



## Communique

### DCCC Meeting 97 – 20 March 2023

The first DCCC meeting for 2024 convened on Wednesday 20 March at Agriculture House, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (DAFF), Canberra.

The Chair Tina Hutchison, First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Operations Division, opened the meeting by thanking all members for attending; acknowledging country; and introducing Australia Post's new DCCC representative, Tanya Thornton.

The Chair set the context for the DCCC meeting discussions under the framework of DAFF's 4-year transformation agenda. The agenda, led DAFF Secretary, Adam Fennessy, builds on previous Designing DAFF work and responds to several independent evaluations to deliver outcomes across key areas including but not limited to:

- sustainable finances and management
- the regulatory operating model
- workforce capacity and capability.

Supporting the transformation agenda, and guided by the newly appointed Deputy Secretary, Biosecurity and Compliance Group, Justine Saunders, efforts will be focussed on maturing Australia's biosecurity system capabilities across strategic and operational policy, stakeholder collaboration and partnerships, regulatory compliance, workforce planning, financial management and digitisation.

DCCC discussions turned to the strategic priorities to uplift the biosecurity regulatory operating model and service delivery capability including:

- strategic engagement with industry to improve voluntary compliance; expand partnership arrangements; air cargo pathway and assessment policy; and phasing in a biosecurity-operations landing page for centralised access to the latest updates on operational, issues, contacts and a place for industry feedback on issues
- the co-designed STEPS Program digital initiatives, for delivery from 1 July 2024, to streamline cargo management and assurance processes. This included early deliverables in relation to E-Certs, self-service for Approved Arrangements and a Cargo Tracker status report.
- the draft consultation 2024-25 Biosecurity Cost Recovery Implementation Statement and sustainable biosecurity funding measures, including Minister Watt's 28 February 2024 establishment of the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel and SAC cost recovery charge to commence from 1 July 2024.
- co-designing better hitchhiker risk management interventions via the newly established Imported Sea Container Working Group to keep risk offshore, tighten onshore treatment controls and share responsibility for managing biosecurity through expanded partnerships and better industry awareness.

Industry members raised the service and regulatory issues experienced when transacting with the biosecurity system at the border. For assessment delays, DAFF confirmed its focus on recruitment and took members' advice to communicate with industry about the types and location of delays early. Regulatory frameworks for Illegal logging compliance, minimum documentary requirements and inspections at anchorage for bulk trade were raised, with issues to be followed-up out-of-session or scoped for discussion at the next DCCC meeting on 4 July 2024.

In closing the Chair thanked members for their high level of engagement at the meeting, emphasising the significant body of work underway and need for the DCCC to focus on actioning tactical issues that will deliver the best return on investment and results for government and industry.

#### DCCC Industry representative attendees



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

- Dianne Tipping, Export Council of Australia
- Carolyn Macgill, Food and Beverage Importers Association
- Bradley Leonard, International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia
- Paul Bagnall, Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
- Sal Milici, Freight and Trade Alliance
- Peter Van Duyn, International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
- Craig Birchall, Qantas Airlines Ltd
- Tanya Thornton, Australia Post