



**DCCC Meeting 93 – 22 November 2022**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

9:30am – 1:00pm

Food and Beverage Importers Association

Level 2, 441 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

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**Attendees**

Colin Hunter (Chair)	First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Operations Division
Nathan Heeney	First Assistant Secretary, Digital Reform Division (guest)
Paula Svarcas	First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Funding Sustainability (guest, item 4.1)
Brett Liebich	A/g First Assistant Secretary, Compliance and Enforcement Division
Barbara Cooper	Assistant Secretary, Pathway Policy Cargo and Conveyances, Biosecurity Operations Division
Lee Cale	Assistant Secretary, Cargo Operations (VIC, SA, WA, TAS) & PEQ, Biosecurity Operations Division
Andrew Patterson	Assistant Secretary, Cargo Operations (NSW, QLD, NT, ACT) & Regulatory Assurance, Biosecurity Operations Division
Leanne Herrick	Principal Director, Industry Partnerships and Engagement, Biosecurity Operations Division
Rose Cracknell	A/g Assistant Secretary, Cargo Service Delivery Taskforce (guest, item 3.3)
Mark Simpson	Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Response and Reform, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division (guest, item 7)
Greg Lindsell	Investigations Manager (VIC/TAS), Investigations, Compliance and Enforcement Division (guest)
Holly Buckle	Assistant Secretary, Risk, Intelligence and Strategy, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division
Rachel Short	Assistant Secretary, Funding and Revenue, Enabling Services Group
Paul Douglas	Director, Cost Recovery Biosecurity, Enabling Services Group (guest, item 6.5)
Dianne Tipping	Export Council of Australia
Tony McDonald	Federal Chambers of Automotive Industries
Carolyn Macgill	Food and Beverage Importers Association
Sal Milici	Freight and Trade Alliance
Melwyn Noronha	Shipping Australia Limited
Wes McDiarmid	International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia (observer)
Dr Lloyd Klumpp	Inspector General of Biosecurity (guest, item 1.2)
Daniel Curtis	Strategic Policy and Regulatory Reform branch, STS Implementation Taskforce (guest, item 3.1)

**Apologies**

Peta Lane	First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division
Peter Timson	First Assistant Secretary, Compliance and Enforcement
Caroline Gibson	A/g Assistant Secretary Compliance Controls & Strategy, Compliance and Enforcement
Anna Brezzo	Assistant Secretary, Investigations, Compliance and Enforcement Division
Christie Sawczuk	Deputy Head, Simplified Trade System Implementation Taskforce
Greg Carroll	Australia Post
Craig Birchall	Board of Airline Representatives
Paul Bagnall	Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
Peter Van Duyn	International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
Bradley Leonard	International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia
Michael Gallacher	Ports Australia

**Secretariat**

Amy Mason	A/g Assistant Director, Industry Partnerships and Engagement, Biosecurity Operations
Angela Cressy	Industry Partnerships and Engagement, Biosecurity Operations



## **Agenda item 1 - Introduction and welcome**

The Chair welcomed members, observers and guests to the 93<sup>rd</sup> DCCC meeting and confirmed there were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

Members were advised an update on the implementation of the National Biosecurity Strategy (NBS) would be raised under Other Business. Mr Milici also requested an update on the proposed 2023 actions for Khapra Beetle and annual action plan for Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030. No other business items were raised by members.

### **1.2 Opening comments from the Inspector General of Biosecurity**

The Chair opened proceedings by introducing Australia's new Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IGB), Dr Lloyd Klumpp.

Dr Klumpp spoke of his background primarily as a former Director of Operations for the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and General Manager of Biosecurity Tasmania.

He acknowledged the significant work undertaken by his predecessors, noting the IGB's role was to ensure Australia's biosecurity management systems were effective, to review the department's performance, exercise of power and areas for improvement, but also where things are working well.

Dr Klumpp indicated his focus for 2023 would be on:

- Strategic management of scientific resources.
- The use of data for evidence and science-based decisions.
- The effectiveness of the department's stakeholder engagement and partnerships.

Dr Klumpp added that consultation with relevant internal and external parties would be a priority.

