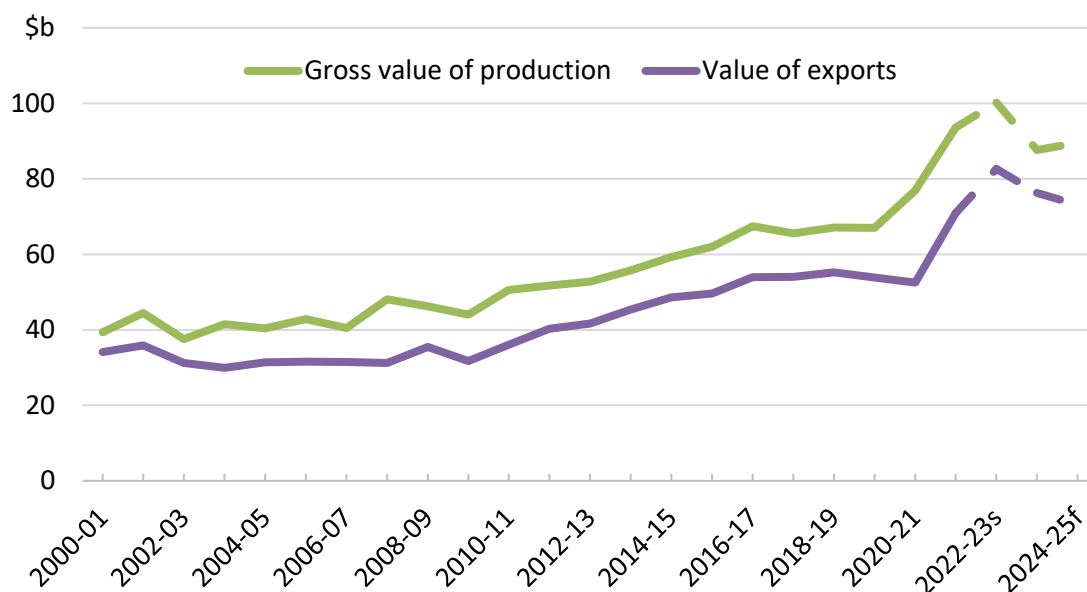
Sources: ABS Water Account (cat. 4610); Catchment scale land use of Australia – update December 2020, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES); ABS Balance of Payments (cat. 5302); ABS Labour Survey (cat. 6291); ABS National Accounts (cat. 5206).

Value of production has grown over time

Australia has a diverse agricultural, fisheries and forestry sector, producing a range of crop and livestock products. Agricultural exports account for around 70% of production and imports only account for around 10% of food consumption in Australia.

The value of the agricultural sector fluctuates in the short term due to changes in seasonal conditions and commodity prices. Over a 20-year timeframe, the total value of agricultural, fisheries and forestry production increased from \$41.4 billion in 2003–04 to an estimated \$100.2 billion in 2022–23. Accounting for inflation, the value of the sector has increased 47% over this period.

Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry and sector

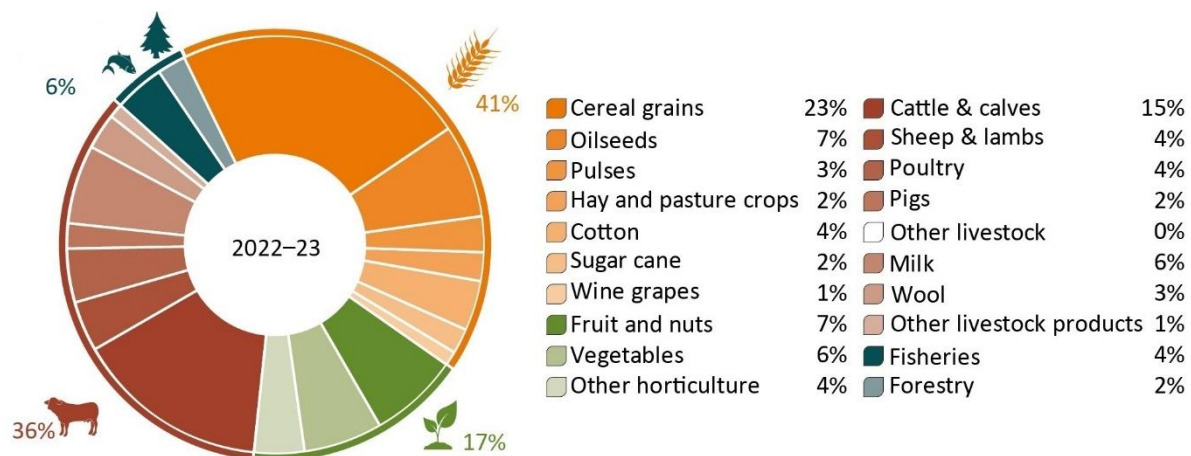


ABARES estimate. f ABARES forecast. Value shown in nominal terms (not inflation adjusted). Sources: ABARES; ABS.

Drivers of growth in the value of output over the past 20 years vary by sector.

- In broadacre cropping (especially grains), producers have improved productivity by adopting new technologies and management practices leading to strong volume growth.
- In horticulture, increased production of higher value crops, better quality and market access gains have led to higher prices.
- In livestock, higher prices have been the main driver of growth, reflecting growing demand for protein in emerging and developing countries.

OFFICIAL

Agriculture, fisheries, and forestry value of production, by commodity, 2022-23

Source: ABARES.

Outlook for the sector

Australian agriculture has done exceptionally well over the last four years largely due to a run of favourable climatic conditions and high global commodity prices.

The value of production reached a record high in 2022-23 and while it is expected to fall from those very high levels in 2023-24 and 2024-25, it will remain high in historic terms. The gross value of agricultural production is forecast to have been \$81.8 billion in 2023-24 and increase to \$83.6 billion in 2024-25.

The cost of many farm input costs is expected to fall further in 2024-25 such as fertiliser and fuel. Similarly, the labour shortages felt by many Australian farmers over the last three years have eased in 2023-24.

Average farm cash incomes are forecast to increase in 2024-25 but there is a wide distribution of performance across the farm population, driven by farm size and enterprise mix.

Structure of the agricultural industry

In 2021-22, there were 87,800 agricultural businesses (excluding hobby farms) in Australia. There has been a continued reduction in the number of farm businesses over past decades as average farm sizes have increased. There has also been a change in the mix of farm types, with the most substantial shifts being a rise in the number of cropping farms and reduction in dairy and sheep farms.

The largest 10% of broadacre farms produced around half of total output in 2021-22, while the smallest 50% of farms produced around 10% of total output. In addition, the largest 10% of farms have the highest average rate of return and are the most leveraged.

The Australian agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sector employed 320,000 people on average over the four quarters to May 2024, up 3% from the previous year but down 13% compared to 20 years ago.

OFFICIAL

Strong farm performance on average has also been driven by:

- **Larger farms** having capacity to reduce their costs through scale, and a greater ability to invest in productivity-enhancing capital additions.
- **Investment in research and development** has contributed to productivity growth and allowed the sector to produce much more than before when the conditions are right.
- Policy reform over recent decades has **increased agriculture's exposure to market signals**, resulting in a shifting commodity mix that is better able to take advantage of trends and changes in the domestic and international landscape.
- **Risk management** for the inevitable bad years means that many farm businesses can more quickly recover from adversity.

Fisheries and forestry

Production of Australia's commercial fishing and aquaculture industry is forecast to have been **\$3.6 billion in 2023–24**. Each year, Commonwealth managed fisheries generate over \$370 million in value alone, which represents about 27% of the total value of all seafood produced by wild caught fisheries in Australia.

Australia has the world's third largest fishing zone. Our [Exclusive Economic Zone](#), the area of the sea for which we have economic rights and responsibilities, contains some 3,700 known species of fish, over 2,800 species of mollusc and over 2,300 species of crustaceans. However, only a small proportion of these are commercially fished.

Australia has **133.6 million hectares** of forest, which is:

- 17% of Australia's land area, and can be divided into three categories:
 - **Native forest** covering 131.5 million hectares
 - **Commercial plantation** covering 1.82 million hectares, consisting of both softwood species (mostly pines) and hardwood species (mostly eucalypts).
 - **Other forest** covering 0.24 million hectares.

The value of forestry production in Australia is forecast to have been **\$2.3 billion in 2023–24**.

Drought and climate change

Australian agricultural producers manage significant variability, including a highly variable climate. These factors generate substantial variation in farm output and incomes, greater than that experienced by farmers in most other countries and that experienced by business owners in other sectors of the Australian economy.

Australian farmers have a number of effective strategies for managing risks associated with short term fluctuations in climate, including maintaining relatively high levels of equity, liquid assets and borrowing capacity, using inputs conservatively, diversifying across enterprises and locations and earning off-farm income.

OFFICIAL

However, farm incomes are being adversely affected by longer term climate trends towards higher temperatures and lower winter rainfall.

ABARES modelling estimates that changes in seasonal conditions over the period 2001 to 2020 (relative to 1950 to 2000) have reduced annual average broadacre farm profits by 23%, or around \$29,200 per farm.

These impacts have been most pronounced in south-western and south-eastern Australia, with northern Australia and the coastal higher rainfall zones tending to be less affected.

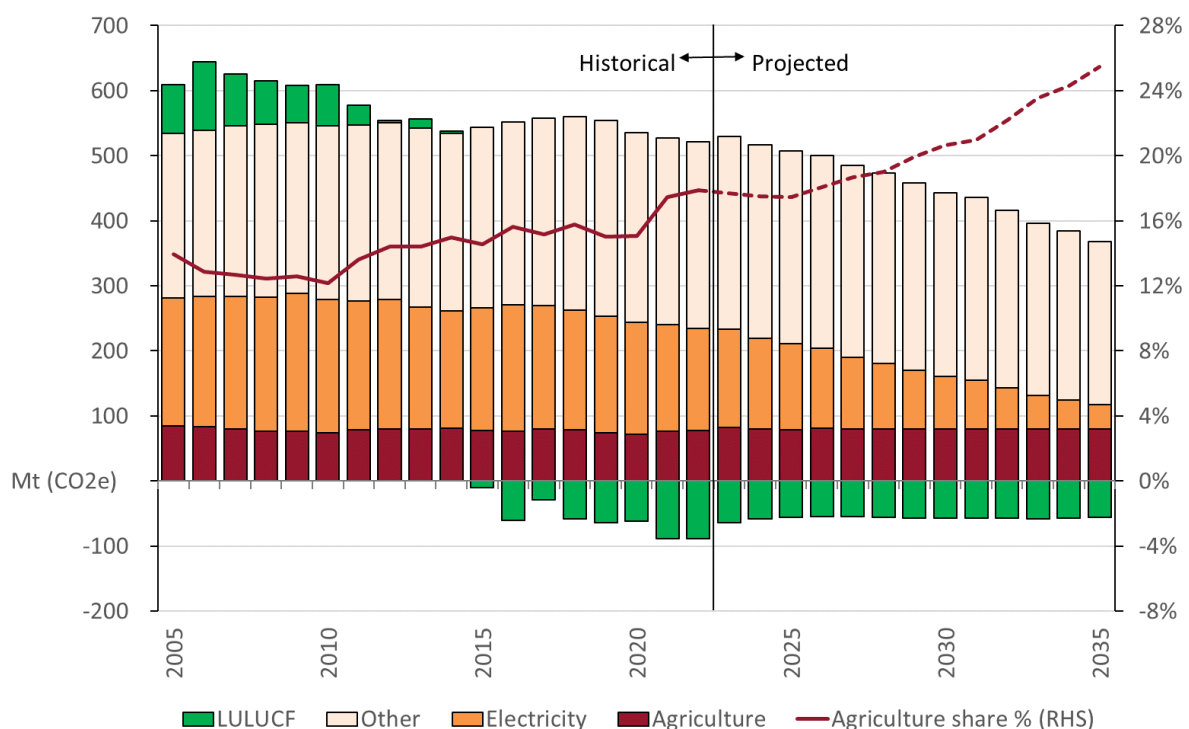
Sustainability

Globally, agriculture has a large environmental footprint. The sector accounts for around 50% of global land use, 73% of global deforestation, 70% of global water use and 34% of global greenhouse gas emissions (OECD 2023a).

Governments, investors, and consumers are responding to this by increasing demand for sustainability credentials in global food systems.

Australia's farm sector emissions fluctuate each year, based on seasonal conditions. Since 1990, agriculture contributed between 12% and 18% of national greenhouse gas emissions. However, agriculture's contribution is projected to contribute 25% of Australia's total emissions by 2035.

Australia's emissions



Source: DCCEEW

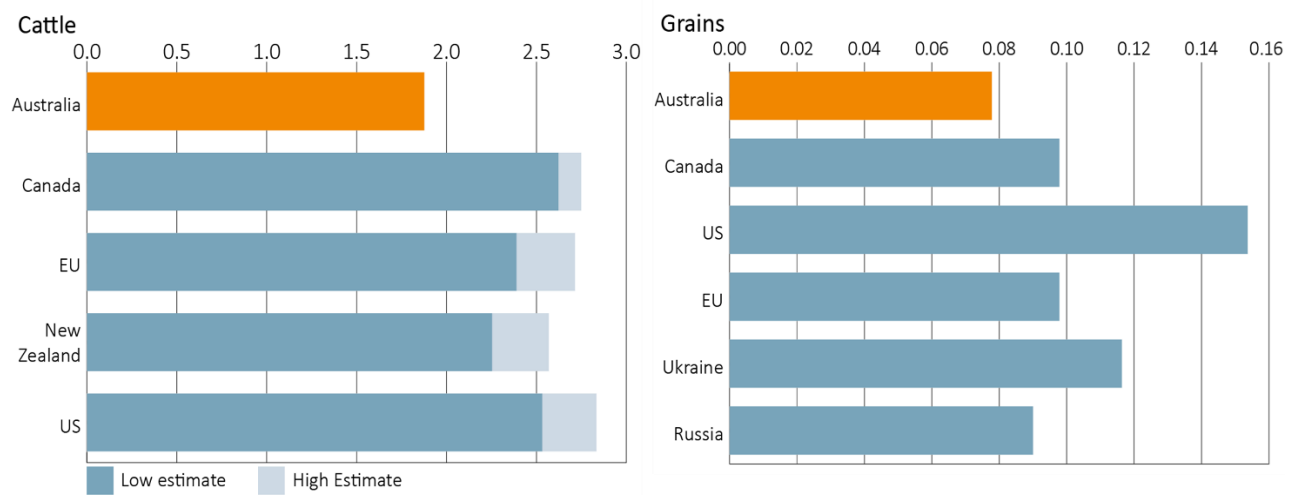
Note: LULUCF is land use, land-use change and forestry.

OFFICIAL

Almost 80% of Australia's agricultural emissions are methane, deriving mainly from cattle and sheep industries. Under current technology settings, methane emissions from agriculture are difficult to abate. Despite annual fluctuations, Australia's aggregate agricultural emissions have fallen over time, largely reflecting a shift in commodity mix, from sheep to cropping.

On many criteria, Australia's agricultural industries demonstrate enviable sustainability credentials when compared internationally. For example, the average emissions intensity of Australian cattle and grains producers is estimated to be below the global average and lower than most major producers.

Average emissions intensities, 2012–2021



Source: ABARES

Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance

Biosecurity is the mechanism for preventing, responding and recovering from pests and diseases that threaten the economy and environment. For the Commonwealth this involves regulating borders and technical arrangements for market access, working with States and Territories and industry partners to align efforts across a system, having mechanisms to respond to emergencies, and research, technology and international outreach to identify and address risks before they present at the border.

The department's work is underpinned by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, that puts the onus on the department to manage risks to Australia's Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP). The extensive powers of the Biosecurity Act to manage risks and to permit or restrict trade are informed by technical capability and science leadership.

Biosecurity border interventions are not a solid barrier and instead represent a structured reduction of risk across import pathways. In addition to gaps in regulated pathways, some pests and diseases come in on natural ('unregulated') pathways (e.g seaborne and airborne pathways). Emergency responses are required regularly and are expensive and time consuming. Mostly these are managed by officials through pre-agreed response arrangements ('deeds') with industry and central agencies. Occasionally responses require funding well beyond these mechanisms and necessitate specific expenditure consideration by the Minister and Expenditure

OFFICIAL

Review Committee (ERC). Others pose a significant threat to the country that would require rapid action across governments, such as if the H5 strain of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was detected in Australia. Last year's detections of Foot and Mouth Disease in Bali caused panic in Australia, shifted markets and heavily occupied the then Minister's time. Keeping a focus on preparedness for low probability but high consequence events remains a challenge for the portfolio.

Trade

The Australian agriculture sector is heavily trade dependent, with more than 70 per cent of our production exported. The maintenance of international trade markets, negotiation of new Free Trade Agreements and expansion of existing markets provides a key driver of growth for primary producers, food processors and exporters.

DAFF is the Australian government authority responsible for certifying agriculture exports in line with export legislation and importing country requirements. DAFF is the lead agency responsible for negotiating technical market access for two way trade of agriculture products.

