



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CARGO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

FINAL MINUTES

84th DCCC Meeting
Wednesday, 20 November 2019
Ai Group, Melbourne

Attendees

Present

Peta Lane	Department of Agriculture (Chair)
Leanne Herrick	Department of Agriculture
Andrew Patterson	Department of Agriculture
Linda Jennings	Department of Agriculture
Sonia Zarik	Department of Agriculture
Pierre Skorich	Department of Agriculture (Observer)
Anita Tapper	Department of Agriculture
Chris Dulgerov	Department of Agriculture
Tanya Howitt	Department of Agriculture
Enzina Nader	Department of Agriculture
Holly Buckle	Department of Agriculture
Nathan Reid	Department of Agriculture
Carolyn Macgill	Food and Beverage Importers Association
Dianne Tipping	Export Council of Australia
Andrew Crawford	Freight and Trade Alliance
Stuart McFarlane	Australian Federation of International Forwarders
Peter Van Duyn	International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
Melwyn Noronha	Shipping Australia Limited
Andrew Curdie	Board of Airline Representatives Australia
Zoran Kostadinovski	Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia

Apologies

Jagtej Singh	Department of Agriculture
Richard Chadwick	Department of Agriculture
Lee Cale	Department of Agriculture
Rod Nairn	Shipping Australia Limited
Brian Lovell	Australian Federation of International Forwarders
Paul Bagnall	Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
Paul Damkjaer	Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia
Craig Birchall	Board of Airline Representatives

Secretariat

Dale Loughton	Department of Agriculture
Lea Malligan	Department of Agriculture

Agenda Item 1 - Chair's introductions

The chair welcomed members and observers to the 84th DCCC meeting.

Members noted that this will be Andrew Crawford's last DCCC meeting representing FTA. The Chair thanked Andrew for his contribution to the work of the committee over the last 18 months, recognising in particular his extensive involvement in developing the 2019/20 BMSB seasonal measures. Members wished Andrew all the best in his new role.

1.1 Minutes from previous meeting

The previous meeting minutes (DCCC 83) were confirmed with no further amendments.

1.2 Action items

Members confirmed the status of action items, noting the items flagged for discussion during the meeting.

Agenda item 2 – Finance Update

2.1 Biosecurity Import Levy

The Government is committed to implementing the biosecurity import levy and an announcement is expected in the coming weeks. Mr McFarlane asked if we expect it to be implemented this year and if work is being done by Department of Home Affairs to prepare if the levy is collected using a FID. Ms Lane advised that more information is imminent and expects the announcement before the end of the 2019.

Action: DCCC secretariat to schedule a teleconference to discuss the biosecurity import levy when details are available.

2.2 Cost Recovery

Ms Tapper apologised for tabling the reports so close to the meeting.

Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement Financial Performance Report 2018-19

Ms Tapper provided members with a summary of the results

- The biosecurity cost recovery arrangement recorded a surplus of \$13.5m
- Revenue was strong at \$267m
- Increases in revenue were mainly attributable to:
 - increased inspections and document assessments for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) response and Approved Arrangements
 - offset by lower than budget revenue for full import declarations – sea.
- Expenses were over budget mainly attributable to:
 - reduction in the ten year government bond rate, which resulted in increased long service leave expenses of approximately \$4m
 - cost allocation adjustments to reflect the significant increase in import clearance inspections.
- The cost recovery reserve balance is \$36m.

2019-20 Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement budget

Ms Tapper outlined the key components of the budget.

- The Arrangement is budgeting a surplus of \$10.8m
- Higher revenue is anticipated, attributable to:
 - increased FIDs (\$4.6 million)
 - increased BMSB inspection and assessment activities (\$19m)
 - minor increase in imports of cats and dogs.
- An increase in expenses of approximately \$26m is anticipated, attributable to:

-
- employee expenses for BMSB related inspection, assessment and diagnostic services (\$14m); corresponding with the increase in revenue
 - import policy reviews and updating instructional material
 - BICON system refresh, system enhancements for COLS and support for the Enterprise Surveillance System
 - fit and proper person assessment and verification
 - development and implementation of a national harmonised framework for BMSB seasonal pests and treatment
 - biological permits assessment
 - transition to the new avian post-entry quarantine facility at Mickleham
 - incident management at the border.
- The closing balance of the Biosecurity Cost Recovery Reserve is anticipated to be \$47m.
 - Section 74 Revenue relates to offshore activities not under the cost recovery legislation; the department charges under a contract basis for some of its offshore services.

