# 2023 National Biosecurity Forum

Event transcript

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## Session 3 – Part 2: Stronger partnerships and a shared biosecurity culture

Stuart Anderson: Tēnā koutou, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou. Great to be here. Thank you very much for the invitation. It’s a fantastic day today.

So thank you. I'd also just like to acknowledge that the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Ngunnawal people, pay my respects to Elders past, present, emerging and extend that to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today. Like I said, it's great to be here. I'll share some insights and perspectives from New Zealand, an Aotearoa New Zealand perspective, and I hope you'll find it valuable. I think our two countries are very similar really in terms of how we approach and think about biosecurity and importance that we place on biosecurity, probably reasonably unique compared to many other countries around the world, and there's good reasons for that.

Last night, Andrew Metcalfe relayed some of the figures that show how important protecting Australia’s primary industries are. We're a bit similar in that regard in terms of the importance of our primary industries in protecting them from pests and diseases. This year we expect around $55 billion of export revenue from our primary sector, 81% of our trade, 11% of GDP, around 13% of our employment. And it's not only the primary industries, it's our special and unique natural environment in the environmental, social, cultural values that go with that too. On that, really value the relationship that we have here with you across various levels at the federal and state level and industry. Our people work very closely at various levels across all of that. We do really appreciate that relationship and certainly the connection with the department here in Canberra and around the country. The last 12 months, we've touched by quite a lot of things, foot-and-mouth disease, other issues, etcetera. And it's great to be able to do that formally as well as just the phone and being able to talk to Chris and the team, it's hugely valuable and appreciated, so thank you.

Go back. Look similar to some of the things that we talked about today and that you've heard, you know, threats to our primary industries, threats to our environment from biosecurity, just continue to grow and become more challenging. As I said, you know, protecting New Zealand from harmful pests and diseases is critical and it’s what we're all about. However, that is what is a continual challenge, but it's also an increasing challenge and those challenges will continue to grow. We've got the continued threats from, in terms of the changing nature of trade and movement of people and goods, changes in environment, Covid-19. We're, of course, we're back trading and flying and moving things around from that, however things aren't the same. The airline industry is still very much disrupted, supply chains are very disrupted, the nature of cargo and consignments is quite different and probably will be for some time. Public expectations on us to keep everything out and deal with things and not let things in, that's always been there, however, that continues to grow as well and will so going forward. Pressure from established pests that will spread further and rear up in places they haven't been before, climate change of course adds to all that and I think, I think in Australia you've probably been seeing and living with climate change effects for longer than we have or noticing them longer than we have. Certainly the last 12 months in New Zealand it would be hard to argue that climate change certainly is not a very real thing that's here and going to challenge us further. On that you know, and you would have seen or heard probably what's happened in the last few months, end of January unprecedented rainfall in Auckland, that shut the Auckland International Airport for two days, it flooded the airport, flooded our biosecurity customs area, flooded stuff all over the place. Two weeks later, cyclone Gabrielle, haven't seen something like that I think in New Zealand since the 1980s, but it was more widespread this time around. Massive impact across our primary industries, the image there is Hawkes Bay, an Orchard, probably about 30% of the horticulture production in Hawkes Bay has been wiped out. Some properties like that probably aren't going to be able to go back into horticulture, that stock just can't be removed. Impacts there in terms of our biosecurity operations and going forward, you know, are really, really going to challenge us even more as those industries rebuild and recover as well. So our biosecurity system, as I say, we've got a very similar approach to yourselves over here. What we tend to talk about our system or try to convey around our system, it's multi layered, we refer to it as a net more than a wall and we have interventions across all the different parts of the system, those different layers. So offshore as I said this morning, we put a huge amount of effort into the offshore work, to stop things from getting into New Zealand and reaching the border through the work on the border and surveillance post border. And then if things do get in, to try and other eradicate them, or if we can't then to manage them and contain spread, long-term management.

