



2021 NATIONAL BIOSECURITY FORUM

10 to 11 November 2021

Communique

The 2021 National Biosecurity Forum was held online from Wednesday November 10 to Thursday 11 November 2021.

The annual event brings together key stakeholders to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Australia's biosecurity. The national forum is hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on behalf of the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC).

Over 1200 registrations were received from across Australia, New Zealand and a few further abroad in the UK. Participants covered a broad range of industry sectors.

Renowned media figure Richard Morecroft facilitated the forum which commenced with Ngunnawal Elder Jude Barlow giving a Welcome to Country.

The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, gave an opening address and spoke of the importance of collaboration in meeting biosecurity challenges.

The forum structure included four sessions with presentations and panel discussions from a mix of experts representing government, industry and the research community.

Key topics covered over the two-day program included:

- Taking a future focus – a national biosecurity strategy
 - Accelerating reform – Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 and the link to a national biosecurity strategy.
 - Alignment of collective efforts – a national biosecurity strategy.
- Preparedness – Is Australia prepared for the next national biosecurity threat?
 - The role of biosecurity in a One Health approach to antimicrobial stewardship.
 - The new normal – positioning our emergency response capability to meet the changing risk profile.
 - Northern Australia Indigenous Ranger program – early detection data collection allowing an evidence-based approach to the management of threats.
- Shared responsibility and partnerships
 - Community awareness of biosecurity and the need for a clear brand.
 - The New Zealand experience – 'Ko Tātou This is us'.
 - Delivering enhanced biosecurity outcomes in partnership with industry – trialling new approaches for imported cargo.

"Your attendance today is important - you are the brains trust that we are calling on to make sure that we have the technologies that we can invest in to ensure that we can increase our capability and capacity."

The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia



- Science and innovation
 - Use of innovative technologies for wildlife conservation in Australia.
 - Detecting fumigants and biosecurity priority pests using real-time vapour detection.
 - Estimating trading partner exposure risk to new pests or diseases – a project run by CEBRA.

The 2021 Australian Biosecurity Awards [winners](#) were announced in a separate session on day one. The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, provided the opening and closing address for the session. Eleven winners were recognised across eight categories which represented government, community, research, environment and education sectors.

NBC co-chairs Andrew Tongue PSM and Malcolm Letts closed the forum followed by a Q&A session with the 2021 Australian Biosecurity Award winners.

The full program, session recordings and details of presenters are available on the department's [website](#).

The next National Biosecurity Forum will be held in November 2022.

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