FID revenue YTD

Ms Tapper reported that actual FID revenue YTD is lower than anticipated and asked members for insight they may have on the cause.

Members suggested the following may be contributing factors:

- consolidation of BMSB work
- volumes having a bigger impact than envisaged
- exchange rate
- LCL/FAK changes for BMSB season
- Trusted Trader scheme, due to the ability to consolidate consignments with Home Affairs.

Mr Crawford asked if increased support of the AEPCOMM scheme would reduce FID revenue. Ms Lane advised that the uptake of AEPCOMM has not been large enough to make a big difference.

Mr Macfarlane asked if the biosecurity levy is part of the budget. Ms Tapper advised that the levy is not included as it is not classified as cost recovered.

Mr Noronha asked if the budget reflects efficiencies gained through automating processes. Ms Lane acknowledged that efficiencies have been gained in some areas of work, but noted that automating processes often drives an increase in different work. Recovering the cost of developing automated processes is an area being looked at by the department.

Exports

Ms Tapper provided members with an update on work in the exports stream.

- Public consultation on proposed new fees and charges for Exports Cost Recovery Arrangements (excluding Live Animal Exports) is underway.
- Ernst & Young are undertaking an independent review of export certification cost recovery arrangements, which will include looking at the department's efficiency and effectiveness as well as developing a benchmarking framework. The review is specific to exports but some elements will also be relevant to biosecurity.
- The ANAO recently completed a performance review, looking at stakeholder engagement and benchmarking.

Ms Tipping suggested that reviews providing visibility on cost requirements going forward should occur every four years, in addition to the existing cost-recovery review cycle.

Funding for Border Modernisation

Mr Kostadinovski acknowledged the need to fund modernisation initiatives to streamline border clearances but stressed industry could not bear the full cost of investment. As it is, there is a perception that industry is being overcharged for border processing and services.

Single window to government was discussed. Mr Noronha mentioned the work done by Maersk on online ocean clearance and recommended the department needs to look at duplication of clearance processes with customs.

Mr MacFarlane noted the positive work underway under the ABF Customs and Border Modernisation Agenda and recommended greater collaboration between both agencies.

Ms Lane advised members that the department was working with Home Affairs/ABF on identifying where streamlining could occur as well as opportunities for closer collaboration/joint investment in new digital services and data infrastructure. She acknowledged this joint work could be more transparent and agreed that updates and discussions on modernisation initiatives should form part of the DCCC agenda going forward.

Action: DCCC secretariat to include modernisation initiatives as a standing agenda item for future DCCC meetings.

Cost recovery reserve

Mr Macfarlane asked how the balance in the cost recovery reserve is used. Ms Tapper advised that any surplus is kept in the reserve and is accounted for separately. When a cost recovery arrangement is reviewed, the department, with industry input, would consider whether the surplus could be invested or be returned via a remission program i.e. via a reduction in pricing in certain areas of the business.

YTD results, as at 30 September 2019

Ms Tapper provided an overview of the Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement YTD results.

- The arrangement recorded a small deficit of \$0.165m, primarily due to lower than anticipated revenue.
- Underspends were recorded in BICON and assessment automation projects due to a delay in activities.

Mr Crawford enquired about the method used to account for overtime as an expense and revenue, i.e. based on accrual from last year or calculated based on anticipated levels for the current year.

Ms Macgill enquired about the method used for projecting income.

Action: Ms Tapper to provide a response to these queries out-of-session.

Debt report

Mr Dulgerov provided members with a summary of arrangement's debt position as at October 2019.

- Debt is \$8.6m
 - \$4.7m of the \$8.6m is current
 - \$3.8m is overdue (43%), this is down from 62% in other reporting periods
 - total overdue debt has increased since March, but decreased significantly since June.
- Debt associated with annual AA fees is \$0.9m - 400/1500 clients are overdue.
- Top 10 debtors status
 - the top 10 make up \$1.2m of the outstanding \$3.8m
 - the department has written off \$135,000 in bad debts in the last year.

-
- Problems with sending system generated reminder letters has been resolved. Reminder letters have been going out since June. Statements are issued at the end of the month and reminder notices in the middle of the month.
 - The arrangement is in a better debt position than this time last year.
 - The department is working with clients during this difficult economic time. The position is not to foreclose or suspend services, not wanting to prevent the ability for a business to generate income. The department does suspend clients who do not do the right thing i.e. do not communicate with the department on their situation.