As I say, we like to talk about the system as a net, not a wall, however as I mentioned, the increasing expectations to keep everything out and not let anything in, I think we've been quite successful over many decades at keeping things out. Our geography is helpful in that regard. However, you can't keep everything out. You can't stop everything. You can't look at everything. Our focus is on the things we really don't want, or the most harmful things, however the risk is that the system is seen to have failed whenever something does actually cross the border, which is not always the case, of course. Look, that’s our strategy that guides us in terms of what we are doing. I'm not going to talk through it all I think, but our main outcomes in terms of what we strive to achieve with biosecurity is the impact of harmful pests and diseases being reduced, strengthening our system or keeping our system strong, obviously imports and exports are critical to our growth and prosperity, and then the last one, which I will touch on a bit is around everyone doing their bit and there's been a theme of that today as well, everyone playing their part and it's not all about us. One of the things I did want to highlight in terms of a focus for us, and we've been leaning into more in the last few years, we've set ourselves a strategic goal of being treaty grounded. And what that's all about is that within the biosecurity system and the way we do biosecurity, we are responsible treaty partners with Tangata whenua, Māori Indigenous people of New Zealand and honouring our commitments under the Treaty of Waitangi to do so. So what that means is that what we're striving to do is to partner and engage with Māori in everything we do in relation to biosecurity from the outset, as opposed to going along once we've figured things out and then talking to Māori at the community level about what we think needs to happen. So we've put quite a lot of work into that. We're doing quite a bit of work in our internal capability and raising our capability there. We've invested in some dedicated resource to help us engage effectively from the outset and to, as I say, to really have our treaty commitments at the core of what we do in biosecurity. So tune in everyone. I think we've made some good progress. We do things differently now to what we did a few years ago by engaging and partnering meaningfully on responses and preparedness, however, there is still a lot more for us to do there and down to things like our cultural capability and competence, having more Māori staff working for us and actually staying with us. Our numbers are not where they need to be, but it is a focus for us.

We're also doing a bit of work at the moment around refreshing and revising our biosecurity strategy. It was last, about 6-7 years ago, I think that work was done and things have changed of course in that time. I'm not going to go into the detail on that, but I think what's interesting is the 6th strategic themes or pou that we have landed on or landing on around that, there's some strong similarities with your national strategy and we've been really interested in following your strategy and your implementation plan and what we can learn from that as we go forward with this refresh of ours. But those 6 themes, as I say, some real similarities there. Ko Tatou This Is Us, I'll talk about that in a minute, which is everyone playing their part, capability and capacity, a Strong Tiriti partnership, so that's partnering effectively with Māori, sustainable investments are the financing and funding of the system, system integration and coordination, and the role of innovation in improving and strengthening the system and how we do things. So Ko Tatou This Is Us, so this is an initiative that we kicked off a few years ago around that principle of everyone has a part to play. Certainly there's no way we can or should be expected to do everything and it wouldn't work if we try to do everything in biosecurity. So it's really getting everyone to play their part in the biosecurity system. It touches on a range of things from public awareness and information campaigns through to partnerships, initiatives that we jointly fund with our partners and awards, and all sorts of things and joint programs of work on eradication. It's been a great success and it's been received really well and it's certainly serving us really well and we will keep pushing in that regard. I'll just highlight at the bottom there in addition to the awards what's mentioned at the bottom bullet point, the Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital, that's a regional initiative in the east part of the north island, where we've partnered with local community, industry representatives, local iwi and they’ve actually driven it and are focused entirely on biosecurity. We now support and come along and help with things. It’s been a great initiative and we're looking to replicate more of that around the country. In terms of some of our partnership work that we have on the go, so these range from again public awareness campaigns, through to co-funded or potentially, some of them largely funded by us in terms of eradication or response programs, long term pest management.