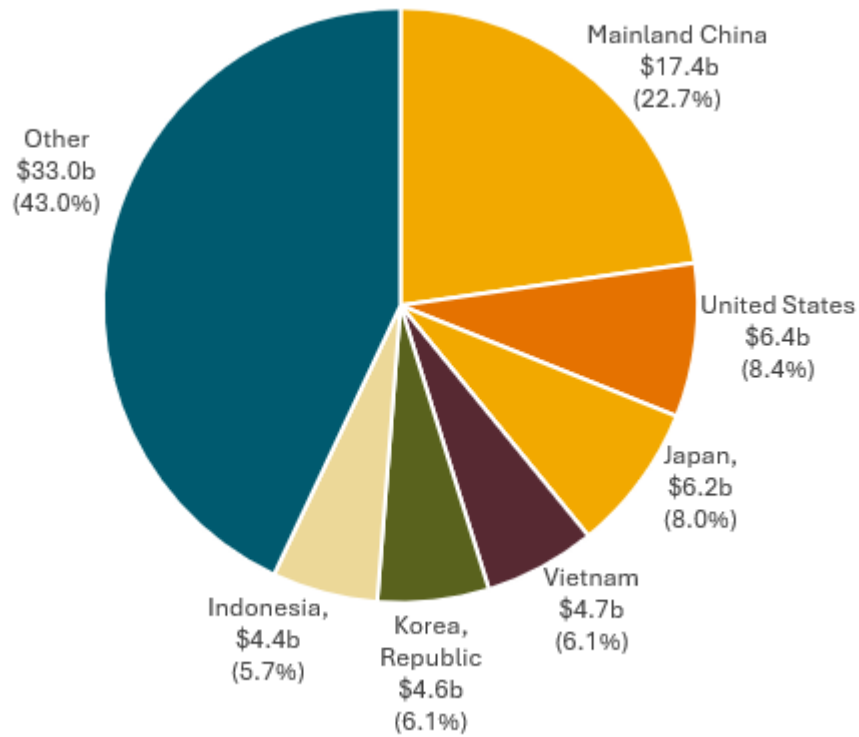
Agricultural export values are forecast to fall by \$2.9 billion to \$69 billion in 2024–25, reflecting lower crop export values. The total value of agriculture, fisheries and forestry exports is forecast to be \$73.1 billion, down from \$76.3 billion in 2023–24. Despite the forecast fall, agricultural export values are still expected to be the third highest on record.

Crop export values are expected to fall by \$3.3 billion to \$38.9 billion driven by both lower export volumes and easing global prices. In comparison, livestock and livestock product export values are expected to rise by \$470 million to \$30.1 billion in 2024–25. Higher export values reflect both higher export volumes – due to higher domestic production – as well as higher global prices because of growing global demand.

Australia's top five export markets by value (\$A) for the 2023 calendar year were China (\$17.4b), the United States (\$6.4b), Japan (\$6.2b), Vietnam (\$4.7b) and South Korea (\$4.6b).

All export destinations are detailed in the chart below.

OFFICIAL

Value (A\$) of Australia's exports of all AFF products to the world in 2023

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Catalogue 9920.0.

OFFICIAL

Top Eight Priorities

Biosecurity

High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI)

The department is working closely with affected jurisdictions and industry to respond to the current outbreak of H7 strains of HPAI.

HPAI is a virulent strain of avian influenza which causes mortality of up to 100% in poultry.

In 2024, **H7 HPAI outbreaks have occurred in VIC, NSW, and the ACT**. Agreed cost-shared responses are in place under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement with state and territory governments. Affected jurisdictions have depopulated the infected farms and non-commercial properties, with around 1.8 million birds culled.

This represents around 7.3% of the national layer flock which has disrupted egg supplies in some areas. Egg supply will take some time to recover, noting there has been no discernible impact on chicken meat supplies.

Due to the change in Australia's status as free from HPAI, this has also had an impact on exports of poultry and poultry products to certain markets. We have successfully reinstated trade for a range of commodities to a number of these markets and we continue working closely with stakeholders to further restore trade and towards reinstating country freedom for this disease as the response continues to stabilise.

The H7 HPAI viruses causing the current outbreaks are not the same strain of the H5 HPAI viruses that have caused the deaths of poultry, wild birds and wild mammals overseas. **HPAI H5**, specifically clade 2.3.4.4b, has been spreading globally since 2020 and Australia remains the only continent free from this strain.

Outbreaks overseas have led to extensive losses of poultry, and illness and death of wild birds and mammals, particularly marine mammals and mammals that prey or scavenge on birds, as well as sporadic human infections. In February 2024, H5 HPAI was detected on the Antarctic mainland for the first time and in March 2024, HPAI H5 was reported in dairy cattle in the US; the first known natural infections in cattle worldwide.

We have seen this virus spread rapidly between continents so we must be prepared for the possibility that it could arrive in Australia. This is a matter of national significance that has direct impacts on Australia's biosecurity, human and animal health, cost of living, food security, agricultural productivity and the environment.

A risk assessment commissioned by the department and finalised in June 2023 concluded that there is an increased risk of the H5 2.3.4.4b strain being introduced into Australia by wild birds. There is no way to prevent new strains of avian influenza entering Australia with migratory wild birds or transmission between wild birds.

We therefore have placed a strong focus on preparedness and the department is taking a leadership role in these national efforts. We have been working on preparedness with other

OFFICIAL

agencies, jurisdictions and other stakeholders for some time, including Animal Health Australia and Wildlife Health Australia, and we continue collaborating with them on H5 preparedness.

A dedicated HPAI taskforce was established in July 2024 which is led by the department and includes representation from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and Department of Health and Aged Care. A key priority for this taskforce is the implementation of the \$6.9 million in funding announced by the Government in July to enhance our capability to detect and respond to HPAI. Further immediate priorities include delivering on the commitment from the July Agriculture Ministers' Meeting to conduct a national H5 preparedness exercise and to promote greater collaboration across the agriculture, environment and health portfolios. Integrated cross-sectoral approaches to such disease threats is known as a One Health approach.

We will brief you separately on options to build on this work and continue to enhance national preparedness and response capability for HPAI under this One Health approach.

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea

The election commitment to phase out the export of live sheep exports by sea has been delivered with legislation now in place that the trade will cease on and from 1 May 2028.

The policy remains a polarising issue in the agriculture industry, with those most affected actively campaigning for a reversal. We recommend that the key message for you to convey to all stakeholders is that the policy is now settled by the government and that it will not be revisited. With this certainty of government policy, and four years of lead time, you could confirm that you wish to work with the people impacted to access the transition package so that individuals can make decisions appropriate to their circumstances.

The government has agreed to provide funding for a transition package to facilitate the phase out of the trade. The package includes:

- \$107 million in assistance from FY 2024-25 to support the transition away from the trade
- continued action through existing government initiatives, such as in labour and competition
- ongoing management of, and measures to enhance sheep welfare
- transition oversight to be supported by an appointed Transition Advocate to provide two-way communication between industry and government
- continued monitoring and engagement with domestic stakeholders and trading partners, including a stocktake in 2026-2027 (that explicitly excludes changes to the phase out date)
- export regulatory requirements for exporting live sheep by sea remaining in place and while trade continues until 1 May 2028.

s. 47C(1); s. 47B(a)

OFFICIAL

s. 47C(1); s. 47B(a)

Climate

Net Zero agenda

The Net Zero Plan, informed by six sector plans, including the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan, will set out how Australia can transition to a net zero economy by 2050. The net zero plan is led by Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen.

The Net Zero and sector plans' timeframes are designed to align with the Paris Agreement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due in 2025, which require Australia to set a 2035 emissions reduction target.

s. 47C(1)

Finalising the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan

The Agriculture and Land Sector Plan is one of the six sector plans informing the development of the Net Zero Plan. The plan has been jointly developed by the previous Minister for Agriculture, Minister Bowen and Minister Plibersek, with DAFF as the lead agency. You will be jointly responsible for its finalisation.

s. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

s. 47C(1)

Forestry

Delivering a timber fibre strategy

Work is underway to delivering the Australian Government's 2022 election commitments to:

- Develop a long-term plan for the sector- the Timber Fibre Strategy.
- Hold a roundtable with the forestry sector, unions, States and Territories as part of the development of the Timber Fibre Strategy to ensure our existing forestry resources are being best utilised.

s. 47C(1)

s. 47C(1); s. 47B(a)

OFFICIAL

s. 47B(a); s. 47C(1)

Sustainable biosecurity funding (including the Biosecurity Protection Levy)

The biosecurity sustainable funding package, announced in the 2023-24 Budget, is a new model for funding biosecurity. It provides \$1.03 billion over four years which fulfils the government's election commitment to deliver long-term sustainable funding that goes directly to strengthening Australia's biosecurity system.

The package is based on shared responsibility – between those who create risk and those who receive significant benefit from the work that the Australian Government does to support the biosecurity system.

From 1 July 2023, the Government increased funding from taxpayers and increased biosecurity fees and charges for importers. These are the two most significant elements of biosecurity funding. Work is ongoing to deliver the remaining commitments to funding reform.

OFFICIAL

s. 47C(1)

s. 33(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL

Ag Vet Chemicals

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) reform

On 14 July 2023 the former Minister announced an independent, Rapid Evaluation of the APVMA's structure and governance, in response to findings of the APVMA Strategic Review Report, which found serious and systemic issues with the APVMA's operations and administration.

Minister Watt released the future structure and governance arrangements for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority report, also known as the Rapid Evaluation report, and preliminary government response on 17 April 2024, following careful consideration of the recommendations and analysis to support the government response.

The announcement included that the APVMA will remain an independent statutory authority and proposed to revoke the government policy order (GPO), subject to consultation, which dictates the APVMA's location.

S. 47C(1)

The APVMA Board has appointed Mr Scott Hansen as the new Chief Executive Officer of the APVMA with effect from 24 July 2024 for a 5-year term. Dr Catherine Ainsworth was appointed by Minister Watt as the new Chair of the APVMA Board with effect from 12 July 2024 for a 4-year term (see ACFFD04 for further details).

OFFICIAL

Other priorities for the next 6-12 months

Cost of Living

In agriculture, cost of living is largely a competition and price transparency issue

While easing cost of living concerns is the highest current priority of government, as Agriculture Minister, your role is complicated by the need for you to advocate for farmers to be paid fair prices for their produce, and as much as possible, for those prices to be more than the cost of production.

The government has a range of activities in place to address this, including through the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) inquiry into Australia's supermarket sector and the Treasury Competition review. [s. 47C\(1\)](#)

s. 47C(1)

A number of industries are currently facing particular challenges

s. 33(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL

In response to these concerns, in March 2024, the **Agriculture Ministers Meeting (AMM)**¹ agreed to establish a Viticulture and Wine Sector Working Group to develop a national approach to address the current oversupply of red wine and the acute issues being faced by the sector, and support the industry in the long term. South Australia has been leading this work, with significant support from us.

s. 47C(1)

While the **dairy** industry has a Code of Conduct to govern the contracting arrangements between farmers and processors, it is still experiencing challenges of high input costs, low margins, and a reducing milk pool. The department is funding Dairy Australia to lead a project on competitiveness and productivity in the industry, with a report due by the end of 2024. We will commence a review of the Dairy Industry Code of Conduct in September 2024.

s. 33(a)(iii)

The department is responsible for negotiating conditions with other countries to manage the risks of pests and diseases on Australia's exports.

¹ The AMM is comprised of Commonwealth, State and Territory agriculture ministers and meets at least 2 times a year.

OFFICIAL

S. 33(a)(iii)

Drought

The Bureau of Meteorology has reported dry conditions in areas of south-west Western Australia, east of the Bight in southern South Australia, in much of western and southern Victoria and along the ranges into southern New South Wales, and in most of Tasmania.

The Tasmanian and Western Australian governments have noted drought conditions in parts of their states and have released new programs to support those impacted by the conditions.

S. 47C(1)

The **National Drought Agreement (2024-2029)** was published on 1 July 2024. The agreement sets out how the Commonwealth and state and territory governments work together on drought matters. It was signed by the Prime Minister and the heads of all state and territory governments – recognising the wide reaching impact of drought on communities.

As part of the 2024-25 Budget, the government has committed ongoing funding to ensure it maintains its state of readiness for drought. \$13.9 million will be provided over 4 years, with a further \$3.4 million provided per year from 2028-29. This funding will support ongoing delivery of drought policy work including the items listed above.

OFFICIAL

Delivering the next phase of the Future Drought Fund

The Future Drought Fund (FDF) is the key Australian Government program to help farmers and regional communities prepare for drought. It aims to build economic, environmental and social resilience of individuals and communities

On 1 July 2024, the second phase of the FDF commenced, supported by \$519.1m over the next 8 years provided in the 2024 Budget (this is separate to drought funding) . The measures respond to many of the recommendations outlined in the Productivity Commission's 2023 review of the first phase of the FDF (2020-2024).

FDF activity over the next 6-12 months will focus on delivering the Government's Budget priorities for the FDF 2024-25, planning for the delivery of programs scheduled for later years and related activities. There are a number of key opportunities for you, including:

- releasing the Australian Government's response to the 2023 Productivity Commission Review (second half of 2024);
- launching the inaugural FDF Investment Strategy 2024-28, as recommended by the Productivity Commission (second half of 2024)
- launching new grant opportunities
- announcing the membership of the inaugural First Nations Advisory Committee to support the FDF to embed First Nations voice into policy and program design (second half of 2024)
- announcing the outcome of the review of the Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs (early 2025).

Agricultural Workforce

Despite record numbers of Working Holiday Makers and a strong Pacific labour mobility program, challenges remain

Access to labour is a longstanding issue in agriculture and related processing businesses, exacerbated by tight labour market conditions across the economy.

The Tripartite Agricultural Workforce Working Group established by Minister Watt in 2022 has now transitioned into the Agricultural Workforce Forum, chaired by Secretary Adam Fennessy. This is the main vehicle through which we engage with industry and union leaders on the key workforce challenges for industry. The Forum members have a strong focus on ensuring both a short and long term supply of workers, that agriculture is seen as an occupation of choice for both Australian and international workers and that workers are treated fairly. Your engagement with this forum would be welcomed by industry, given the complexity of issues and that they cut across government – migration, labour hire regulation, skills, the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme, accommodation and housing.

Despite most of the levers for these issues being outside your portfolio, industry advocacy will be directed at you, as a qualified and accessible workforce is key to improved productivity and profitability of the agriculture sector.

OFFICIAL

Legislation

Implementation of modernised levies legislation

The government is modernising and streamlining the legislation underpinning agricultural levies and charges. The new legislation is easier to understand, will increase research investment certainty and better support compliance. The key features of the levy system will be maintained and the new legislation will give rural research and development corporations (RDCs) funding certainty.

The new legislative framework needs to be in place before 1 April 2025, which is the sunset date for several existing levies legislative instruments. Most of the new legislation will commence on 1 January 2025 to provide industry certainty.

s. 47C(1)

Six Acts establishing the modernised legislative framework recently received Royal Assent.

First Nations

Delivering a National Statement on First Nations in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

On 6 October 2023, all Agriculture Ministers agreed for governments to work in consultation with First Nations peoples to identify opportunities to increase meaningful involvement of First Nations people in agriculture, fisheries and forestry through the development of a National Statement.

In January 2024, a Taskforce of representatives from all jurisdictions convened to progress the development of the National Statement. On 8 March 2024, the AMM further clarified the scope of the National Statement project, requesting delivery by the first quarter of 2025, and advising their expectations that the National Statement must be driven by the principles of Indigenous self-determination as an ambitious commitment to advance First Nations perspectives, experiences and interests in the drive for greater First Nations economic inclusion in the sectors.

The project is on-track, with first phase consultations completed in July 2024; second phase detailed discussions, drafting and development to commence in August 2024; and third phase finalisation and endorsement to occur from January 2025.

Fisheries

Delivering solutions to emerging challenges in Commonwealth fisheries

Climate change, the spatial squeeze and a recent increase in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activities are impacting Commonwealth and State-based fisheries.

Climate is contributing to concerns over non-recovery of fish stocks and amplifying issues with ensuring Commonwealth fisheries are managed in line with fisheries legislation and the harvest policy.

OFFICIAL

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 47C(1)

The government invests jointly with industry in research and development to lift productivity

Around \$800 million a year is invested in research, development and innovation through Australia's rural RDCs. Government and primary producers co-invest in research and development (R&D) to improve the profitability, productivity, competitiveness and long term sustainability of Australia's primary industries. There are 15 RDCs which support the agricultural, fishing and forestry industries – five are Commonwealth statutory bodies and 10 are industry owned companies. They have existed for around 30 years and are a trusted part of the innovation landscape.

The RDCs are funded primarily by statutory R&D and marketing levies (or charges) on various commodities, with matching funding from the Australian Government.

As the RDCs are primarily industry-owned, you have limited powers to direct their investments or activities, except in urgent or exceptional circumstances. Nevertheless, the RDCs bring significant expertise to the table and there is an opportunity for you to draw on this to develop policy, engage with industry and negotiate on international trade and market access. The RDCs are keen to work more closely with you as the Agriculture Minister to build stronger partnerships and ensure investment and focus are aligned. For example, they are keen to support the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan.

s. 47C(1)

There would be benefit in you **meeting with the Council of RDCs early** in your term as Minister to set out your priorities.

OFFICIAL

Biosecurity

Red imported fire ants (RIFA)

RIFA are a major invasive pest, harmful to agriculture, the environment and people. The National Fire Ant Eradication Program (the Program) in south-east Queensland is a nationally cost shared program of over \$1 billion managed by Biosecurity Queensland, from 2001 through to 2027. The total Australian Government investment in the Program since 2001 is over \$640 million which includes \$296.4 million committed for the current response plan over the next four years until June 2027.

The Program operates under a National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement like arrangement, as the eradication of fire ants meets its national interest criteria aimed at preventing the potential environmental, social, health and economic impacts of fire ants.

The Australian Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer (ACEBO) oversees the program for the Australian Government, and the department is represented at all levels of the Program's governance.

A strategic review was commissioned by a steering committee in 2021 in response to national cost-share partners' agreeing that the existing 10-year eradication strategy would not be achieved within the current budget and timeframe. The issue is receiving national media coverage and intense interest from active stakeholder groups such as the Invasive Species Council and the National Farmers Federation.

Since November 2023 there have been four key detections outside the RIFA containment zone in South East Queensland. Outlier detections are not unexpected and the program has procedures in place to address these.

s. 47C(1)

Live Animal Exports - MV Bahijah livestock vessel

On 3 July 2024 a departmental official refused to approve the export live cattle by sea from Fremantle to Israel on the basis that the export did not satisfy the requirements of the *Export Control Act 2020*. The exporter sought an internal review of the refusal, and on Friday 26 July the reviewing officer affirmed the original decision to refuse the application.

s. 33(a)(iii)

We can brief you on specific details of this issue, including as further events unfold.

