



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

Biosecurity cost recovery arrangement

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement: 2024–25



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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Introduction

Purpose

The cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) provides information on how the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry implements cost recovery for biosecurity and imported food regulatory activities. The department's regulatory activities are associated with the controls and measures to manage and minimise the risk of pests, weeds and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading within Australia while facilitating trade and the movement of plants, animals, people and products.

Description of the regulatory activity

The department undertakes regulatory activities to assess and manage biosecurity risks arising from people, goods, and conveyances (vessels and aircraft) entering Australia. These activities also include assessing compliance of imported food with relevant food standards and public health and safety requirements. Biosecurity activities are regulated in accordance with the biosecurity legislative framework outlined in [section 2.2](#). These essential activities, which occur onshore, offshore and at the border are a major part of our day-to-day business. A more detailed breakdown of our essential activities is provided at [Appendix A](#).

Industry and regulatory groups

Biosecurity regulatory charges are imposed on 4 key groups: importers, conveyance operators, biosecurity industry participants and, to a limited extent, international passengers and their baggage.

We charge regulated entities to provide the following key biosecurity activities:

- Importers – inspection, assessment and management of the biosecurity risks associated with imported goods and packaging, including air and sea cargo, containers, food, live animals and plants. This includes husbandry activities undertaken by the department, associated with the quarantine of live animals and plants prior to release into Australia, such as dogs, cats, hatching eggs, birds, ruminants, horses, bees, nursery stock and viable seeds.
- Conveyance operators – vessels and aircraft entering Australia. This includes assessments and inspections to manage the risks posed by the vessel itself, contaminants on the vessel, human biosecurity risks, ballast water and biofouling on vessels, and aircraft disinsection (where non-compliant on arrival) and assessment of conveyances for release from biosecurity control.
- Biosecurity industry participants – managing the administration as well as policy processes and conditions setting for regulatory arrangements approved by the department, including biosecurity approved arrangements and imported food compliance agreements.
- International passengers – management of biosecurity risks posed by baggage accompanying passengers arriving from overseas, where treatment or storage is required.

Why cost recovery is appropriate

The [Australian Government Charging Framework](#) sets the rules and requirements on how a regulator determines costs, sets charges and how it will charge for regulatory activities. A key principle of the government's policy is that those who create the need for regulation should bear the cost of that regulatory effort. Prices for a regulatory activity are set to only recover the minimum efficient costs of carrying out that activity.

The Australian Government's [Regulator Performance Guide 2021](#) is an important part of its commitment to reduce unnecessary and inefficient regulation. The Regulator Performance Guide encourages regulators to minimise the regulatory burden created through regulatory administration.

1 The biosecurity system

Our biosecurity system is critical in protecting Australia’s economy, environment and way of life. By reducing the risk of impacts of pests and diseases, an effective biosecurity system supports the sustainability, profitability and competitiveness of Australia’s agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries which helps drive a stronger Australian economy.

1.1 A changing biosecurity system

Our biosecurity environment continues to be impacted by significant events and challenges. Changes in the Australian and global economies, changing risk profiles, biosecurity threats (e.g. foot and mouth disease), increased complexity of imports, changing industry practices and increased volumes have and continue to impact the department’s operations, and increase the cost of maintaining the biosecurity system.

The department must be able to respond to these challenges and maintain a strong biosecurity system capable of protecting the Australian economy. Prices that remain aligned with our costs will support sustainable funding for biosecurity across future years.

1.1.1 Factors driving change and the increased complexity of biosecurity threats

Box 1 describes some of the factors driving change across the biosecurity system that contribute to the increased complexity of biosecurity threats.

Box 1 Factors driving change and increased complexity of biosecurity threats

Climate change is impacting the global environment, causing changes in weather patterns and more extreme weather events. It is altering the habitat, range and distribution of many pests, weeds and diseases, as well as increasing their ability to spread and establish in new areas. This has seen an increase in seasonal pests such as [brown marmorated stink bug](#) (BMSB).

BMSB utilise a very wide range of hosts and affects many plants, particularly tree nuts. While originally from eastern Asia, it has recently been introduced to North America and Europe, quickly having a significant impact on agriculture. Given Australia’s broad range of trading partners and commodities imported, this is just one of many hitchhiker pests we need to be vigilant in monitoring and keeping out of our country.

Shifting trade and travel patterns have seen Australia’s supply chains and demand for goods change and increase in complexity, changing the pathways through which biosecurity risk enters our borders, impacting how we work with trading partners and each other.

Predicted increases in trade and vessel movements will result in a greater likelihood of the introduction of marine pests like [Asian green mussel](#) (*Perna viridis*), which poses a serious threat to our aquaculture, native species and ability to export seafood.

Changing land uses are altering the interface between urban and non-urban areas and the environment. As cities expand and scattered and dispersed urban growth increases, the risk of the introduction and spread of pests, weeds and diseases may also increase through land development, habitat loss and the movement of people and goods into new areas.

Illegal activity has increased in recent years, leading to a higher risk of biosecurity threats. The growth and increasing complexity of trade and online shopping – exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic – has inadvertently opened new pathways for illegal plants and animals to reach Australia.

Major global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic, can shock supply chains and impact the movement of goods and people. While these changes are often temporary, they can act as a catalyst for permanent changes in behaviour and supply chain pathways.

Further information about the changing and emerging biosecurity risk and the department’s strategic biosecurity future can be found in both the [Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030](#) and [The National Biosecurity Strategy](#).

2 Policy guidance and statutory authority to cost recover

The biosecurity and imported food control legislation imposes fees for services and charges (levies) for activities and other matters, relating to activities that occur within these legislative schemes.

2.1 Government policy regarding cost recovery for regulation

The department commenced cost recovery of selected biosecurity activities in 1979 and implemented broader biosecurity cost recovery from 1 January 1991.

Announced in the May 2023 budget, the government has committed permanent and increased long-term funding for a strengthened biosecurity system to help safeguard against biosecurity incursions that would impact trade, jobs, regional Australia, health and our environment.

An estimated \$27 million is forecast to be recovered through a cost recovery charge on low value (\$1,000 or less) goods imported into Australia by air or sea. Charging for this new measure will commence in the 2024–2025 financial year, [section 3.5.2](#).

More on the sustainable biosecurity funding package can be found in our [Budget Fact Sheets](#) on the department's website.

Further information on the government's historical approach to cost recovery can be found in [Appendix D](#).

2.2 Statutory authority to impose fees and charges (levies)

Fees and charges (levies) for biosecurity and imported food regulatory activities are recovered under separate legislation.

2.2.1 Fees

A fee for services is a payment for services provided by the department to, or at the request of, the particular person being required to make payment. This means that a service has been provided to the person liable to pay the fee.

This could include activities such as fee-for-service activities provided directly to a specific individual or organisation or husbandry services for plant and animals at post entry quarantine (PEQ).

The [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) is the primary biosecurity legislation in Australia. [The Imported Food Control Act 1992](#) is the primary food importation legislation.