New finance system

Mr Kostadinovski raised some issues industry are experiencing with the department's finance system. Members are having difficulty matching payment to the right job. Six week delays in allocating paid monies are being experienced when paying via ICS. Industry want to pay but the system is making it difficult to reconcile. Industry are seeking some information on how the system works.

Mr Dulgerov recommended brokers not use ICS for payments but instead pay online using the reference number on the invoice. The department is looking at ways to improve the invoicing and payment process, including the use of robotics and developing a client portal.

Agenda item 3 – Biosecurity Operations Update

Ms Zarik reported the following:

- The volume of entries (measured in Lodgement Reference Numbers) lodged in the Cargo Workflow Management System (CWMS) has decreased:
 - September 2019 averaged 7,900 per week, down from 9,400 in September 2018
 - October 2019 averaged 8,650 per week, down from 10,800 in October 2018.
- Call volumes are down 13% from September 2018 and 7% from October 2018.
- Significantly less overtime has been used since the commencement of the BMSB season in 2019. This has been this deliberate to keep overtime use at a sustainable level and has been based on a work health and safety risk assessment.
 - 145 hours overtime worked in September 2019 (80% decrease on September 2018).
 - 738 hours overtime worked in October 2019 (63% decrease on October 2018).
- The average handling time (how long it takes to do each entry) is benchmarked at a certain level. Increases in handling time are monitored.
- Recruitment is continuing
- Work continues on improving the booking process to make sure the service standard (within 24 hours to provide the client with an appointment time) is met.
- The average wait times for an inspection are:
 - Melbourne
 - July to September 2019 – 5 days
 - October 2019 – 4 days
 - As of last week – 5 days
 - Sydney
 - July 2019 – 13 days
 - August 2019 – 15 days
 - September 2019 – 10 days
 - October 2019 – 13 days
 - As of last week – < 3 days for all commodities except food. Imported food was 5 days.
- Service Standards
 - Document assessment via COLS achieved in all months except October, which was 65% (service standard is 80%)

-
- 76.6% of calls answered within 2 minutes (service standard is 80%)
 - Inspection standards not met in Melbourne or Sydney from Jul-Oct 19. Standard met in all other regions
 - System enhancements
 - The SeaPEST system is having a significant positive impact on our workload
 - Automation project will be implemented December 2019 or January 2020
 - Exports
 - Activity is increasing :
 - +16% on YTD 2018/19 for Horticulture Request for Permits
 - + 45% on YTD 2018/19 for manual certificates issued
 - +9% on YTD 2018/19 for Food RFPs.
 - Citrus export season is continuing through October/November with consistent levels being exported to the Japan market as compared to 2018.
 - Cherry and summer fruit export seasons have commenced for 2019.
 - Use of the Plant Export Management System (PEMS) will be mandatory from May 2020.
 - A suite of PEMS video tutorials are now available for authorised officers on using PEMS to complete inspection and calibration records.
 - NEXDOC Dairy delayed implementation – the implementation date for NEXDOC dairy has changed. The transition will now take place late February 2020. An IAN will be distributed ASAP to advise clients and software vendors.
 - Workload tool to be piloted in April 2020. Features will include automated scheduling of inspectors according to competency and real-time adjustment of bookings across the day, creating efficiencies in the booking process.
 - Inspections Group
 - Profiling and inspection resources have been boosted in the airport and mail pathways to deal with ASF risk.
 - Six visas have been cancelled at airports for failing to declare prohibited goods.
 - Integrated Business Model is being rolled out, allowing flexible deployment of staff across different pathways as needed.

Mr Crawford expressed concern with the process for scheduling of COLS and LRN's. He explained that some importers are lodging early (5-7 days out) but then get 'bumped' by importers that lodge later, leaving no incentive to lodge early. Ms Zarik explained the queuing process will soon change from a manual process to an automated one, with the system determining the order they are processed. Ms Zarik confirmed that the procedure is for ASG officers to actively call brokerages if they believe they can resolve an issue. A reminder will be communicated in this regard.

Mr Kostadinovski stressed that the department's service standards are no longer keeping up with industry demand or activity levels. Ms Lane reassured members that the department is working on improvements, looking at ways to outsource lower risk activities to industry, moving to automated processes and building the legislative framework to support this.