By way of background, before exporting livestock, a licensed exporter must apply to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for approval to undertake the export. Livestock exports are regulated under the *Export Control Act 2020* and associated *Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021* (which incorporates the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock).

OFFICIAL

The legislation sets out the criteria and process that must be considered/ followed when deciding to approve or refuse to approve a notice of intention (NOI) to export live animals from Australia. Like all administrative law decisions, they may be subject to applications for internal and external review.

Regulation of the livestock export trade is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Under the *Export Control Act 2020* (the Act), you as the Minister may give directions to the Secretary in relation to the performance of their functions or the exercise of their powers in making rules. However, you cannot give directions to the Secretary in relation to a decision on a particular application made under the Act.

From time to time, representations may be made to you and the department about specific applications, including by or on behalf of foreign governments. When that happens, we will brief you on specific details of those applications, as and when required.

Trade and Market Access

S. 33(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL

s. 33(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL

S. 33(a)(iii)

Regulation

All Commonwealth regulators have certain reporting obligations under the Department of Finance's Resource Management Guide 128: Regulatory Performance (RMG 128). This includes a requirement for each agency in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry portfolio to exchange regulatory Statements of Expectations (SOE) and responding regulatory Statements of Intent (SOI) with the Minister. This is intended to signal government's expectations and have regulators acknowledge they will deliver regulatory functions consistent with ministerial priorities and objectives. Both statements are to be made publicly available on regulator websites alongside their corporate plans.

The statements are required to be refreshed every two years, or with a change in Minister or regulatory leadership. Then Minister Watt issued his SOE to the department on 2 July 2024. We will work with your office to support the development of a new SoE in the coming months.

There are a number of reviews and reports you must action

Government response to the Inquiry into Food Security

In 2023 the House Standing Committee on Agriculture undertook an inquiry into food security in Australia, at the request of Minister Watt. The report was tabled in November 2023 and included 35 recommendations.

The report's key recommendation is the development of a comprehensive National Food Plan that would deal with the production and distribution of food, supply chain resilience, access to food, good nutrition and the management and disposal of food waste and other waste products.

S. 47C(1)

Regional Investment Corporation review

The Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018 required Minister Watt to arrange for a review of the operation of the Act. Dr Wendy Craik AM was appointed by Minister Watt to conduct the review on 23 October 2023. To meet legislative requirements, the review had to consider:

OFFICIAL

- The scope of the RIC's activities after 30 June 2026; and
- The appropriate governance arrangements for the RIC after that date.

The final report was delivered to Minister Watt and the Minister for Finance, Minister Gallagher, on 1 July 2024, as required by the Act.

The Act requires the report to be published on the internet within 30 days after it is received by the minister. It also requires the report to be tabled within 15 sitting days of receipt. To meet tabling conventions the report should be tabled before it is published.

Consideration is underway between ministers' offices about potential approaches for release of the report.

The 2023 Productivity Commission review into the effectiveness of the Future Drought Fund

In 2023, the Productivity Commission conducted its first legislated review of the FDF, and presented its Inquiry Report to Government on 26 September 2023. The Inquiry Report made 14 recommendations for improvements to the management of the Future Drought Fund.

The Government has undertaken to respond to the review in the second half of 2024.

As at July 2024, many recommendations have been implemented. Implementation has occurred progressively from September 2023, with the 2024 Budget announcements providing funding to implement remaining recommendations over the period 2024-28.

Code of Conduct reviews

The department has policy responsibility for a number of agricultural codes of conduct which are enforced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. These set out the rules for contracting arrangements in the wheat export, sugar, dairy and [s. 47C\(1\)](#)

Reviews of some of these codes need to commence in late 2024.

- A review of the **Wheat Port Code** has been undertaken and will be provided to you soon. The Code is due to sunset on 1 October 2024, and section 5 of the Code requires a review be undertaken ahead of this date.
- A second review of the **Dairy Industry Code of Conduct** has been announced and is due to commence in September. The department expects to complete the review before the end of 2025.

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

Issues to manage with other ministers

Engagement with State and Territory Ministers

Agriculture Ministers Meeting

You are the Chair of the Agriculture Ministers Meeting (AMM), which is made up of agriculture ministers from each state and territory. The purpose is for strategic discussions and decision making on priority issues affecting Australia's primary production sectors.

It has 5 strategic priorities:

- Biosecurity
- Climate smart agriculture
- First Nations Agriculture
- Trade
- Workforce

AMM meets at least twice per year either virtually or in person. The most recent meeting was held in Brisbane on 18 July.

Forestry Ministers Meeting

You are the Chair of the Forestry Ministers Meeting (FMM), which is made up of forestry ministers from each state and territory. The purpose is for strategic discussions and decision making on priority issues affecting Australia's forestry industry. There is significant overlap in attendance with AMM, however, portfolio arrangements across some jurisdictions differ.

The key priority for forestry ministers currently relates to the development of the National Forests Policy Statement. This work is being completed collaboratively and will be driven by FMM.

FMM has met less regularly, but in recent years has met twice a year. The next meeting is set for November. Late last year they also endorsed a terms of reference.

Fisheries Ministers Meeting

You are the Chair of the Fisheries Ministers Meeting, which is made up of fisheries ministers from each state and territory. The purpose is for strategic discussions and decision making on priority issues affecting Australia's fishing and aquaculture industries. There is significant overlap in attendance with AMM, however, portfolio arrangements across some jurisdictions differ.

The key priorities for fisheries ministers are the immediate challenges facing the fishing and aquaculture sector including climate change, sustainability and increasing competition in the marine estate.

OFFICIAL

Fisheries ministers met in June 2024 for the first time since 2019. They agreed to prioritise another meeting which is set for November 2024.

Competition/cost of living

The Treasurer and Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury are responsible for most of the competition work being undertaken across government. There are multiple reviews involving similar issues all occurring at the same time and work will be required to ensure that the outcomes are complementary and don't over regulate contractual arrangements, leading to price rises for consumers. The department and previous minister worked closely with the Treasury on the Food and Grocery Code review, which resulted in the particular issues being faced by perishable agricultural industries being well considered and addressed in Dr Emerson's report.

We have similarly been liaising closely with the ACCC on their inquiry into supermarket pricing and with Treasury on the broader competition review. Your engagement with your colleagues and advocacy on behalf of industry will demonstrate to industry your commitment to ensuring producers are dealt with fairly and in a transparent way.

Agricultural Workforce

Workforce challenges continue and your colleagues hold most of the levers

Despite Working Holiday Makers (WHMs) being back to pre-COVID levels and a large number of PALM workers in the country, industry continues to experience shortages of workers, across both skilled and unskilled roles. You do not hold the levers for most of the policies and programs that support the agricultural workforce. Success in ensuring the needs of agriculture are effectively represented rely on your relationships with a number of your colleagues and the department also working with relevant officials.

s. 47C(1)

The Minister for Employment has responsibility for a number of issues that are of strong interest for the agricultural sector. These include the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme (Foreign Affairs also has influence over the scheme as it is a diplomatic agreement), regulation of labour hire arrangements, and industrial relations policy including changes to awards. PALM is a key source of labour for meat processing and harvest work in horticulture. The program settings are constantly under scrutiny from industry and your advocacy on behalf of the sector can be powerful.

A feasibility study into an Agricultural Trade Apprenticeship has recently been conducted by Skills Insight, the Industry Skills Council for the agriculture sector. More work is needed by industry to build a strong case for Skills Ministers to agree to implement a new apprenticeship. The Skills Minister has indicated he is keen to work with you on what could be covered by the apprenticeship. This collaboration will be more powerful during negotiations with states and territories.

OFFICIAL

On all these issues, we have found a willingness of ministers to work together to address agriculture's concerns. Where the Agriculture Minister has written to their colleagues on matters of importance, this has been influential in affecting policy settings. Similarly, you can continue to encourage participation of relevant ministers in the Agricultural Workforce Forum, which continues to take these issues forward.

Climate Adaptation

Agricultural interests are being considered as part of Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment and **National Adaptation Plan** led by DCCEEW under the Assistant Minister for Climate Change.

The plan aims to help governments, industry and communities conduct their own assessments and set the framework to better prepare for, manage and respond to climate risks. Identified risks include decreased productivity, quality and profitability, increased biosecurity pressures, risks to on-farm and supply chain infrastructure and risks to domestic and international markets.

Climate related impacts on sector productivity and profitability is a key area of concern for our stakeholders and they will expect a significant focus on the sector in the National Adaptation Plan related policies and investment.

s. 47B(a); s.47C(1)

Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The Minister for the Environment and Water is responsible for the delivery of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. However, aspects of implementation of the Basin Plan such as water recovery from agriculture for the environment and the associated structural adjustment package have implications for the agriculture sector and regional communities. There is a strong expectation from agriculture stakeholders that the Minister for Agriculture is actively involved in these processes.

The department has been working closely with DCCEEW and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority on the implementation of aspects of the Basin Plan including work by ABARES assessing the possible impacts of water recovery.

Early engagement with the Minister for the Environment and Water in relation to the Basin Plan would be welcome.

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

Incoming Minister's Brief



July 2024

OFFICIAL

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

Ownership of intellectual property rights

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

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.

OFFICIAL

Contents

Your statutory role as minister	5
Departmental overview	6
High level overview	6
The work.....	7
Role and functions.....	10
Statement of Strategic Intent.....	11
Executive Profiles	12
Divisional Arrangements	15
Overseas engagement.....	16
Portfolio, Statutory Bodies and Inspectors-General	17
Portfolio agencies.....	17
Research and Development Corporations	21
Inspectors-General.....	27
Election Commitments and Budget Measures	30
2022 Election Commitments update	30
Budget measures.....	37
Upcoming decisions	38
Key early meetings and upcoming events	47
Contacts.....	47
Budget and Funding Framework.....	58
Financial position	58
Financial resources.....	58
Overview of outcomes and programs.....	62
Administrative responsibilities for grants and funding.....	64
Legislation and litigation	65
Litigation.....	65
Legislation	68
Administrative Arrangement Orders.....	70
Appointments.....	75
Portfolio ministerial appointments – Agriculture	75
Ministerial support arrangements	78
Introduction	78
Departmental support.....	79
Ministerial office support.....	80
Parliamentary business	86

OFFICIAL

Communications and media support..... 88

Key stakeholders..... 91

OFFICIAL

Your statutory role as minister

As the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry you are responsible for broad and diverse functions across the portfolio, including: agricultural trade industry policy, drought policy, and maintaining and improving open market access for agricultural exports; protecting Australia's agricultural sector by maintaining our high biosecurity standards; and continuing to modernise Australia's agricultural innovation systems to improve productivity growth and strengthen Australia's trade competitiveness.

The department will support you in discharging your statutory roles and responsibilities. Under the Agriculture portfolio, you are responsible for a number of Acts (see [Legislation and litigation](#)). You are also responsible for a number of grants programs that have been provided with statutory authority through non-portfolio legislation – primarily the Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Regulations 1997 (see [Budget and Funding Framework](#)).

OFFICIAL

Departmental overview

Postal address and Canberra office location

Postal address	GPO Box 858
	CANBERRA ACT 2601
Canberra office location	Ngunnawal Country
	Agriculture House
	70 Northbourne Avenue
	Canberra ACT 2600
	The department's head office is located at Agriculture House, corner of Northbourne Avenue and Cooyong Street in the centre of Canberra City.
	s. 37(1)(c)
Switchboard	02 6272 3933
Security Pass	The building is secure, and a security pass is needed to enter and exit. A security pass will be provided as a priority.
Parking	Parking is available in the basement of the building.
Security	The department has a number of systems in place to manage the secure processing, transmission, storage and disposal of information.

High level overview

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is the Australian Government agency responsible for supporting and enhancing Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries, helping to make them more productive and sustainable.

Our responsibilities intersect with a range of nationally significant economic and social issues, and our work directly or indirectly impacts the lives of all Australians, particularly those living in regional and rural areas.

Our diverse roles and functions include biosecurity border operations and regulation, trade and technical market access, world-class science and research, policy advice to government, program administration, client services to industry, and regulation.

We maintain and create agricultural export opportunities to provide gains for Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry. We engage with international counterparts to reinforce Australia's role in addressing food security, productivity, trade, sustainability and the impacts of climate change. We manage biosecurity risks to Australia to protect our multi-billion-dollar industries and our way of life. We support economic prosperity and jobs, while helping our industries build their sustainability and premium credentials.

OFFICIAL

Department objectives*

The department's three objectives represent our key areas of focus and the foundation to deliver our purpose for government and the community.

Key area	Objectives
Industry Growth	Support industry to grow toward a \$100 billion agriculture, fisheries, and forestry industry by 2030 amid changing global market conditions.
Biosecurity	Strengthen our national biosecurity system to provide an appropriate level of protection to Australia's people, our environment and economy from the biosecurity threats of today and tomorrow.
Resilience and Sustainability	Increase the contribution agriculture, fisheries and forestry make to a healthy, sustainable and low emissions environment.

*The objectives are based on the 202x-202x Corporate Plan and are currently being updated in line with the Department's new Statement of Strategic Intent and the 2024-25 Corporate Plan.

The work

Agriculture and trade

Support industry to grow towards a \$100 billion agriculture, fisheries and forestry industry by 2030 amid changing global market conditions.

We focus on 3 key activities to deliver on this objective:

- Support industry productivity and growth through science, policy and partnerships.
- Maintain and expand international markets by certifying and regulating exports and negotiating new and improved market access.
- Streamline export regulations and compliance arrangements.

These key activities recognise the importance of partnership and effective policy to support industry productivity, our technical and operational work, and international, regional and bilateral negotiations in creating and maintaining export market opportunities.

Our research arm, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), forecasts the gross value of agricultural production to reach \$85 billion in 2023–24, with agriculture accounting for a forecast \$79 billion, fisheries \$4 billion and forestry \$2 billion. To ensure the greatest impact, we have therefore concentrated our key activities and performance measures for the industry growth objective on supporting agricultural production and access to international markets.

We support industry productivity and growth through our policy work and targeted programs. We help farmers build financial capacity and give them tools to navigate their financial risks. We support innovation in agriculture and agribusiness management through co-investment with industry in research and development corporations. We administer the agricultural levy system, a partnership with industry that funds research and development, marketing, residue testing and animal and plant health.

Our work is central to the efficiency and resilience of Australia's supply chains. We are a major border agency, playing a key role in regulating exports and imports across different parts of the

OFFICIAL

economy. Australia exports 70% of its agricultural production, accounting for 12% of the value of total exports. We provide opportunities for producers and exporters by enabling access to new markets and improving and maintaining existing markets. Market diversification will continue to help address the risks associated with relying on key markets. It provides us with equivalence if not a comparative advantage in global markets and generates broader benefits for the economy.

We regulate the export of all live animals and their reproductive material to ensure compliance with Australian legislative and importing country requirements. Our goal is to maintain and develop Australia's reputation as a trusted source of high-quality live animals and reproductive material, while minimising barriers faced by industry participants.

Fisheries

The Australian Government works with state and territory governments to manage fisheries in consultation with the fishing industry, First Nations communities, recreational fishers, scientists, economists and the broader community. We are responsible for developing legislative procedures and policy to ensure sustainable fisheries. For international fisheries, the department leads Australia's contributions to regional fisheries management organisations, the bodies that set management measures and monitor compliance for international fish stocks. We are also responsible for administering the farmed prawns levy and charge. Performance measure IG-02 considers the efficiency of how we administer levies to support the agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) is responsible for the efficient management and sustainable use of Commonwealth fish resources on behalf of the Australian community.

Forestry

We support the sustainability and growth of Australia's forest industries by providing policy advice, delivering programs and supporting research and innovation. This includes administering Regional Forestry Agreements (RFAs) with the states and overseeing independent 5-yearly reviews. RFAs are long-term agreements that provide for the sustainable management and conservation of Australia's native forests. State and territory governments have responsibility for land management, including the regulation and management of forests within the RFA areas. In an international context, we are responsible for combating illegal logging and representing Australia in international forestry forums.

We are responsible for implementing over \$300 million of program funding to support innovation and increase the capacity of the forestry industry to produce products for domestic consumption while remaining internationally competitive. These programs include \$73.8 million to support the establishment of new plantations to secure future domestic wood supply and contribute to Australia's carbon emissions reduction commitments. We are providing \$108.8 million in grants over the next 4 years for wood-processing businesses to adopt new or upgraded facilities to increase their output or product lines. The program supports the medium- to long-term sustainability of wood processors by stimulating investment in upgrades to existing manufacturing lines, as well as supporting innovation to diversify domestic products.

We are also responsible for administering the levies and charges on forestry industry products (measured by performance measure IG-02). The funds raised enable the Australian Government and

OFFICIAL

forestry industry to co-invest to improve the profitability, productivity, competitiveness and long-term sustainability of the industry.

Government programs and policy focus on longer-term outcomes to ensure the supply or manufacture of forestry products. For example, Performance measure IG-04 encourages the forestry industry to invest in innovation, supporting industry productivity and growth.

Biosecurity

Our goal is to strengthen our national biosecurity system to provide an appropriate level of protection to Australia's people, our environment and economy from the biosecurity threats of today and tomorrow.

We focus on 3 key activities to deliver on this objective:

- Effectively prepare for the management of biosecurity risk through pragmatic policy, fit-for-purpose regulation and mature preparedness.
- Effectively detect biosecurity risk through intelligence-led targeting, technology-supported inspections and efficient detection methods.
- Minimise the impact of biosecurity incursions through appropriate post-biosecurity and post-border measures.

Biosecurity threats and risks are increasing. A significant biosecurity incursion would generate a range of negative impacts, including loss of highly valuable international export markets, cost and availability of food, lost income, supply chain disruptions, and associated social, health and welfare impacts for farmers and the broader community.