The Chair invited the IGB to continue to engage with the committee throughout his tenure.

**Action:** Secretariat to arrange IGB to attend future DCCC meetings as required to update members on the progress of reviews.

## **Agenda item 2 - Minutes and actions**

Members accepted the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes as final. Members also noted the actions of previous meetings are complete or closed.

## **Agenda item 3 – Presentations**

### **3.1 Simplified Trade System (STS) update**

Mr Daniel Curtis of the Australian Government's STS Implementation Taskforce provided an update on work to support the simplification of trade regulations, digitisation of government ICT systems and streamlining interaction between business and government.

He confirmed the Taskforce's remit had not fundamentally changed with a focus on supporting the government's trade 2040 agenda and trade diversification plans to support economic recovery as well as stronger border protection.

As at 1 July 2022, the Taskforce had consulted 29 agencies and 900 companies to establish a baseline of pain points and the regulatory trade requirements across multiple portfolios.

Current work with key border agencies included:

- aligning relevant government Fit and Proper Person assessments where possible
- a 'tell us once' system or single trade window for industry to government interactions, noting this was still at the conceptual stage
- regulatory reform to increase data sharing across agencies through harmonised data standards.



Mr Curtis stated that the STS Taskforce is keen to engage with members to maintain understanding of broader sectoral reform linkages, identify opportunities for business co-design and reduce duplicative engagement. He thanked members for their participation in consultations to date.

Mr Noronha raised the additional pressure of concurrent national consultations on traceability and national data standards, noting this was to be discussed at an upcoming National Cabinet meeting of Digital and Data Ministers. Mr Curtis acknowledged the STS Taskforce is also looking to feed into this meeting.

Ms Tipping emphasised the importance of the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) chaired by Secretary Andrew Metcalfe to ensure the breadth of reforms impacting trade, cargo and logistics are in step with the government's economic agenda.

Mr Milici raised concerns about the performance and recent outages of the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) reliance on embedded profiles to lodge directions into the Australian Import Management System (AIMS). Mr Patterson confirmed the Department of Home Affairs and the Australian Border Force are responsible for ICS business continuity, although noted that 80% of the mainframe load comes from DAFF's biosecurity risk profiles.

**Action:** Chair to ensure the STS agenda is connected to the Agriculture Ministers' Forum (AGMIN) agenda.

### 3.2 Biosecurity Digital Reform

Mr Heeney informed members the Digital Reform Division (DRD) had been established to centralise digital reform across the Biosecurity and Compliance Group (BCG); and ensure alignment and reuse of digital capability across DAFF and broader whole of government reforms.

DRD drew together core operational systems projects, resourcing of around 300 staff and 50 systems including those with dependencies on the ICS. To date, DAFF has invested well in digital capability for example: the Biosecurity Portal, automation of import assessment processes, inspection scheduling.

The BCG's digital strategy and reform roadmap are being finalised to lay out the principles, priorities and pipeline of digital biosecurity initiatives. A key focus will be to secure funding.

Mr Heeney invited members to contact him through bilateral engagement, noting direct engagement with industry will be key to planning and prioritising the roll-out and delivery of tactical and strategic digital enhancements that are clearly aligned with the sustainable funding and STS Digital reform agendas.

Mr Noronha indicated his interest in bilateral engagement raising the necessity for better shipping representation on the STS, particularly at the Industry Advisory Council level, given it accounts for 99 percent of cargo arrivals.

Engagement with third party software providers was raised with members recommending engagement to enable the continued use of current software, particularly if the long-term goal was to design a new system to efficiently track product through cargo terminals. Ms Cale added there were valuable lessons to be learnt from the build of the ICS on the timing of engagement with software providers which should be considered as we progress down the digital reform pathway.

The breadth of industry consultation occurring for biosecurity and whole of government reforms was noted. Members emphasised the need to reduce duplication and impost on industry and agreed the various reform streams (e.g., STS; Digital Reform; sustainable biosecurity funding) need to be linked and clearly communicated.

The Chair agreed for updates on biosecurity digital reform to be a standing item at future committee meetings.

