

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

## RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

## BUDGET ESTIMATES – MARCH 2025

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OUTCOME 1: MORE SUSTAINABLE, PRODUCTIVE, INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE AND PROFITABLE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND FIBRE INDUSTRIES THROUGH POLICIES AND INITIATIVES THAT PROMOTE BETTER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, INNOVATION, SELF-RELIANCE AND IMPROVED ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.		
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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

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APD02	Red Wine Oversupply	SB25-000012
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Farm Resilience Division (FRD)		
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Trade and International Division (TID)		
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TID02	China Agriculture Trade	SB25-000002
TID03	US Trade	SB25-000003
TID04	Export Statistics and Market Access Achievements	SB25-000005

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

<b>OUTCOME 2: SAFEGUARD AUSTRALIA'S ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH STATUS TO MAINTAIN OVERSEAS MARKETS AND PROTECT THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT FROM THE IMPACT OF EXOTIC PESTS AND DISEASES, THROUGH RISK ASSESSMENT, INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL, FOOD AND FIBRE INDUSTRIES.</b>		
<b>Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD)</b>		
BAD01	High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (H7 and H5)	SB25-000043
BAD02	Chilean salmon imports	SB25-000050
<b>Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division (BSRD)</b>		
BSRD01	Biosecurity Sustainable Funding	SB25-000038
BSRD02	Biosecurity Key Achievements	SB25-000039
BSRD03	Biosecurity Protection Levy	SB25-000040
<b>Biosecurity Plant and Science Services Division (BPSSD)</b>		
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<b>Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity Division (PPEBD)</b>		
PPEBD01	National Fire Ant Eradication Program	SB25-000041
<b>PORTFOLIO AGENCY OVERVIEWS (PA)</b>		
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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

Division: Finance and Investment Division

**FID01****DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL POSITION****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The department has commenced the 2024–25 in a strong financial position, with expected revenue to meet planned expenditure through the financial year, and sufficient cash reserves providing a sustainable financial position.
- The department had previously faced a tight financial situation in 2022–23 and managed its budget accordingly.
- Since commencing in the role, the Secretary's main financial focus for 2023–24 was on the financial sustainability of the department.
- The department has recorded a surplus in the 2023–24 financial year, with a departmental operating surplus of \$65.7 million (net cash appropriation arrangements).
- Excluding the surplus attributable to large ICT projects, the department reported an underspend of 2% against budget in 2023-24. This is a positive result.
- In the 2024-25 MYEFO update the Government provided the department with a \$83.3 million in appropriations over the forward estimates.

**2023-24 Financial Results**

- In 2023–24, the department came out of a period of cost control measures. The operating surplus of \$65.7 million was mainly due to:
  - \$35.3 million in underspends related to the timing of expenditure for large ICT programs of work in the Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System (\$17.9m) and Taking Farmers to Market program (\$17.4m). DAFF will consult with the Department of Finance on utilising this funding next financial year.
  - underspends in staffing costs due to a tight employment market, and reduced contractor engagements reflecting the APS Strategic Commission Framework's intent to build capability within the APS.
- At 30 June 2024 the cash balance held by the department was \$290.8 million, including departmental operating appropriation receivable of \$242.9 million. This provides the department with the ability to pay its debts when they fall due.

Contact Officer: Paul Howe  
SES Lead: Matthew Geysen  
Last updated: 20 January 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000027

## BACKGROUND

### 2022-23 Financial Result

- The department faced a tight financial situation in 2022–23 and managed its budget accordingly.
- The department recorded a surplus of \$2.5 million in 2022–23 financial year (excluding unfunded depreciation/amortisation expenses related to normal and right-of-use assets and adding back principal repayments on unfunded leases).
- The department received \$127 million in supplementation funding in June 2023 through the Portfolio Additional Estimates (Appropriation Bill 3) to meet a funding shortfall predominantly related to biosecurity and exports regulatory activities, where existing fees and charges had not recovered the cost of regulatory activity.
- The department had limited cash reserves available to manage the pressures through an operating loss.
- The supplementation funding ensured that the department was able to meet its legislative and regulatory obligations, and financial commitments as they fell due, while continuing to deliver its core functions and ensured that the department did not incur an operating loss or a significant reduction in its cash position due to funding cost recovered activities.

### Drivers of Financial Pressures in 2022-23

- The department's role and budget are complex compared to many public sector organisations.
- Around two thirds of the department work on operational matters, primarily biosecurity functions at the border. This has required surge resources in response to major biosecurity threats and trade disruptions, while maintaining core policy and administration capability.
- Funding comes from a mixture of demand-driven, cost-recovered arrangements (which can be volatile and have been particularly so through COVID), and from the Federal Budget.
- Over recent years, the cost of delivering essential services and policy and program responsibilities outstripped the revenue coming into the department. The department also incurred additional costs associated with the Machinery of Government changes, particularly in ICT and other corporate services which had a financial impact.
- The department delivers our regulatory activities efficiently, moving functions and limited resources to immediate priorities. In line with government charging policy, where possible we recover the cost of these regulatory activities from individuals and businesses who use and benefit from them.
- Fees and charges for cost-recovered services had not been regularly adjusted in line with what it actually costs to deliver these services. Most biosecurity and import fees and charges had not been updated since 2015. This has historically been addressed by short term measures.

- The agricultural exports arrangements were two years into a three-year stepped increase in charging to achieve full cost recovery. The final increase in prices went into effect on 1 July 2023. However, the model was not keeping pace with the cost of delivering export services and the inflationary pressures of supplier cost increases. Further, the existing framework for cost recovery was not responsive to increasing changes and complexity in the global agricultural trade environment.
- New prices across the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement commenced on 1 July 2023, concluding a two-year comprehensive review of biosecurity effort, fees and charges. The new prices were modelled on updated drivers and costs to better reflect departmental effort to deliver biosecurity regulatory activities.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

**FID02****DEPARTMENTAL COST RECOVERY****CURRENT ISSUE**

- How cost recovery is applied in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- Cost recovered charges are underpinned by government authority and supporting legislation.
- In line with Australian government charging policies, the department recovers the cost of many of the regulatory functions we perform for industry. The largest arrangements include biosecurity (import) and agricultural exports activities.
- A Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) for each arrangement describes the regulatory charging settings and guides the department's engagement with stakeholders. The CRIS also reports on financial matters for each arrangement.
- The department sets prices consistent with the objective of 'efficient cost' - the minimum cost necessary to provide the activity.
- The full year financial result of each arrangement is impacted by demand for service and will not be known until the end of the financial year when the activity-based costing allocation process is run.
- The department aims to minimise any deficit or surplus in an arrangement, noting the department is not permitted to increase fees to recover prior year deficits.
- The department regularly engages with regulated industries, generally through consultative committees, to monitor and report on performance, explain revenue, expenses and cost allocation, and discuss reform impacts on arrangements.
- The department is embedding an annual review cycle to ensure cost recovery settings remain financially sustainable and efficient.
  - Biosecurity fees and charges increased by 4.1% commencing 1 July 2024, in accordance with indexation clauses added to the biosecurity regulations in 2023.

Contact Officer: Maria Loyman  
Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Last updated: 25 March 2025

SES Lead: Matthew Geysen  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000028

- Agricultural export fees and charges remain at legislated prices for 2024-25 pending a detailed review by the department.
- CRIS documents have been published on the department's website for 2024-25.
- Work is progressing to update and publish CRIS for the biosecurity and export arrangements for 2025-26 by 1 July 2025.
- The department continues to ensure its cost recovery practices are fit-for purpose and remain efficient and effective, while regularly engaging with and reporting to industry on cost recovery matters.

## BIOSECURITY AND EXPORT ARRANGEMENTS

As at 31 January 2025, the arrangements are performing as follows:

- Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement is forecasting a surplus position of \$8.1 million in 2024-25, compared to a \$13.9 million surplus in 2023-24.
  - The main impacts on the arrangement relate to slower than expected recruitment of frontline staff and higher volumes of Full Import Declarations (items valued more than \$1000) and Self Assess Clearances (Items valued under \$1,000). Volumes tend to be higher in the months before Christmas and reduce in the second half of the year, bringing revenue and expenses into alignment by year end.
- The combined forecast for the Export Cost Recovery Arrangements in 2024-25 is a notional deficit of \$40.6 million, an increase from the \$25.6 million deficit in 2023-24. With combined revenue is tracking with budget.,
  - The main impact on most arrangements has been prices not keeping pace with expenses, leading to a growing gap. This shortfall will be funded from supplementation received by the department in the 2023-24 MYEFO. Work on addressing this issue is being undertaken by the Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce.