We safeguard Australia's animal and plant health status by investing in a national biosecurity system to detect and minimise the impact of biosecurity incursions. We do this through risk assessment, regulation, inspection and certification, and the implementation of emergency response arrangements for Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries. These activities help maintain our access to overseas markets and protect the economy and environment from the impact of pests and diseases.

Australia's biosecurity system consists of three focus areas for preventing or responding to the incursion of pests and diseases: pre-border, at our border and post-border activities. Across these three focus areas, we undertake a range of policy, operational and compliance functions, supported by a series of third-party agreements, authorisations and programs, together with research, intelligence and data analytics. We also implement a range of education, awareness and communication campaigns.

This work includes:

- Overseas (pre-border) activities – working with foreign governments and agencies, importers and other stakeholders to mitigate risk and reduce the number and frequency of pests and diseases that reach Australia. This includes developing international standards, assessing offshore risks and setting appropriate import conditions, educating stakeholders and building industry capability.

OFFICIAL

- At our border activities – screening and inspecting air and sea vessels, freight, mail and passengers for biosecurity threats, as well as undertaking verification, assurance and post-entry quarantine to prevent pests and diseases entering Australia.
- Within Australia (post-border) activities – working with the states, territories and industry partners to detect and respond to incursions, plan emergency responses, and contain and eradicate pests and diseases within Australia.

Role and functions

To achieve departmental objectives, the department works with stakeholders across the community. Activities are grouped under eight key activities:

- Support sector productivity, resilience and growth through science, policy and partnership.
- Maintain and expand exports and access to international markets.
- Streamline export regulations and compliance arrangements.
- Effectively prepare for the management of biosecurity risk through pragmatic policy, fit-for-purpose regulation and mature preparedness.
- Effectively detect biosecurity risk through intelligence-led targeting, technology-supported inspections and efficient detection methods.
- Minimise the impact of biosecurity incursions through appropriate post-biosecurity and post-border measures.
- Promote the sustainable management of Australian and regional fisheries and a sustainable fishing industry.
- Increase the contribution that agriculture makes to a healthy, sustainable environment.

The department's stakeholders include:

- Commonwealth, state and territory government ministers and their departments and agencies
- primary producers, importers and exporters
- industry peak bodies
- Indigenous Australians
- natural resource managers
- universities and research organisations
- overseas governments
- international partners.

OFFICIAL

Statement of Strategic Intent

Currently under development, our Statement of Strategic Intent will tell our story. It will define who we are, where we are headed, how we collaborate and work with others, and the critical role we play in growing and protecting Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

It will be forward-looking, outlining our vision, objectives, and key activities, and will be used to set out our long-term aspirational goals to external stakeholders, the community and the government.

The Statement of Strategic Intent gives us an opportunity to review our strategic vision ensuring it is current for where we are at in 2024 and to serve us in the future as we continue to grow and develop through the transformation program.

Internally, it will form a key part of our corporate planning process, and upon its launch (expected in August 2024), we will be updating the Department's intranet (The Source) with information on how teams can use our new Statement of Strategic Intent to help in their planning processes.

Externally, it tells our stakeholders and partners who we are, how we work together, how we will work with them. It describes how, together, we will reach our objectives and deliver our vision of supporting and enhancing the productivity and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

OFFICIAL

Executive Profiles

Adam Fennessy PSM

Adam Fennessy PSM commenced as the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in September 2023.

Adam has over 25 years of public sector experience at state and federal levels. His former roles have included Secretary of the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Secretary of the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, the Victorian Public Sector Commissioner and Dean & CEO of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG). Adam has worked in the private sector as a partner with global advisory firm Ernst & Young.



Adam holds a Bachelor of Economics (Hons in Political Science) and a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University, and is a National Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia.

The department has four deputy secretaries who supervise Groups:

- Tess Bishop
- Justine Saunders
- Tina Hutchison
- Matt Lowe

Profiles for each of these senior officials are below.

Tess Bishop

Tess is currently the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Secretary of the Strategy, Enterprise, and Engagement Group. It is a pivotal role overseeing the full suite of corporate and assurance services, as well as navigating high risk, complex and varied policy and enterprise strategy.

Tess has over 20 years' experience across the public, private and not for profit sectors in Australia and the United Kingdom. Since January 2017, she has held Deputy Secretary roles at both the state and federal level, achieving major outcomes with lasting positive impact. This includes leading priority projects such as founding the Office for Rural and Regional Queensland, establishing the Priority and Delivery Unit for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and delivering the Transformation Action Plan for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.



An experienced Non-Executive Director, Tess has recently been appointed to the Council of the Institute of Public Administration Australia ACT. She previously served on the Board of Screen Queensland, the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, the Board of the Townsville Port Authority, and the Pathways to Resilience Trust.

Tess holds a Master of International Relations, a Graduate Certificate in Business Management and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Political Science and Public Policy. She has also completed the Australia New Zealand School of Government Executive Fellows Program and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

OFFICIAL

Professional memberships include the Institute of Public Administration Australia and IAP2 Australasia.

Justine Saunders APM

Justine Saunders APM is the Deputy Secretary Biosecurity and Compliance Group.



Justine joined DAFF from the Department of Home Affairs, where she performed a range of Deputy Secretary/Deputy Commissioner roles across the Department and Australian Border Force, through a period of significant change. These roles included responsibility for the full suite of corporate and assurance services as the Chief Operating Officer; steering high risk, complex and varied policy and enterprise strategy as lead of the COVID Border Measures Group; and responsibility for providing both high-level strategic direction across all ABF operational, regulatory and compliance activities, and delivering strategic capabilities to bring to affect the ABF's operational outcomes.

Justine also acted in the role of Coordinator-General of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency and led the establishment of the National Emergency Management Agency in 2022.

Prior to joining the Department of Home Affairs Justine contributed to our national safety and security efforts in senior roles across the Australian Federal Police (AFP) at a local, national and international level. These roles included Chief Police Officer of the ACT, and senior executive roles in counter terrorism and sensitive operations, strategic policy, enterprise strategy and governance, in addition to representing Australia's interests as Australia's Police Advisor at the UN Mission, New York.

Justine holds a Master of Leadership and Management, Bachelor of Social Science with Distinction and Graduate Certificate in Applied Management. Justine is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Justine is a patron and non-executive Director in the not-for-profit sector and on a customer owned mutual bank.

Tina Hutchison

Tina Hutchison is the Deputy Secretary for the Agricultural Trade and Regulation Group.



Tina has been with the department for over 25 years and brings her extensive expertise and experience to the group, including a focus on people, engagement, and regulation. Tina has most recently served as First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Operations, where she has led 1800 regulatory, operations and policy staff located around Australia.

Tina holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and an Executive Masters in Public Administration.

OFFICIAL

Matt Lowe

Matt Lowe is the Deputy Secretary for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group.

Most recently, Matt was the Chief Executive Agriculture Victoria and Deputy Secretary Agriculture in the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.



Matt has over 20 years of public sector experience. Prior to Agriculture Victoria, Matt held a number of senior roles at the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet across infrastructure, economic and social policy domains and with professional services firm EY.

Matt is a people focussed leader who wants to create the best environment for people to thrive. He believes that the best public policy happens when people genuinely collaborate and are open to the ideas of others.

Matt holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) and Science, University of Melbourne.

OFFICIAL

Group Arrangements

The department's activities are currently carried out across four (4) groups (headed by a deputy secretary) with 24 internal divisions (headed by a first assistant secretary):

Groups	Divisions
Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Policy	Agricultural Policy Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Sustainability, Climate and Strategy ABARES Farm Resilience
Agricultural Trade and Regulation	Trade and International Exports and Veterinary Services Digital Business Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation Office of the Chief Regulatory Officer
Biosecurity Operations & Compliance	Biosecurity Animal Biosecurity Plant and Science Services Biosecurity Strategy & Reform Compliance and Enforcement Biosecurity Operations Australian Chief Veterinary Office Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity Office Biosecurity Reporting Working Group
Strategy, Enterprise and Engagement Group	Legal Digital Services People, Property and Security Finance and Investment Strategy, Performance and Engagement Transformation Taskforce

OFFICIAL

Overseas engagement

Agricultural Counsellors

The department's network of agriculture counsellors are based in Embassies and High Commissions in key agriculture trade and policy markets. They work closely with Austrade and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) at Post and with technical divisions and bilateral desks in Canberra to advance Australia's agricultural trade interests. They bring specialist knowledge and expertise to engage with host country agencies and industry on a range of matters including food safety and biosecurity, facilitating the release of detained consignments, pursuing or improving market access opportunities, and contributing to whole of government post outcomes.

In 2023-24, the department recorded 88 distinct technical market access achievements, worth a potential \$4.6 billion. This includes new and improved market access, and maintaining existing markets which has been increasingly challenging as trade policy becomes more complex. Counsellors play a key role in gathering market intelligence, maintaining relationships and responding to changing policies or technical standards which have the potential to affect trade. In 2023, Australian agriculture exports remain diversified, with 23% destined for China, 22% to ASEAN, and 8% to United States of America and 8% to Japan.

The department has 22 Agricultural Counsellor positions in 16 locations and employs 34 locally engaged staff working in Australian missions.

South and South East Asia	Bangkok Hanoi Jakarta Kuala Lumpur New Delhi
North Asia	Beijing Seoul Tokyo
Americas	Washington, D.C. Mexico City Santiago
Europe	Brussels London Rome (Food and Agriculture Organization)
The Middle East	Dubai Riyadh

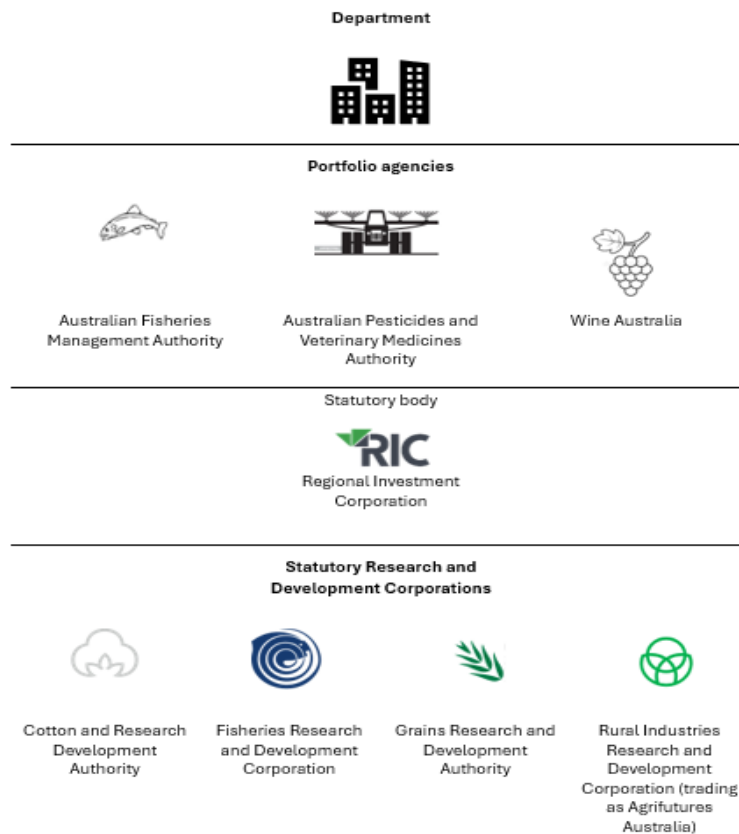
* London counsellor also covers Paris OECD

OFFICIAL

Portfolio, Statutory Bodies and Inspectors-General

Portfolio agencies

The portfolio has six portfolio agencies that work closely with the department to enhance Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Each portfolio agency operates under its own legislation and head of agency. The following statutory bodies are required to submit an Agency Budget Statement within the department's Portfolio Budget Statement under the PGPA Act.



Three prescribed agencies that have regulatory roles:

- Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
- Wine Australia

One statutory corporation:

- Regional Investment Corporation.

Four statutory research and development corporations:

- Cotton Research and Development Corporation
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- Grains Research and Development Corporation
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (trading as AgriFutures Australia).

OFFICIAL

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

Agency head: Mr Wez Norris

Wez has previously worked for Queensland Fisheries and at AFMA as the Manager of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery. He spent 10 years as the Deputy Director-General at the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency in the Solomon Islands and has worked on a number of significant fisheries reform projects including prawn trawl, hand-line and hand-collectable fisheries. Wez also held positions in the Torres Strait and in a ministerial office.



Wez holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Natural Systems and Wildlife Management from the University of Queensland.

Role

AFMA is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity under the PGPA Act. It is the Australian Government agency responsible for the efficient management and sustainable use of Commonwealth fish resources on behalf of the Australian community. AFMA has offices in Canberra, Darwin, Thursday Island, and Lakes Entrance. AFMA looks after commercial fisheries from 3 nautical miles out to the extent of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ). The states and the Northern Territory look after recreational, commercial coastal and inland fishing and aquaculture. AFMA provides fisheries management services to Joint Authorities of the Commonwealth and state governments, including the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority.

AFMA is also the lead agency in combatting illegal foreign fishing activity in the AFZ, participating in the Australian Government's civil maritime surveillance and response arrangements and engaging internationally to improve the management of fish stocks beyond the AFZ.

Budget

Total budgeted expenses for 2024–25 is \$77.043 million.

Staffing

Average staffing level for 2024–25 is 177.

A listing of all portfolio committees, memberships and membership terms is provided in the attached reference document.

OFFICIAL

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

Agency head: Mr Scott Hansen

Mr Scott Hansen was appointed Chief Executive Officer in July 2024. He is an experienced executive in the primary industries sector, bringing over 30 years of leadership across various industry and government roles. He served as Director General of the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries from 2014 to 2024, and previously held positions as General Manager, Regional Manager, and Managing Director at Meat and Livestock Australia from 2004 to 2014.



Mr Hansen has a Rural Science degree from the University of New England in Armidale and holds postgraduate qualifications in commerce from the University of Southern Queensland. He is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and completed the Advanced Management Programme at Oxford University.

Role

The APVMA is the Australian Government regulator of agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemical products, established in 1993 to centralise the registration of all agvet chemical products into the Australian marketplace.

Through its regulatory actions and decisions, the APVMA ensures the registration of agvet chemical products delivers appropriate protections for human health and safety, animals and the environment, and supports international trade.

Budget

Total revenue is in the order of \$47 million per annum. The APVMA is fully cost recovered from industry fees and charges.

Staffing

Budgeted average staffing level for 2024–25 is 195.

OFFICIAL

Regional Investment Corporation

Agency head: John Howard

John Howard is a strong leader and experienced Chief Executive Officer with expertise in agriculture and financial industries. He is recognised for building highly effective and engaged teams in times of market expansion and rapid change. He is particularly strong at developing and deploying business strategy.



John spent nearly 10 years in the grains industry as well as time spent in a stock and station agency and running the family farm in Walgett, NSW. He has worked across all areas of the agricultural supply chain, from primary production (family and corporate farming), commodity marketing, trading, manufacturing and food marketing. He also has experience in financial investment markets and financial restructuring. Prior to the RIC, John worked as a senior leader in organisations such as AAM Investment Group, CommStream Capital, Peanut Company of Australia, Golden Circle Limited and Mars Inc/Masterfoods.

John has a strong appreciation for organisational governance and risk and holds a Master of Business Administration and is a Graduate of the Australian Graduate School of Management and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Role

The RIC is a corporate Commonwealth entity established by the *Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018*. An independent Board oversees the RIC and is responsible for providing loans to eligible farm businesses, farm-related small businesses and forestry businesses.

Loans are targeted at farm businesses and farm-related small businesses impacted by drought and those that are in financial need that mainly supply, or intend to mainly supply, products into supply chains that are interstate or overseas. Loans are also targeted at forestry businesses to encourage new plantation developments and the replanting of bushfire damaged plantation areas.

The RIC's responsible ministers are the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Finance. The RIC Board also provides independent advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Northern Australia on the making of individual grants or arrangements for projects and activities that build drought resilience to be funded by the Future Drought Fund.

Budget

Total net resourcing budgeted for the RIC in 2024-25 is \$30.275 million.

Staffing

Average staffing levels for 2024–25 is 93.

OFFICIAL

Research and Development Corporations

There are four statutory Research and Development Corporations that are established under the *Primary Industries Research and Development Act 1989* (PIRD Act) and one statutory authority established under the *Wine Australia Act 2013*. These RDCs must comply with the PGPA Act.

These statutory bodies provide leadership and investment in research innovation and knowledge creation and transfer for their industries. Jointly funded by the Australian Government through levy matching arrangements, they provide R&D services for the cotton, fisheries, grains, new and emerging rural industries, and grape and wine. The five bodies are:

- [Cotton Research and Development Corporation](#)
- [Fisheries Research and Development Corporation](#)
- [Grains Research and Development Corporation](#)
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (trading as [AgriFutures Australia](#))
- [Wine Australia](#).

There are another 10 RDCs that are industry owned that the Minister for Agriculture has responsibility for. These are:

- [Australian Eggs Limited](#)
- [Australian Livestock Export Corporation Limited \(LiveCorp\)](#)
- [Australian Meat Processor Corporation](#)
- [Australian Pork Limited](#)
- [Australian Wool Innovation Limited](#)
- [Dairy Australia Limited](#)
- [Forest and Wood Products Australia](#)
- [Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited](#)
- [Meat and Livestock Australia](#)
- [Sugar Research Australia Limited](#).

OFFICIAL

Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Corporation head: Mr Allan Williams, CRDC Executive Director

Mr Williams joined CRDC in 2012 as an R&D Manager. He became CRDC's General Manager, Innovation in 2019, and Acting Executive Director in 2023, before being appointed as Executive Director in 2024.



Mr Williams is also co-Chair of the Sustainability Working Group, which leads the cotton industry's PLANET. PEOPLE. Paddock Sustainability Framework, and since 2006 has also held the position of Chair of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) Expert Panel on the Social, Economic and Environmental Performance of Cotton.