**Action:** Mr Heeney to present on the roadmap for digital biosecurity reform when complete.

**Action:** Ms Herrick, Mr Heeney and Ms Svarcas to consider best strategy to consult/engage on the inter-related agendas of STS, Biosecurity Digital Reform and Sustainable biosecurity funding.

**Action:** Mr Heeney to consider the timing of engagement with software providers to explore user requirements and interoperability with government systems.



**Action:** Secretariat to circulate Mr Heeneey's contact details for members interested in bi-lateral engagement on biosecurity digital reform.

**Action:** Secretariat to arrange for an update on Biosecurity Digital Reform as a standing item at future meetings.

**Action:** Offline discussion between Mr Noronha and Mr Heeneey to ensure shipping is adequately represented in STS executive meetings.

### 3.3 Cargo Service Delivery Taskforce – reform roadmap

Ms Cracknell presented on the Cargo Service Delivery Taskforce's change roadmap to address inspection delays and extend workforce capacity to manage increasing volumes. Members noted many of the initiatives preceded the establishment of the Taskforce with the latter being able to provide much needed surge capacity to accelerate progress. Initiatives for immediate implementation included:

- Moving to an assurance intervention model for low-risk commodities: currently working on a range of 6 chapters and tariffs within both Biosecurity Animal and Plant that will see significant outcomes primarily for document assessment, but also for reduced inspection referrals.
- Working with DRD to accelerate the roll-out of system enhancements (to be finalised in 2022) for the biosecurity portal, and DAFF's workforce scheduling and management system to support workforce deployment more broadly.
- Automation of transactional biosecurity functions, expansion of virtual inspections, removal of seals intact, and third-party courier for imported foods samples in QLD (trial underway).
- Targeted support, communication and education to industry participants including through: development of a set of model industry practices and behaviours across common areas/issues; utilising full span of available inspection hours, and the capacity of a chosen Approved Arrangement (AA), to increase inspector workflow; drive the uptake of initiatives (e.g., virtual inspections, biosecurity portal and AAs); producing reporting tools to inform targeted conversations with individual entities on their biosecurity performance to improve inspection outcomes; and scheduling more consistent communications and updates to industry through targeted webinars and considering other opportunities to engage all industry sectors.
- Workforce capacity: recruitment of data analytics specialists to better manage operations through forecasting; additional biosecurity officers in Sydney, expected to be operational in December 2022; investigating ways to expedite training timeframes to operationalise recruits sooner; and investigating utilising Home Affairs surge support functions to free up biosecurity officers.

Members also noted:

- significant improvement in inspection wait times from 4 weeks to 2 weeks for the bulk of inspections
- department within service standards for phone calls, reflective of Biosecurity Portal enhancements and reduction to calls from industry on inspection bookings
- 10 14.4 AAs are now under operation and another 20 undergoing approval, providing opportunities around the country in major locations
- national reviews on how DAFF schedules its staff has already provided an additional 13 FTE in capacity (Sydney and Melbourne operations)
- increase in volume on inspections (3,059) across all environments for week commencing 14 November 2022, up 17 percent from the previous week
- recent implementation of automation into treatment certificates.

Ms Macgill expressed support for third-party couriers for imported food samples, congratulating those involved in progressing. Mr Milici agreed and commented on the significant reduction in cost to industry because of changes to seals intact and looking forward to hearing next commodities to be considered.



Mr Milici reported challenges with communicating 14.4 AAs to all involved (customs brokers and company booking transport), hoping the upcoming webinar will help with messaging.

**Action:** Ms Cracknell to circulate the list of six HS codes to DCCC once the risk management approach is approved.

**Action:** Secretariate to circulate the Cargo Service Delivery Taskforce presentation to members.

### 3.4 Industry Intelligence Analysis

Ms Herrick informed members of the industry sectoral analysis undertaken to ascertain the key drivers of industry concerns, the sources of industry views and effectiveness of DAFF's industry sector engagement and communication approaches.

Common themes across the information analysed included a view on the need for more officers in the field; and the need for reduced regulatory burden, outdated systems, better data exchange, and assessment of effective partnerships.

