



Communique

DCCC Meeting 95, Thursday 6th July 2023

On 6 July 2023 the DCCC convened in Canberra for its 95th meeting.

Acting DCCC Chair, Andrew Patterson, Assistant Secretary, Cargo Operations (NSW, QLD, NT, ACT) Regulatory Assurance welcomed members and acknowledged first nations peoples and their lands across Australia.

Four new members joined DCCC Meeting 95: Craig Birchall for Qantas Airlines Ltd; Scott Carson for International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia; and two new departmental members: Josephine Laduzko, Assistant Secretary, Cargo and Conveyance Policy and Detection Capability Branch and Holly Buckle, Assistant Secretary, Cargo Operations (VIC, SA, WA, TAS).

Taking centre stage of discussions was the Australian Government's 9 May budget commitment to sustainably fund Australia's biosecurity system. The department's Colin Hunter stated that over the next 3 years the department is committed to maturing a fairer more equitable funding model for Australia's biosecurity system whereby risk creators – importers, international travellers – and beneficiaries of the system's protection – producers and taxpayers – share the cost. New leadership under First Assistant Secretary Bronwyn Jagers will drive the full sustainable funding agenda including potential structural reforms to government charging at the border.

Paul Douglas, Funding and Revenue talked about the when, how and where of the department's refreshed biosecurity cost recovery arrangements – accounting for around 40% of biosecurity activity funding – will inject immediate revenue to halt the stagnation of revenue evident in recent years, and through annual review and indexation, ensure realistic future revenue for the system.

Another budget highlight is the Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System (STEPS), which will be funded over 3 years to improve the efficiency of biosecurity clearance in cargo pathways. STEPS will bring together cargo data and systems for evidence and risk-based biosecurity policy decisions on managing cargo throughput and workforce resources.

Final discussions covered implementing the National Biosecurity Strategy including future actions to strengthen international government partnerships; overcoming the barriers to uptake of the class 14.4 Approved Arrangement for Rural Tailgate Inspections; the current state of biosecurity compliance and enforcement; and the implications of the recent 6 June *Biosecurity Amendment (Strengthening Biosecurity) Act 2022* and the *Biosecurity Amendment (Advanced Compliance Measures) Bill 2023* currently before Parliament.

DCCC members will convene for the last meeting of 2023 on 15 November.

DCCC Industry representative attendees:

- Dianne Tipping, Export Council of Australia
- Carolyn Macgill, Food and Beverage Importers Association
- Bradley Leonard, International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia
- Michael Gallacher, Ports Australia
- Paul Bagnall, Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
- Greg Carroll, Australia Post
- Tony McDonald, Federal Chambers of Automotive Industries
- Scott Carson, International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia
- Sal Milici, Freight and Trade Alliance
- Peter Van Duyn, International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
- Craig Birchall, Qantas Airlines Ltd