Section 592 of the Biosecurity Act provides that the regulations may prescribe fees that may be charged in relation to activities carried out by, or on behalf of the Commonwealth in performing functions and exercising powers under the Biosecurity Act. For this purposes, section 106 of the

[Biosecurity Regulation 2016](#) prescribes fees that may be charged in relation to specified fee-bearing activities.

Section 36 of the Imported Food Control Act provides that a person for whom a ‘chargeable service’ is provided is liable to pay to the Commonwealth the amount for the provision of that service as is prescribed. For this purpose, part 4 of the [Imported Food Regulations 2019](#) prescribes the payable amount for the provision of specified chargeable services.

2.2.2 Charges (levies)

A cost recovery charge is a tax (that may have a cost recovery component) and is imposed via a separate taxation Act. A charge is imposed for public purposes that do not relate to specific services provided by the department to someone.

Charges are imposed through specific biosecurity and imported food charging acts and associated delegated legislation, which provide powers to impose and collect charges for biosecurity and imported food regulatory matters, including:

- [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(Customs\) Act 2015](#)
- [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(Excise\) Act 2015](#)
- [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(General\) 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 Charges \(Collection\) Act 2015](#)

Specific charges are prescribed in the [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(Customs\) Regulation 2016](#) and the [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(General\) Regulation 2016](#).

Specific charges are prescribed in the [Imported Food Charges \(Imposition—Customs\) Regulation 2015](#) and the [Imported Food Charges \(Imposition—General\) Regulation 2015](#).

3 Regulatory charging model

3.1 Objectives and business processes of regulatory charging

The key policy objective for our regulatory activity is to

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.

This objective is available in the [Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25](#) Outcome 2, page 4.

Regulatory activities are described in [Appendix B](#) and are grouped into 4 categories, examples of which include:

- 1) Program management and administration – administrative activities that support us to deliver our biosecurity and imported foods regulatory activities.
- 2) Assurance – activities that mitigate risks to collective user groups by assessing departmental controls of systems and processes to ensure they operate in accordance with their intended design.
- 3) Incident management – activities that respond to incidents concerning alleged breaches of Australian regulation or import conditions.
- 4) Intervention – inspection and assessment activities provided directly to an individual, business or organisation, to meet import requirements.

3.2 Design of regulatory charging

The department determines appropriate regulatory cost recovery after establishing activity costs and volumes. We use a combination of regulatory fees and charges depending on whether an activity is for a specific individual or organisation, or group of recipients. Fees are used to recover the costs of direct intervention and certification activities undertaken for particular importers or regulated entities. Charges are imposed when activities are provided to a group of individuals or organisations. This recovers costs not directly linked to a specific individual or organisation but forms part of the costs of the overall biosecurity regulatory system.

3.3 Costs of regulatory activity

3.3.1 Cost allocation process

An activity-based costing (ABC) system is used to determine the cost of regulatory activities. Our ABC allocation methodology reflects effort incurred in delivering regulatory activities to the individual or entity. This provides an accountable and transparent allocation of costs that is also efficient and effective to administer.

Expenses are categorised as either direct or indirect costs:

- **Direct costs** can be directly attributed to the provision of an activity, for example, inspections and assessments. They comprise staff salaries and supplier costs, including direct capital expenses, which includes plant, property and depreciation.
- **Indirect costs** support the effective and necessary provision of our direct expense activity. They include corporate employee salaries, overheads such as information technology, finance, human resource costs and indirect capital expenses, including plant, property and depreciation.

The cost allocation process apportions indirect and direct costs to the processes and activities defined in [Appendix B](#). Indirect costs are included in the cost base to reflect the staff, systems and processes that assist with administration and benefit the arrangement. The same methodology is employed to allocate indirect costs to activities funded by budget appropriation, in line with our internal cost allocation policy.

The department uses the term ‘stream’ to refer to the related activities provided to an industry grouping. The department has 3 streams under the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement and 3 sub-streams. The streams are as follows:

- Import clearance – for cargo imports and clearance activities
- Seaports – for conveyance operators and seaports
- PEQ users
 - Horse importers
 - Importers of other animals, including cats, dogs, bees, live birds and hatching eggs
 - Plant importers.

The ABC system allocates costs in a staged approach to these streams. The steps are:

- 1) Indirect costs are allocated to direct cost centres using a cost driver that estimates the relative use of each activity. Cost drivers are reviewed on an annual basis or as required. Changes to cost drivers are substantiated through effort or other data. Cost drivers for corporate activities are described in Table 1.
- 2) Direct cost centre costs, which include the indirect costs allocated in step 1, are allocated to the activity and cost recovered stream that best reflects the activity undertaken.

The primary variable used in the allocation of costs to activities is effort. As a result, cost estimates vary with changes in activity. If actual activity levels change significantly during a financial year, the costs allocated to the arrangement may require adjustment to realign effort.

- 3) Activity/stream costs from step 2, are allocated to charge points that identify the cost associated with that charge. A combination of regulatory fees and charges is used.

Table 1 Cost drivers for corporate activities

Cost driver	Description
Workpoints	Distributes costs based on space occupied, with the workpoint count reflecting the space where a person may be able to work.
FTE	Distributes costs based on each program's full-time equivalent staff numbers.
PC count/IT assets	Distributes costs based on the number of IT assets in a program.
Transactions	Distributes costs based on the number of transactions incurred over a period. This driver is used to allocate expenses related to accounts receivable and accounts payable functions.
Headcount	Allocates costs based on the number of staff a program area has as a proportion of the total number of the department's total staff.
Custom drivers	Allocate costs to specific cost centres, primarily based on usage for shared program resources.

Figure 1 shows how we attribute cost recovered activities to either fees or charges (levies).