Key insights show: engagement is often transactional or at project level (mainly with larger companies who generate less than 25% of the department's workload); need for better information sharing (internally) to re-use information/insights from reform programs; need to consider more targeted messaging with multiple communications out at any given time; lack of understanding (across broader industry groups) between different types of schemes/arrangements and the need to develop a suite of tools to explain them; better change management following reform implementation; and no clear contact points for industry resulting in duplication across DAFF resources.

Next steps, also aligning to the work of the Cargo Service Delivery Taskforce, includes: considering opportunities to consolidate/streamline engagement (including with ABF where relevant); more research on which issues are more important to which sector/group (will inform who DAFF should be talking to); collect more data from industry at point of contact for sharing internally; and improving how and when we liaise and following up on engagement to ensure needs are met.

Ms Macgill advised Food and Beverage Importers Association has seen an increase in its membership, with a cultural difference in the food subsector, with observations on service and burdens faced by some sectors. Hr Hunter noted improvements can be made with better data and intelligence.

**Action:** Secretariat to circulate the Industry Intelligence Analysis presentation to members.

### **Agenda item 4 – Sustainable Biosecurity Funding – public consultation**

Ms Svarcas opened the item reiterating the consultation paper 'Sustainable funding and investment to strengthen biosecurity' was publicly released on 1 November 2022 for practical industry views on what the sustainable, fit-for-purpose model and path might look like. Submissions to close on 28 November.

Members noted:

- Sustainable funding across all biosecurity programs was a priority action under the Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 agenda and strongly supported by stakeholders.
- Minister Watt requested sustainable biosecurity funding options, focusing on the end-to-end biosecurity system, be brought back for consideration in the 2023 Budget. The budget comeback will propose a strategy to build an agile, 'system level' funding model capable of flexibly adjusting to emerging risk, evolving business models and trading norms.
- To inform the funding options, initial work will map the system, identify funding sources, costings and shortfalls for improvement, including where effort is expended to manage risk but not cost recovered.
- The aim is to develop a simple model that works with a fixed cycle of review to ensure fees stay aligned with costs. All options will be considered and tested until refuted - including existing and previously suggested levies.
- Exports, national State and Territory government biosecurity activities (post border) are out of scope.



The sustainable funding office is in the process of contacting DCCC members to gauge interest in bi-lateral conversations and to gain any ideas to feed into the process before coming back to industry for co-design.

Mr Milici emphasised the importance ensuring alignment with the NBS. Ms Svarcas responded they are working closely with the NBS team to ensure effort is not duplicated.

Mr Douglas mentioned cost recovery work including the proposed cost recovery implementation statement on the department's [website](#), inviting members to contact the team on [BioCRIS@aff.gov.au](mailto:BioCRIS@aff.gov.au) with any questions.

Mr McDonald asked how DAFF will determine cost increases in addition to the recently proposed Sea FID levy increase, and how these are separated out. Mr Douglas responded that the Hitchhiker measure is part of stabilising the system which DAFF is developing a consultation paper to enable a robust conversation with industry which will differentiate the costs.

Mr Hunter noted this is the beginning of the sustainable biosecurity system funding conversation and runs in parallel with the immediate work on stabilisation funding (funding adjustments that can be made within the confines of the existing cost recovery implementation statements).

### **Agenda item 5 – Industry information exchange**

The Chair reiterated the purpose of this item was for members to raise real time observation of trade issues including volume changes, supply chain activities, shipping capacity and emerging trends that could disrupt trade.

Mr Milici noted plunging global shipping rates had the potential to reduce charges but increase volumes.

Mr Noronha raised two points through Grain Trade Australia related to bulk trade:

1. Bulk inspections – inefficiencies in the system. DAFF has designated anchorages but could save time and money if inspections were done at anchorage by onboard Marine Surveyors and authorised officers.
2. Consider the perception of sole accreditor, the Australian Institute of Marine Surveyors as anti-competitive as others are unable to enter.

The Chair raised the prospect of scanning for the next change that could potentially disrupt supply chains, and that DCCC members were well positioned to inform government about areas that might present the next wave of supply chain disruptions.