Ms Zarik concluded by advising that the department is working to increase usage of AEPCOMM. Ms Lane invited members to put forward any ideas on how to achieve this. Mr Zoran suggested a review of the system's design as it is considered by many as being too clunky.

Agenda Item 4 – Trusted Trader

Ms Herrick briefly summarised the key trade modernisation initiatives that are underway.

- Agriculture's Modernising Agricultural Trade agenda, which is primarily exports focused but may identify functionality that can be adapted to imports and linked to the ABF Customs and Border Modernisation Agenda.

-
- Business Integrated Management System (BIS) program to modernise our work and systems.
 - Legislative amendments to make sharing information across different parts of the department easier.
 - Border Alignment Feasibility Study to identify alignment opportunities and greater recognition across the ABF Trusted Trader and Known Consignor Schemes with the department's co-regulatory arrangements, including fit and proper person assessments
 - members noted the example raised by Mr Curdie about managing the biosecurity risks of low risk second hand aircraft parts through a trusted trader arrangement.
 - ABF Border Permits Review relating to permits and permissions for prohibited goods issued under Customs legislation. Although biosecurity, food or exports legislation is not within the scope of this review, it may highlight opportunities for positive change across cargo imports.
 - Omnibus legislation being drafted by PM&C, which will enable greater data sharing across agencies.

Action: The following topics will be included under the Modernisation Initiatives agenda item at the next DCCC meeting:

- Border Alignment Feasibility Study
- Omnibus legislation
- BIS (extend invitation to present on their program of work)

Agenda item 5 – Compliance Updates

5.1 Compliance Division Quarterly Report

Ms Lane sought feedback from members on the revised draft Compliance Division Quarterly Report.

Mr Macfarlane asked for an update on the seasonal BMSB measures to be included - for example the number of declarations lodged early or late for discussion as to how this translated through to inspection and assessment delays. Also, if offshore versus onshore treatments have translated to delays due to not enough people seeking treatment offshore.

Mr Crawford requested the report include advice on:

- Pest detections (not just for BMSB) and emerging risks
- Changes in the approval of offshore treatment providers
- Problems with getting goods treated onshore due to availability of AA 4.7s and where the provider refuses to treat due to packing issues
- AA's performance/compliance generally (not just BMSB) – whether suspended or under investigation. Ms Lane advised that we can't provide details of active non-compliance matters i.e. those AA's currently under investigation. However we can provide the nature of the revocation e.g. trends, not using the correct chemical for treatments etc.
- BMSB season volume trending – volumes being treated offshore compared to last season. This may inform if offshore treatments are impacting on revenue collected in the FID space.
- AEP – major conformities/non conformities being detected e.g. wooden articles, tyres.

Mr Kostadinovski requested more information on non-compliance as a whole e.g. what the biggest commodities for non-compliance are and the nature of that non-compliance.

Mr Noronha asked what engagement we have with our overseas counterparts in government in ensuring compliance of BMSB treatment providers. Ms Lane advised that we engage with overseas governments where we can. Our challenge is BMSB is not a pest of concern in some countries, leaving the department to assist with offshore activities where we didn't traditionally have a role. Mr Reid added that it has been difficult to get agricultural agencies overseas to engage directly. It has been discussed previously that it is

better to target overseas trade agencies and Ms Herrick advised the department's agricultural counsellors based overseas are being used to help achieve this.

Mr Reid advised that the department has been engaging with the shipping industry on setting up arrangements with importers, instead of having government to government arrangements. The department is interested in any solutions that industry have to suggest. One solution that has been discussed is segregation of cargo. It is difficult on roll on roll off vessels to know the origin of pests, and if there were segregated decks/holds this may assure that some holds are pest free. This may then require remedial action on a smaller part of vessel.

Ms Herrick added that the reference to UPEs under AEP Expansion relates to personal effects associated with FIDs only.

5.2 Compliance Policy

Mr Reid talked about the prevalence of non-compliance by treatment providers with the department's requirements. This includes treatment providers delivering services onshore and providers registered under the 2019/20 Offshore Treatment Providers Scheme. Providers are either claiming ignorance to the requirements, deliberately not complying or inadvertently not complying. Mr Reid stressed the importance of onshore and offshore treatment providers delivering biosecurity treatments that are compliant with the department's requirements. They must be done properly and be able to be verified.