Figure 1 Charge (levy) and fee related activities and associated outputs

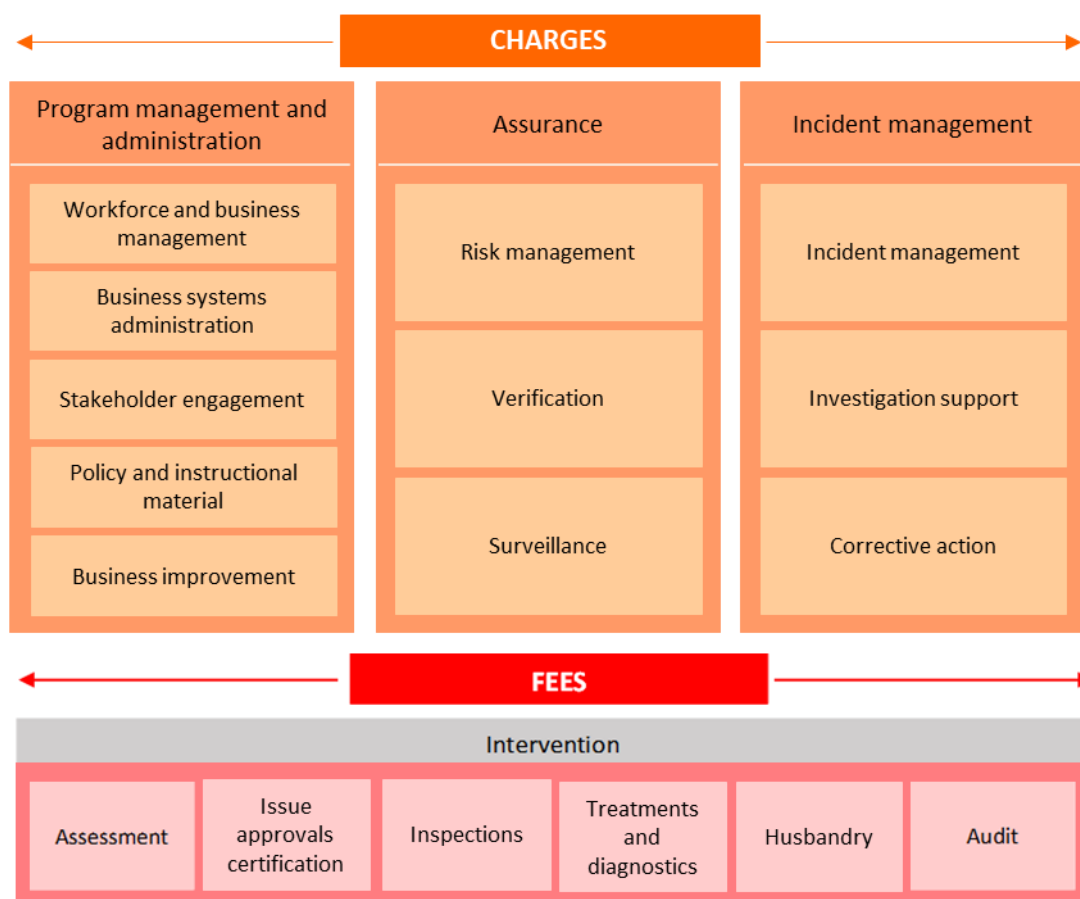


Figure 2 provides an example of costs associated with an activity subject to inspection fees.

Figure 2 Activity based cost model

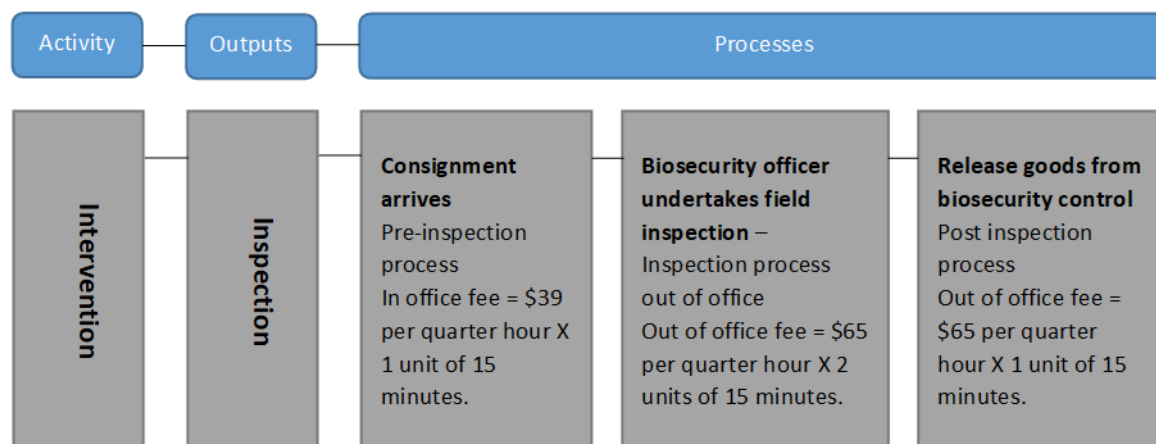


Table 2 provides a cost breakdown for each output contribution to recover direct and indirect costs for 2024–25.

Table 2 Biosecurity cost recovery arrangement cost breakdown, 2024–25

Cost recovery activities	Direct (\$)	Indirect (\$)	Total (\$)
Charges	176,431,398	109,023,615	285,455,013
Full import declaration charges	148,559,632	86,314,945	234,874,576
Approved arrangements	4,764,819	2,446,416	7,211,235
Vessel arrival charges	14,498,904	10,844,820	25,343,725
Permit Application	996,167	704,493	1,700,659
Importation charges (PEQ)	7,611,876	8,712,941	16,324,817
Fees	79,571,578	1,861,014	80,548,372
Assessment	26,774,217	526,807	27,301,024
Issue Approval Certification	2,834,154	63,937	2,898,091
Inspection	37,893,312	1,121,403	39,014,715
Treatment	2,666,676	44,943	2,711,619
Audit	4,499,098	45,755	4,544,853
Husbandry	4,019,901	58,169	4,078,070
Sub-total	255,118,757	110,884,628	366,003,385
Less government appropriation for anti-smuggling measures	–	–	(1,618,084)
Less diagnostic consumables recovered at cost	–	–	(169,861)
Less costs paid on behalf of and recovered from companion animal importers	–	–	(800,000)
Net costs to be recovered	–	–	363,415,440

3.3.2 Financial management strategies

In line with the Australian Government Charging Framework, we are committed to managing costs in an efficient and effective manner, as administrators of public resources. We monitor costs monthly for

variances between budgeted and actual expense and regularly review and improve our workforce models, systems and processes. This informs our annual review, and we implement adjustments accordingly.

3.4 Cost recovery reserves

The cost recovery reserves reflect the accumulated results of the arrangement and assist with managing the alignment of revenue and expenses and variations to forecast volumes. Our cost recovery reserve policy requires that a balance of up to 5% of annual program expense be maintained. The cost recovery reserve is the mechanism used by the department intended to manage under or over recovery of costs. Regulatory charging is set to recover reasonable costs. However, several factors can affect the difference between revenue and expenses. These factors include volume variances and changes in expenses based on risk profiles.

Subject to agreement between the department and industry, over-recoveries may be managed through remittance or investment initiatives.

Under-recoveries will result in the arrangement not recovering the expenses of the relevant regulatory activities. This in turn will result in the arrangement operating at a loss, and adversely impact on the reserve balance for the arrangement at year's end. Ongoing under recovery will lead to the need for further review of the regulatory charging arrangement to support its return to sustainable recovery of all regulatory costs.

Once a fee or charge is paid by industry, it becomes government revenue. The department will consult with industry on any under-recovery or over-recovery.

3.5 Changes to regulatory charging in 2024–25

In 2023–24 the department embedded the annual review cycle of the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement. The review included monitoring and analysis of the impact of changes introduced on 1 July 2023. Recognising that our costs do not remain static and to avoid large increases in the future, legislation was amended in 2023 to introduce indexation of appropriate cost elements annually, based on the all-groups CPI published by the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#).

3.5.1 Indexation

Indexation provisions in biosecurity and imported food legislation provide the methodology for determining if indexation will increase the dollar amounts imposed for specified fees or charges. This is a 2-step process, where the indexation factor is calculated and if greater than one, is used to calculate the indexed fee or charge.

[Step 1](#) describes how the indexation factor was calculated and [Step 2](#) describes how the indexed amount for 1 July 2024 was calculated.