## BACKGROUND

- Deficits in cost recovery arrangements is a historical and structural issue for the department.
- In exports, losses go back to 2012 in some cases. Biosecurity arrangements have been in deficit for 3 of the past 4 financial years.
  - The Minister's decision to increase fees and charges for the biosecurity arrangement in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 are important steps towards sustainable funding for import regulatory activities.
  - While export arrangements have had gradual increases to fees and charges since 2020-21, this has not kept pace with the full cost for regulatory activity, with losses continuing for most arrangements.



- The table below shows recent historical losses and accumulated results for cost recovery.

Table 1: Accumulated results for cost recovery by arrangement and stream

Arrangement	Movement 2018-19	Movement 2019-20	Movement 2020-21	Movement 2021-22	Movement 2022-23	Movement 2023-24
Meat	(3.192)	(2.529)	(0.000)	0.000	(4.043)	(0.000)
Seafood and Egg	0.330	(0.000)	0.000	0.000	(0.014)	(0.000)
Dairy	(0.890)	(1.020)	(0.000)	0.000	(0.136)	0.000
Non-prescribed goods	(0.055)	(0.925)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.680)	(0.000)
Export Food Surplus/Deficit	(3.806)	(4.475)	(0.000)	0.000	(4.873)	(0.000)
Grain	(2.697)	(2.738)	(0.000)	1.570	3.085	2.037
Horticulture	(1.496)	(2.468)	(0.000)	0.000	(0.081)	0.765
Export Plants Surplus/Deficit	(4.193)	(5.206)	(0.000)	1.570	3.005	2.802
Live Animal Exports Surplus/Deficit	(5.749)	(12.194)	0.000	(0.000)	(3.447)	(0.000)
<b>Exports Accumulated Results</b>	<b>(13.749)</b>	<b>(21.875)</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>1.570</b>	<b>(5.315)</b>	<b>2.802</b>
Import clearance	11.364	(11.330)	12.982	(12.161)	(25.646)	16.082
Seaports	2.459	2.093	(0.605)	(7.224)	(7.953)	(0.078)
Post Entry Animal Quarantine (Non-Horse)	0.917	(0.480)	(2.007)	(0.738)	2.470	2.749
Post Entry Animal Quarantine (Horses)	0.065	0.238	(0.105)	0.937	(0.587)	0.025
Post Entry Animal Quarantine (Avian)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	(3.209)	(4.037)
Post Entry Plant Quarantine	(1.316)	(1.348)	(0.678)	(0.952)	(0.714)	(0.923)
<b>Biosecurity Accumulated Results</b>	<b>13.488</b>	<b>(10.827)</b>	<b>9.587</b>	<b>(20.139)</b>	<b>(35.639)</b>	<b>13.818</b>

- In the 2023-24 MYEFO budget update, the department was provided \$3.7 million over 3 years (across 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26) for the development of an ongoing sustainable export funding model. This will ensure the department remains appropriately resourced to carry out its agricultural trade and exports functions into the future.
- The department also received funding of \$137.5 million over 3 years (2023-24 - 2025-26) covering deficits arising from the export cost recovery arrangements while new models are developed.

## NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY

The National Residue Survey (NRS) is departmental revenue for the cost of managing the risk of chemical residues and environmental contaminants in Australian animal and plant products. Funds are held in the NRS special account. The cash balance of the special account on 31 January 2025 was \$5.1 million. Year-to-date revenue was \$8.9 million with expenses of \$8.5 million. The current 2024-25 full year forecast is revenue of \$14.4 million and expenses of \$12.0 million.

Revenue and expenditure are forecast to be \$12.2 million in 2025-26.

## AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY LEVIES

The department collects, administers and disburses agricultural levies and charges on behalf of Australia's primary industries. The department charges research and development corporations annually, to perform these activities. Actual costs are reconciled at year end and no reserve or cash balance is maintained for this service.

**SOURCES**

1. Table 1 information contained in the internal file “CR Reserve Balances.xlsx”.
2. NRS Results contained in the detailed workings of Note 17 to the Financial Statements in the 2023-24 DAFF Annual Report.
3. NRS forecast and budget figures sourced from the 2024-25 PBS document.
4. 4.1% indexation sourced from the ABS Annual CPI inflation, December 2023.
5. Arrangement forecasts are sourced from the department’s Activity Based Costing System as at 31 January 2025 and do not include any adjustments from the mid-year budget review process.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

**FID03****CONSULTANTS**

	1 July 2024 – 28 February 2025 <sup>4</sup>	2023-24 <sup>5</sup>	2022-23 <sup>6</sup>
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$4.36m	\$7.36m	\$27.49m

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The department has spent \$4.4 million (GST inclusive) on consultants between **1 July 2024 – 28 February 2025**.
- The department has reported 22 new consultancies worth \$4.8 million on AusTender between **1 July 2024 – 28 February 2025**.
- The top 10 consultancy contracts with the highest expenditure between **1 July 2024 – 28 February 2025** are as follows:

Supplier	Description & Responsible Group	Expenditure
Callida Pty Ltd	Organisation Design: Strong Corporate Centre - SEEG	\$308,662.20
Noetic Solutions Pty Ltd	Analysis for Revised Operating Model - BOCG	\$297,175.00
Callida Pty Ltd	Biosecurity Cost Assurance Methodology and Driver Review - BOCG	\$295,450.08
TTF Tailored HR Solutions Unit Trust	Workforce Planning Services - SEEG / PPSD	\$232,910.00
Puzzle Partners Consulting Pty Ltd	Flexible Workspace Arrangements - Change Specialists - SEEG / PPSD	\$230,233.71
Ernst & Young	Virtual Energy Network (VEN) consultancy services - SEEG / PPSD	\$208,438.15
The Fifth Estate Consultancy Pty Ltd	Development and Writing of the Timber Fibre Strategy - AFFP / ACFF	\$203,786.58

Contact Officer: Sophia Farmakis  
SES Lead: Matthew Geysen  
Last updated: 12 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000029

KPMG	Financial Statement Accounting Support Consultancy Services - SEEG / FID	\$176,660.00
McGrathNicol Advisory Partnership	Remuneration Review - ATRG / TI	\$168,501.10
ThinkPlace Australia Pty Ltd	Research and Analysis Services - ATRG / PLAE	\$141,565.00

- The department uses consultants judiciously where there is a need for independent information or professional skills particularly relating to audit services, financial services and biosecurity services including research into outbreak of diseases within the agricultural industry.
- Consultants are typically engaged to:
  - investigate or diagnose a defined issue or problem.
  - carry out defined reviews or evaluations.
  - provide independent advice, information, or creative solutions to assist in the department's decision-making.
- Consultancy expenditure across the department reduced by approximately \$20.13m from the **2022-23 financial year to the 2023-24 financial year**, since the strategic delivery partner model used by the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) ceased on 30 April 2023.
- When seeking consulting services, the department complies with the Commonwealth *Procurement Rules and Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
- The department complies with its responsibilities to ensure any procurement undertaken by the department represents the best value for money.
- Delegations to approve approaches to market for consultancy services are dependent on value, with approval required at the First Assistant Secretary level or above.
- The department publishes the top 5 organisations that provided consultancy services in the Annual Report.
- DAFF awarded one consultancy contract to the Big 4 between **1 July 2024 – 28 February 2025** to Ernst & Young for a Virtual Energy Network Feasibility Assessment.

#### Secretary Fennessy

- Prior to his appointment with the department, Secretary Fennessy held senior roles with the consultancy firm EY (formerly Ernst & Young) from August 2017 to July 2020.

- To avoid any perceptions of a conflict of interest regarding contractual arrangements entered into with EY, the department's Procurement Policy requires probity advice be given on any contractual arrangements with the firm.
- The department entered into a consultancy contract with Ernst & Young for a Virtual Energy Network Feasibility Assessment on 09 September 2024 for \$208,438 GST Inclusive.

#### Consultancy Contracts

- DAFF has **entered into** the following consultancy contracts valued at \$10,000 or more as reported on AusTender:

	<b>1 Jul 2024 – 28 Feb 2025<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2023-24<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2022-23<sup>3</sup></b>
Number of Contracts	22	86	42
<b>Total Value (GST incl)</b>	<b>\$4.81m</b>	<b>\$8.12m</b>	<b>\$10.34m</b>

Consultancy contracts by period are provided in **Attachments A to C.**

#### Top 5 Organisations - Consultancy Contract Expenditure 2023 – 2024 Annual Report

<b>Organisations receiving a share of reportable consultancy contract expenditure 2023-24</b>	<b>Expenditure (GST incl)</b>	<b>Description of Services (Not detailed in Annual Report)</b>
1 and One Pty Ltd	\$903,605	1 and One provided specialist communication and general consultancy services.
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	\$805,389	CSIRO is a government owned scientific research body. The organisation's roles include conducting a range of scientific research services.
Proximity Advisory Services Pty Ltd	\$533,072	Proximity provided general consultancy services to the department.
TTF KM Unit Trust	\$446,104	TTF KM provided research and consultancy services to the department.
Callida Pty Ltd	\$438,781	Callida provided general consultancy services to the department.