Mr Williams holds Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Law (Hons) degrees from the University of Sydney, is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program, and has been a finalist in both the Australian Cotton Industry's Researcher of the Year and Service to Industry Awards.

Role

CRDC is a statutory authority that invests in RD&E for the Australian cotton industry, funded by levies paid by producers and matching funding from the Commonwealth. It is one of Australia's 15 Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs). CRDC's purpose is investing in world-leading RD&E to benefit Australia's dynamic cotton industry.

The chair and other directors are appointed on a part-time basis by the minister. The executive director is appointed by the corporation. CRDC has a skills-based board.

CRDC is based in Narrabri (NSW) and has satellite offices in Emerald, Toowoomba and Brisbane (all in Qld).

Enabling legislation

CRDC is established under the Cotton Research and Development Corporation Regulations 1990, made under the PIRD Act and is classified as a corporate Commonwealth entity under the PGPA Act.

CRDC is accountable to the parliament through legislative obligations outlined in the PIRD Act and PGPA Act (including relevant rules made under the PGPA Act), and to the minister through the Statutory Funding Agreement 2020–2030.

CRDC is accountable to industry and levy payers through its declared industry representative organisation, Cotton Australia.

OFFICIAL

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Corporation head: Dr Patrick Hone, Managing Director

Dr Patrick Hone is Managing Director of FRDC.

He is also, a member of the:

- National Marine Science Committee
- Australian Fisheries Management Forum
- Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations
- Australian Agrifood Data Exchange Advisory Council, and
- Chair of the Seafood Industry Safety Initiative.



Dr Hone has held board positions on the Aquafin Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) and Seafood CRC. He has worked for more than 25 years at FRDC, and has played a key role in the planning, management and funding of fishing and aquaculture related research, development and extension in Australia. Patrick has a PhD from Adelaide University and previously worked for the South Australian Department of Fisheries and the South Australian Research and Development Institute.

Role

FRDC is the statutory authority for the Australian fishing and aquaculture industries. The corporation's role is to plan and invest in fisheries research and development and extension activities in Australia.

FRDC provides both research and development and marketing services. FRDC is based in Canberra and has regional offices in Adelaide (SA) and Port Stephens (NSW). It has recently expanded its regional network and has appointed regional officers in South Australia, New South Wales, Western Australia, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

The chair and other board directors are appointed on a part-time basis by the minister. The managing director is appointed by the corporation. FRDC has a skills-based board.

Enabling legislation

FRDC was established under the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Regulations 1991, made under the PIRD Act and is classified as a corporate Commonwealth entity under the PGPA Act.

FRDC is accountable to the parliament through legislative obligations outlined in the PIRD Act and PGPA Act (including relevant rules made under the PGPA Act) and to the minister through the Statutory Funding Agreement 2020–30.

FRDC is accountable to industry and levy payers through its 3 declared industry representative organisations – Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Inc. (trading as Recfish Australia), Commonwealth Fisheries Association Inc. and Seafood Industry Australia.

OFFICIAL

Grains Research and Development Corporation

Corporation head: Mr Nigel Hart, Managing Director

Mr Hart commenced as Managing Director on 4 April 2022. Prior to taking this position, Mr Hart spent more than 25 years working in SES and leadership positions in large scale infrastructure, port, warehousing and supply chains operations for the grains sector, both within Australian and internationally.



He was previously Global Director (Ports) at Archer Daniels Midland where he led the development of a global port's growth and productivity strategy across Asia, Europe, South America and the US.

Prior to this he spent 15 years at GrainCorp culminating in his position as Group General Manager – Storage and Logistics where he led the storage and logistics operations, grain accumulation and domestic customer management teams across the east coast of Australia.

Role

GRDC is the statutory authority that invests in RD&E for the Australian grains industry, funded by levies paid by producers and matching funding from the Commonwealth. It is one of Australia's 15 RDCs. Its objective is to drive the discovery, development and delivery of world-class innovation to enhance the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Australian grains growers.

The chair and other directors are appointed on a part-time basis by the minister. The executive director (known as managing director) is appointed by the corporation. GRDC has a skills-based board.

GRDC has decentralised its operations, maintaining a central office in Canberra and established regional offices in Dulwich (SA), Toowoomba (Qld) and Bentley (WA), and satellite offices in Wagga Wagga (NSW) and Horsham (Vic).

Enabling legislation

GRDC is established under the Grains Research and Development Corporation Regulations 1990, made under the PIRD Act and as a corporate Commonwealth entity is subject to the requirements of the PGPA Act.

GRDC is accountable to the parliament through legislative obligations outlined in the PIRD Act and, the PGPA Act (including relevant rules made under the PGPA Act), and to the minister through the Funding Agreement 2020–30.

GRDC is accountable to industry and levy payers through its 2 declared industry representative organisations—Grain Producers Australia and Grain Growers Limited.

OFFICIAL

AgriFutures Australia

Corporation head: Mr John Harvey, Managing Director



John Harvey joined AgriFutures Australia in May 2016 as Managing Director. Prior to this appointment, Mr Harvey held various positions at GRDC spanning 18 years, including 5 years as Managing Director. A graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Mr Harvey was a Director of Australian Crop Accreditation System Limited and a Director of the Value-Added Wheat Cooperative Research Centre. He has served on the boards of Pulse Breeding Australia, Barley Breeding Australia and the National Soybean Breeding Program. He was also a member of the Australian Winter Cereals Pre-Breeding Alliance and the CRC for Plant Based Management of Dryland Salinity.

Role

AgriFutures Australia is the trading name for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). AgriFutures Australia is a statutory authority for primary industries that do not have the scale to establish their own research and development corporation. It is one of Australia's 15 Rural RDCs. Its purpose is to increase knowledge that fosters sustainable, productive and profitable new and existing rural industries and furthers understanding of national rural issues through R&D in government-industry partnership.

AgriFutures Australia provides R&D services only.

The chair, deputy chair and other directors are part-time positions appointed by the minister.

The executive director (known as the managing director) is appointed by the corporation. AgriFutures has a skills-based board.

Enabling legislation

AgriFutures Australia is established under the PIRD Act and is classified as a corporate Commonwealth entity under the PGPA Act.

AgriFutures Australia is accountable to the parliament through legislative obligations outlined in the PIRD Act, PGPA Act (including relevant rules made under the PGPA Act) and to the minister through the Funding Agreement 2020–30 for the expenditure of monies appropriated by parliament.

AgriFutures Australia is accountable to industry and levy payers through its 2 declared industry representative organisations—the National Farmers' Federation and the Australian Chicken Meat Federation.

OFFICIAL

Wine Australia

Agency head: Dr Martin Cole

Martin commenced as CEO on 15 November 2021. Before taking up this position he was head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the University of Adelaide. Martin has held a range of senior management roles in research and in industry and has served as an expert for various global organisations and committees.



Martin is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a fellow and certified food scientist of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering.

Role

Wine Australia is a statutory authority established on 1 July 2014 under the *Wine Australia Act 2013*. It is also one of Australia's 15 Rural RDCs. It is funded through industry levies, some user-pays activities, as well as matched government funding for research and development. Wine Australia's role includes:

coordinating or funding grape and wine research and development, and facilitating the dissemination, adoption and commercialisation of the results

regulating the export of wine from Australia

promoting the sale and consumption of wine, both in Australia and overseas

administering the Wine Tourism and Cellar Door Grant program.

Enabling legislation

Wine Australia is established under the Wine Act and is classified as a corporate Commonwealth entity under the PGPA Act.

Wine Australia is accountable to the parliament through legislative obligations outlined in the Wine Act and the PGPA Act (including relevant rules made under the PGPA Act) and to the minister through the Funding Agreement 2020–30.

Wine Australia is accountable to industry and levy payers through the declared winemakers and wine grape growers' industry representative organisation, Australian Grape and Wine Incorporated.

Board of management

Dr Michele Allan AO was appointed Chair of the Wine Australia Board on 3 July 2020. She has previously held chair positions with Meat and Livestock Australia and the Wheat Industry Advisory Taskforce and was a director of Wine Australia and the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation. Other prior board roles include Innovation and Science Australia, Forest and Wood Products Australia, William Angliss Institute, and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand. Michele has also held several SES roles including with Amcor Limited, Kraft Foods, Johnson and Johnson, and Nestle.

OFFICIAL

Inspectors-General

The following Inspectors-General make recommendations for system improvements and provides an assurance framework for stakeholders. The Inspector-General may review the performance of functions and exercise of powers by the department.

- Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports
- Inspector-General of Biosecurity

OFFICIAL

Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports

Acting Inspector-General: Mr Michael Bond

The *Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports Act 2023* received royal assent on 6 November 2023. Dr Michael Bond is the acting Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports (IGAWLAE) until 21 August 2024 or until the substantive appointment of an Inspector-General under section 13 of the IGAWLAE Act.



Role

The IGAWLAE reviews systems and processes for the regulation of livestock exports. The role includes reviewing the performance of functions and exercise of powers by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in regulating livestock exports under the *Export Control Act 2020* and the Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021.

Review Program

The IGAWLAE review program is independent from internal audit and performance management programs of the department and review reports are publicly available. [Reviews | Inspector General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports \(igawlae.gov.au\)](#).

OFFICIAL

Inspector-General of Biosecurity

Inspector-General: Dr Lloyd Klumpp

Dr Lloyd Klumpp was appointed as the Inspector-General of Biosecurity from 25 July 2022 for a 3-year term. This is a part-time position.



Lloyd started his career as a veterinarian in mixed agricultural practice.

After 25 years in the private sector, often working to deliver government Biosecurity programs, Lloyd joined the Victorian Department of Primary Industries as a Veterinary Officer eventually becoming the Director of the Operations Branch of Biosecurity Victoria.

Until recently, Lloyd was the General Manager of Biosecurity Tasmania, a position he held for 9 years. Biosecurity Tasmania is the division of the Tasmanian Government responsible for maintaining Tasmania's biosecurity system.

Lloyd has also held the positions of Chair of the National Fruit Fly Council and Chair of Tasmania's Marine Farming Planning Review Panel.

Lloyd has participated and taken a leading role in many biosecurity emergency responses in both the animal and plant sectors including Victoria's Equine Influenza response in 2007 and the Tasmanian Queensland fruit fly response in 2018.

Lloyd has always been a strong advocate for the national biosecurity system.

Role

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Biosecurity Regulation 2016 define the role, authority and independent powers of review. This includes reviewing the Director of Biosecurity's performance of functions and exercise of powers. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is the Director of Biosecurity.

The Inspector-General makes recommendations for system improvements and provides an assurance framework for stakeholders. If requested by stakeholders, the Inspector-General may also review the department's process for preparing draft biosecurity import risk assessments.

The Inspector-General provides reports to the Minister for Agriculture and publishes these on the Inspector-General of Biosecurity's website – unless they contain information that is considered prejudicial to the public interest.

Annual review program

The Inspector-General of Biosecurity is independent of the Minister for Agriculture and the Director of Biosecurity.

The Inspector-General of Biosecurity's sets an annual review program in writing, in consultation with the Minister for Agriculture and the Director of Biosecurity. The annual review program is available on the Inspector-General of Biosecurity's website.

Further information on the Inspector-General of Biosecurity is available at on the website.

<http://www.igb.gov.au/>

OFFICIAL

Election Commitments and Budget Measures

2022 Election Commitments update

S. 47C(1)

Election commitments – completed

Agriculture

1. 2nd Dairy Symposium

- The second Dairy Symposium was held in Melbourne on 22 March 2024 with costs absorbed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group.

2. Establish a Strategic Forest & Renewable Materials Partnership

- The Partnership has been established with up to 15 members possessing skills and experience across production, processing, supply chain, research and development, innovation, and knowledge of First Nations matters.

Animal Welfare

3. Phase out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea

- The Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea election commitment is completed.
- The government has announced the end date of the trade, 1 May 2028. The *Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Act 2024*, which will prohibit the export of live sheep from Australia by sea from 1 May 2028, commenced on 10 July.
- \$5 million of a 2-year, \$5.6 million commitment, has been expended on establishing:
 - a 4-person independent panel
 - the panel's formal consultation process and report to government
 - the support for government to respond to the panel's report
 - the support for government to introduce the legislation into Parliament.
- A further \$107 million was secured in 2024-25 Budget to deliver a comprehensive suite of transition support actions for sheep producers and the supply chain, market development, sheep welfare, implementation and engagement for an orderly phase out.

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

S. 47C(1)

OFFICIAL

Upcoming decisions

There are a number of issues requiring your early attention. A comprehensive list of decisions along with the respective timelines is provided below.

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Key early meetings and upcoming events

Contacts

The following groups are key stakeholder groups to consider engaging with early. Together they cover the major industries of your portfolio and work constructively with government to deliver for their industries. There are many more groups you will build working relationships with; we recommend these as a priority in your initial weeks in office.

National Farmers' Federation

Contact	Position	email	mobile
David Jochinke	President	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Tony Mahar	CEO		

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is Australia's peak national body representing farmers and agriculture. It focuses on policy issues that affect all farmers regardless of location or commodity, including innovation and technology, workforce, farm business, trade, environment, animal welfare and biosecurity. NFF's 31 members are the state-level farmers' organisations, national commodity councils, and other affiliated members. Early engagement with the NFF is vital to build strong relationships with the key stakeholders within the agricultural industry. Discussions with NFF can be supplemented with sector specific engagement.

Australian Meat Industry Council

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Patrick Hutchinson	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) is the peak industry body representing meat retailers, processors and smallgoods manufacturers across the country. AMIC represents the vast majority – by number – of export abattoirs across Australia, but a lesser count by overall volume of production as several of Australia's largest export abattoir companies (namely JBS and Teys) are not members of AMIC.

Australian Dairy Farmers

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Stephen Sheridan	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) is the national policy and advocacy body providing collective representation for dairy farmers across the six dairying states. ADF membership is comprised of representatives from Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. These state bodies are known as the State Dairy Farmer Organisation (SDFO) members, whom ADF provides support and representation on national level.

OFFICIAL

Red Meat Advisory Council

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Alistair James*	CEO		
*Stepping down 2 August. Replacement yet to be announced.			

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

Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) is Australia's only policy, leadership and advisory forum, made up of producers, lot feeders, manufacturers, retailers and livestock exporters. RMAC represents Australian beef, goatmeat and sheepmeat businesses and their interests to the community, industry and government. RMAC play a key role in the red meat industry and early engagement is encouraged to understand issues facing the sector and ensure large reach across the industry.

Cattle Australia

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Chris Parker	CEO		
Garry Edwards	Chair		

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

Cattle Australia (CA) is the peak industry organisation representing Australia's grass-fed cattle producers. CA brings together all state-based farming organisations representing cattle producers in their jurisdiction, associate member organisations with close connections to the cattle industry, and individual cattle producers. CA provides leadership and direction for the grassfed cattle industry, developing and driving policy, guiding research development and adoption, and marketing investment for the sector.

Early engagement with CA is recommended to gain understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the industry, noting CA is an essential contact point for cattle producer perspectives. Prior to his appointment at Cattle Australia, Dr Chris Parker held various roles at the department, including First Assistant Secretary of Biosecurity Animal Division.

National Farmers' Federation Horticulture Council

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Jolyon Burnett	Chair		
Richard Shannon	Executive Officer		

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

The NFF Horticulture Council is the recognised peak body for forming policy and advocating on behalf of the national horticulture industry. The Council comprises 21 national commodity and state-based horticulture bodies, who together represent Australia's horticulture industry. The Council develops policy on key issues to the horticulture industry, including trade, workforce, biosecurity, research and development, competition and sustainability. Early engagement with the Council will ensure large reach across Australia's horticultural sector and understanding of key issues.

OFFICIAL

Australian Fresh Produce Alliance

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Claire McClelland	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Gavin Scurr	Chair		

The Australian Fresh Produce Alliance is the peak body for Australian horticulture growers and suppliers. It focuses on issues including packaging, labour, trade, product integrity, water security and pollination research. NFF covers horticulture too, however there are particular issues impacting horticulture such as access to labour, accusations of exploitation of labour and supply chains including relationships with manufacturers and large supermarkets worth engaging with Australian Fresh Produce Alliance perspectives on.

Seafood Industry Association

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Veronica Papacosta	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Clayton Nelson	Chair		

Seafood Industry Australia (SIA) is the national peak-body for the Australian seafood industry. SIA focusses on issues raised through member forums, including resource allocation, biosecurity, safety, labour and trade. SIA is a member-based organisation drawing funding through membership, grants and donations.

Croplife Australia

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Matthew Cossey	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

Croplife Australia represents the innovators, developers, manufacturers, formulators and registrants of crop protection and ag-biotechnology products. Croplife is the representative body for chemical companies selling fertilisers, pesticides etc. Croplife can also share views on supply chain issues for agriculture chemicals.

Grain Producers Australia

Contact	Position	email	phone
Barry Large	Chair	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

Grain Producers Australia (GPA) represents Australia's broadacre, grain, pulse and oilseed producers at the national level. GPA represents State Farming Organisations of Australia, as well as farmers who directly support the work of GPA by developing policy to protect and promote Australian grain producers. Engaging with GPA (along with GrainGrowers) early will ensure you have reached the vast majority of grain farmer representation in Australia.

OFFICIAL

Grain Growers

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Shona Gawel	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

GrainGrowers is the national body representing Australian grain producers. GrainGrowers supports the interests of the industry through advocacy, research and development and training.

Grain is a major agricultural commodity – it is the second largest agricultural industry in Australia. The industry involves a diverse range of stakeholders, from small farms to large agribusiness.

Engaging with GrainGrowers early will assist with understanding the challenges and opportunities within the grain sector, to support the growth and sustainability of the industry.

Forestry Australia

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Jacquie Martin	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Michelle Freeman	President		

Forestry Australia, formerly known as The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) and Australian Forest Growers (AFG), is a professional association with more than 1,200 members. The members are forest scientists, professionals, managers and growers operating in all aspects of forest and natural resource management throughout Australia.