Step 1 Calculate the 'indexation factor' for 1 July 2024

The indexation factor for 1 July 2024 is calculated using the [All-Groups Consumer Price Index \(CPI\) number](#) for the 2023 December quarter and the CPI for the 2022 December quarter.

The formula is:

$$\text{CPI for the 2023 December quarter (reference quarter)} \div \text{CPI for the 2022 December quarter (base quarter)} = \text{Indexation factor } (136.1 \div 130.8 = 1.041)$$

Based on this formula, the indexation factor for July 2024 is 1.041.

Step 2 Calculate the ‘indexed amount’ for the fee or charge in question

Because the indexation factor for 1 July 2024 is greater than 1, fees and charges covered by an indexation provision will be indexed using:

the dollar amount of the relevant fee or charge immediately before 1 July 2024 × the indexation factor for 1 July 2024 (1.041).

The indexed amount of the fee or charge is to the nearest whole dollar.

The methodology for calculating indexed prices for biosecurity fees and charges is prescribed in the:

- Biosecurity Regulation 2016, Chapter 9, Part 2, Division 1, Section 107A (indexation of fees)
- Biosecurity Charges Imposition (Customs) Regulation 2016 Part 2, Section 9A (indexation of charges)
- Biosecurity Charges Imposition (General) Regulation 2016, Part 2, Section 9A (indexation of charges).

The methodology for calculating indexed prices for imported food chargeable services and charges is prescribed in the:

- Imported Food Control Regulations 2019, Part 4, Section 30A (indexation of charges)
- Imported Food Charges (Imposition – Customs) Regulation 2015, Part 2, Section 6A (indexation of charges)
- Imported Food Charges (Imposition - General) Regulation 2015 Part 2, Section 6A (Indexation of charges)

The department applied indexation in accordance with legislation, to set regulatory charges for 2024–25. These updated prices will be in effect from 1 July 2024, [section 3.6](#).

3.5.2 Self-Assessed Clearance (SAC) cost recovery

As part of its election commitment to sustainably fund the Commonwealth biosecurity system, the government announced in the 2023–24 Federal Budget that it will extend the biosecurity industry cost recovery arrangement to include low value goods imported into Australian territory in the 2024–2025 financial year. These costs are currently being met by general taxpayers. Revenue raised from this new charge will flow directly to biosecurity. Industry engagement on the design of this measure is underway.

The volume and nature of low value goods coming into Australia, via air or sea, and the underlying countries of origin, have been steadily increasing. This largely reflects the growing international ecommerce market. In 2022–23, over 85 million items were brought in. However, as with other cargo and mail items, Australia is facing growing biosecurity risks through this pathway. Our biosecurity

efforts, in partnership with industry, need to support efficient clearance of low-risk items while ensuring adequate protections against introduction of higher risk items.

In the first year of operation there will be a separate document describing SAC cost recovery in detail. In subsequent years, cost recovery for SACs will be reflected in the Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement CRIS.

3.6 Biosecurity fees and charges (levies)

Fees and charges (levies) have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar for ease of calculation. Variances between estimated costs and estimated revenue are the result of applying rounding to prices. Actual recovery of costs is dependent upon the costs incurred and the volume of transactions, imports or activities performed.

For some animal imports at the PEQ, we do not have any forecast import volumes, however, there are fixed costs that we cannot avoid. These costs are not cross subsidised by other imports but are managed by the department through other funding sources, typically government appropriation. A price is determined to recover some of those fixed costs along with the variable costs, should an import occur.

The amounts payable shown in Table 3 reflects the volumes and current costs associated with biosecurity regulatory activities.

Table 3 Fees and charges – cost, estimated volumes and revenue for biosecurity cost recovery arrangement, 2024–25

Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)	Estimated volume (units)	Estimated total revenue (\$)
Charges	104,789,575	Full Import Declaration charge – air	Per import declaration	45	2,329,394	104,822,730
	127,532,369	Full Import Declaration charge – sea	Per import declaration	66	1,932,920	127,572,720
	24,884,267	Vessel, other than a non-commercial vessel arrival charge	Per vessel	1,410	17,654	24,892,140
	85,464	Non-commercial vessel arrival charge	Per vessel	161	531	85,491
	1,718,528	Permit application charge	Per application	127	13,536	1,719,072
	18,376	Approved arrangement application charge	Per application	202	91	18,382
	2,995,584	Approved arrangement – AEPCOMM entry	Per item	21	142,692	2,996,532
	3,363,676	Approved arrangement – single– including food import compliance agreements	Per item	2,790	1,206	3,364,740
	1,472,824	Approved arrangement – multiple	Per item	3,238	455	1,473,290
	215,878	Approved arrangement –class 19	Per item	558	387	215,946
776,667	Reservation charge – horses	Per animal	1,023	759	776,457	

Biosecurity cost recovery arrangement, cost recovery implementation statement: 2024–25

Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)	Estimated volume (units)	Estimated total revenue (\$)
	3,106,666	Confirmation of reservation charge-horses	Per animal	4095	759	3,108,105
	–	Reservation charge – ruminants	Per animal	1,046	0	0
	–	Confirmation of reservation charge – ruminants	Per animal	4,184	0	0
	1,455,299	Reservation charge – animal not covered by another item of this table (includes cat or dog)	Per animal	263	5,531	1,454,653
	5,821,195	Confirmation of reservation charge – animal not covered by another item of this table (includes cat or dog)	Per animal	1,053	5,531	5,824,143
	871	Reservation charge – bees	Per bee consignment	871	1	871
	3,486	Confirmation of reservation charge – bees	Per bee consignment	3,487	1	3,487
	122,775	Reservation charge – avian (fertile eggs)	Per hatching egg consignment	13,646	9	122,814
	491,101	Confirmation of reservation charge – avian (fertile eggs)	Per hatching egg consignment	54,584	9	491,256
	4,898	Reservation charge – avian (live bird)	Per live bird consignment	4,900	1	4,900
	19,593	Confirmation of reservation charge – avian (live bird)	Per live bird consignment	19,599	1	19,599
	1,984,931	Importation charge – plants	Per m ² per month	303	6,553	1,985,559
Fee for service – inspection (including virtual inspections), examination, document assessment, analysis, diagnostic activity, clearance of cargo, treatment, audit, supervision and training.	37,984,317	In-office fee during ordinary hours of duty	Per 15 minutes	39	826,743	32,242,977
	5,751,538	Assessment of a permit application	Per 30 minutes	77	74,719	5,753,363
	40,900,854	Out-of-office fee during ordinary hours of duty	Per 15 minutes	65	629,443	40,913,795
	321,461	Out-of-office fee during ordinary hours of duty	Daily	1,271	253	321,563
	–	In-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekday for continuous activity provided immediately before or after ordinary hours	Per 15 minutes	57	0	0
	–	In-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekday for non-continuous activity provided before or after ordinary hours only	Per 30 minutes	114	0	0

Biosecurity cost recovery arrangement, cost recovery implementation statement: 2024–25

Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)	Estimated volume (units)	Estimated total revenue (\$)
–		In-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekend or departmental holiday	Per 30 minutes	124	0	0
–		In office fee outside ordinary hours, after the first 30 minutes – weekend or departmental holiday	Per 15 minutes	62	0	0
–		Out-of-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekday for continuous activity provided immediately before or after ordinary hours only	Per 15 minutes	83	0	0
–		Out-of-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekday for non-continuous activity provided before or after ordinary hours only	Per 30 minutes	166	0	0
–		Out-of-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekend or departmental holiday	Per 30 minutes	176	0	0
–		Out-of-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekend or departmental holiday after the first 30 minutes	Per 15 minutes	88	0	0
At cost		Treatment – fumigation of commodity or import	Per treatment	94	457	42,958
At cost		Treatment – Re-export or return to sender of item	Per item	125	2	250
Fee for service – husbandry	–	Husbandry fee – horses that overstay the initial 14-day period	Per animal per day over 14 days	46	0	0
	–	Husbandry fee – ruminants	Per animal per day	105	0	0
	2,875,002	Husbandry fee – cat or dog or animal not covered by another item of this table	Per animal per day	52	55,306	2,875,912
	62,548	Husbandry fee – avian (bird eggs for hatching)	Per egg consignment per day	79	792	62,568
	590	Husbandry fee – avian (consignment of birds)	Per live bird consignment per day	59	45	2,655
	488	Husbandry fee – bees	Per bee consignment Monthly or part thereof	488	1	488
	406,157	Husbandry fee – plants	Per m ² or part thereof Monthly or part thereof	62	6,553	406,286

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Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)	Estimated volume (units)	Estimated total revenue (\$)
Totals	363,415,440	–	–	–	–	363,575,702

Note: Treatments, bee and avian costs are not fully cost recovered due to low volumes or represent only a contribution to the department’s costs for these activities. Expenses not met by cost recovery are funded through other departmental sources. The reservation charge is non-refundable unless exceptional circumstances apply. The confirmation of reservation charge is payable, along with the applicable husbandry fee, when the animal is confirmed for entry at the PEQ. Prices are rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Recovery of costs is only a forecast and under- or over-recovery is dependent on actual volumes and costs.

Table 4 Fee for service on demand – prices, 2024–25

Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)
Fee for service activities – apply when required	n/a	Out-of-hours fee – weekday (permit assessment only)	Per 15 minutes	19
	n/a	Out-of-hours fee – weekend (permit assessment only)	Per 15 minutes	24
Fee for service – temporary storage in relation to international travellers and their baggage	n/a	Temporary storage at premises owned or managed by the Commonwealth for baggage brought into Australian territory	Per 30 days per item of baggage	47
Fee for service – special processing areas, agreed fee for international travellers and their baggage	Any period up to 3 hours during which one or more fee bearing activities are carried out	First 3 hours for each person carrying out those activities	Per first 3 hours	At least 537, but not more than 1,074
	Immediately following the first 3 hours during which those activities are carried out	Per 15 minutes immediately following first 3 hours for each person carrying out those activities	Per each 15 minutes after the first 3 hours	At least 45, but not more than 90

Note: These fee-for-service activities will only apply when the activity is requested by industry.

3.7 Projected cost base for 2024–25

The cost base for the biosecurity regulatory charging arrangement in 2024–25 is projected to be \$366 million. This is made up of:

- \$285.4 million in charge (levy)-related activities
- \$80.6 million in fee-related activities.

Table 5 provides a breakdown of the modelled cost base of the biosecurity regulatory charging type by activity. For a detailed description of cost activities, see [Appendix B](#). The methodology for attributing costs to these activities is provided in [section 3](#).

Table 5 Cost type breakdown

Charge type	Activity group	Activity	Expense (\$)
Charges	Program management and administration	Workforce and business administration	143,879,381
		Business system administration	20,056,401

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Charge type	Activity group	Activity	Expense (\$)
		Stakeholder engagement	20,082,531
		Policy and instructional material	30,505,423
		Business improvement	15,332,726
		Subtotal	229,856,463
	Assurance	Risk management	17,647,966
		Verification	14,315,743
		Surveillance	15,491,833
		Subtotal	47,455,542
	Incident management	Incident management	3,120,686
		Investigative support	1,398,304
		Corrective action	3,624,019
		Subtotal	8,143,009
		Total charges	285,455,014
Fees	Intervention	Assessment	27,301,024
		Issue approvals/certification	2,898,091
		Inspection	39,014,715
		Diagnostics	2,711,618
		Audit	4,544,853
		Husbandry	4,078,069
		Subtotal	80,548,371
		Total fee for service	80,548,371
Sub total		–	366,003,385
Less government appropriation for anti-smuggling measures		–	–
			(1,618,084)
Less diagnostic consumables recovered at cost		–	–
			(169,861)
Less costs paid on behalf of and recovered from companion animal importers		–	–
			(800,000)
Net costs to be recovered		–	–
			363,415,440

4 Risk assessment

A charging risk assessment (CRA) is required for any regulatory charging policy proposal, we consider risks associated with cost recovery biosecurity activities and how we will manage or mitigate these risks. Risks for the arrangement are presented in Table 6.

Table 6 Risks for biosecurity cost recovery arrangement

Risk	Management
Biosecurity cost recovery affecting industry competitiveness.	We will continue to monitor our performance in the delivery of biosecurity activities.
The fee and charge (levy) structure does not support future regulatory reforms.	The CRIS will be reviewed annually and updated accordingly.
Changes to government policy and activities.	Regular assessments of the arrangement will inform whether a regulatory charging review is required.
Biosecurity risk level changes—the cost of undertaking biosecurity activities no longer reflects forecast effort.	Regular assessment of the arrangement will inform whether a regulatory charging review is required.
Under-recovery occurs (for example, because of a reduction in the level of import activity).	We will engage with industry to discuss options and develop strategies to manage expenses.
Over-recovery occurs (for example, because of a greater than anticipated level of import activity).	Subject to approval, over-recoveries may be managed through remittance, or investment initiatives directly benefiting activities within the arrangement. An alternative approach may be agreed with industry within policy guidelines.
Changing events impact actual revenue verses forecast revenue.	We will update the CRIS annually to reflect changes in activity and effort and describe any consequential changes in the cost and price.
Significant or material change to processes involved with biosecurity activities, systems, staffing or complexity.	Regular monitoring of the arrangement will inform whether a change is material or significant and if a regulatory charging review is required.

5 Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement plays an important role in the development and management of regulatory charging arrangements. Our stakeholders have unique insights into how our regulatory activities affect their businesses and can help us design efficient regulatory charging frameworks for these activities.

5.1 Industry engagement

We have established [industry consultative committees](#) to represent industry views in relation to biosecurity and imported food. We consult with these committees on a number of different activities. The consultative committees include:

- Cargo Consultative Committee
- Biological Consultative Group
- Imported Food Consultative Committee
- Horse Industry Consultative Committee
- Post Entry Plant Consultative Committee

We also engage with representatives for avian, cat and dog importers, and with other peak bodies, industry or individuals, as necessary.