#### Big 4 Consultancy and other Contracts

- For the **1 July 2024 to 28 February 2025** period, there has been three contracts entered into with the Big 4:
  - The department entered into a contract with EY for Virtual Energy Network (VEN) consultancy services on 9 September 2024 for \$208,438 GST Inclusive.

- The department entered into a contract (non-consultancy) with KPMG for Renewing Financial Reporting Model Licence Agreement on 1 December 2024 for \$173,745 GST Inclusive.
- The department entered into a contract (non-consultancy) with KPMG for Financial Statement Support on 1 January 2025 for \$800,000 GST Inclusive.
- On the 29 November 2024, Chartertech Pty Ltd (ABN 30 617 464 990) was acquired by KPMG, the business is now called KPMG Chartertech Pty Ltd (ABN 30 617 464 990). The department has two current contracts with KPMG Chartertech that were entered into by the Digital Services Division prior to the acquisition:
  - Automation Licensing and Support Services, 28 November 2023 to 27 November 2025 for \$757,567 GST Inclusive.
  - Temporary Personnel Services (TechnologyOne support), 30 March 2022 to 31 March 2025 for \$1,039,456 GST Inclusive.
- For the **2023-24 financial year**, the department entered into six contracts with the Big 4 valued \$2.48 million for a range of services including an essential 8 awareness campaign, fringe benefit taxation preparation and temporary personnel.
- There are no instances of offers or acceptance of in-kind or pro-bono services in the last 5 years from KPMG, PwC, EY or Deloitte declared on the Department's official compliance reporting system. Officials are required to declare acceptance of gifts and benefits that are valued at over \$50 under the Department's Gifts and Benefits Policy in the Department's official compliance reporting system.
- A breakdown of Big 4 contracts by period are provided in **Attachments D and E**.

## BACKGROUND

- The department provides tools, guidance material and advice to support the procurement processes.
- DAFF has strengthened its Contract Management Framework with changes to policy, aligning to DoF Contract Management Guidelines, providing guidance and resources enabling effective management & performance of contracts. It includes supplementary checklists for managing Probity, Security, Integrity and Fraud, movement/exiting personnel, focusing effort on managing risk throughout the contract to completion.
- AusTender data will vary depending on when a report has been run, since contracts are updated on AusTender daily and existing contracts may be varied in length of time and/or value.

**SOURCES**

1. AusTender ([www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)) - as at 11 March 2025 (subject to change)
2. AusTender ([www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)) - as at 26 September 2024
3. AusTender ([www.tenders.gov.au](http://www.tenders.gov.au)) - as at 26 September 2023
4. Financial Accounting and Assets Team - as at 11 March 2025
5. Annual Report 2023-24 (Annual report - DAFF ([agriculture.gov.au](http://agriculture.gov.au)))
6. Annual Report 2022-23 (Annual report - DAFF ([agriculture.gov.au](http://agriculture.gov.au)))

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A - Reportable Consultancy Contracts from 1 July 2024 – 28 Feb 2025
- Attachment B - Reportable Consultancy Contracts from 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024
- Attachment C - Reportable Consultancy Contracts from 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023
- Attachment D - Big 4 Contract Summary from 1 July 2022 – 28 Feb 2025
- Attachment E - Reportable Big 4 Contracts from 1 July 2023 – 28 Feb 2025



Attachment A - DAFF list of reportable Consultancy Contracts from 1 July 2024 to 28 February 2025

Supplier Name	Division	AusTender Contract ID	Description	Category	Consultancy Reason(s)	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (AUD)
AUSVET PTY LTD	Biosecurity Animal	CN4118944	Risk Assessment of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Dairy Cattle	Strategic planning consultation services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	20-Dec-24	23-May-25	485,175.00
CALLIDA PTY LTD	People, Property and Security	CN4115385	Shift Roster Review	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	2-Dec-24	1-Dec-25	146,713.60
CALLIDA PTY LTD	Transformation Taskforce	CN4096360	Program assurance review	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	15-Jul-24	16-Dec-24	335,720.00
CALLIDA PTY LTD	Finance and Investment	CN4082911	Financial Analysis	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	15-Jul-24	18-Oct-24	295,508.00
CLEAR HORIZON CONSULTING PTY LTD	Farm Resilience	CN4099522	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Support	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	5-Aug-24	30-Jun-25	591,483.00
COOK CHRISTINA LOUISE	Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity	CN4107436	Advisory Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	16-Oct-24	2-Dec-24	42,767.82
ERNST & YOUNG	People, Property and Security	CN4099529	Virtual Energy Network Feasibility Assessment	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	9-Sep-24	31-Jan-25	208,438.16
GALLUZZO JACINTA LEANNE	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Welfare and Regulation	CN4090980	Workshop Facilitation and drafting	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	5-Aug-24	30-Oct-24	134,056.80
GREENWOOD STRATEGY SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	CN4087290	Review of Codes of Practice Related to Wood Production in Plantations	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	15-Jul-24	31-Dec-24	122,760.00
GROSVENOR PERFORMANCE GROUP PTY LTD	Agriculture Policy	CN4130206	Evaluation of the Horticultural Netting Program	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	17-Feb-25	16-May-25	133,434.03
GSA MANAGEMENT CONSULTING PTY LTD	Trade and International	CN4112019	Global Agricultural Leadership Review	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	11-Nov-24	7-Feb-25	86,693.95
INSTINCT AND REASON PTY LTD	Biosecurity Strategy and Reform	CN4101920	Market Research	Market research	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	27-Sep-24	30-Oct-24	28,600.00
JONES LANG LASALLE (ACT) PTY LTD	People, Property and Security	CN4108290	Capital Works Project - Mickleham Master Plan and Ground Mount Solar Engineering	Building construction and support and maintenance and repair services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	16-Oct-24	30-Jun-25	633,600.00
JONES LANG LASALLE (ACT) PTY LTD	People, Property and Security	CN4099528	Electrical Network Engineering Assessment	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	1-Jul-24	30-Sep-24	73,480.00
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	People, Property and Security	CN4128304	Internal Audit Provider	Internal audits	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	3-Feb-25	30-Jun-25	267,300.00
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Digital Services	CN4094090	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	29-Jul-24	30-Sep-24	79,722.00
NGAMURU ADVISORY PTY LTD	Biosecurity Plant and Science Services	CN4092083	Procurement Assistance	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	16-Aug-24	20-Sep-24	36,190.00
NOETIC SOLUTIONS PTY LIMITED	Executive Division	CN4089734	Analysis for Revised Operating Model	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	18-Jul-24	31-Dec-24	297,175.00
PROXIMITY ADVISORY SERVICES PTY LTD	AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	CN4083437	Stocktake, Analysis and Advice of Forestry Industry Stakeholder Projects	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	24-Jul-24	31-Oct-24	141,076.00
PUZZLE PARTNERS CONSULTING PTY LTD	People, Property and Security	CN4118192	Change Management	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	16-Sep-24	30-Jun-25	383,776.36
THE FIFTH ESTATE CONSULTANCY PTY LIMITED	AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	CN4100253	Development of the Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership's Timber	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	16-Sep-24	30-Apr-25	234,850.00
WARRIE HOLMAN AND ASSOCIATES PTY LTD	Chief Veterinary Office	CN4128495	Expert Animal Biosecurity Advice on Trends and Threats	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	7-Feb-25	30-Jun-25	55,000.00
TOTAL									4,813,519.72