So just to touch on a few of these, the Tiakina Kauri program on the left, so those of you have been to New Zealand and have been up north, you would have seen our Kauri trees, the longest living, some of the longest living and largest tree species in the world. They are a treasure. They're particularly a Tauranga treasure species for Māori, who see the health of the Kauri as a sign of the general being of the people. They are under threat from a pathogen which ultimately can kill them. This program is really very much a partnership with iwi, with mana whenua up in the north, or the northern part of the north island, to work together to get on top of this and try and preserve and protect these trees for future generations. We've got a clean vessel program that we're launching in the marine space around changing behaviour with boat owners and vessels, things like anchor chains, ropes, fishing gear, et cetera, not spreading things around the coastline. Marine is an area where we are going, I think we'll be increasingly challenged going forward, warmer temperatures, marine heatwaves, I think six years in a row now around the coast of New Zealand. So we are going to see more of this. We've had a Caulerpa seaweed emerge off Auckland, on an island off Auckland, that's been really problematic, so that's what that campaign’s all about. Wilding conifers, another one for us that's a collaboration with local authorities, community groups, local community volunteer groups around getting on top of the wildingconifer problem. And lastly, I couldn't come here and not mention this, the Tipu Mātoro, national Wallaby eradication program. Yep, we do have Wallabies in New Zealand, they are a pest and we're trying to get rid of them. So that's what that's about. Lots of New Zealanders actually don't even know that they’re a problem, we have to remind them.

So, the Biosecurity Business Pledge, the pledge is a great initiative, it's out of the Ko Tātou initiative. We're really proud of the part that we've played in helping that and we certainly haven't got it to this point, it's been really picked up and led and driven by industry with our support. But it's a fantastic initiative, it's all about getting business together and getting business interested in and committed to doing the right thing for biosecurity and for their businesses, being a trading nation reliant on the primary industries. So it started off in October 2019 with an initiative between ourselves and some key primary sector organisations, particularly the dairy industry. So it’s now grown to, we've got over 300 members signed up and that's from some of our biggest companies, Fonterra, in New Zealand, through to the airport companies, the ports, through your family owned orchard operators who have all signed up, and it's like I say, it's been fantastic, it's gone from strength to strength. And they have regular forums and engagements, they've produced guidelines for businesses in terms of biosecurity best practice, guidance for boards of directors, how to incorporate biosecurity into business plans, etcetera, etcetera. And the great thing, like I say for us, is we support it and we provide some funding to it, but we don't actually drive it. It's driven by industry, which is really fantastic.

Sticking with that, similar to I think to your Deeds that that's been talked about today, our framework is government industry agreements, GIA we call them, we like to partnership between government and industry for joint decision-making on readiness, preparedness, response, decision making, and cost sharing as well. We now have, that started off in 2014, we've now got 22 signatories from across industry representing 30 sectors covering about 85% of the primary sector’s value. It has been successful. It's not always easy to negotiate these agreements and then no sooner have you done that then they come around for renewal again. But it's a great mechanism and the point was made earlier about sitting together at the table and everyone's got skin in the game. We jointly make decisions and we jointly find a way which is so much better than not doing it that way.

I'm just going to touch on a few kind of topical top of mind key things as well that have been on the go in the last little while. Foot-and-mouth disease has been, a better bet, talked about today, you obviously all about that too. We also, it's the number one thing that we work to keep out of New Zealand and we have, and it's not in New Zealand. It hasn't been and we want to keep it that way. We work really closely with yourselves, with DAFF, since June last year, we've worked really closely together on the Indonesian situation, aligning what we're doing at the border and how we do it. And as I said at the beginning, it's been hugely helpful for us to collaborate and just have an open line of communication with each other on that. And again, I do want to thank Chris and the team for that. We really have appreciated that. It's been very helpful to do so. Just for us. Nothing new for yourselves, but for us, direct flights to Bali started again last week out of Auckland. To date it has mostly been passengers transiting through Australia from Bali to New Zealand. So three flights a week, probably more starting in June. So we've just ramped up our message there and done very similar to what you have here, foot mats when you come off the aircraft etcetera.

*Mycoplasma bovis*,biggest biosecurity response we've ever mounted in New Zealand cattle disease, it’s pretty common around the rest of the world, but we've never had it until 2017. So when that kicked off, we didn't know that we would actually be able to do it and eradicate it, but we thought it was worth a shot with industry. We're in a good space with it now. We've got one infected property, we've had about 280 and in the last 4-5 years we're down to 1. We've still got a few years to go of surveillance, but we are very confident of getting there and achieving that goal. It's about a billion-dollar program, we've spent about 250 million on compensation to farmers, killed around 200,000 animals so far, and affected many more thousands of farmers with testing and movement controls and notices of direction and all that sort of stuff. But it's a big milestone. It's a big place we've got to with that, and as I say, we are confident of getting there and it's been, it's been a lot of hard lessons out of that program which I would be able to share again at another time.