5.2 Ongoing engagement strategy

We currently undertake a number of activities to engage with our stakeholders, including:

- engaging with industry consultative committees through agreed terms of reference
- reporting quarterly on regulatory charging performance, including explanations for material variances between budgeted and actual positions
- communicating with industry consultative committees on changes to regulatory charging before any revisions or updates are made to the CRIS
- opening the CRIS for public consultation if any key changes result in price adjustments.

6 Financial estimates

6.1 Annual estimates

A summary of the forecast annual operating position for the biosecurity regulatory charging arrangement is provided at Table 7.

Table 7 Financial estimates for biosecurity cost recovery arrangement, 2023–24 to 2026–27

Finance element	2023–24(\$)	2024–25(\$)	2025–26(\$)	2026–27(\$)
Revenue = X	348,183,553	366,163,642	375,966,729	383,987,028
Expenses = Y	347,719,299	366,003,385	375,966,729	383,987,028
Balance = X – Y	464,254	160,262	0	0
Estimated opening balance	-20,698,611	-20,234,357	-20,074,095	-20,074,095
Estimated closing balance	-20,234,357	-20,074,095	-20,074,095	-20,074,095

Note: 2023–24 is only a forecast and under or over-recovery is dependent on actual volumes and costs. Similarly, the forecast result for 2024–25 is dependent on actual volumes and costs.

These forecasts are based on a combination of existing budgets, surveys of effort allocated to activities and streams, and inclusion of work that previous fees and charges did not allow for. Through a robust internal verification process, the department considers these estimates to be the minimal cost to deliver our regulatory activities to manage the risks arising through the movement of goods, vessels and passengers.

6.1.1 Expenses to be cost recovered

There are a number of inputs into our costs that make up the total value of the arrangement and the amounts to be recovered for each activity. Similar to most businesses, the department incurs costs for operating expenses such as:

- wages for APS staff
- contractors engaged to provide specialised or short-term expertise
- supplier costs, including compulsory use of whole-of-government arrangements for certain suppliers (e.g., travel, stationary, IT equipment)
- rent on office and domestic properties
- depreciation on IT systems, property, plant and equipment.

As described in [section 3.3.1](#), these expenses are allocated to the activity and cost recovered stream that best reflects the activity undertaken. This forms a cost pool for that activity. Each cost pool is divided by the forecast volume for that activity to determine the fee or charge. The combined sum of all cost pools equals the cost to the department for undertaking regulatory activities under the arrangement. Prices are set in conjunction with the forecast volumes to recover these costs.

The balance or accumulated results of the cost recovery arrangement are held in the Biosecurity, Imported Food and Export Certification Special Account. As noted in [section 3.4](#), the cost recovery

reserve balance is used to lessen the impact of varying demand on the ongoing delivery of regulatory activities.

The special account was established to manage the costs and cost-recovered revenue for the department's provision of:

- biosecurity, inspection and certification services for passengers, cargo, mail, animals, plants, and animal or plant products arriving in Australia
- agricultural products and food exported from Australia.

6.2 Volume forecasts

There is a high correlation between forecast costs and the amount of regulatory effort to delivery activities such as inspections, vessel arrivals, animal imports and associated husbandry.

Volumes are derived from a combination of historical trends, current work programs for audit and compliance activities, information that might impact future activity such as economic impacts on consumer spending, and confirmation with industry where appropriate, such as horse imports.

Volumes for 2024–25 reflect modest growth rates on prior years for most activities, taking into consideration the current Australian and global economy, interest rate trends and predictions and inflationary impacts on consumers.

7 Financial and non-financial performance

This section presents information on the financial and non-financial performance of the biosecurity regulatory charging arrangements. This is intended to provide an overview of our performance in recovering forecast costs and meeting regulatory objectives.

7.1 Financial performance

We continue to consult with key industry stakeholders on financial performance indicators to assist in evaluating the performance of our regulatory charging arrangements. Table 8 includes financial performance of the biosecurity arrangement since the 2019–20 financial year.

Table 8 Financial performance for biosecurity cost recovery arrangement, 2019–20 to 2022–23

Finance element	2019–20 (\$)	2020–21 (\$)	2021–22 (\$)	2022–23 (\$)
Revenue = X	253,441,682	285,801,849	288,729,586	299,676,655
Expenses = Y	264,268,224	276,214,706	308,868,350	335,316,035
Balance = X – Y	-10,826,542	9,587,143	-20,138,764	-35,639,380
Cost recovery balance	25,492,390	35,079,533	14,940,769	-20,698,611

7.2 Non-financial performance

Our Annual report 2022–23 provides comprehensive information on performance measures and performance results. It is not intended to duplicate the information in this document but rather to draw attention to the key objectives relevant to biosecurity cost recovery.

Our biosecurity objective 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’.

Table 9 provides non-financial performance indicators for the biosecurity regulatory charging arrangement, consistent with the [Commonwealth Performance Framework](#). Additional detail on non-performance measures is included in the [Annual report](#) and [Corporate plan](#).

Table 9 Non-financial performance measures for biosecurity arrangement, 2022–23

Performance criterion	Performance measure	2022–23 performance
Effectively prepare for the management of biosecurity risk through pragmatic policy, fit-for-purpose regulation and mature preparedness (Effectiveness and regulatory).	Reduced levels of non-compliance with regulations administered by the department (high-value cargo).	BI-01-01 – achieved.
	Reduced levels of non-compliance with regulations administered by the department (approved arrangements).	BI-01-02 – not achieved.
	Reduced levels of non-compliance with regulations administered by the department (international travellers).	BI-01-03 – not achieved.
Biosecurity service standards are met. (Effectiveness and regulatory).	Biosecurity service standards are met.	BI-02 – partially achieved.

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Performance criterion	Performance measure	2022–23 performance
Effectively detect biosecurity risk through intelligence-led targeting, technology-supported inspections and efficient detection methods (Effectiveness and regulatory).	Reduction in risk of African swine fever because of biosecurity measures implemented by the department.	BI-03 – achieved.
	Number of consignments of imported goods arriving with khapra beetle reduced as a result of biosecurity measures implemented by the department.	BI-04 – partially achieved.
Minimise the impact of biosecurity incursions through appropriate post-biosecurity and post-border measures (Effectiveness and regulatory).	Number and extent of biosecurity preparedness exercises completed.	BI-05 – achieved.

Note: For a complete analysis of our performance measures, see the [Annual report 2022–23](#) pages 25–46 and the [Corporate plan 2022–23](#), pages 19–27.

8 Key dates and events

We undertake regular reviews of our financial performance and conduct regular stakeholder engagement activities throughout the CRIS cycle. Key forward dates for the biosecurity regulatory charging arrangement are documented in Table 10.