**Action:** Secretariat to include an item for discussion at a future meeting on how we take learnings from 'COVID related' global supply chain shocks to support future preparedness.

**Action:** Industry members to send DCCC Secretariat information on areas that could be prone to the next wave of global supply chain disruptions.

**Action:** Ms Cracknell to investigate opportunities for efficiencies in bulk inspections noting authorised officers and marine surveyors are present on bulk vessels.

### **Agenda item 6 - Updates for noting (discussion by exception)**

Members noted the information papers circulated ahead of the DCCC meeting and that discussion was by exception.

Mr Milici raised concerns about the phase 6.B Khapra Beetle policy for containers destined for unpack in rural areas. Ms Cooper stated those concerns were shared and that discussions with Sarah Bruce and the Seasonal Pest Team were underway. Consultation would occur before the proposed policy's commencement in April/May 2023.

### **Agenda item 7 - Other business**

Mr Milici raised progress against the Commonwealth Biosecurity Action Plan 2023. Mr Simpson stated a project team is collating the Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 actions with specifics on timing for finalisation in early 2023.



Mr Simpson advised members work is underway to implement the National Biosecurity Strategy (the Strategy). As outlined in the Strategy, the lead implementation mechanism reporting to the National Biosecurity Committee, is the national Biosecurity Implementation Committee (BIC) who met for the first time on 28th of October 2022. Early progress has established the implementation plan to drive outcomes under the Strategy’s six priority areas. A BIC meeting scheduled for 1 December 2022 will progress further planning to deliver the future actions.

In closing, Mr Hunter informed members of his upcoming extended leave of 6 months, and Deputy Secretary Chris Locke’s agreement to fill the position permanently to ensure leadership certainty for Biosecurity Operations Division. Tina Hutchison, who has extensive biosecurity system policy and operational experience, will be acting in the position until permanent arrangements are made and would be touching base with members soon.

Members also noted and congratulated Ms Cooper on her retirement, acknowledging her extensive achievements across the department in biosecurity and exports. Arrangements to backfill the position are underway.

Mr Hunter took the opportunity to thank DCCC members for their contribution to the committee and valuable participation.

Meeting closed 13:00.

**Action:** Ms Lane to provide a comprehensive update on the implementation of the National Biosecurity Strategy at the first DCCC meeting in 2023.

### Summary of action items

Item	Action	Owner
1.2	Arrange IGB to attend future DCCC meetings as required to update members on the progress of reviews	Secretariat
3.1	Ensure the STS agenda is connected to the Agriculture Ministers’ Forum (AGMIN) agenda	Secretariat/Chair
3.2	Present on the roadmap for digital biosecurity reform when complete	Nathan Heeney
3.2	Consider best strategy to consult/engage on the inter-related agendas of STS, Biosecurity Digital Reform and Sustainable biosecurity funding.	Leanne Herrick / Nathan Heeney
3.2	Consider the timing of engagement with software providers to explore user requirements and interoperability with government systems	Nathan Heeney
3.2	Circulate Mr Heeney’s contact details for members interested in bi-lateral engagement on biosecurity digital reform	Secretariat
3.2	Arrange for an update on Biosecurity Digital Reform as a standing item at future meetings	Secretariat
3.2	Offline discussion between Mr Noronha and Mr Heeney to ensure shipping is adequately represented in STS executive meetings	Nathan Heeney and Melwyn Noronha
3.3	Circulate the list of six HS codes to members once the risk management approach is approved	Rose Cracknell / Secretariat
3.3	Circulate the Cargo Service Delivery Roadmap presentation to members	Secretariat
3.4	Circulate the Industry Intelligence Analysis presentation to members	Secretariat
5	Include an item for discussion at the next meeting on how we take learnings from ‘COVID related’ global supply chain shocks to support future preparedness	Secretariat
5	Send DCCC Secretariat information on areas that could be prone to the next wave of global supply chain disruptions	DCCC Industry members
5	Investigate opportunities for efficiencies in bulk inspections noting authorised officers and marine surveyors are present on bulk vessels	Rose Cracknell
7	Provide a comprehensive update on Implementation of the National Biosecurity Strategy at the first DCCC meeting in 2023	Peta Lane