Michelle Freeman is currently a member of the Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership that acts as a mechanism to consult and exchange advice and information between the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Australian Forests Products Association

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Diana Hallam	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Stephen Dadd	Chair		

Australian Forest Products Association is the peak national industry body representing all elements of the value chain from the harvesting of plantations and multiple use natural forest resource including forest establishment and management, harvesting and haulage, processing of timber resources and manufacture of pulp, paper and bioproducts. AFPA can provide a perspective of the issues facing the sector generally and in particular locations. There are a number of election commitments related to forestry, which has a strong regional presence.

Wildlife Health Australia

Contact	Position	email	phone
Rupert Woods	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Richard Russell	Chair		

Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) is the independent coordinating body for wildlife health in Australia. It provides leadership through strong partnerships for national action supporting wildlife health.

OFFICIAL

Animal Health Australia

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Dr Samantha (Sam) Allan	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Sharon Starick	Chair		

Animal Health Australia (AHA) is an independent national animal health body, which brings together government and industry to deliver improvements to animal health and biosecurity. AHA manages more than 50 national programs related to biosecurity, market access and food safety and quality, including the Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) and multiple Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreements (EADRAs). AHA has an extensive industry membership and host bi-annual forums to align priorities of industry and government.

Plant Health Australia

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Kim Halbert	Chairman	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Sarah Corcoran	CEO		

Plant Health Australia is a not-for-profit public company that works to help protect Australia from plant biosecurity risks like pests and diseases and are the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia. Commonwealth, state and territory government and peak industry bodies are members.

Freight & Trade Alliance

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Paul Zalai	Director	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

Freight & Trade Alliance is Australia's leading representative body for the international supply chain sector bringing together importers, exporters, customs brokers, freight forwarders, logistics service providers and industry groups. As a border minister, this is an important contact.

International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia

Contact	Position	email	phone
Scott Carson	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Brad Leonard	Manger		
Adam Butler	Chair		

International Freight Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia (IFCBAA) is a leading representative body for the international freight forwarders and customs brokers in Australia. As a border minister, this is an important contact.

OFFICIAL

Key First Nations Agricultural Stakeholders

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Professor Peter Yu	Vice President of First Nations Portfolio, ANU	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

Professor Peter Yu AM as Vice-President of the ANU First Nations Portfolio. The department meets regularly with Professor Yu to discuss opportunities within the agriculture, fisheries and forestry portfolio to support First Nations economic self-determination and opportunities to meaningfully engage with key indigenous policy pieces, including the recent released Murru Warruu Report. Engagement with Peter Yu is essential to gain understanding to create improved outcomes for First Nations communities and people.

The Council of Research and Development Corporations

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Troy Setter	Council Chair	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

The Rural RDCs are a network of 15 organisations formed in partnerships between different agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries and government to drive innovation and improvement in and for rural industries. The Council supports and facilitates the RDCs working together to fulfil their broad purpose and deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for rural industries and the broader community.

The Chair of the Council is a good contact point for gaining an overall perspective of the contribution RDCs make to supporting the agriculture sector, and related opportunities and challenges including cross-cutting matters such as climate adaptation, digital and trade.

Australian Food and Grocery Council

Contact	Position	email	phone
Tanya Barden	CEO	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) is the peak industry body for companies that manufacture and supply food and grocery products in Australia. Its focus is on competitiveness and growth, nutrition and regulation, and sustainability. AFGC can provide a perspective on supply chain issues as well as domestic consumer, manufacturers and retailers' perspectives.

CFMEU Manufacturing Division

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Michael O'Connor	National Secretary	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) is Australia's main trade union in building, construction, shipping, diving, timber, pulp and paper, textile, clothing and footwear industries. The Manufacturing Division represents over 10,000 members around the country.

OFFICIAL

The CFMEU Manufacturing Division can provide a perspective of the issues facing the forestry and wood processing sector from an employee perspective.

Mr O'Connor is currently a co-chair of the Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership that acts as a mechanism to consult and exchange advice and information between the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Farmers for Climate Action

Contact	Position	email	mobile
Brett Hall	Chairman	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

The Farmers for Climate Action is a movement of farmers, agricultural leaders and rural Australians working to ensure farmers are a key part of the solution to climate change.

Food and Beverage Importers Association

Contact	Position	email	phone
Paul Kelly	President	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	

The FBIA represents and promotes the interests of food and beverage importers with government regulators and statutory bodies involved in the importation of food and beverages. The association can provide a perspective on the impact of regulations on the food and beverage industries.

Key events in the first six months

s. 37(1)(c); s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s. 37(1)(c); s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s. 37(1)(c); s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s. 33(a)(iii); s. 37(1)(c); s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s. 33(a)(iii); s. 37(1)(c); s. 47C(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Budget and Funding Framework

Financial position

S. 47C(1)

Internal Budget allocations have been settled for 2024-25, including the establishment of a three-year rolling internal budget baseline for each Group. The Executive Board, and the recently established Finance and Performance Committee, are monitoring budget allocations and forecasted financial results closely to achieve the department's outcomes within available resources.

Financial resources

2024-25 Budget

In 2024-25, the department has total resourcing of **\$3,370.7 million**. This is comprised of:

- Departmental resourcing of \$1,744.4 million, including departmental capital budget of \$79.154 million.
- Administered resourcing of \$1,626.3 million.

Of the \$1,744.4 million of departmental resourcing, \$581.713 million is derived from cost recovery (fee for service) activities.

Departmental expenses are estimated at \$1,432.5 million in 2024-25.

Administered expenses are estimated at \$1,435.5 million in 2024-25.

Resourcing for the department excludes Specific Purpose Payments (SPP) under the Federal Financial Relations Framework, which are managed by the department but appropriated to the Department of the Treasury. This is summarised below as at the 2024-25 Budget and is set out in Budget Paper No. 3 Federal Financial Relations.

OFFICIAL

Payments to states under the Federal Financial Relation Framework, 2024-25 to 2028-29

Specific Purpose Payment title	2024-2025 (\$m)	2025-2026 (\$m)	2026-2027 (\$m)	2027-2028 (\$m)	2028-2029 (\$m)
SPP188 - Plant Disease and Eradication	123.461	98.772	90.716	49.558	-
SPP693 - Established Pest and Weed Management	5.030	-	-	-	-
SPP815 - Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program	-	-	-	-	-
SPP838 - AFDR Regional Drought Resilience Planning	-	16.625	17.438	15.188	14.750
SPP840 - AFDR Farm Business Resilience	-	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000
SPP857 - National Plant Health Surveillance Program	1.000	-	-	-	-
SPP875 - Horse traceability	-	-	-	-	-
SPP876 - eCanis Control Program	-	-	-	-	-
SPP880 - Construction Softwood Transport Assistance Program	-	-	-	-	-
SPP900 - Boosting Our Northern Biosecurity Frontline	2.240	-	-	-	-
SPP913 - Traceability and on-farm biosecurity	6.000	-	-	-	-
SPP993 - Building Resilience to manage fruit fly	11.000	-	-	-	-
SPP970 - Enhance the National Soil Resources Information System	9.000	6.000	2.600	2.400	-
SPP1013 - Implementation of the Live Sheep Export Phase Out	4.000	3.000	-	-	-
SPP1029 - Support Forestry Strategy Development	1.160	.624	-	-	-
Total	162.891	145.021	130.754	87.146	34.750

s. 47C(1)

For 2024-25, the department is managing estimated administered assets of \$4,244.1 million on behalf of the Australian Government. This is driven predominantly by \$3,232.4 million in loan receivables, and \$800.8 million in investments in portfolio entities.

Outline of the funding framework

Funding sources

Funding is provided to the department through the Annual Appropriation Acts and a number of special appropriations (provisions in Acts that authorise the expenditure of money for a particular purpose, including agricultural production). The department also generates funding through its own receipts under section 74 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act).

There are several components to the department's funding:

- Departmental appropriations – provided to meet costs over which the department has control. This typically includes employee expenses, supplier expenses and other operational expenses, and departmental capital.
- Administered appropriations – the department administers these funds on behalf of the government. They normally relate to activities governed by eligibility rules and conditions established by the government, such as grants, subsidies, benefit payments, and loans.

OFFICIAL

Administered appropriations may only be spent for the purposes for which they were appropriated.

- Special appropriations – certain acts authorise the expenditure of money for a particular purpose when specified criteria are met. The key special appropriations managed by the department are:
 - Disbursement of levies funds to industry bodies and portfolio agencies, including the payment of Commonwealth matching contributions for research and development under various pieces of legislation.
 - Payments made under section 105 of the Farm Household Support Act 2014 to eligible recipients of Farm Household Allowance.
- Special accounts – certain acts authorise the expenditure of money for a particular purpose when specified criteria are met. Funding to special accounts include:
 - Receipts to Special Accounts including the Agriculture Future Drought Resilience Special Account.
 - Cost recovery fees, levies and charges imposed on industry for activities such as regulating import biosecurity activities and export certification activities under various Acts (such as the Biosecurity Act 2015 and the Export Control Act 2020).

Federal Budget

Bills proposing appropriations for the forthcoming year are introduced into parliament on Budget night. Appropriation Bill No 1 appropriates money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for the ordinary annual services of government. Appropriation Bill No 2 appropriates money from the CRF for purposes other than ordinary annual services, such as payments to the states, non-operating (capital) costs and new outcomes.

Portfolio Budget Statements and Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements

When appropriation bills are introduced into parliament, they are accompanied by Portfolio Budget Statements or Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements, which are submitted by portfolio ministers. The statements facilitate accountability to the parliament and to the public.

Department resourcing, 2024–25

Category	Prior year funding available (\$'000)	Appropriation Bills 1 and 2 (\$'000)	Special appropriations and special accounts (\$'000)	Payments to corporate entities (\$'000)	Appropriations drawn and credited to special accounts	Own source revenue	Total (\$'000)
Administered	352,129	476,763 [^]	1,200,203	(402,809)	-	-	1,626,286
Departmental	249,309	890,410	685,952	-	(92,413)	11,163	1,744,421
Total	601,438	1,367,173	1,886,155	(402,809)	(92,413)	11,163	3,370,707

[^]Includes administered assets and liabilities related to the Regional Investment Corporation's loan funding needs. Special accounts include opening balances.

Additional appropriations

A second set of appropriation bills (known as appropriation bills number 3 and 4) are usually introduced during the financial year. These additional appropriation bills seek authority from the parliament to meet funding requirements arising since the last Budget.

OFFICIAL

Further sets of appropriation bills may be introduced during the year should unforeseen situations arise in which the department needs extra funding for urgent expenditure. Appropriation bills each contain a provision entitled 'Advance to the Finance Minister', which enables the finance minister to provide limited additional appropriation as a last resort.

Cost recovery

The department recovers the costs of many of the regulatory functions we undertake; currently around 40% of the department's expenses are cost recovered. Cost recovered charges are underpinned by whole of government policies and supporting legislation. The overarching cost recovery policy is that, where a regulatory function is provided to an identifiable group (or individual), they should bear the costs of the function, not general taxpayers.

Some of the department's functions are fully cost recovered, while others are partially recovered based on government decisions for each function. The policies and charging arrangements are described in cost recovery implementation statements (CRISs), approved by government following consultations with industry and other stakeholders.

The department currently administers eight cost recovery arrangements set out in CRISs across the biosecurity and imported food and agricultural export certification. In addition to this, it provides support and guidance to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in the development of their CRISs.

s. 47C(1)

The current CRISs are:

Export certification

- Dairy exports
- Fish and egg exports
- Meat exports
- Non-prescribed goods exports
- Horticulture exports
- Grain and plant product exports
- Live Animal exports

Import biosecurity

OFFICIAL

Overview of outcomes and programs

Outcomes, outputs and divisions

The department delivers programs to achieve its two outcomes. Current programs are described in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25.

Outcome 1

More sustainable, productive, internationally competitive and profitable Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries through policies and initiatives that promote better resource management practices, innovation, self-reliance and improved access to international markets.

As summarised in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25, the 12 programs supporting this outcome are:

- Agricultural Adaptation
- Sustainable Management—Natural Resources
- Forestry Industry
- Fishing Industry
- Horticulture Industry
- Wool Industry
- Grains Industry
- Dairy Industry
- Meat and Livestock Industry
- Agricultural Resources
- Drought Programs
- Rural Programs
- International Market Access

Outcome 2

Safeguard Australia's animal and plant health status to maintain overseas markets and protect the economy and environment from the impact of exotic pests and diseases, through risk assessment, inspection and certification, and the implementation of emergency response arrangements for Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries.

As summarised in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25, the 2 programs supporting this outcome are:

- Biosecurity and Export Services
- Plant and Animal Health

OFFICIAL

Administrative responsibilities for grants and funding

As the Minister for Agriculture, you may be required to make the following actions:

- Approvals for grant opportunities guidelines, grant awards for grant programs and one-off/ad-hoc grants
- The provision of delegations to departmental officials or other department representatives (i.e. Business Grants Hub and Community Grants Hub) as required and may provide other Grant Administration related approvals (i.e. variations, milestone payments etc.)
- A supporting letter seeking the finance minister's approval for a medium to high-risk grant opportunity
- A supporting letter seeking the Expenditure Review Committee or the Prime Minister approval for any grant programs' deferral/exemptions requests from the Grants Hub delivery.
- A supporting letter to the Prime Minister to extend or terminate a grants program.

For each existing grants program, the relevant policy area will brief you on its status in due course.

OFFICIAL

Administrative responsibilities for grants and funding

As the Minister for Agriculture, you may be required to make the following actions:

- Approvals for grant opportunities, grant awards for grant programs and one-off/ad-hoc grants
- The provision of delegations to departmental officials or other department representatives (i.e. Business Grants Hub and Community Grants Hub) as required and may provide other Grant Administration related approvals (i.e. variations, milestone payments etc.)
- A supporting letter seeking the finance minister's approval for a medium to high-risk grant opportunity
- A supporting letter seeking the finance minister's approval for any grant programs' deferral/exemptions requests from the Grants Hub delivery.
- A supporting letter to the Prime Minister to extend or terminate a grants program.
- For each existing grants program, the relevant policy area will brief you on its status in due course.

OFFICIAL

Legislation and litigation

S.42(1)

s. 42(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 42(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

S. 42(1)

s. 42(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Administrative Arrangement Orders

Matters dealt with by the department

The department deals with the following matters, as set out in the Administrative Arrangements Order:

- Agricultural, pastoral, fishing, food and forest industries
- Soils and other natural resources
- Rural adjustment and drought issues
- Rural industries inspection and quarantine
- Primary industries research including economic research
- Commodity marketing, including export promotion and agribusiness
- Commodity-specific international organisations and activities
- Administration of international commodity agreements
- Administration of export controls on agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries products
- Food security policy and programmes
- Biosecurity, in relation to animals and plants

OFFICIAL

List of legislation that you administer

- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Products (Collection of Levy) Act 1994*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Products Levy Imposition (Customs) Act 1994*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Products Levy Imposition (Excise) Act 1994*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Products Levy Imposition (General) Act 1994*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Act 2013*
- *Australian Animal Health Council (Live-stock Industries) Funding Act 1996*
- *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997*
- *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Repeals and Consequential Provisions) Act 1997*
- *Biological Control Act 1984*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015, except to the extent administered by the Minister responsible for Health*
- *Biosecurity Charges Imposition (Customs) Act 2015*
- *Biosecurity Charges Imposition (Excise) Act 2015*
- *Biosecurity Charges Imposition (General) Act 2015*
- *Biosecurity (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act 2015, except to the extent administered by the Minister responsible for Health*
- *Dairy Adjustment Levy Termination Act 2008*
- *Dairy Industry Adjustment Act 2000*
- *Dairy Industry Service Reform Act 2003*
- *Dairy Produce Act 1986*
- *Egg Industry Service Provision Act 2002*
- *Egg Industry Service Provision (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2002*
- *Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Act 2015*

OFFICIAL

- *Export Charges (Imposition—Excise) Act 2015*
- *Export Charges (Imposition—General) Act 2015*
- *Export Control Act 2020*
- *Export Control (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act 2020*
- *Farm Household Support Act 2014*
- *Farm Household Support Amendment (Additional Drought Assistance Measures) Act 2008*
- *Farm Household Support (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2014*
- *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*
- *Fisheries Agreements (Payments) Act 1991*
- *Fisheries Legislation Amendment (New Governance Arrangements for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and Other Matters) Act 2008*
- *Fisheries Legislation (Consequential Provisions) Act 1991*
- *Fisheries Levy Act 1984*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1991*
- *Fisheries (Validation of Plans of Management) Act 2004*
- *Fishing Levy Act 1991*
- *Foreign Fishing Licences Levy Act 1991*
- *Forestry Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2007*
- *Grape and Wine Legislation Amendment (Australian Grape and Wine Authority) Act 2013*
- *Horse Disease Response Levy Act 2011*
- *Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Act 2011*
- *Horticulture Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2000*
- *Horticulture Marketing and Research and Development Services (Repeals and Consequential Provisions) Act 2000*
- *Household Stimulus Package Act (No. 2) 2009, Schedule 4, insofar as it relates to legislation administered by the Minister responsible for Agriculture*

OFFICIAL

- *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012*
- *Imported Food Charges (Collection) Act 2015*
- *Imported Food Charges (Imposition—Customs) Act 2015*
- *Imported Food Charges (Imposition—Excise) Act 2015*
- *Imported Food Charges (Imposition—General) Act 2015*
- *Imported Food Control Act 1992*
- *Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports Act 2019*
- *National Cattle Disease Eradication Account Act 1991*
- *National Residue Survey Administration Act 1992*
- *National Residue Survey (Consequential Provisions) Act 1992*
- *National Residue Survey (Customs) Levy Act 1998*
- *National Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Act 1998*
- *National Residue Survey Levies Regulations (Validation and Commencement of Amendments) Act 1999*
- *Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992, except to the extent administered by the Minister responsible for the Environment*
- *Pig Industry Act 2001*
- *Pig Industry (Transitional Provisions) Act 1986*
- *Plant Health Australia (Plant Industries) Funding Act 2002*
- *Primary Industries (Customs) Charges Act 1999*
- *Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Act 1999*
- *Primary Industries (Excise) Levies (GST Consequential Amendments) Act 2000*
- *Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act 1991*
- *Primary Industries Research and Development Act 1989*
- *Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002*
- *Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018*

OFFICIAL

- *Rural Adjustment Act 1992*
- *Statutory Fishing Rights Charge Act 1991*
- *Sugar Research and Development Services Act 2013*
- *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*
- *United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Act 1944*
- *Wheat Export Marketing Amendment Act 2012*
- *Wine Australia Act 2013*
- *Wool International Act 1993*
- *Wool International Privatisation Act 1999*
- *Wool Services Privatisation Act 2000*

OFFICIAL

Appointments

Portfolio ministerial appointments – Agriculture

Key information and action

You are responsible for ministerial appointments to several portfolio bodies and agencies. The department will brief you on options, responsibilities and the process for appointments on a case-by-case basis.

