



## Communique

### Meeting 98 – 4 July 2024

Chaired by Andrew Patterson, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Operations Division, DCCC Meeting 98 convened at Agriculture House in Canberra.

The Chair opened the meeting with thanks to attending members; an acknowledgement of country; and introductions to new DCCC departmental executive members Christie Sawczuk, First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division, and Maria Loyman, Assistant Secretary, Finance and Revenue.

The Chair advised that Monica Collins would take up the role of First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Operations Division on 17 July and chair the DCCC's final meeting for 2024 on 14 November.

The Chair updated DCCC members on developments under the portfolio's 'One DAFF' transformation program. Of note, the rebadging of Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group and some redistribution of responsibilities including the creation of the Chief Regulatory Officer role to uplift regulatory capability across the portfolio.

Meeting discussions turned to the strategic priorities for operational biosecurity risk management, assurance and sustainable funding including:

- The refresh of industry engagement and the draft options paper under development for members' input on best approaches to strategically engage with industry.
- Sustainable biosecurity funding including:
  - the second meeting on 14 June of the ministerially established Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel to set the panel's Terms of Reference and work plan to deliver transparent and accountable biosecurity funding decisions.
  - the recently published 2024-25 Biosecurity Cost Recovery Implementation Statement with pricing tables, indexation and embedded annual review.
  - the current and planned activities for SAC cost recovery commencing 1 October 2024.
- DAFF's compliance-based intervention models to facilitate trade and biosecurity outcomes through verifiable supply chain, entity or commodity controls and compliance.
- The 2023-24 STEPS digital initiative deliverables (E-Certs, self-service for approved arrangements and the Cargo Tracker for industry) and upcoming consultation on the digital priorities for 2024-25.
- A cargo pathway update on import trade volumes, DAFF's recruitment activities and the status of biosecurity inspection and assessment services.

Finally, Australia's Inspector General of Biosecurity Dr Lloyd Klumpp updated members on current and planned biosecurity system reviews focusing on the review of the Regulatory Maturity of Australia's biosecurity system using an adaptation of AELERT's Modern Regulator Improvement Tool.

In closing the Chair thanked members for their high level of engagement, confirming the final DCCC meeting for 2024 would be held in Melbourne at the office of the Ai Group, Level 5, 441 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

#### DCCC Industry representative attendees

- Carolyn Macgill, Food Importers Group
- Dianne Tipping, Export Council of Australia
- Bradley Leonard, International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia
- Paul Bagnall, Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
- Sal Milici, Freight and Trade Alliance
- Peter Van Duyn, International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
- Melwyn Noronha, Shipping Australia Ltd