Attachment B - DAFF list of reportable Consultancy Contracts from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Supplier Name	Division	AusTender Contract ID	Description	Category	Consultancy Reason(s)	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (AUD)
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Traceability, Plant and Live Exports	CN3995184	Support for the Live Sheep Phase Out Panel	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	7-Aug-23	15-Sep-23	89,144.00
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4004664	Support for Live Sheep Phase Out Panel	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	25-Sep-23	30-Nov-23	75,504.00
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4017276	Specialist Communications Advice	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	20-Nov-23	15-Dec-23	35,600.00
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Trade and International	CN4035696	Management Advisory Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	15-Feb-24	19-Apr-24	227,700.00
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Biosecurity Plant and Science Services	CN4054935	Consultancy Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	18-Apr-24	18-Jul-24	552,000.00
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4054937	Co-Design Service	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	1-Apr-24	28-Jun-24	108,550.00
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Trade and International	CN4060151	Consultancy Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	4-Apr-24	30-Jun-24	79,200.00
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4066695	Project Planning	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	17-Jun-24	28-Jun-24	46,464.00
AGRISCIENCE CONSULTANCIES TAS PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4064044	Consultancy Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	3-Jun-24	20-Dec-24	79,297.00
ANDERSON MALCOLM LAURENCE	Chief Veterinary Office	CN4040726	Chairperson and Consultancy Services	Corporate objectives or policy development	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	18-Mar-24	30-Jun-25	66,420.00
ANDERSON MALCOLM LAURENCE	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4048980	Technical Expertise - Gap Analysis	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	22-Apr-24	31-May-24	66,000.00
ARTD PTY LTD	Biosecurity Plant and Science Services	CN4042925	Evaluate Implementation Plan	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	19-Jan-24	28-Jun-24	54,077.00
AUSTRALIAN FARM INSTITUTE LIMITED	Sustainability Climate and Strategy	CN4061714	Research and Analysis Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	31-May-24	28-Jun-24	36,300.00
AUSVET PTY LTD	Chief Veterinary Office	CN4034348	Engagement of Epidemiology and Veterinary Experts	Disease prevention and control	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	2-Feb-24	30-Sep-24	300,000.00
BLACK, PETER FRANCIS	Chief Veterinary Office	CN4048016	Delivery of Horizon Scanning Content and Workshops	Management advisory services	Skills currently unavailable within agency	Limited tender	8-Apr-24	30-Jun-24	19,800.00
CALLIDA PTY LTD	Biosecurity Strategy and Reform	CN4023570	Financial Modelling Expertise and Independent Recommendation	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	4-Dec-23	30-Jun-24	198,720.00
CALLIDA PTY LTD	Finance and Investment	CN4040714	Financial Analysis	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	14-Mar-24	31-May-24	206,643.75
CALLIDA PTY LTD	Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce	CN4063444	Analysis Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	3-Jun-24	30-Jun-25	189,030.75
CALLIDA PTY LTD	Aglet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	CN4063451	Consultancy Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	10-Jun-24	20-Sep-24	139,436.25
CALLIDA PTY LTD	Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce	CN4064878	Analysis Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	3-Jun-24	30-Jun-25	135,345.10
CAPITAL COMMUNICATIONS PTY LIMITED	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4015091	Review of Biosecurity Operating Model and Risk Mitigation	Risk management consultation services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	25-Oct-23	24-Dec-23	47,250.00
CHARTERPOINT PTY LTD	Finance and Investment	CN4064043	Corporate Advisory Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	3-Jun-24	30-Sep-24	233,811.60
CHARTERTECH PTY LTD	Finance and Investment	CN4044546	Corporate Management Advisory Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	2-Apr-24	29-May-24	66,044.00
COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION	Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	CN4064051	Ecological Risk Assessment	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	16-Feb-24	31-Oct-24	44,283.00
DATALYTICS PTY LTD	Biosecurity Animal	CN4025167	Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis	Risk management consultation services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	3-Oct-23	31-Dec-23	22,682.00
GALLUZZO JACINTA LEANNE	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4062369	AAWS Project Manager	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	22-May-24	28-Jun-24	83,207.52
GAMAYUN PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4061724	Consultancy Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	27-May-24	30-Oct-24	45,000.00
HAPPOLD JONATHAN RICHARD	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer	CN4060940	Development and Delivery Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	20-May-24	30-Aug-24	31,515.00
ICENI GROUP PTY LTD	Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity	CN4051952	Temporary Personnel	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	1-May-24	28-Jun-24	82,368.00
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS PTY LTD	ABARES	CN4061662	Analytics and Modelling Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	22-May-24	31-Aug-24	248,463.00
JEROME KLAAS VANCLAY	Aglet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	CN4011677	Review of Regional Forest Agreement	Business administration services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	24-Oct-23	24-Oct-24	120,000.00
JONES LANG LASALLE ADVISORY SERVICES PTY LIMITED	Finance and Investment	CN4021071	Asset Revaluation Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	27-Nov-23	31-Oct-24	52,360.00
K P M G	Finance and Investment	CN4021070	Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) Return Preparation	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	1-Nov-23	31-Jul-24	75,350.00
KSJ CONSULTING SERVICE PTY LTD	Farm Resilience	CN4066700	Framework Support Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	17-May-24	12-Jul-24	79,497.00
LCW ADVISORY	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4065470	Independent Review Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	3-Jun-24	12-Aug-24	59,500.00
MARK ANDREW SCHIPP	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer	CN4061631	Deployment Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	25-May-24	30-May-24	16,650.00
MCCUTCHEON, STEPHEN DONALD	Biosecurity Animal	CN4025166	Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis	Risk management consultation services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	9-Oct-23	31-Dec-23	20,540.00
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4012740	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	23-Oct-23	30-Sep-24	42,886.20
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4012742	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	23-Oct-23	30-Jun-24	26,381.87

Supplier Name	Division	AusTender Contract ID	Description	Category	Consultancy Reason(s)	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (AUD)
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4012743	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	23-Oct-23	30-Sep-24	50,460.00
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4029719	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	22-Jan-24	31-Dec-24	14,869.37
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Trade and International	CN4048032	Remuneration Review	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	8-Apr-24	28-Sep-24	175,000.00
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4055499	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	12,088.75
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058161	Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	44,940.00
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058613	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	14,974.25
PEDERSEN, PETER JOHN	Biosecurity Plant and Science Services	CN3998266	Project Assessment	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	9-Aug-23	13-Oct-23	25,000.00
PLATH GORDON JOHN	Biosecurity Plant and Science Services	CN4025164	Regulatory Services	Business intelligence consulting services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	4-Dec-23	30-Sep-24	297,088.00
PROXIMITY ADVISORY SERVICES PTY LTD	Compliance & Enforcement	CN4024119	Harm Analysis and Regulatory Sanctions Consultancy	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	20-Nov-23	30-Jun-24	640,129.60
SAPERE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4064905	Data Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	10-Jun-24	9-Aug-24	80,758.70
SLM CORPORATE PTY LTD	Departmental Non-Discretionary (DND)	CN4028329	Bamaga Native Title Valuation	Economic or financial evaluation of projects	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	13-Dec-23	15-Feb-24	11,000.00
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4008662	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	9-Oct-23	30-Jun-24	14,868.40
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4029718	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	22-Jan-24	30-Dec-24	21,161.25
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4029721	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	22-Jan-24	30-Sep-24	11,187.00
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4029723	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	22-Jan-24	30-Dec-24	11,187.00
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4040052	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	26-Feb-24	31-Dec-24	14,833.50
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4040718	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	26-Feb-24	31-Dec-24	51,590.00
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4055498	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	11,742.50
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058615	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	11,302.50
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058616	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	11,880.00
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058618	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	11,302.50
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058621	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	17,077.50
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058622	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	17,077.50
SYNERGY GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058623	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	13,502.50
SYNERGY NEWCO PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4053603	Research and Analysis Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	22-Apr-24	28-Jun-24	141,565.00
SYNERGY NEWCO PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4059179	Consultancy Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	20-May-24	30-Jun-24	116,823.00
THE MARSDEN JACOB UNIT TRUST	Agriculture Policy	CN4064879	Agricultural Policy Analysis Services	Management advisory services	Skills currently unavailable within agency	Open tender	3-Jun-24	30-Jun-24	33,000.00
THOUGHTPOST GOVERNANCE PTY LTD	Transformation Taskforce	CN4045463	Committee Governance Review	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	22-Mar-24	24-May-24	54,065.00
THOUGHTPOST GOVERNANCE PTY LTD	Aglet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	CN4058164	Strategic Advice and Review Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	16-May-24	12-Jul-24	59,486.00
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4029717	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	22-Jan-24	31-Dec-24	47,520.00
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4029720	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	22-Jan-24	31-Dec-24	14,850.00
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4029722	Internal Audit	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	22-Jan-24	30-Sep-24	11,880.00
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058614	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	23,760.00
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058620	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	14,850.00