And lastly the other big thing in the next few months in New Zealand is the Traveller Declaration, so essentially that’s moving between us and customs and immigration. We're moving from the paper arrival card to a digital declaration, web app based. It's a big undertaking going live in June, so if you're flying to New Zealand to go skiing in Queenstown or something from June onwards, you'll be able to fill that in. The great potential here is it's not just getting rid of paper and hopefully making that experience easier, but it's the data and information that we can get from them to be smarter and more targeted on the border about managing the risk. So those of you that would come to New Zealand and will be low risk and not be doing anything wrong can go through really quickly and we don't need to bother much, but the passengers and the goods with passengers that we are more concerned about, this will allow us to target that much better and more efficiently and manage all that through the border a lot easier.

So look, hopefully that's useful again. Thank you, I really appreciated being here today and last night. As I say, I appreciate us working closely together, the more we can do that the better and being able to do more of face to face after the last couple of years is fantastic too. So thank you very much. I do appreciate the invitation and the time and all the best rest of the day. Ngā mihi tatou katoa.

Richard Morecroft: Yeah, thank you very much indeed Stuart for that presentation and really good to hear about some of the commonalities that we do share across our systems. As we heard amongst other things about the six themes from Stuart and also some of the successes in New Zealand in terms of the preparedness and the preparatory processes for dealing with biosecurity questions.

Because we have another great group of experts lined up to discuss, this time, strengthening and expanding networks with stakeholders at the local, regional, national and international level. And so for this discussion, would you please welcome now Sarah Corcoran, Chief Executive Officer, Plant Health Australia; Kathleen Plowman, Chief Executive Officer, Animal Health Australia; and joining us virtually, Lee Cale – Assistant Secretary, Cargo Operations, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. So, welcome to you all and how well we engage with our stakeholders of course plays a really big part in the success of the work that's being done. Particularly when responding to incidents and following national emergency response plans, now looking forward to your questions from the floor very shortly, but perhaps I can begin and bring in Sarah, first of all, you, and again thank you for your participation off stage, so to speak just a short time ago, but welcome back to the stage. With over 40 plant incursions impacting Australia's agriculture and our environment every year, how does Plant Health Australia actually promote that sense of a shared biosecurity culture and I guess does it really deliver tangible benefits?

Sarah Corcoran: That's an excellent question. Thank you, Richard. Look, it's a scary statistic, isn't it? That there's on average 40 plant pest incursions that occur annually and that's probably in a good year. And at any one time we will have multiple response plans in place, which means that the system's very active and the role of Plant Health Australia, and I touched on this a little earlier and the same for Animal Health Australia, is that we are coordinators of the national system. So we have the three levels of government, we have our industry partners, and we bring those people together to partner and to succeed. And we do that through either those response activities that occur, there's nothing like a crisis to bring people together, and out of those crises come a lot of learnings, a lot of camaraderie and esprit de corps, in terms of our trust and relationships with those key stakeholders and players in the national system. So the work that we're doing revolves around, a large amount of it, around that emergency space simply because it is such an active space for incursions of plant pests. But there's lots and lots of other work that happens in the preparedness space, it's biosecurity plans and those are developed in conjunction with industry and government, and the power of those relationships is that it means everyone's at the table from the start and they have the ability to make policy settings and decisions and yeah, that makes it, that sense of ownership, really strong for all of the people involved in biosecurity. So that's really the strengths that we bring.

Richard Morecroft: I want to try and bring Lee Cale into discussion now who's joining us virtually. But a technical request may I ask both of you to switch off your microphones because apparently we're having a little feedback for our virtual attendees and I just wanted to check. I'm glancing over at our technical people, is this microphone off now and is that okay with you? That’s gone? Great.

All right. So Lee hoping that you can hear us because I know that you led the Department’s development and implementation of a new regulatory framework for the export of live animals after the government suspension of the trade to Indonesia in 2011 and presumably the situation, there were many stakeholders and many competing interests, what sort of engagement techniques did you use to get everybody engaged and to the table?