Gender balance is a key consideration for portfolio appointments.

You and the department are required to provide regular reports about appointments throughout the year.

Appointment process

The department manages appointment process on your behalf to ensure:

- they are undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements and government policies and procedures
- completion in a timely manner
- that you have the necessary information to make decisions about appointments and seek Prime Minister approval (where required) before finalising.

Management of appointments also feeds into broader government reporting requirements, including Senate Order 15 on departmental and agency appointments and gender balance on government boards.

The selection process for nominated directors of RDCs is specified in the PIRD Act. It is similar to the process for appointment of APS agency heads i.e. Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), and is often the model used where a selection process is desired but not specified by legislation or terms of reference.

An appointment process can take between four to six months to complete. For each stage in the process, the department provides you with briefing to support your deliberations and progress the matter (e.g. to the Prime Minister).

Significant appointments are those where you must write to the Prime Minister seeking approval of the proposed appointment before it can be finalised. While most significant appointments will require Cabinet approval, the Prime Minister may determine this is not required and authorise the appointment(s). The majority of the portfolio's appointments are considered significant.

A detailed list of all board and significant appointments, including details of each board member, their board terms and term end dates, can be provided on request.

OFFICIAL

Appointments due by the end of 2024**Portfolio appointments due (or requiring action) by end 2024**

Portfolio body	Position	Term end date
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	7 directors	Current appointment terms end 31 August 2024
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	1 deputy chairperson	Current appointment term ends 31 August 2024
Grains Research and Development Corporation	1 chairperson	Current appointment term ends 30 September 2024
Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports	1 Inspector-General	Appointment of acting Inspector-General ends 21 August 2024
Wine Australia	5 directors	Current appointment terms end 30 September 2024

A detailed briefing seeking decisions on each of the positions or upcoming vacancies listed in the table above will be provided within the first 6 months, depending on when decisions are needed. Generally, the department will contact your office between 2–6 months, depending on the selection process involved, before an appointment needs to be finalised.

Gender balance

There is a strong focus on gender balance on Australian Government boards. The most recent government gender diversity target, which commenced on 1 July 2016, is women holding 50% of government board positions overall, with at least 40% representation for women and 40% for men on individual boards.

For reporting purposes, boards are defined as bodies covered by the PGPA Act, ministerial advisory committees, Commonwealth statutory authorities and review committees where the appointments are made by a minister or the Governor-General.

The department is tracking well on achieving the government's gender balance target on portfolio boards. At 30 June 2023, women held 51.6% of positions on Australian Government boards.

For the Agriculture portfolio, women held 58 of 115 board positions (50.4%) at 25 July 2024.

Appointments reporting**Reporting requirements for appointments**

Report	Timing	Body	Details
Senate orders	7 days prior to Senate Estimates	Senate tabling office	Briefing provided by the department and tabled by you. Includes details of appointments made within a defined period and current vacancies.
Gender balance	At 31 December and 30 June	Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Provided by the department. Includes percentage of women holding board positions. Also includes a breakdown of women holding chair and deputy chair positions.

OFFICIAL

Appointments forward plan

Portfolio appointments due to be made in 2025

Portfolio body	Position	Term end date
AgriFutures Australia (Rural Industries RDC) Selection Committee	1 presiding member and 4 members	31 December 2025
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Board	3 members	28 March 2025
Cotton RDC	1 chairperson	28 August 2025
Cotton RDC Selection Committee	1 presiding member and 4 members	31 December 2025
Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs Advisory Committee	1 chair and 6 members	30 June 2025
Grains RDC Selection Committee	1 presiding member and 4 members	31 December 2025
Regional Investment Corporation	1 chairperson and 1 member	24 March 2025
	1 member	3 April 2025
	1 member	19 April 2025
	1 member	27 April 2025

RDC Research and Development Corporation.

OFFICIAL

Ministerial support arrangements

Introduction

This guide will assist you and your staff to obtain information and support from the department.

Address and location

The department's postal address is:

GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Switchboard

02 6272 3933

The department's head office is located at the Civic Quarter 2 (CQ2) building – 70 Northbourne Avenue, in the centre of Canberra City.

The executive is located on [s. 37\(1\)\(c\)](#) of the CQ2 building.

Security

The building is secure and a security pass is needed to enter and exit. Contact the Minister's Office Support team ([s. 47E\(d\)](#)) to arrange a building pass for you and your staff if required.

Parking

Parking is available for you and your staff in the CQ2 building and can be booked by contacting [s. 47E\(d\)](#)

OFFICIAL

Departmental support

Ministerial entitlements are jointly managed by the Department of Finance, parliamentary departments, other commonwealth agencies responsible for operational services, and the department's Ministerial and Parliamentary Services section. The section works with other enabling teams within the department and your Departmental Liaison Officer to support you and your office and deliver ministerial and information technology services not covered by the other departments.

The Governance Branch is the central link between our department and your office and acts as the entry point for coordination and engagement with stakeholders on matters, including:

- ministerial reporting that tracks progress against ministerial objectives, budget and election commitments
- governance of statutory appointments
- briefs, reports and other written materials
- departmental liaison officers and temporary staff as required
- parliamentary processes, including Cabinet, parliamentary questions on notice, briefings for Question Time, senate estimates and tabling of documents
- ministerial briefing requests from your office and ministerial submissions prepared by the department seeking decision or action
- responses to ministerial correspondence
- point of contact for advice and support to ministerial staff regarding the department's parliamentary activities
- courier services between the department and your office.

Further advice and more detailed information will be provided to your office in coming weeks.

The Ministerial and Parliamentary Services website (Department of Finance) also provides further information about ministerial entitlements: Administration responsibilities | Ministerial and Parliamentary Services ([Services to Ministers | Ministerial and Parliamentary Services](#))

Further details of entitlements and services managed by our department can be provided to your Chief of Staff by Caryn Glossop, Assistant Secretary, Governance Branch and the department's Ministerial and Parliamentary Services team.

OFFICIAL

Ministerial office support

The key services that the departments provide to you and your office:

Minister's Office support services	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)	Department of Finance (DoF)	Parliamentary Departments (Australian Parliament House)
Vehicles			
• Self-drive (Canberra garaged)	✓	–	–
• COMCAR	–	✓ (Paid by DAFF)	–
Office set up			
• office furniture, audio visual and telephone setup, signage	–	✓	✓
• electorate office expenses		✓	
• additional specialised furniture, TVs or IT equipment for offices	✓	–	–
• departmental printers	✓	–	–
Office services			
office supplies (stationery, business cards, plant hire, water coolers etc.)	✓	–	–
• digital subscriptions and newspapers	✓	–	–
• media monitoring	✓	–	–
• videoconferencing	✓	–	–
• postage and couriers	✓	–	✓
Staff			
• salaries and allowances for ministerial staff (employed under MOPS Act)	–	✓	–
• facilitation of ministerial staff NV2 clearances	–	✓	–
Travel and hospitality			
• Travel expenses – official business (e.g. travel allowance, flights)	–	✓	–
• Travel expenses - portfolio business (e.g. road travel, cost of meeting rooms, portfolio related hospitality)	✓ (Paid by DAFF)	–	–
• Travel expenses – DAFF staff	✓	–	–
• Official hospitality for portfolio events	✓	–	–

OFFICIAL

Information Technology			
• Mobile phone - Apple iPhone	✓	–	–
• Laptop, docking solution, monitors, keyboard, mouse, and wireless headset	✓	–	–
• Internet services at minister's private residence	✓	–	–
Security			
• Security containers, safes, and shredders	✓	–	–
• Security briefings	✓	–	–

Departmental liaison officers (DLOs)

DLOs are provided to your office to facilitate the flow of information and to support the relationship and communication with the department. Based in your Parliament House office, DLOs remain departmental officers rather than being employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*. The Prime Minister determines the number of DLOs allocated to your office.

DLOs work closely with ministerial staff and the department's Governance Branch to:

- manage the day-to-day portfolio business within your office, including preparation for Question Time, meetings with stakeholders, workflow of ministerial documents, secure handling of Cabinet material and allocation of ministerial correspondence
- assist with the administration of the legislation process not provided by the Legal Division
- monitor and quickly respond to any feedback you may have in relation to departmental and parliamentary processes to ensure your personal preferences are met.

The Assistant Secretary, Governance Branch and Director of Ministerial and Parliamentary Services manages the DLO/s together with your Chief of Staff.

Members of Parliament (MOPS) Act employment

Parliamentarians employ staff under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act). Staff are referred to as MOP(S) Act employees.

MOP(S) Act employees are employed to assist a parliamentarian to carry out duties as a Member of Parliament and not for party political purposes.

The Department of Finance provides administrative support to MOP(S) Act employees, and has more information on its website [MOP\(S\) Act employment | Ministerial and Parliamentary Services \(finance.gov.au\)](#)

OFFICIAL

Ministerial and parliamentary services

The Department of Finance has a dedicated team, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services (MaPS), who provide administrative and support services to MOP(S) Act employees, including:

- paying salaries and allowances, recruitment advertisements
- providing a safe workplace and training for employees
- advising parliamentarians and employees on workplace practices and employment matters

MaPS also has representatives located in each state and territory capital city. The state and territory offices provide support to electorate offices in each state and territory and manage the Commonwealth Parliament Offices (CPOs).

Further advice can be found via the MaPS Help Desk open 9.00am AEDT until 5.00pm AWST, Monday to Friday.

Contact [s. 47E\(d\)](#) or [s. 47E\(d\)](#) for further information.

Responsibilities of MOP(s) Act employees

The MaPS website sets out the standards that ministerial staff are expected to meet in the performance of their duties.

More detail about the standards expected of Ministerial Staff employed under the MOP(S) Act can be found at [Responsibilities of parliamentarians, employees, MaPS and IPEA | Ministerial and Parliamentary Services \(finance.gov.au\)](#)

Travel

All official travel arrangements (domestic and international) should be arranged through MaPS at Department of Finance.

The relevant policy or business areas can assist with organising suggested travel schedules and agendas. If required, the department can also provide meeting itineraries, briefing packs, advice about COVID-19 procedures for your destination and will work closely with your diary manager to schedule meetings.

For further information contact Domestic Travel: [s. 47E\(d\)](#) or International Travel: [s. 47E\(d\)](#) or call [s. 47E\(d\)](#)

The Department of Finance's Ministerial and Parliamentary Services team [maps.finance.gov.au/pay-and-employment/staff-allowances#travelling-allowance](#)

Travel approval, entitlements and guidance are managed by the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA). More information can be found at [ipea.gov.au/travel/parliamentarians-travel](#)

Information about how to book travel can also be found on the [IPEA website](#).

International travel

The department's International Travel team can assist with travel requirements such as visas and official/diplomatic passports. Official passports are required for all Australian Government

OFFICIAL

employees travelling for official government business. Official passports are issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and require ten days to process. Most visas also require a minimum of ten working days; [s. 47E\(d\)](#) or call [s. 47E\(d\)](#)

Departmental business areas involved with international matters can also assist in liaison with the relevant Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade post. These line areas can also provide advice on cultural customs and protocol at your destination.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet also provide guidance on international travel on their website [Ministerial international travel guidelines | PM&C \(pmc.gov.au\)](#)

The department's Ministerial and Parliamentary Services team or the Overseas Posts and Operational Support (OPOS) team will assist with the preparation of instruments of authorisation for acting minister/s during your absence, and to meet reporting requirements of ministerial leave. The OPOS team can also assist with the coordination of travel arrangements, security briefings, and correspondence with external agencies on logistical travel arrangements. For further information contact OPOS: [s. 47E\(d\)](#)

Domestic travel

Although domestic travel should be booked by your office through IPEA, assistance with meeting itineraries, agendas and briefings can also be provided by the relevant policy or business areas within the department.

Travel (domestic and overseas)	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Department of Finance
Travel costs for Minister, personal staff and/or spouse, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airfares/Accommodation/Meals/Transport Allowances Non-portfolio related hospitality. 	–	✓
Travel costs for departmental staff accompanying the Minister	✓	–
Portfolio related hospitality and business, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional rooms used as an office for portfolio related business or hospitality Costs associated with departmental officers 	✓	–

Official gifts

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provide guidelines relating to official gifts which can be found at [pmc.gov.au/government/official-gifts](#)

These guidelines apply to the ministers, assistant ministers, their families, and their ministerial and electorate staff who present or receive any gifts in the course of their official duties. It is the responsibility of you and your staff to follow the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet guidelines when presenting and receiving gifts.

Any gift received should be provided to the Department Liaison Officer (DLO) in a timely manner. This is to ensure that the department can arrange for any security screening and valuation of gifts.

OFFICIAL

The Minister's Office Support team maintains an official gift register for reporting purposes and will also liaise with relevant stakeholders regarding screening processes. Contact [s. 47E\(d\)](#) for further information.

Security

The department has a number of systems in place to manage the secure processing, transmission, storage and disposal of information.

Unclassified network - OFFICIAL

The DAFF network is the standard network accessed via your laptop and provides access to email, network drives and Parliamentary Document Management System (PDMS).

Core email and network drives must only contain information classified up to OFFICIAL.

Protected enclave - PROTECTED

Cabinet material and other information in electronic form marked PROTECTED must be created, stored and transmitted in the Protected Enclave (PE) environment. Access to the PE requires a Baseline security clearance and can be requested on your behalf via [s. 47E\(d\)](#)

Cabinet documents are accessed through the CabNet+ system. CabNet+ is a secure online system used across the Australian Government to support the Cabinet process.

PROTECTED ministerial briefs and submissions are accessed via PDMS in the Protected Enclave.

Access to the protected enclave requires a baseline security clearance.

Security clearances

Applications for security clearances must be lodged via the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA) and this process is facilitated by the Department of Finance for any new staff commencing in your office.

Ministerial staff are required to obtain and maintain a Negative Vetting Level 2 (NV2) security clearance. Making a prompt and complete submission to AGSVA will assist in the progression of your clearance application.

OFFICIAL

Summary of Security Clearances		
Security Classifications	Access to:	Recommended for staff
No clearance/ police check	Access to Official departmental emails	
NV2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to all departmental emails • Access to Protected Enclave (PE) • Access to security classified information and resources Protected – Top Secret Note: Further briefings may be required to access caveated material.	All MO staff

Ministers do not require a police check or security clearance.

Selected members of the office, for example your Chief of Staff or a senior adviser who require access to the PE whilst their security clearance application is being processed by AGSVA may apply to the DAFF personnel security team for temporary access to classified information. Approval of the request is granted by the Chief Security Officer, Tess Bishop. Factors such as the reasons for access to classified material and any risk mitigation strategies in place are considerations in granting approval. Your DLO can discuss this with your staff and the department's security team [s. 47E\(d\)](#)

USBs

Information cannot be downloaded or stored on personal USB devices. If required, the VIP IT Support team can issue encrypted USBs for you and your ministerial staff. [s. 47E\(d\)](#)

Security containers

All classified information (for example, information marked PROTECTED and Cabinet material) must be secured in an appropriate security container (safe) when not in use. All information must be secured at the close of business.

Secure briefcases must be used to transport and store information away from the office.

Safes and briefcases can be arranged through your DLO and the Minister's Office Support team.

Security document disposal

Secure waste bins and shredders will be arranged for the office by the Minister's Office Support team.

Security briefings – Education and awareness

The department recommends that a combined security briefing (physical, personnel and cyber) is provided to the Minister's Office within the first month. The Minister's Office Support team can arrange this with the department's Security team.

Receiving cables

The Trade and International Division (TID) prepares a daily summary of the relevant diplomatic cables, up to the Protected classification.

Your DLO will receive the daily summary of cables and can provide access to the full text of cables in the Protected Enclave. Baseline clearance is required to read cables from the PE.

OFFICIAL

Secure courier service

A secure courier service is available between the department and Parliament House as required. The courier carries a lockable pouch, for transferring printed PROTECTED classified material.

Parliamentary business

An overview of the department's ministerial and parliamentary support services is provided below. More detailed information including understanding your preferences, will be discussed separately with your Chief of Staff. This includes understanding your preferred ways to handle correspondence and briefings.

Parliamentary Document Management System (PDMS)

The department uses the PDMS to manage all ministerial and parliamentary material prepared for you (excluding Cabinet material prepared in CabNet+). PDMS is a web-based application, used across government to draft, store, process and control documents. As PDMS is entirely digital, we can edit, compare and share information efficiently and flexibly between the department and your office. It also provides transparency and assurance, through robust access tools, workflow management and reporting functionality.