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Supplier Name	Division	AusTender Contract ID	Description	Category	Consultancy Reason(s)	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (AUD)
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN4058624	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	29-Apr-24	31-Dec-24	11,880.00
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Export & Veterinary Services	CN4059589	Internal Audit Services	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	10-May-24	31-Dec-24	66,330.00
TTF KM UNIT TRUST	Transformation Taskforce	CN4018555	Functional Review	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	20-Nov-23	28-Jun-24	286,000.00
TTF KM UNIT TRUST	Transformation Taskforce	CN4048033	Strategic Change and Organisation Design Partner	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	20-Mar-24	28-Jun-24	362,500.00
TTF TAILORED HR SOLUTIONS UNIT TRUST	People, Property & Security	CN4031049	Workforce Planning Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	18-Dec-23	30-Sep-24	261,695.00
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	CN4083440	Rabies Modelling Timor	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	19-Jun-24	31-Dec-24	73,326.00
VESCIENT PTY LTD	Aglet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	CN4025168	Risk Management Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	8-Nov-23	30-Jun-26	360,000.00
VIROTECHNOLOGIES INC	Biosecurity Animal	CN4040723	Peer Review - Infectious Salmon Anaemia Virus Policy Review	Management advisory services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	12-Feb-24	26-Apr-24	15,000.00
WARRIE HOLMAN AND ASSOCIATES PTY LTD	Chief Veterinary Office	CN4067888	Research and Analysis Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	10-Jun-24	18-Aug-24	24,860.00
WE ARE MALO PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4053600	Web and App Design Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	1-May-24	22-Jul-24	37,939.00
WHERE TO RESEARCH BASED CONSULTING PTY LTD	Biosecurity Strategy and Reform	CN4045460	Delivery of Biosecurity Awareness Research	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	29-Mar-24	28-Jun-24	199,980.00
WHERE TO RESEARCH BASED CONSULTING PTY LTD	Plant and Live Animal Exports, Animal Welfare and Regulation	CN4054073	Research and Analysis Services	Management advisory services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	12-Apr-24	26-Jul-24	199,100.00
ZACHARIN WILLIAM FYFE	Biosecurity Animal	CN4025165	Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis	Risk management consultation services	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	9-Oct-23	31-Dec-23	20,540.00
TOTAL									8,124,990.86



Attachment C - List of reportable Consultancy Contracts from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Supplier Name	Division	AusTender Contract ID	Description	Consultancy Reason(s)	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (AUD)
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Traceability, Plant and Live Exports	CN3938088	Change Communications Specialist	Skills currently unavailable within agency	Open Tender	11-Jul-22	23-Dec-22	153,032.00
1 AND ONE PTY LTD	Traceability, Plant and Live Exports	CN3899770	Communication Specialist Consultancy Services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open Tender	5-Jan-23	30-Apr-23	157,460.00
AGORA CONSULTING PTY LTD	Traceability, Plant and Live Exports	CN3908947	Stakeholder Engagement and Monitoring and Evaluation	Skills currently unavailable within agency	Open Tender	10-Aug-22	30-Jun-23	574,120.00
CONCEPTSIX PTY LTD	Traceability, Plant and Live Exports	CN3975366	Cataloguing Sheep Submissions	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open Tender	13-Jun-23	31-Jul-23	84,001.50
DATALYTICS PTY LTD	Biosecurity Animal	CN3921067	Scientific Advisory Group - Prawn Imports Phase 2	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited Tender	11-Oct-22	7-Nov-22	24,840.00
DAVEY ALISTAIR COLIN	Traceability, Plant and Live Exports	CN3965842	Assessment of Existing Studies on the Live Sheep Trade	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited Tender	12-May-23	30-Jun-23	49,500.00
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY	Finance and Investment	CN3961010	Actuary for Financial Statements	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open Tender	29-Mar-23	31-Oct-23	16,500.00
EPISODE THREE PTY LTD	Traceability, Plant and Live Exports	CN3970928	Analysis of Live Sheep Exports	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	1-Jun-23	31-Jul-23	319,500.00
Forestworks Ltd	AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry & Engagement	CN3958781	Forestry Industry Workforce Training Program Scoping Study	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	10-Mar-23	30-Nov-23	500,000.00
GROSVENOR PERFORMANCE GROUP PTY LTD	Farm Resilience	CN3911592	Mid-term Evaluation of Drought Resilience Funding Plan	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	5-Sep-22	10-Mar-23	136,098.00
HAPPOLD JONATHAN RICHARD	Chief Veterinary Office	CN3963345	Northern Australia Vulnerabilities Report	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	25-Apr-23	30-Jul-23	79,324.00
HORTICULTURE INNOVATION AUSTRALIA LTD	Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity	CN3928443	Independent Review of Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	16-Nov-22	1-May-23	34,787.50
JONES LANG LASALLE ADVISORY SERVICES PTY LIMITED	Finance and Investment	CN3954985	Asset Valuations	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	13-Mar-23	31-Oct-23	40,150.00
K P M G	Finance and Investment	CN3957270	Financial Statement Accounting Support Consultancy Services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	9-Jan-23	31-Dec-24	800,000.00
K P M G	Finance and Investment	CN3955328	Loans Impairment	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	3-Apr-23	31-May-24	43,199.80
K P M G	People, Property & Security	CN3945773	Forensic Investigative Services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	10-Aug-22	5-May-23	200,000.00
K P M G	Trade and International	CN3938133	Research and Quantitative Analysis Consultancy Services	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	30-Jan-23	7-Aug-23	79,000.00
MARK RICHARD OGDEN	Biosecurity Plant and Science Services	CN3968029	Aviation Safety Management Expert	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	19-Apr-23	30-Sep-23	44,000.00
MARY BRENNAN	Executive	CN3931196	Independent Review	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	23-Nov-22	30-Jun-23	105,000.00
MCCUTCHEON, STEPHEN DONALD	Biosecurity Animal	CN3920644	Scientific Advisory Group - Prawn Imports Phase 2	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	11-Oct-22	7-Nov-22	22,484.00
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN3942737	Internal Audit 22-09 Gateway Review Recs	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	7-Feb-23	30-Sep-23	31,302.50
MCGRATHNICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN3942738	Self-assessment Verifications	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	7-Feb-23	30-Sep-23	52,680.00
NOETIC SOLUTIONS PTY LIMITED	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN3938086	Incident Management Training Support	Skills currently unavailable within agency	Open tender	23-Dec-22	30-Jun-23	249,700.00
NOUS GROUP PTY LTD	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN3953692	First Nations Platform for Shared Benefits in Agriculture	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	20-Mar-23	30-Jun-23	546,700.00
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS	Biosecurity Plant and Science Services	CN3909275	Evaluation of Indigenous Rangers Biosecurity Program	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	10-Aug-22	23-Dec-22	272,861.00
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS CONSULTING	Traceability, Plant and Live Exports	CN3942943	Agricultural Traceability Alliance Strategic Proposal	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	18-Aug-22	28-Feb-23	1,002,785.40
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS CONSULTING	Trade Reform	CN3935222	Livestock Traceability Project	Skills currently unavailable within agency	Open tender	17-Aug-22	11-Jan-23	1,678,472.68
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS CONSULTING	Biosecurity Operations	CN3918192	Biosecurity Controls Review at International Airports	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	15-Aug-22	15-Sep-22	289,042.94
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS CONSULTING	Biosecurity Operations	CN3912401	Cargo Service Delivery Taskforce	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	30-Sep-22	7-Nov-22	377,491.83
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS CONSULTING	Biosecurity Strategy and Reform	CN3911625	Biosecurity Investment and Compliance Reform	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	19-Aug-22	19-Apr-23	500,320.64
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS CONSULTING	Biosecurity Strategy and Reform	CN3911622	National Biosecurity Strategy Implementation and Action Plan	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	28-Oct-22	30-Jun-23	573,763.90
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS CONSULTING	Export & Veterinary Services	CN3909272	Electronic Certification Strategy and Market Prioritisation Framework	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	4-Nov-22	30-Jun-23	197,376.93
PROVIDENCE CONSULTING GROUP PTY LTD	People, Property & Security	CN3897222	Review of Aerial Firearms Operations	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	11-Jul-22	1-Feb-23	148,880.80
ROUGHAN LEE	Export & Veterinary Services	CN3924929	Shellfish Quality Assurance Program Export Standards Review	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	17-Oct-22	30-Dec-23	65,500.00

Supplier Name	Division	AusTender Contract ID	Description	Consultancy Reason(s)	Procurement Method	Start Date	End Date	Value (AUD)
THE ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE PTY LTD	Biosecurity Strategy and Reform	CN3920502	Investigation of Data Standards and Data Sharing Solutions	Need for specialised or professional skills	Open tender	5-Oct-22	30-Jun-23	499,400.00
THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP PTY LTD	Executive	CN3908946	Agricultural Trade Group Workshop	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	1-Sep-22	31-Oct-22	11,000.00
THE MARSDEN JACOB UNIT TRUST	Biosecurity Animal	CN3900288	Pet Food Standards – Cost Benefit Analysis	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	26-Jul-22	31-Jul-23	108,460.00
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN3944163	Internal Audit	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	7-Feb-23	30-Sep-23	44,550.00
TTF BIRDANCO PRACTICE TRUST	Enterprise Strategy and Governance	CN3944159	Internal Audit	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	7-Feb-23	30-Sep-24	37,125.00
TTF THE NIDDRIE FAMILY TRUST	Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity	CN3945771	Review of Feral Deer Action Plan	Need for specialised or professional skills	Limited tender	10-Feb-23	14-Apr-23	54,871.08
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE	Biosecurity Operations	CN3947738	Statistical Analysis and Recommendations	Need for independent research or assessment	Open tender	20-Dec-22	30-Jun-23	110,038.50
ZACHARIN WILLIAM FYFE	Biosecurity Animal	CN3921478	Scientific Advisory Group - Prawn Imports Phase 2	Need for independent research or assessment	Limited tender	11-Oct-22	7-Nov-22	22,484.00
TOTAL								10,337,804.00