Lee Cale: Yeah, thanks Richard. Thanks, Richard. And I am coming to you from Moonee Ponds building in Melbourne and I'm sorry I couldn't be with you today in person. Absolutely. There has been a situation where we had many and varied stakeholders and obviously with differing and imposing agendas, various export areas, industry players, animal welfare groups, primary producers, trading partners, our own government, and the opposition just to name a few.

So I think in terms of what techniques we used, I guess looking at bringing all those players together in a way that we could understand their various needs, to be very clear on what was the value proposition for them in such an activity that we're trying to drive, and understand the various positions in mindsets as we try to move forward and apologies I am getting a bit of feedback. But certainly, probably the biggest technique we used there was, and I'll call it a co-design, was bringing those players together, sometimes not sometimes not all in the same room, but to come together to identify their needs, their requirements, the impacts on them and then co-design the regulatory framework to be something that perhaps didn't make everybody happy, perhaps didn't meet everybody's needs, but to help develop something that achieves the outcomes by meeting as many needs as we possibly could. The last thing I'd say there is there is absolutely zero chance that we could have been implemented ESCAS (Exporter Supply Chain Assurance Scheme), and especially in other sovereign countries, without that genuine stakeholder engagement. So as I said, not everybody's agendas were satisfied, but the department was able to achieve that ESCAS development and then the roll out of ESCAS by meeting what the various stakeholders, including ourselves, considered to be the most important through that engagement, those various engagement techniques that we used.

Richard Morecroft: Great. Thank you very much indeed. Now if I might ask the two of you to turn your microphones back on again because Kathleen, I wanted to bring you in now. We've heard a lot about the heightened awareness, the very substantive concern, about diseases like foot-and-mouth and like lumpy skin disease, particularly last year. How did AHA respond to this and how, this year, can you maintain that level of engagement and preparedness?

Kathleen Plowman: Yeah. So it was the very noisy, busy landscape last year and in one way, while this threat, I mean no one likes the threat, what we did have was a lot of engagement, a lot of questions coming to Animal Health Australia. I would like to say we've always been there like Plant Health Australia in this preparedness space. We've been working a long time and we've had a lot of resources and so we welcomed this engagement and that engagement occurred through our industries, at the state and territory levels, and at the Commonwealth. And one of the goals we also set ourselves in that space is we wanted to make sure there was no duplication of all the good things that we had in place and that we built a really solid understanding of how the system works, how the deed works, how we respond, because through raising that awareness, and that includes just not at the farm level, making sure we've got those biosecurity plans in place, that farmers are actually practicing that. And we had some great support from our many industries. I'd like to give a big shout out to Ag Force who were extraordinarily proactive in that space, but also the state and territory governments, they were also running their regular meetings. We had meetings through the Red Meat Advisory Council too, and we were invited to all of those and we could participate. And by that we could reduce duplication, make sure that we were focusing our conversations, our efforts, in the right place and redesigning our communication and other materials to make sure that they were fit for purpose for the audience. Because it's a wide range of audience there and so we had to have a lot of different types of communication in that space. I often get asked now, we're in 2023 and you will all would have noticed the media reporting around this and even the social commentary started to wane. So what are we going to do to continue to maintain that level of awareness? Well this comes down to a shared responsibility, so we're always here and we'll always participate, but what we also need to be doing now is actually focusing, as one of our panellists in one of the earlier morning session said, it's now time to go back and look at your plans. Practice those plans. Revise those plans. If you're in a supply chain or someone supplying something to you, ask what biosecurity practices they have in place. Because our biosecurity resilience and our preparedness is only as good as the person or the supply chain that you're acting in.

Richard Morecroft: Thank you very much. We have a question, in fact we have two questions in the room, we have three questions in the room. Excellent. I'm overwhelmed. Not sure whose hand went up first, but we have a microphone heading your way and we will certainly come to the other questions. So thank you.

John Virtue (audience): Thanks. John virtue, Biosecurity Services Consultant from South Australia. We've been talking a lot about trying to maintain or suppose build awareness and preparedness, but the other extreme, your figure Sarah of the 40 incursions per year. How do you manage that risk of incursion fatigue amongst your stakeholders? That there's another one that just that sort of need for critical people within govern within your organisation, within industry, community, keeping them motivated I suppose to take on another one?