Table 10 Key forward dates and events

Key forward events schedule	Next scheduled update
Review of arrangement and indexation	1 st quarter 2024
Updated fees and charges implemented	1 July 2024
Consultation on 2025 -26 CRIS	3 rd quarter 2025
Portfolio charging review to be undertaken	2025
Portfolio charging review outcomes to be brought forward in Budget 2026–27	2026

9 CRIS approval and change register

The intent of the department is to update this CRIS annually as recommended by the Australian Government Charging Framework, and in conjunction with the key dates and events in [section 8](#). The change register in Table 11 provides a record of updates to this CRIS.

Table 11 Change register

Date of CRIS change	CRIS change	Approver	Basis for change
December 2015	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary, DAWR	Changes in costs of resources and assumptions.
December 2015	Agreement to the CRIS	Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources	High risk rating for the regulatory charging activities.
December 2015 CRIS: Biosecurity 2015–16	Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Finance	Changes in costs of resources and assumptions.
December 2019	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary, DAWR	New regulatory charging activity.
December 2019	Agreement to the CRIS	Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management	High risk rating for the regulatory charging activities.
December 2019 CRIS: Biosecurity 2019–20	Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Finance	New regulatory charging activity.
February 2024	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary, DAWE	Update for financial and non-financial reporting.
March 2022 CRIS: Biosecurity 2021–22	Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia	Medium risk rating for the regulatory charging activities.
September 2022	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary, DAFF	Increase to regulatory charge for Hitchhiker program risks.
October 2022 CRIS: Biosecurity (HH) 2022–23	Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Medium risk rating for the regulatory charging activities.
May 2023	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary, DAFF	Increase to regulatory charges following a comprehensive review of the cost recovery arrangement, aligning actual costs, effort, risk and prices.
June 2023 CRIS: Biosecurity 2023–24	Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Medium risk rating for regulatory charging activities requiring portfolio Minister approval only.
June 2024 CRIS: Biosecurity 2024–25	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary, DAFF	Apply indexation to increase regulatory fees and charges for the cost recovery arrangement, to continue to align actual costs, effort, risk and prices.
June 2024 CRIS: Biosecurity 2024–25	Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Medium risk rating for regulatory charging activities requiring portfolio Minister approval only.

Appendix A: Summary tables of volumes and regulatory activities

During 2022–23, almost 90 million cargo declarations were made, of which 4.3 million were full import declarations and 85.5 million were for low value cargo under \$1,000 in value. Over 93,400 international voyages and flights arrived at international airports and seaports around the country. Around 18,900 import permit applications were submitted and nearly 6,700 animals were processed at PEQ facilities.

Table A1 Vessel and aircraft

Year	Total number of international voyages	Number of voyage inspections	Total number of international aircraft arrivals
2018–19	19,077	18,933	100,078
2019–20	18,859	18,553	75,830
2020–21	17,844	15,108	16,206
2021–22	18,256	15,166	27,464
2022–23	19,316	10,949	74,114

Note: For 2022–23 an update to ‘Number of voyage inspections’ data has been applied from previous years data within this report. Data is now calculated on the number of vessels inspected after international arrival rather than the number of vessel inspections that may have occurred.

Table A2 Cargo

Year	Total international cargo import declarations	Number of cargo imports assessed	Number of cargo import inspections	Total high value cargo import declarations	Total low value cargo import declarations
2018–19	53,740,949	863,910	269,328	4,279,208	49,461,741
2019–20	58,856,338	663,402	242,061	4,243,067	54,613,271
2020–21	77,199,249	790,857	329,709	4,508,546	72,690,703
2021–22	88,955,196	782,208	335,195	4,385,366	84,569,830
2022–23	89,875,509	682,129	272,417	4,327,283	85,548,226

Note: All cargo import declarations are profiled for biosecurity concerns. Declarations that match a profile are referred to the department for action.

Table A3 Import permit applications and animals processed at the PEQ

Year	Total volume of permit applications submitted and paid to the department	Number of animals (cats, dogs & horses) processed at the PEQ
2018–19	16,825	6762
2019–20	17,476	5,647
2020–21	15,140	4,936
2021–22	17,515	6,484
2022–23	18,992	6,784

Appendix B: Description of cost model activities

This section provides details of the cost model activities undertaken in our regulatory charging arrangements.

Program management and administration activities (charge)

Workforce and business management

This activity comprises 4 categories:

- 1) Workforce management activities include staff supervision, allocating workforce resources, managing employee performance, leave, training and other conditions, managing work, health and safety requirements, recruitment, and termination.
- 2) Business management activities include business planning and continuity, requesting legal advice, procurement and contracts, program and project administration, assurance, design and management, management of fixtures, facilities, equipment, supplies and logistics.
- 3) Financial management activities include billing and accounting, budgeting, charges and payments, collections and receivables, debt management, financial accounts, reporting and policy development.
- 4) Information management activities include data management, information and records management, and information sharing and collaboration.

Business systems administration

Includes developing, acquiring, testing, implementing, and supporting applications and business systems. It encompasses technical support and maintenance of all business systems, including information and communication technology.

Stakeholder engagement

Involves proactive engagement with any person, business, or organisation, including any associated travel. It includes, engaging with peak industry bodies, secretariat support and attendance at industry consultative committee meetings, consultation on new standards and requirements, publishing website content and other information.

Policy and instructional material

Includes developing, maintaining, and communicating our policy and instructional material, such as operational and corporate policies, scientific advice, guidelines and work instructions, and associated training development and delivery. Examples include developing or revising policy, processes and developing new instructional material.

Business improvement

Includes assessment, monitoring and development of initiatives to improve performance. Examples include adjustments to improve program and service delivery, business performance reports against key performance indicators and similar activities.

Assurance activities (charge)

Risk management

Involves assessing and managing the risks posed to Australia's biosecurity and imported food systems. This includes communicating results of risk analysis, modelling and forecasting to operational areas and the collection, receipt and use of data, information and intelligence to meet our compliance objectives. This work also includes any associated travel and client assistance work, such as assessment of risks associated with cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material.

Verification

Includes activities that provide our executive and stakeholders with confidence that our systems and processes are operating in accordance with their intended design and associated documentation and managing the identified risk. For example, internal quality assurance systems and verification activities to ensure officers are following procedures, processes or instructional material and are making appropriate decisions.

Surveillance

Includes formal and informal monitoring to detect changes in Australia's pest or disease status, or the presence of food safety concerns which may affect imports and onshore production. Surveillance differs from an inspection as it is not conducted for a specific client.

It includes all pre and post work, travel and client assistance in relation to surveillance. Examples include deploying detector dogs, wharf surveillance, vector monitoring at proclaimed ports, new car surveillance, break bulk surveillance, monitoring the entry of exotic pests, weeds and disease across passenger and cargo pathways, monitoring of animal welfare issues and monitoring for microbiological or chemical hazards in food.

Incident management activities (charge)

Incident management

Includes the coordination and management of any incident, including post-border detections and biosecurity and imported food incidents. This includes all associated pre and post work, travel and client assistance in relation to an incident. It excludes cost-sharing for emergency responses under the formal national disease and pest response arrangements.

Investigation support

Involves providing support for enforcement activities relating to an alleged breach of portfolio legislation, including any related client assistance and travel. It does not include the work of the enforcement officers. Examples of investigation support include data extraction and analysis to support an investigation.