The department is doing the following to change non-compliant behaviours:

- Supervising certain treatments onshore to verify the treatment process. This could potentially mean delays and more costs for industry
- Educating providers who claim they are not aware of the department's requirements or who are inadvertently not complying
- Delivering an information roadshow around Australia to talk to different treatment industries. Industry Advice Notice 190-2019 was published on 14 November 2019 with information about the roadshows. Mr Reid encouraged DCCC to reach out to everyone who needs to attend. The roadshow will provide information to industry on:
 - the Department's preference to have goods treated offshore
 - presenting goods onshore in a way that enables them to be treated effectively
 - ways to better pack and ship goods to enable treatments to be done more effectively
 - Approved Arrangement conditions
 - fundamental components of treatments
 - action that may be taken by the department for non-compliance
 - work being done with overseas governments and treatment providers.

Mr Noronha and Mr Crawford have observed that container packing practices, particularly in relation to plastic wrapping and allowing enough free space, is causing a problem for fumigation. The department noted that industry have requested guidance on how containers should be packed, preferably in pictorial form. Mr Reid directed industry to the review the factsheets on the department's website in the first instance. It was noted that Shipping Australia Limited (SAL) have a container steering group that may assist with education if required.

5.3 Compliance and Sanctions Policy

Mr Patterson reported that the department has been working on developing an external facing whole of agency compliance and sanctions policy to go live early 2020, which will in time form part of the Regulatory Practice Framework. At present there is no single policy in the department that touches on compliance and sanctions across all regulatory systems.

The policy contains statements around:

-
- Intent - seeking to deter the actual entity that has done the wrong thing and also to deter the same thing occurring within the Industry.
 - Gathering information and using coercive powers. For example, warrants and requiring people to attend interviews and provide information.
 - Who is responsible in order to determine the level of culpability - deliberate versus inadvertent versus opportunistic conduct.

The policy will also give guidance and information about the regulatory context in which we operate, the nature of compliance responses, regulatory aims and our regulatory approach with respect to responding to entity non-compliance.

Members can follow up with Mr Patterson if they have any questions or comments.

Ms Lane added that it will provide the department with a broader range of tools to use and will enable non-compliance to be actioned in a more effective way.

Industry members expressed an interest in seeing some non-compliance case studies. Mr Patterson advised that this could be done through the Compliance Division Quarterly Report.

Action: Include some non-compliance case studies in future Compliance Division Quarterly Reports.

5.4 Enforcement

Ms Buckle shared two examples of non-compliance.

- September 2019 - Illegal importation of 2,186 garlic bulbs from Canada and USA in multiple consignments. Garlic bulbs are a known host of multiple plant pathogens including the number one plant pest *Xylella*. The importer deliberately instructed overseas exporters to misdeclare consignments as gardening items to avoid detection. The importer was fined \$2,000 and sentenced to 11 months imprisonment.
- August 2019 –Illegal importation of pig semen by a pork producer. The pig semen was concealed in shampoo bottles and smuggled into the country over several years by Danish nationals and major shareholders of a commercial entity. Two pig farmers were sentenced to prison, for three years and two years respectively and the company was fined half a million dollars. Ms Lane advised that this is one of the most significant court outcomes the department has had. Fortunately the product didn't contain biosecurity risk material.

5.5 Fit and Proper Person

Ms Buckle provided an update on work that is occurring to develop a standardised approach with ABF and Department of Home Affairs in regards to Fit and Proper Person assessments. There have been two workshops, in August and October, to discuss aligning the processes, and a number of potential opportunities were identified. There are legislative barriers to resolve and these will be part of a feasibility study with ABF and Home Affairs.

Ms Lane added that legislative amendments being proposed by the department will start to make information sharing easier.

5.6 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)

Ms Herrick updated members on the status of applications for BMSB safeguarding arrangements, accreditation under the Vessel Seasonal Pest Scheme and for Class 4.7 AAs.

Ms Herrick also sought comment on the current level of engagement with industry on BMSB, including the fortnightly DCCC teleconferences. Members advised the teleconferences had proven a valuable means of communication between the department and industry so far, allowing all parties to be kept up-to-date.

However, it was agreed these meetings could occur monthly or 6 weekly. The department noted the requirement to advise DCCC members as soon as possible of any changes to the measures, particularly to risk countries and if air freight comes into scope.