Sarah Corcoran: I think recognition that fatigue will happen is really important. That's the first step is to understand that when you go into response it is going to be a sustained campaign and you should be thinking about what recovery looks like before you even get stuck into it, in those really formative weeks, where you’re learning what's happening and you're doing all of that information gathering to try and work out what you're dealing with. So our role then is to be that repository of knowledge, the national knowledge that gets captured through those activities and to say to people it's okay, such and such went through this or we've faced this before and these are the things that we can do to manage it. Workforce will always be a massive challenge but there's mechanisms there that support it. The National Biosecurity Response team for instance. Our systems in terms of how we mount responses post border, and the interservice, the AIIMS structure, the Australian Interservice, what’s the other I, Incident Management System, sorry, that draws on those experts from other areas that deal with hazards. And I've said this previously, biosecurity is managed as a hazard.

[Sarah Corcoran notes the echo from the microphone].

But in the sense of just like fire and floods and cyclones and earthquakes and all of those other disasters that impact population, biosecurity has a similar impact but we have to think about what the cost is going to look like. Not every pest or disease is a good candidate for eradication, and Malcolm touched on this earlier. We need to have other tools in our toolbox to manage those pests and diseases and that might be long term containment. Keeping it restricted in an area so that it doesn't spread further afield, that awareness raising so that people can take responsibility in their patch. And Kathleen was touching on it in terms of all of that work that's gone into preparing the animal industries for all of those looming, significant diseases and we together, partner because there's a lot of mixed producers out there. So we recognise that an FMD incursion would have significant impacts, ripple effects, not only with the primary people that are impacted through the animal industries, there will be plant industries, there will be those secondary and tertiary intercommunity reactions and we recognise that. I think that's a really important thing to be aware of at first.

Richard Morecroft: Thank you very much. And our next question from the floor.

Bob Makinson (audience): Bob Makinson, Australian Network for Plant Conservation. I'd like to preface my question by thanking whoever it was online who asked the question about half an hour ago about where should NEBRA sit, the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement, and I think the uncertainty of the answers that were offered to that question reflects the awkward orphan status of environmental biosecurity in relation to agricultural that we still suffer from, notwithstanding the Craik Review. The rude question would be how long would you like to work out where NEBRA should sit? But the actual question I wanted to ask about Kathleen and Sarah is how do you assess from the viewpoint of your 2 organisations the extent and adequacy of stakeholder networking in the environment sector with a view to promulgating the environment biosecurity message?

Richard Morecroft: Who'd like to kick off?

Kathleen Plowman: I will, I didn't get to say anything last time. First, congratulations on your award [referencing Bob Makinson] and also you too, John [referencing John Virtue] and I also want to say a big thank you just to all the award winners in their speeches, they were inspiring. So in terms of environment, I love the word you used then, orphan in the room. Where would you place that Deed? And I was thinking about that, it's ongoing discussion, but what I'd like to see in that discussion is the stakeholders involved, so at least you're informed and at least you can provide views, information and opinions. It might not happen right now, but you have that ongoing discussion and more of a co-design element to the future because we talk a lot about co-design, but I wouldn't say we do co-design well at all. It's kind of, we want to, but it always comes in at far too late a stage. It has to be early, and I think there's an opportunity with NEBRA to do that. I really do. At the moment, I'd say let's keep it in the safe hands of government while all the relevant parties, those communities, because I think Mal [referencing Malcolm Letts] was talking about this too. The value of community, the value of organisations, and you see this reflected in our organisations in that we've got our industry bodies there. You cannot underestimate that trust, that partnership, and collaboration that is build over the years. And it's very hard, as Andrew Robinson would agree with me, because we were talking about this last night, how do you put a value on that? Because treasuries want to know the value of that, and I'd love to do that for my government members to make it a lot easier for them when they have to go and ask for funds. So I do think we do need a discussion in that co-design. I'm certainly, I work a lot in the biosecurity collective so Plant Health Australia, Invasive Species Council, ourselves (AHA), the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. A few years ago, we said it's not enough governments and our industries, all sectors need to come together on this question of biosecurity, because biosecurity is for everyone, everyone, it touches all our lives so how do we get better at sharing and talking? And those awards last night, they're part of that process but we must start thinking more cleverly about connecting and sharing those stories and learning. It doesn't go to all your [inaudible] but I do believe we've got to start being more earnest in that dialogue.