PDMS training and general user support can be delivered to your office by your DLO or by the PDMS support team within the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services section, either in person or via Teams. To arrange training or request support, speak to your DLO in the first instance, or contact our PDMS support team directly on [s. 47E\(d\)](#)

Ministerial correspondence

Ministerial Correspondence is correspondence sent to you on portfolio-related issues. The volume of ministerial correspondence can vary greatly, depending on the current portfolio issues, and can quickly increase with 'bulk campaign' or 'hot topic' correspondence.

Ministerial correspondence is actioned by either a ministerial reply, a departmental reply, or registered in PDMS for information.

The department drafts responses to correspondence on your behalf and will consult with your office on style preferences and standard opening and closing paragraphs.

Ministerial submissions for policy advice or decision

The department will initiate submissions for you that seek policy advice, request ministerial decision, or provide information on an important issue for noting. As a rule, the department will provide you with 10 business days to consider the submission but will consult your office if urgent action is required.

Ministerial briefs for meetings or events

Upon request, the department will prepare briefings for you to support your attendance at meetings or events. Once you or your diary manager confirms a meeting, the DLO will generate a briefing request and send it to the department for action.

OFFICIAL

Briefing requests for events or functions may include a request for a speech and/or a media release. The Media team manages these items and will work with your office and the relevant area of the department to prepare these documents for you.

Requests for information, including policy, program or operational updates, can also be managed through the PDMS briefing process.

Cabinet

The Cabinet Liaison Officers support your Cabinet activity, alongside the Enterprise and Budget Strategy Branch within the department, Cabinet Division (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet), and the Cabinet Secretary's Office.

All Cabinet documents are managed within CabNet+, the whole of government secure online Cabinet system. Your DLO will manage ministerial access and can provide user support as needed.

Briefings to support you at Cabinet/Committee meetings (for submissions you are sponsoring/co-sponsoring/co-opted) will be provided by the department. Requests for briefing will be managed through your DLO.

Question Time Briefs (QTBs)

The department prepares Question Time Briefs (QTBs) to support you during Question Time. Generally, QTBs are prepared in response to a request from your office, however, may be initiated by the department if media or Opposition attention to a portfolio issue is anticipated.

Parliamentary Questions on Notice (PQONs)

The department prepares draft responses to all Parliamentary Questions on Notice (PQONs) of the Senate or House of Representatives that relate to your portfolio.

Once you or your office approve a response, the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services section will arrange tabling in the relevant house of parliament.

Parliamentary inquiries and Government responses

The department has governance and support arrangements in place to manage the portfolio's parliamentary committee activity, including the coordination of inquiry submissions, attendance at inquiry hearings, questions taken on notice, tabling of government responses and monitoring of progress to implement agreed recommendations.

Senate Estimates

The department coordinates the portfolio's appearance at Senate Estimate hearings. Arrangements for the provision of Senate Estimate briefing material to your office will be discussed with your Chief of Staff or DLO. Responses to questions taken on notice at Senate Estimate hearings are prepared by the department and approved by your office prior to tabling with the committee. The next Senate Estimates hearings are scheduled for 4-8 November.

Tabling documents in parliament

The department's Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Section facilitates tabling of documents in parliament, including Orders for the Production of Documents, approved government responses and

OFFICIAL

annual reports in accordance with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Tabling Guidelines available at [Tabling guidelines | PM&C \(pmc.gov.au\)](#).

Legislation

The department's Legislation and Training Legal Branch provides and coordinates legal services in relation to developing and drafting legislation, as well as the introduction and passage of Bills through the Parliament. The Branch coordinates portfolio legislation bids, which are provided to you for consideration (approximately 2-3 months) prior to each of the Spring, Autumn and Winter sitting periods. The Legislation and Training Legal Branch maintains a close working relationship with Parliamentary Liaison Officers and Tabling Offices (House and Senate), Senate committee secretariats and the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, who is responsible for the drafting of Bills. We will organise an initial briefing with your office. Further information can be found in Legislation and litigation.

Freedom of information (FOI)

For the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth) (the FOI Act), a minister is independent of the portfolio department, and is therefore responsible for responding to FOI requests within legislated time periods. FOI requests (and court ordered discovery) can be made for any official document held by the minister (this can include paper documents or electronically stored information including emails, text messages or WhatsApp messages). The department provides support to your office to process FOI requests and can provide a briefing on your obligations under the FOI Act and the arrangements available to assist you. Should you have any questions on FOI please contact Amy Nichol, Chief Counsel – Legal Division on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Communications and media support

The department's Communications and Media branch will work with your Chief of Staff and media team to support you with a range of portfolio-related media services, including:

- high-level strategic media advice and identification of media opportunities that showcase your portfolio
- media monitoring as part of the department's overall arrangements
- preparation of draft media releases, media inquiry responses, talking points and speeches
- video production and photography support
- digital content in support of your portfolio activities, and publication and distribution of media releases, speeches and other communication products to your website and the media, and
- communications and media support in portfolio-related emergency situations.

Media services

The media team is the contact point for all media services and works with your media adviser(s).

The media team supports you with a range of portfolio-related media services, including:

- high-level strategic media advice and identification of media opportunities that showcase the portfolio
- media monitoring as part of the department's overall arrangements

OFFICIAL

- preparation of draft media releases, speaking points and speeches
- publication and distribution of media releases, speeches and other communications products to your website and the media.

The media team will work with your office to develop clear responses to media inquiries and to identify a suitable departmental spokesperson when needed. The media team works separately to the briefing process through the PDMS, which allows informal briefings for media purposes at shorter notice.

Media releases

Draft media releases are not attached to ministerial submissions but are provided in parallel to your office through the media team. Media releases can be requested by your office or proposed by the department to complement policy or program initiatives. We will work with your office to develop protocols regarding ministerial and departmental releases and support your social media presence.

Speeches

The department can provide talking points for your portfolio-related speaking engagements. Generally, your office will initiate requests for speeches via the ministerial event briefing process. We will work with your office to develop and implement procedures to suit your speaking style and requirements.

Ministerial website

The department provides and maintains a ministerial portfolio website. Website content for previous ministers is archived in Pandora, the National Library of Australia's web archive.

The media team will work with you and your office to develop your ministerial website. The team can upload media releases, speeches, transcripts and other agreed content to your site and will work with your office and relevant areas of the department to discuss any audio-visual and social media support that is required.

Publications

The department will work with you to develop a procedure to ensure you are informed about the release of significant departmental and portfolio publications. This can include advice about opportunities for releasing and launching new materials and initiatives.

Portfolio communications liaison

The department has established relationships with all the portfolio agencies' communications managers and can work with your office to ensure appropriate coordination of communications issues and products.

Emergency communications

The media team works with relevant areas of the department, as well as other departments, to provide responsive communications support during departmental and portfolio-related emergencies, including responses to pest and disease incidents and significant live animal export incidents. The department conducts regular exercises to test the arrangements.

OFFICIAL

We will provide you and your office with further information about the emergency communication arrangements we have developed and ensure that your needs are met.

OFFICIAL

Key stakeholders

This section outlines the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio's key stakeholders including peak industry organisations, lobby groups, and other relevant groups. These are people or organisations that you or your office are likely to be in contact with during day-to-day business.

Agriculture Minister's Meeting (AMM) includes Australian, state and territory and New Zealand ministers. They work on national issues and last met 18 July 2024. State and territory agriculture ministers contact information can be found at the end of the below table.

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
Accord Australasia	Bronwyn Capanna, Executive Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 22/36 Mountain St, ULTIMO NSW 2007
Agforce	Ms Georgie Somerset, General President s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 13186, NORTH BANK PLAZA, Brisbane, Qld, 4003
Agrifutures Australia	Ms Cathy McGowan, Chair Mr John Harvey, Managing Director p: 0419 274 917 or 0418 326 960 s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 588, WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
Agriculture Innovation Australia (AIA)	Dr Anne Astin, Interim Chair Sam Brown BAgrSc GAICD, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Level 1, 40 Mount Street, North Sydney NSW 2060
Animal Health Australia	Ms Sharon Starick, Chair Dr Samantha Allan, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Level 2, 95 Northbourne Ave, TURNER ACT 2612 PO Box 5116, BRADDON ACT 2612
Animal Medicines Australia	Mr Ben Stapley, Chief Executive Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 18 National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2600
AUSMEAT	Mr Ben Robinson, General Manager s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 3403, Tingalpa DC QLD 4173

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF)	Dr Mary Wu, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 579, North Sydney NSW 2059
Australian Dairy Industry Council	Mr Fred Jones, Operations Manager & Company Secretary s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Level 4 Farrer House, 24 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
Australian Dairy Farmers Limited (ADF)	Mr Ben Bennett, Chair Mr Stephen Sheridan, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Level 4 Farrer House, 24 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF)	Mr John Williams, President Ms Janine Waller, Executive Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 3027, Dendy, VIC 3186
Australian Fresh Produce Alliance	Ms Claire McClelland, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 480 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
Australian Food and Grocery Council	Ms Tanya Barden, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 1, KINGSTON, ACT 2604
Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA)	Ms Stephen Dadd, Chairman Ms Diana Hallam, Acting CEO s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 239 DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Australian Hide, Skins, & Leather Exporters' Association Inc (AHSLEA)	Mr. Dennis King, Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 963, Warwick, QLD 4370
Australian Industry Group	Mr Innes Willox, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 4986 KINGSTON ACT 2604
Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association	Mr Graeme Hoare, Chair Ms Rachel Smith, Executive Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
	<p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Minter Ellison Building L3, 25 National Circuit, FORREST ACT 2603</p>
<p>Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd (LiveCorp)</p>	<p>Mr Troy Setter, Chair Mr Wayne Collier, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 1174, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059</p>
<p>Australian Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC)</p>	<p>Mr David Galvin, Chair Mr Mark Harvey-Sutton, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 4225, MANUKA, ACT 2603</p>
<p>Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC)</p>	<p>Mr Tim McGuire, Chair Mr Patrick Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 1208, CROWS NEST NSW 1585</p>
<p>Australian Meat Processor Corporation (AMPC)</p>	<p>Mr Chris Taylor, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Suite 2 L6, 99 Walker Street, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060</p>
<p>Australian Pork Limited (APL)</p>	<p>Mr Andrew Baxter, Chair Ms Margo Andrae, Chief Executive Officer (Biosecurity Futures Group) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 4746, KINGSTON ACT 2604</p>
<p>Australian Prawn Farmers Association (APFA)</p>	<p>Mr Matt West, President s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 2202, WOORIM QLD 4507</p>
<p>Australian Renderers Association Inc (ARA),</p>	<p>Mr Peter Milzewski, President Mr Tim Juzefowicz, Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 963, WARWICK QLD 4370</p>
<p>Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association (ASBTIA)</p>	<p>Mr Daniel Casement, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 1146, PORT LINCOLN SA 5606</p>
<p>Australian Veterinary Association</p>	<p>Dr Diana Barker, President Ms Melissa King, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 40/6 Herbert Street, ST LEONARDS NSW 2065</p>

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
Biosecurity Futures group (reports to the Minister for Agriculture)	<p>Mr Paul Zalai, Director Freight & Trade Alliance s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 68 Brooker Avenue Beacon Hill NSW 2100</p> <p>Mr Stephen Annells, Executive Manager Fertilizer Australia s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 4396 Kingston ACT 2604</p> <p>Ms Margo Andrae, Chief Executive Officer Australian Pork Limited s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 4746, Kingston, 2604</p> <p>Ms Innes Willox, Executive Officer Food and Beverage Importers Association/Australian Industry Group s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 4986, Kingston ACT 2604</p> <p>Mr Brendan Tatham, Acting Chief Executive Officer Victoria Farmers Federation s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>Ms Margy Osmond, Chief Executive Officer Tourism & Transport Forum s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 6th/7 Macquarie Pl, Sydney NSW 2000</p> <p>Ms Tania Constable PSM, Chief Executive Officer Minerals Council of s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 4497 Kingston ACT 2604</p> <p>Mr Mike Gallacher, Chief Executive Officer Ports Australia s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Level 2, 1 York St, Sydney NSW 2000</p> <p>Mr Tony Mahar, Chief Executive Officer National Farmers' Federation s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 9 Kingston, ACT 2604</p>

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
AUSVEG	Mr Bill Bulmer, Chair Mr Michael Coote, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 3 Glenarm Road, GLEN IRIS VIC 3146

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
Business Council of Australia	Mr Bran Black, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: GPO Box 1472, MELBOURNE VIC 3001
Cattle Australia	Mr Garry Edwards, Chair Dr Chris Parker, CEO s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 9, KINGSTON ACT 2604
Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA)	Ms Lindy Hyam, Chair s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Prof. Andrew Robinson, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: CEBRA School of Biosciences, University of Melbourne VIC 3010
Chemistry Australia	David Hawkins, Chair Mr Bernard Lee, Director Policy and Regulation s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 422 Flinders Lane VIC 8009
Citrus Australia Limited	Mr Richard Byllaardt, Chair p: 03 5023 6333 Mr Nathan Hancock, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 10336. MILDURA VIC 3502
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Dr Doug Hilton, Chief Executive s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cotton Australia	Mr Nigel Burnett, Chair Mr Adam Kay, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 304, WARREN NSW 2824
Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC)	Mr Richard Haire, Chair Mr Alan Williams, Executive Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 282, NARRABRI NSW 2390
Croplife Australia Ltd	Mr Warren Inwood, President Mr Matthew Cossey, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
	<p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 4396, Kingston ACT 2604</p>
Dairy Australia Limited (DAL)	<p>Mr James Mann, Chair Dr David Nation, Managing Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 104, FLINDERS LANE VIC 8009</p>
Egg Farmers of Australia	<p>Ms Melinda Hashimoto, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 1364 Ridgeland Road, Alton Downs QLD 4702</p>
Export Council Australia	<p>Ms Dianne Tipping, Chair s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Level 17, 9 Castlereagh Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000</p>
Farmers for Climate Action	<p>Mr Brett Hall, Chair Ms Natalie Collard, CEO s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 233 Barker Street, CASTLEMAINE, VIC, 3450</p>
Grain Growers Limited (GGL) – trading as GrainGrowers	<p>Mr Rhys Turton, Chair s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 101, York 6302</p>
Grain Producers Australia (GPA)	<p>Mr Barry Large, Chair s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 370, BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622</p>
Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)	<p>Mr John Woods, Chair Mr Nigel Hart, Managing Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: L4 East Building, 4 National Circuit, BARTON ACT 2604</p>
Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd (HIAL)	<p>Ms Julie Bird, Chair Mr Brett Fifield, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: L7, 141 Walker Street, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060</p>
Inspector-General of Biosecurity	<p>Dr Lloyd Klumpp s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports	<p>e: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
International Tropical Timber Organization	<p>Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)	Mr Alan Beckett, Chair Mr Michael Crowley, Managing Director s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 1961, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059
National Farmers' Federation	Ms David Jochinke, President Mr Tony Mahar, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 9, KINGSTON ACT 2604
National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)	Brendan Moon AM, Coordinator-General s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2600
Plant Health Australia (PHA)	Mr Kim Halbert, Chairman Ms Sarah Corcoran, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: 1 Level 1 Phipps Close, DEAKIN ACT 2600
Red Meat Advisory Council	Mr John McKillop, Chair Mr Alistair James*, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Locked Bag 9, BARTON ACT 2604 *Alistair James is stepping down on 2 August. Replacement not yet announced.
RSPCA	Mr Richard Mussell Chief Executive Officer RSPCA Australia s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Seafood Industry Australia (SIA)	Ms Veronica Papacosta, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 1180, HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110
Sheep Producers Australia (SPA)	Mr Andrew Spencer, Chair Ms Bonnie Skinner, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 4225 MANUKA ACT 2603

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
Shipping Australia Limited	Mr Melwyn Noronha, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box Q388, SYDNEY NSW 1230
Special Representative for Australian Agriculture	Ms Su McCluskey s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sugar Research Australia (SRA)	Ms Rowena McNally, Chairperson Ms Roslyn Baker, Chief Executive officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 86, INDOOROOPILLY QLD 4068
The Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations	Mr Troy Setter, Council Chair Ms Anwen Lovett, Manager s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 4746, Kingston ACT 2604
Veterinary Schools of Australia and New Zealand	Mr Scott Williams, Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 465, Creswick Vic 3363 Australia
Wildlife Health Australia	Dr Rupert Woods, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: Cammeraigal Country, Suite F, 32 Suakin Drive, MOSMAN NSW 2088
Wine Australia	Ms Michele Allan, Chair Dr Martin Cole, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: PO Box 2733 Kent Town BC KENT TOWN SA 5071
Australian Wool Innovation	Mr Jock Laurie, Chair Mr John Roberts, CEO s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
WoolProducers Australia	Mr Steve Harrison, President Ms Jo Hall, Chief Executive Officer s. 22(1)(a)(ii) a: NFF House, 14-16 Brisbane Avenue, BARTON ACT 2600
State and Territory Ministers	
New South Wales	The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC Minister for Agriculture Minister Regional NSW,

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
	Minister for Western New South Wales s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Northern Territory	The Hon. Mark Monaghan MLA Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries Minister for Mining Minister for Education s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Queensland	The Hon. Mark Furner MP Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Minister for Rural Communities s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
South Australia	The Hon. Clare Michele Scriven MLC Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Minister for Forest Industries s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Tasmania	The Hon. Jane Howlett MP Minister for Primary Industries and Water Minister for Racing s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Victoria	The Hon. Ros Spence MP Minister for Agriculture Minister for Community Sport Minister for Carers and Volunteers s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
	The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP Minister for Environment Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

OFFICIAL

Organisation	Names and roles of its representatives
	Minister for Outdoor Recreation s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Western Australia	The Hon. Jackie Jarvis MLC Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forestry and Small Business s. 22(1)(a)(ii) The Hon. Don Punch MLA Minister for Regional Development Minister for Disability Services Minister for Fisheries Minister for Seniors and Ageing Minister for Volunteering s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Australian Capital Territory	The Hon. Rebecca Vassarotti Deputy Leader of ACT Greens Minister for the Environment, Parks and Land Management Minister for Heritage Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction s. 22(1)(a)(ii)