## Attachment D - Big 4 Contract Summary from 1 July 2022 – 28 February 2025

Big 4 Reportable Contracts **entered into** (GST incl)

BIG 4	1 Jul 2024 – 28 Feb 2025 <sup>1</sup>	2023–2024 <sup>2</sup>	2022–23 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Deloitte Touche Tomatsu *</b>			
Consultancy Contracts	-	-	-
Other Contracts	-	\$1,713,668	\$222,390
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>\$1,713,668</b>	<b>\$222,390</b>
<b>EY (formerly Ernst &amp; Young) **</b>			
Consultancy Contracts	\$208,438	-	-
Other Contracts	-	\$415,360	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$208,438</b>	<b>\$415,360</b>	-
<b>KPMG ***</b>			
Consultancy Contracts	-	\$75,350	\$1,053,024
Other Contracts	\$973,745	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$973,745</b>	<b>\$75,350</b>	<b>\$1,053,024</b>
<b>PwC****</b>			
Consultancy Contracts	-	-	\$4,892,115
Other Contracts	-	\$271,995	\$1,144,423
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>\$271,995</b>	<b>\$6,036,539</b>
Consultancy Contracts Total	\$208,438	\$75,350	\$5,945,139
Other Contracts Total	\$973,745	\$2,401,023	\$1,366,813
<b>All Contracts Total</b>	<b>\$1,182,183</b>	<b>\$2,476,373</b>	<b>\$7,311,953</b>

\*Deloitte Touche Tomatsu contract data includes data with Deloitte Risk Advisory Pty Ltd (ABN 76 611 748 184)

\*\*EY contract data includes data with EY Digital (ABN 43 096 505 805)

\*\*\*KPMG data does not include KPMG Chartertech (ABN 30 617 464 990), formerly Chartertech contracts that were entered into pre-acquisition on 29 November 2024

\*\*\*\*PwC contract data includes data with Scyne Advisory Pty Ltd (ABN 20 607 773 295)

**Big 4 expenditure incurred (GST incl)**

<b>BIG 4</b>	<b>1 Jul 2024 – 28 Feb 2025<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>2023–2024<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>2022–23<sup>6</sup></b>
<b>Deloitte Touche Tomatsu</b>			
Consultancy Contracts	-	-	\$1,933,636
Other Contracts	\$191,620	\$1,936,186	\$8,823,225
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$191,620</b>	<b>\$1,936,186</b>	<b>\$10,756,861</b>
<b>EY (formerly Ernst &amp; Young)</b>			
Consultancy Contracts	\$208,438	-	-
Other Contracts	\$33,000	\$2,027,313	\$3,067,313
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$241,438</b>	<b>\$2,027,313</b>	<b>\$3,067,313</b>
<b>KPMG*</b>			
Consultancy Contracts	\$182,710	\$417,025	\$331,174
Other Contracts	\$242,778	-	\$1,255,512
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$425,488</b>	<b>\$417,025</b>	<b>\$1,586,686</b>
<b>PwC**</b>			
Consultancy Contracts	-	\$16,540	\$7,914,820
Other Contracts	\$271,995	\$18,510	\$1,508,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$271,995</b>	<b>\$35,050</b>	<b>\$9,423,370</b>
Consultancy Contracts Total	\$391,148	\$433,565	\$10,179,630
Other Contracts Total	\$739,393	\$3,982,009	\$14,654,600
<b>All Contracts Total</b>	<b>\$1,130,541</b>	<b>\$4,415,574</b>	<b>\$24,834,230</b>

\*KPMG expenditure data includes data from KPMG Chartertech (ABN 30 617 464 990) formerly Chartertech, incurred post-acquisition on 29 November 2024.

\*\* PwC expenditure data includes data from three PwC related companies:

PricewaterhouesCoopers, (ABN 52 780 433 757) Pricewaterhouse Consultancy (20 607 773 295) which is now known as Scyne Advisory and Pricewaterhouse Compliance Services (95 625 023 716) now known as Citation Standards.

## Sources

1. AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) - as at 11 March 2025 (subject to change).
2. AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) - as at 26 September 2024.
3. AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) - as at 26 September 2023.
4. TechnologyOne - as at 11 March 2025 (used for Annual Report).
5. TechnologyOne - as at 26 October 2024.
6. TechnologyOne - as at 14 August 2023 (used for Annual Report).

Attachment E - DAFF list of Big 4 contracts published from 1 July 2023 to 28 February 2025

Financial Year 2024 - 25

Description	Type	Category	Value (AUD) GST inclusive	Division	Group
EY (formerly Ernst & Young)					
Virtual Energy Network (VEN) Feasibility Assessment	Consultancy	Management advisory services	208,438.16	People, Property and Security	Strategy, Enterprise and Engagement
			208,438.16		
KPMG Australia					
Renewing Financial Reporting Model Licence Agreement	Contract	Accounting services	173,745.00	Finance and Investment	Strategy, Enterprise and Engagement
Financial Statement Support	Contract	Public administration and finance services	800,000.00	Finance and Investment	Strategy, Enterprise and Engagement
			973,745.00		

Financial Year 2023 - 24

Description	Type	Category	Value (AUD) GST inclusive	Division	Group
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu					
Financial Management System Support	Contract	Management support services	899,360.00	Biosecurity Strategy and Reform	Biosecurity & Compliance
Facilitation Design and Workshop	Contract	Workplace safety training aids and materials	27,500.00	Export and Veterinary Services	Agricultural Trade and Regulation
Temporary Personnel	Contract	Temporary personnel services	786,808.00	Digital Business	Agricultural Trade and Regulation
			1,713,668.00		
EY (formerly Ernst & Young)					
Research Services	Contract	Temporary personnel services	415,360.00	Digital Business	Agricultural Trade and Regulation
			415,360.00		
KPMG Australia*					
Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) Return Preparation	Consultancy	Management advisory services	75,350.00	Finance and Investment	Strategy, Enterprise and Engagement
			75,350.00		
PriceWaterhouseCoopers Consulting/Scyne					
Essentials 8 Awareness Campaign	Contract	Education and Training Services	271,995.00	Digital Services	Strategy, Enterprise and Engagement
			271,995.00		

\*KPMG data does not include the KPMG Chartertech contract for 'Automation and Licensing Support' valued at \$757,567 GST Incl. as this contract was entered into prior to KPMGs acquisition of Chartertech.

FY2024-25 - Data extracted from AusTender on 11 March 2025 by Start Date.

FY2023-24 - Data extracted from AusTender on 1 October 2024 by Start Date.



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

## FID04

## GRANTS

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) administers a range of grants on behalf of the government.
- Grants include forestry, agricultural resources, Indigenous Rangers, drought resilience and pest management with funding being administered across Australia.
- Grant recipients include not-for-profit organisations, local governments, universities and other organisations as outlined in the DAFF's annual report.
- Grants are generally funded from administered funds (administered by DAFF on behalf of the government) as outlined in the Portfolio Budget Statements.
  - On rare occasions, grants are also funded from departmental funds (controlled by the department's Accountable Authority) which require the Chief Finance Officer's endorsement prior to the commitment of funds.
  - For example, instances where payments made between non-corporate Commonwealth entities under a record of understanding to deliver a grant or an urgent need a payment to a person or organisation to address an unexpected or unforeseen need without opportunity available through grant programs, departmental funds can be used to deliver grants.
- For the period **1 July 2024 – 31 January 2025**, the department:
  - spent \$90.41 million<sup>1</sup> (GST exclusive) on administered grants and \$0.64 million (GST exclusive) on departmental grants.
  - entered into 85 grant agreements totalling more than \$84.09 million (GST inclusive). Refer to **Attachment A1**<sup>s1</sup> (sorted by programs) and **Attachment A2**<sup>s2</sup> (sorted by recipients) for details of these grants.

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<sup>1</sup> Excludes levies and payments to Corporate Commonwealth Entities.