Action: DCCC BMSB teleconferences to occur monthly or 6 weekly.

5.7 African Swine Fever (ASF) current situation and developments

Ms Herrick provided members with an update on the department's response to the risk of ASF. Members were invited to provide feedback out of session to inform the level of briefing needed on ASF at the next DCCC meeting.

Ms Herrick advised that the department is working with the states and territories on how we can prepare and respond if there was an ASF outbreak. There is already an emergency management agreement with the states and territories so if we have an outbreak we have agreement in place on who does what and who pays for what.

Ms Lane confirmed that the department has been focused on managing the risk of ASF entering Australia via the traveller and international mail pathways, however noted a possible risk may be emerging in air freight. There had been a couple of detections in air cargo so far and these needed to be investigated. The focus in relation to vessels is on continued education of approved arrangements e.g. handling waste off ships.

Ms Macgill advised members that she had attended an industry/government roundtable meeting with the Minister on 6 September 2019 on the risk of ASF entering Australia and the likely consequences. A response plan is being developed - this will be communicated to importers so they are aware of the risks and how they can assist to mitigate them.

Members noted actions the department has taken so far to mitigate the ASF risk, which included amending and monitoring import conditions for certain pork products.

Action: The department to provide an update on ASF at the next DCCC meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Issues to be taken back to Agriculture for consideration

Ms Lane welcomed other items to be discussed, or taken back to the department for consideration.

Industry members expressed an interest in getting an update on the Biosecurity 2025 program at the next meeting. Ms Lane agreed that this will be included on the agenda for future DCCC meetings. The department will also provide an update on programs of work beyond this and include a discussion on where biosecurity is heading over the next 20-30 years (Ag 2030).

Mr Crawford requested the BMSB safeguarding program come along to the next meeting and provide industry members with feedback on the application process so far. Industry members may be able to assist applicants provide complete and correct information to the assessment team to support the decision making process. Ms Lane undertook to provide this information out-of-session before the next meeting.

Mr Crawford suggested that FICA is currently underutilised by industry. It is a program the department and industry need to keep promoting, as it can potentially mean less intervention by assessment services and less inspections required. Ms Lane agreed, advising the department will continue to encourage industry uptake.

Ms Macgill mentioned that the Food and Beverage Importers Association promote FICA's at every meeting, however there has still not been a large uptake with only have 20-25 companies participating. A barrier seems to be the upfront work that needs to be done, however, many already have the systems and

processes in place. Understanding the benefits and the savings, potentially thousands of dollars depending on the size of the company and import volume, is important in the messaging by the department.

Mr Crawford invited the department to work with the FTA on promoting the use of AEPCCOMM with non-users of the system. FTA can assist the department to get in touch with the right people.

Action: Include Biosecurity 2025 projects under the Modernisation Initiatives agenda item.

Action: Out-of-session, the department to provide DCCC with feedback on the Safeguarding Scheme application process that can be used by industry members to help educate prospective applicants about what to provide.

Agenda Item 7 – Other Business

3D x-ray technology

Ms Herrick updated members on the 3D x-ray technology trials being run by the department. The technology is currently being trialled on baggage at Melbourne International Airport and mail at the Melbourne Gateway facility. The results have exceeded expectations with the technology proving to be faster and more accurate compared to 2D x-rays, resulting in an increase in detections and seizures. It has also enabled the department to develop biosecurity auto detection algorithms, which is a world first for biosecurity as they are usually developed for explosives and drugs. The first algorithm was deployed in April 2019 for fruit and the second for meat deployed on 12 November 2019.

Ms Herrick also advised that four commercial parties had received funding under the Australian Government's Business Research and Innovation Initiative to test the feasibility of their technological solutions for automated scanning of shipping containers to help find biosecurity risk material. At least two proposals were expected to go through to the next stage following interest from several major stevedores in participating in proof of concept trials.

Consolidation of forms

There was discussion around consolidation of forms and Mr Crawford suggested creating a minimum documents requirement form. Ms Lane acknowledged that it could simplify processes, but would be extremely difficult due to legislation and systems barriers. Ms Lane advised that we have made some improvements, with forms including a consent provision on the form to advise that the person filling out the form gives permission to have their information shared.

Agenda Item 8 – Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DCCC will be held in Sydney. The date and venue are to be confirmed.

Action: Secretariat to coordinate the next meeting date and venue.

Meeting closed at 3:20pm