Corrective action

Includes actions taken in response to non-compliance with or contravention of legislation or procedures that are managed without a formal investigation by an Enforcement officer. Corrective action activities include advice and support to operational staff and clients on the management of non-compliance and the development of options to effectively manage the risk.

Intervention activities (fee)

Assessment

Involves assessing information to determine if it meets the department's requirements. This includes the assessment of import-related documentation for cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material, including administration of applications.

Issue approvals and certification

Includes issuing of a decision in relation to an assessment for cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material. This includes the work from the end of the assessment period to the completion of the decision-notification process.

Inspection

Includes the physical examination and supervision of a physical examination, of cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material, to determine compliance with biosecurity and food safety requirements. Inspections also include activities related to post-quarantine detections of biosecurity-risk goods.

Treatments

Includes the physical treatment of cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material, other conveyances or premises, to prevent an adverse biosecurity outcome from occurring.

Husbandry

Includes activities relating to the care of plants and animals that we are responsible for, including transport of plants and animals, housing, daily monitoring, feeding, cleaning of facilities, administering of medication, bookings and client assistance.

Audit

Includes the systematic and functionally independent examination of industry systems and processes to determine whether activities and related results comply with legislative or documented requirements. This includes desktop audits, remote audits, site audits (including travel), reviews of standard operating procedures for new and existing approved arrangement sites, overseas manufacturing facilities and pre-export quarantine facilities and their procedures.

Appendix C: Stakeholder engagement

Consultation on the introduction of an annual review of regulatory charging, and the introduction of indexation across future years, was undertaken as part of the review of the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement completed in 2023. Stakeholders supported this approach, which would provide greater price certainty and avoid large price increases in the future.

In preparation for the introduction of indexed prices on 1 July 2024, further engagement with stakeholders commenced in March 2024, through a variety of communication channels, including:

- attendance at industry consultative committees
- public engagement through the department’s ‘Have your Say’ consultation platform, open from 12 April until 7 May 2024
 - indexed prices for 2024–25 and a draft 2024–25 biosecurity cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) were published
- social media campaigns and a series of advice notices, targeting key stakeholder groups
- information and reminders of the commencement of new prices through advice notices, and social media in the lead up to 1 July 2024.

Stakeholders did not raise concerns and were expecting prices to increase in line with CPI. Indexed prices were published well in advance of the 1 July 2024 commencement date, providing impacted stakeholders time to prepare for price increases.

Appendix D: Government approach to cost recovery

Table D1 describes the key government approval for continued and expanded regulatory charging for biosecurity activities since 2017.

Table D1 Government approval for continued and expanded regulatory charging for biosecurity activities

Date	Government approach
May 2023	As part of its election commitment to sustainably fund the Commonwealth biosecurity system, the government announced in the 2023–24 Federal Budget that it will extend the biosecurity industry cost recovery arrangement to include low value goods imported into Australian territory.
May 2021	<p>Better manage the risk of hitchhiker pests and diseases Importers</p> <p>Government committed \$96.9 million over 4 years to better manage the risk of hitchhiker pests and diseases that can cause considerable cost and disruption to agricultural production, the environment, and the way of life of all Australians.</p> <p>The program addresses the risk of major hitchhiker pests, for example khapra beetle and brown marmorated stink bug, which can be carried in and on containers and their contents (around 2.5 million containers arrive each year).</p> <p>Commencing 16 January 2023, the Sea FID increased from \$49 to \$58.</p>
November 2019	<p>Expansion of cost recovered regulatory activities</p> <p>The government decided to expand cost recovered regulatory activities to include \$23.0 million per year of biosecurity activities. These directly relate to our regulatory framework.</p> <p>From 1 January 2020 regulatory activities included in regulatory charges were expanded to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assurance and verification activities to provide confidence in compliance controls and support enforcement of regulation, contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness of the biosecurity system that facilitates importers to bring goods safely into Australia. This activity included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – applying best practice regulatory procedures and monitoring their implementation to verify ongoing effectiveness of regulatory activity – implementing and maintaining a decision-making tool that allows us to calculate benefits and risks of change in regulatory activity – investigations of importer compliance with biosecurity regulation to maintain the integrity of the system, including provision and monitoring of corrective actions. • Increased analytics and intelligence activities, including the use of data to identify trends to inform intervention and compliance activities. This was intended to minimise the risk of incursions and prevent harm to Australia’s agricultural production and environment. These activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the application, maintenance and refinement of algorithms and work processes that analyse biosecurity data and inform coordination of biosecurity risk management measures and compliance controls. The intelligence helps us identify which imports are most likely to expose Australia to exotic pests and/or diseases. – this allows for more targeted risk management activities that streamline the border experience for importers and reduces intervention with importers with minimal risk.

Date	Government approach
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of technical and scientific advice to maintain up to date biosecurity risk management information within our Biosecurity Import Condition (BICON) system. Through BICON, we provide a single source of truth for biosecurity officers and importers to identify goods quickly and easily, relevant import conditions and further biosecurity risk management options for the safe import of goods. • Import pest and disease risk mitigation planning, which ensures that we have the capability to mitigate the impact of pest and disease incursions that result from the import of goods. The activities include the development and maintenance of risk mitigation processes and plans, including the maintenance of the capability required to implement actions in those plans, which facilitates the import of goods. Importers will be able to either choose to rely on publicly available plans or choose to develop their own plans subject to the department granting a permit. <p>The effect of this decision to expand cost recovery for biosecurity activities was an increase in 4 charges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Import Declaration charge—air was \$33, to \$38. • Full Import Declaration charge—sea was \$42 to \$49. • Vessels greater than or equal to 25 metres—arrival charge was \$920, to \$1054. • Vessels less than 25 metres—arrival charge was \$100, to \$120.
October 2018	<p>Charging for approved arrangements</p> <p>Government approved a change to regulatory charging for biosecurity-approved arrangements. As part of this change, a new throughput charge was introduced, together with remissions for the annual charges payable by some industry participants.</p> <p>The new throughput charge applies to each entry made under the Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities (AEPCOMM). A rate of \$18 is charged for each entry by a person covered by an approved arrangement, for goods to be brought or imported into Australian territory.</p> <p>The annual charge for biosecurity-approved arrangements is set at \$2,900 per year. As part of the introduction of the throughput charge, the annual charges payable for some industry participants have been able to be reduced by remission. Biosecurity approved arrangements operated at a single site – \$2,500 Biosecurity approved arrangements operated as an AEP Broker only – \$500. These operators will also pay a throughput charge of \$18 for each AEP entry they process.</p>
May 2017	<p>Vessel arrival charge</p> <p>As part of the 2017–18 Budget measures the government directed us to increase the international vessel arrival charge to address the volume forecast and cost recover the expenses of the expanded ballast water biosecurity activities.</p> <p>The international vessel arrival charge for vessels over 25 metres in length increased from \$720 to \$920, with effect from April 2018.</p>

References

DAFF, 2024 [Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 \(PDF 5.7 Mb\)](#), Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, May 2021, accessed 20 February 2024.