Richard Morecroft: We're going to have to move on to our next question because we have two more questions to go in this session and only a very short time to do it in. So thank you for that response. It's clearly a potentially much larger discussion, but our next question comes from one of our online participants and it's to you, Lee. So if I might ask if the other two microphones could be switched off, again just to avoid any feedback. Lee the question is in previous roles as well as your current role, you work closely with the many sectors of the import industry, noting the very public challenges with delays in biosecurity clearance of goods at the border, how important is it to have established and strong relationships with the various stakeholders?

Lee Cale: Thanks very much, Richard and interestingly enough the only person I can see besides Sarah and Kathleen is Sal Malici sitting up front there, so one of our key stakeholders in the import industry. Look, I think those relationships are absolutely integral and to, I suppose, off the back of what Kathleen was saying and certainly what, Sarah was saying before around that co-design, I don't believe that as government, we can effectively do our jobs without those strong relationships. Again we are not the font of all knowledge, even though sometimes perhaps we think we are but understanding, again, the needs of the industry, how the industry works, only the industry knows that in great detail, so again coming together and with that shared understanding and a shared agenda, I think government and industry can all. Some people see it as us and them, it cannot be in us and them, there must be that shared responsibility there and that working together if we are going to achieve the outcomes required on both parts. And again value proposition, we have a job to deliver in the government but the industry also has a job to deliver, so whatever programs we might need to roll out or whatever activities, we have to be thinking about what's the value proposition for industry here and how can we work together to achieve? And I think one of the key things for me personally in those relationships with industry is being authentic, is moving ourselves out of that mould of just being the regulator, and actually working in an authentic way with the industry to achieve whatever it is we are trying to achieve in that biosecurity space.

Richard Morecroft: Thank you very much. And we have time for one last brief question and brief answer if we could before we move on. Thank you.

Trevor Ranford (audience): Trevor Ranford from horticulture again. I want to bring you back to the local situation and I'll give you an example at the moment at Chestnuts Australia, through the support of Rosa [referencing Rosa Crnov, Victorian Chief Plant Health Officer] and Agriculture Victoria, we have a biosecurity officer on the ground inspecting trees. But they come to a small landholder that’s got 10, 15, 20 chestnut trees, they're old and would love to take them out and assist the industry but don't have the resources. Similarly, we've got an increased peri-urban situation that we're not dealing with and you know, go back to the Riverland in South Australia and NSW and Victoria you'll find feral orchards, feral vineyards. We're not handling that problem. How do we, if we're serious, and we talk about full stakeholder engagement, how do we help those small landholders who want to do the right thing in removing their unwanted trees when they don't have the resources to do themselves? Thank you.

Richard Morecroft: Sarah, would you like to have a go with that?

Sarah Corcoran: I will definitely have a go at that. Thanks, Trevor. Look, I think the best approach and I was talking about this at lunchtime with a couple of folk about where would we get the most impact and it's regionally. So if people want to look for examples, and the Gayndah Mundubbera region in Queensland is a fantastic example of where the industry realised that they've got an issue with abandoned orchards and fruit fly. So what do they do? They band together and share responsibility and share the costs of what it takes to remove abandoned orchards and take care of that issue. And I'm sure there's multiple examples that exist across Australia and within the animal space. Kathleen would you like to say something?

Kathleen Plowman: I was just going to say that the award winners last night from community, the very thing you’re talking about blackberries, rabbits, et cetera, they come together to make a difference.

Sarah Corcoran: And what I loved about that was that they said we all do things slightly differently, but we're all here to achieve a common goal.

Richard Morecroft: A great way to conclude this panel and once again we've had some wonderful questions, but we've had some wonderful responses as well, so would you please thank Sarah Corcoran and Kathleen Plowman and also Lee Cale, who's joined us virtually. Thank you.

[Afternoon tea]