Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

2026 Quarantine Regulators Meeting

Biosecurity beyond borders: strengthening regulatory resilience in an evolving risk landscape



DAFF staff members (L to R): Jamie Nicholls, Steve Peios, Sam Griffiths, Nathan Reid, Shahiliya De Silva Jayasundera in the Canberra office

The 2026 Quarantine Regulators Meeting (QRM), hosted by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), was held virtually across three half days from 4 to 6 August 2026. This year's theme, Biosecurity beyond borders: strengthening regulatory resilience in an evolving risk landscape, recognised that biosecurity threats are increasingly complex, interconnected and global in nature. The theme highlighted the need for adaptive regulatory frameworks, trusted international partnerships and innovative approaches to managing emerging risks.

This was the 16th QRM hosted by DAFF and the third to be held entirely online. The meeting attracted more than **330 delegates from 72 biosecurity agencies and organisations**, making it the largest QRM to date. The growing international participation demonstrates the continued value of QRM as a forum for sharing regulatory experiences, strengthening professional networks and exploring collaborative solutions to shared biosecurity challenges.

The meeting was opened by DAFF's Secretary, Victoria Anderson, who, in her address, underscored the value of intelligence-informed, modern and collaborative approaches to biosecurity risk management. Secretary Anderson also reinforced the significance of partnerships in maximising regulatory capability and facilitating safe trade.

Over the three days, delegates heard from experts representing government agencies, academia and international regulatory organisations. Throughout the meeting, delegates engaged in discussions that reinforced the importance of collaboration, innovation and evidence-based decision-making in building resilient regulatory systems.



Presenter Jamie Nicholls, Specialist Facilitation Officer, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform, DAFF

Presenter Susie Hester, Principal Research Fellow, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA), University of Melbourne



Presenter Paola Tala Rossi, Head of the Ports Systems and Regulations Subdepartment, Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG)

Presenters from the Indonesian Quarantine Authority (IQA): Ibu Aprida Cristin, Director for Plant Quarantine Risk Management, Ibu Ratih Rahayu, Plant Quarantine Analyst, Pak Marsanto, Plant Quarantine Analyst and the DAFF team in the Canberra office.

Day one focused on the evolving nature of biosecurity risk and the opportunities presented by innovation and digital transformation.

Presentations explored how resilience thinking can strengthen biosecurity risk management and help regulators prepare for uncertainty and emerging threats. Delegates also heard about Australia's vision for a modern and future-ready Post Entry Quarantine system, including strategic priorities to support sustainable operations, modernised technology and strengthened governance over the next decade.

Other presentations examined Australia's wildlife trade regulatory framework and the role of regulatory controls in protecting biodiversity while facilitating legitimate international trade. Discussions on digital trade showcased how electronic certification systems and trusted data sharing can improve transparency, efficiency and cooperation between trading partners.

The day concluded with presentations on investigative assurance and artificial intelligence. Delegates explored how investigations contribute to addressing serious biosecurity non-compliance and considered the growing role of AI in supporting regulatory services, biosecurity assurance and trade processes.

Day two of the QRM brought together international regulators to examine how emerging technologies are transforming treatment assurance and regulatory oversight.

Presentations highlighted advances in fumigation monitoring technologies and their role in improving compliance, treatment assurance and operational efficiency. An international panel featuring representatives from Australia, New Zealand and the United States explored common challenges in fumigation assurance, opportunities for innovation and the importance of maintaining confidence in treatment outcomes while modernising regulatory approaches.

Delegates also heard about the Indonesian Quarantine Authority's continued development of the Fumitrust digital reporting system and the United States Department of Agriculture's use of remote monitoring technologies and real-time treatment data to support biosecurity operations.

The final presentation examined Chile's research into heat treatment as a quarantine measure for hitchhiking snails associated with imported vehicles and other commodities. The case study demonstrated the potential of innovative treatment technologies to mitigate pest risks while also highlighting practical considerations for implementation.

Together, the presentations demonstrated how technological innovation is helping regulators strengthen compliance systems, improve treatment assurance and respond to the growing complexity of global trade pathways.

The third and final day of the QRM focused on future regulatory challenges, public awareness and the importance of collaboration in building resilient biosecurity systems.

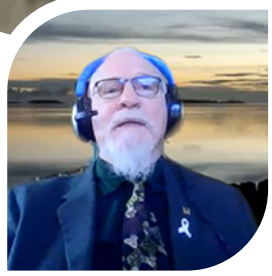
Delegates explored how human behaviour influences compliance and considered how regulatory frameworks can be designed to encourage positive biosecurity outcomes. A case study from New Zealand demonstrated the importance of adaptability and evidence-based decision-making through the successful eradication of West Indian drywood termites from a luxury superyacht using sulfuryl fluoride fumigation under emergency approval arrangements.

Presentations also examined risk-based approaches to auditing and assurance, highlighting how regulators can use data, risk profiling and innovative methodologies to prioritise activities and respond to emerging threats. Discussions on regulatory communications emphasised the value of making regulatory outcomes visible to build organisational culture, improve reporting behaviours and strengthen confidence in regulatory systems.

The meeting concluded with a facilitated peer exchange session, during which delegates discussed key biosecurity challenges facing their agencies and shared perspectives on future risks and opportunities. Participants also considered emerging technologies and advances in artificial intelligence, reaffirming their commitment to continued collaboration, knowledge sharing and international cooperation to ensure biosecurity regulatory frameworks remain effective, resilient and responsive to an evolving global risk landscape.

The 2026 QRM once again demonstrated the value of international collaboration in addressing shared biosecurity challenges. Delegates left the forum with renewed connections, practical insights and a shared commitment to strengthening regulatory resilience beyond borders.







Presenter Dave Nendick, Manager, Te Tira Āta Patu - Treatments Team, New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

Presenter Donna Maggs, Assistant Director, CED communications, DAFF

© Commonwealth of Australia, 2026.

This publication is licensed by Commonwealth of Australia under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.

BIO151.0926