- For the **period 2023–24 financial year**, the department:
  - spent \$208.34 million<sup>2</sup> (GST exclusive) on administered grants and \$10.90 million (GST exclusive) on departmental grants.
  - entered into 128 grant agreements totalling more than \$121.41 million (GST inclusive).
- In comparison, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water entered into 1,026 grants agreements for the value of \$947.19 million<sup>S3</sup> (GST inclusive) in the **2023–24 financial year**.
- Grants of high focus are determined based on the value and/or the numbers or the focus of the grants or grant programs. Potential higher focus grant programs between 1 July 2024 – 31 January 2025 are included in **Attachment B**.

## BACKGROUND

### Mandatory Reporting Requirements:

- The department is responsible for the parliamentary and the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs) (previously known as *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017* (CGRGs) mandatory reporting requirements for the portfolio and/or the department as outlined below:
- Grants approved that were not recommended by departmental officials (CGRPs 4.12):
  - Under paragraph 4.12 of CGRPs, Ministers (including Senators) must report on all instances where they approved a grant that a departmental official recommended be rejected.
  - For the period **1 January 2024 – 30 September 2024**, no grants were approved by Minister Collins, Assistant Minister Chisholm and former Minister Watt within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio that a departmental official recommended be rejected.
  - Refer to **Attachment C** for DAFF's response, on behalf of Minister Collins, Assistant Minister Chisholm and former Minister Watt for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, to the Department of Finance.
  - From 1 October 2024, as per CGRPs 4.12, the relevant Minister is reporting to the Minister for Finance as soon as practicable for any decision made that is within the scope of this paragraph. The relevant decision is also being published on GrantConnect as soon as practicable, where applicable.
  - For the period **1 October 2024 – 31 January 2025**, no grants decisions were reported on GrantConnect that would fall under CGRP's 4.12.<sup>S4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Excludes levies and payments to Corporate Commonwealth Entities.

- Grants not fully performed, or which have been entered into during the previous 12 months (Senate Order 13 - Murray Motion):
  - Within 2 months of the end of the financial and calendar year Ministers must table a list of grants of the Department and portfolio entities which have not been fully performed or which have been entered into during the previous 12 months, and which provide for a value of \$100,000 (GST inclusive) or more. This is also known as Senate Order 13 - Entity Contracts (Murray Motion) reporting requirement.
  - On 11 February 2025, Minister Collins provided a letter to the President of the Senate (**Attachment D**) on behalf of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, informing that all grants for **2024 calendar year** that satisfy the Senate Order 13 - Entity Contracts (Murray Motion) reporting criteria are published on [GrantConnect](#). Grants administered by the portfolio agencies are published on the relevant agencies' internet.
- Approved Grants (Senate Order 16 - Minchin Order):
  - Before each Senate Estimates, Ministers must table a list of all grants approved in the department and portfolio agencies, including the value of each grant, the recipient, the program from which it was funded, and the approver. This is also known as Senate Order 16 – Departmental and Agency Grants (Minchin Order) reporting requirement.
  - From **3 February 2025 - 12 March 2025**, 21 grants valued at \$9.98 million were approved for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio.
  - On 19 March 2025, Minister Collins provided a letter to the President of the Senate (**Attachment E**) for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, with a list of all approved grants for the period 3 February 2025 - 12 March 2025 that satisfy the Senate Order 16 - Departmental and Agency Grants (Minchin Order) reporting criteria.

## SOURCES

1. GrantConnect ([www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)) – as at 4 March 2025 (subject to change).
2. GrantConnect ([www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)) – as at 4 March 2025 (subject to change).
3. GrantConnect ([www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)) – as at 4 March 2025 (subject to change).
4. GrantConnect ([www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)) – as at 5 March 2025 (subject to change).

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A1 – List of grants entered into from 1/07/2024 to 31/01/2025 and sorted by programs.

Attachment A2 – List of grants entered into from 1/07/2024 to 31/01/2025 and sorted by recipients.

Attachment B – Potential Higher Focus Grants

Attachment C – CGRPs 4.12 – Department's response for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio to the Department of Finance.

Attachment D – Senate Order 13 – Minister Collins's letter to the President of the Senate.

Attachment E – Senate Order 16 – Minister Collins's letter to the President of the Senate and the list of approved grants.

LEX-34452

Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation	Under "A Future Grown in Australia", funding will be available to wood processing facilities to embrace innovation to increase the use of logs or fibre, to add value to existing products, create new product and reduce carbon footprint.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	1-Jul-2024	\$1,563,223.20	A.J. Forster Pty Ltd	SA	SA
Animal Health Australia Membership	Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health	Animal Health Australia Membership Fees	Commonwealth membership fee for Animal Health Australia.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	3-Sep-2024	\$1,775,744.30	Animal Health Australia	ACT	ACT
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Digital Horse Traceability System in Tasmania: A Proof of Concept	The project aims to develop a proof-of-concept digital horse traceability system to improve traceability and biosecurity management and control within the Tasmanian horse industry.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	13-Dec-2024	\$305,000.00	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania	TAS	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Determining Factors Contributing to Success or Failure of eID Tag Retention in Goat Ears in Different Environments and Production Systems	The project will investigate factors that contribute to the success or failure of eID tag retention in goat ears across properties & various environments & production systems, and will establish the first verifiable national data set to determine a true indication of tag loss rates.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	13-Dec-2024	\$506,330.00	Meat & Livestock Australia Limited	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	LoadNous by the Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of Victoria and AgriNous	The project aims to address traceability gaps surrounding livestock transportation including the lack of transparency during livestock transport activities, the absence of real-time digital reporting systems, heavy reliance on paperwork, animal health and welfare issues, the threat of major biosecurity outbreaks, and the increasing demand for improved regulatory compliance and reporting especially around animal welfare standards and emissions.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	13-Dec-2024	\$550,000.00	Livestock Transporters Association of Victoria Incorporated	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	The Role of the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) in Future Assurance and Traceability Systems	The project aims to undertake an independent review of the current roles of National Vendor Declaration (NVD) in future assurance and traceability systems.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	13-Dec-2024	\$324,500.00	Meat & Livestock Australia Limited	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Enhancing Traceability in Smallstock Processors Using Hook Tracking and the Implications for Industry.	This project aims to enhance the adoption of traceability within processing plants and break down barriers to adopting traceability technologies along the supply chain.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	14-Jan-2025	\$169,985.00	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Nguran: Crocodile Industry (Skin, Meat, Consumer Goods), Supply Chain Traceability Using Existing Blockchain Technology – Automating Regulatory Compliance and Protecting Trade.	The project will adapt an existing Australian blockchain technology platform called ChainFS to develop a transparent supply chain traceability system for the Australian crocodile industry.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$550,000.00	Crocodile Farmers Association of the Northern Territory Incorporated	NT	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: National Soil Community of Practice	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Smart Soils: Supporting the National Community of Practice	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	2-Jul-2024	\$2,273,740.72	Australian Society of Soil Science Incorporated	VIC	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	10-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	University of Tasmania	TAS	TAS
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	15-Aug-2024	\$743,485.62	University of Southern Queensland	QLD	NSW, QLD
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	2-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	University of Melbourne	VIC	VIC

Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities. This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee. The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	2-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	Charles Darwin University	NT	WA, NT
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities. This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee. The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	9-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	Charles Sturt University	NSW	NSW
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities. This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee. The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	12-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	The University of Adelaide	SA	SA
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities. This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee. The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	8-Aug-2024	\$743,485.62	James Cook University	QLD	QLD
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities. This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee. The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	16-Aug-2024	\$817,834.18	Grower Group Alliance (Inc)	WA	WA
Fisheries Resources Research	Program 1.4: Fishing Industry	Fisheries Research Ad-Hoc Grants	Support the research and management of sustainability of Australian fisheries and aquaculture.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	5-Sep-2024	\$275,000.00	Blue Economy CRC-Co Ltd	TAS	TAS
Forestry Australia 2024 Symposium.	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Forestry Australia 2024 Symposium	To assist with the running of the symposium, with a theme "healthy and resilient forests for the future".	One-off/Ad-Hoc	11-Jul-2024	\$18,150.00	Forestry Australia	VIC	VIC
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Enhanced and Accelerated Supply Chain Traceability	The project will develop a new suite of digital assets applicable across all regions together with strategically located presenters in regional communities to maximise the benefits of Australia's traceability tools in terms of logistics efficiencies and improved information flow regarding provenance, biosecurity, animal welfare and sustainability; adding value, supporting market access and improving the industry's competitive edge.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	29-Nov-2024	\$467,500.00	Australian Wool Exchange Limited	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Integration of eNVD Tracking from Consignor to Customer Using Automated Systems in a Commercial Pilot Trial at Saleyards to Strengthen Traceability	The project will address the gaps in existing systems, bridge data silos, and create an ecosystem that effectively services industry requirements and standards.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	3-Dec-2024	\$319,500.00	The State of Queensland acting through the Department of Primary Industries	QLD	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Delivering Traceability in the Australian Alpaca Industry	The project will develop a comprehensive suite of resources underpinned by a public education campaign to strengthen awareness of, and build trust in, agricultural traceability.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	5-Dec-2024	\$220,000.00	Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.	ACT	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Scale Existing Industry Proof-of-Concept for Digitising Beehive Tracking and Tracing, Mandatory Reporting and Live Data-Sharing for Regulatory Compliance and Emergency Management.	This project will enhance and scale an existing NSW industry-lead proof of concept to digitally track and trace beehives, digitise mandatory reporting as per the legislation for live data exchange for regulatory accountability and compliance for emergency and management requirements.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	10-Dec-2024	\$539,000.00	NSW Aplarists' Association Incorporated	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Enhancing Traceability of Stock In-Transit in South Australia	The project aims to automate the recording of livestock moved through transit depots, trucks, transshipping points and saleyards in South Australia on the NLIS database, providing surveillance of all untracked stock movements throughout these facilities.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	7-Jan-2025	\$320,000.00	The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (acting through the Department of Primary Industries and Regions)	SA	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$368,332.80	Northern Australia Aboriginal Kakadu Plum Alliance Co-operative Limited	WA	WA
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$1,095,752.90	The University of Queensland	QLD	QLD
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$574,212.10	Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated	WA	WA
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$871,574.00	Local Land Services	NSW	NSW

Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$768,986.00	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council	NSW	NSW
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$705,947.00	Basscoast Landcare Network Inc	VIC	VIC
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$547,910.00	Geographe Catchment Council Incorporated	WA	WA
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$801,563.40	Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	NT	NT
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$597,600.00	Mallee Catchment Management Authority	VIC	VIC
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$1,098,130.00	The Mulloon Institute Limited	NSW	NSW
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$368,700.00	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	VIC	VIC
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$1,099,054.00	Accounting for Nature Limited	NSW	NSW
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$648,402.70	Stirlings to Coast Farmers Inc.	WA	WA
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$5,500,000.00	Southern Gulf NRM Ltd	QLD	QLD
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$5,500,000.00	Grower Group Alliance Inc.	WA	WA
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$4,494,600.00	Australian Wool Innovation Limited	NSW	NSW
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$4,176,370.00	The Mulloon Institute Limited	NSW	NSW
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$2,053,983.80	Healthy Land and Water Ltd	QLD	QLD
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	16-Oct-2024	\$2,459,873.90	Charles Sturt University	NSW	NSW
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	16-Oct-2024	\$5,365,544.80	James Cook University	QLD	QLD
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	28-Oct-2024	\$5,446,100.00	The University of Adelaide	SA	SA
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	31-Oct-2024	\$2,183,500.00	The Queensland University of Technology	QLD	QLD
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	31-Oct-2024	\$1,249,069.00	Cotton Research and Development Corporation	NSW	NSW
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	11-Nov-2024	\$5,461,429.60	The University of Western Australia	WA	WA
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Barossa Australia Incorporated	SA	SA
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$107,800.00	Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc.	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Outback Academy Australia Limited	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Chestnuts Australia Inc.	SA	SA
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$109,967.00	Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Incorporated	NSW	NSW
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$102,014.00	South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc.	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$104,500.00	Delta Agribusiness Pty Ltd	NSW	NSW
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Irrigation Research and Extension Committee Incorporated	NSW	NSW
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Western Port Catchment Landcare Network Inc.	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	The Wheen Bee Foundation Limited	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$100,000.00	Mallee Catchment Management Authority	VIC	VIC



Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Gippsland Agricultural Group Inc.	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$104,170.00	Weddin Landcare Steering Committee Incorporated	NSW	NSW
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$92,510.00	Soil Regen Solutions Pty Ltd	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$109,723.90	Southern Farming Systems Ltd	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$107,904.50	Basscoast Landcare Network Inc	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Outback Academy Australia Limited	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$80,500.00	Young Farmers Connect Incorporated	NSW	NSW
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$107,250.00	Buchanan Family Trust	NSW	NSW
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc.	SA	SA
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$103,857.60	Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Inc.	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Holbrook Landcare Group	NSW	NSW
PHA Membership	Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health	Plant Health Australia Membership Fees	Commonwealth membership fee for Plant Health Australia.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	3-Sep-2024	\$1,079,486.10	Plant Health Australia	ACT	ACT
Phaseout of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – Transition Support: Market Development Grant	Program 1.9: Meat and Livestock Industry	More Sustainable, Productive, Internationally Competitive and Profitable Australian Agricultural, Food and Fibre Industries Through Policies and Initiatives That Promote Better Resource Management Practices, Innovation, Self-Reliance and Improved Access to International Markets	To promote, market, and advocate for Australian sheep meat and sheep products in key markets to create a fertile environment for increased demand and sales globally. This will assist with planning for, and adapting to, the phaseout of live sheep exports by sea.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	10-Jan-2025	\$3,300,000.00	Meat & Livestock Australia Limited	NSW	NSW
Priority Pest and Disease Planning and Response	Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health	National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Network and Protocols Bridging Funding	The purpose of this grant is to enhance Australia's plant pest surveillance capability and capacity. This will be achieved through delivery of the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific, providing professional development opportunities for members, and increasing coverage of National Surveillance Protocols for key plant pests.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	25-Oct-2024	\$295,066.00	Plant Health Australia	ACT	ACT
Priority Pest and Disease Planning and Response (PPDR) Program	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network and Protocols (Bridging Grant)	The purpose of the Grant is to continue the employment of critical personnel and core activities while sustainable funding proposals for this SPHD-supported program of work are being considered by PHC and NBC.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	2-Dec-2024	\$266,639.00	Plant Health Australia Limited	ACT	ACT
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	1-Aug-2024	\$70,180.00	Wespine Industries Pty Ltd	WA	WA
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	19-Aug-2024	\$232,941.50	Tasmanian Carbon Afforestation Sub-Trust	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	19-Aug-2024	\$73,008.10	Forestry Investment Trust	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$1,430,000.00	G 5 Forestry Pty Ltd	SA	SA
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$81,160.00	Forestry Corporation of New South Wales	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$284,568.44	Mitsui Bussan Woodchip Oceania Pty. Ltd.	VIC	VIC
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$3,676,200.00	Plantation Pine Products Australia Pty Ltd	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$195,800.00	SFA Nature Based Solutions Unit Trust	VIC	VIC
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$208,800.00	Forestry Corporation of New South Wales	NSW	NSW
Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	Australian Government Contribution to Support the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions 2024-25	To continue efforts to deliver better solutions to combat established pest animals and weeds that pose a significant threat to Australian primary production, the environment and biodiversity.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	17-Jul-2024	\$874,468.10	Invasive Animals Ltd	ACT	ACT



Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
Traceability RegTech Research and Insights	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Traceability RegTech Research and Insights	This grant opportunity will contribute to the development of innovative and practicable proposals to increase the use of RegTech along agricultural supply chains.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	30-Aug-2024	\$56,026.85	University of New South Wales	NSW	NSW

Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation	Under "A Future Grown in Australia", funding will be available to wood processing facilities to embrace innovation to increase the use of logs or fibre, to add value to existing products, create new product and reduce carbon footprint.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	1-Jul-2024	\$1,563,223.20	A.J. Forster Pty Ltd	SA	SA
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$1,099,054.00	Accounting for Nature Limited	NSW	NSW
Animal Health Australia Membership	Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health	Animal Health Australia Membership Fees	Commonwealth membership fee for Animal Health Australia.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	3-Sep-2024	\$1,775,744.30	Animal Health Australia	ACT	ACT
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Delivering Traceability in the Australian Alpaca Industry	The project will develop a comprehensive suite of resources underpinned by a public education campaign to strengthen awareness of, and build trust in, agricultural traceability.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	5-Dec-2024	\$220,000.00	Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.	ACT	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: National Soil Community of Practice	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Smart Soils: Supporting the National Community of Practice	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	2-Jul-2024	\$2,273,740.72	Australian Society of Soil Science Incorporated	VIC	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Enhanced and Accelerated Supply Chain Traceability	The project will develop a new suite of digital assets applicable across all regions together with strategically located presenters in regional communities to maximise the benefits of Australia's traceability tools in terms of logistics efficiencies and improved information flow regarding provenance, biosecurity, animal welfare and sustainability; adding value, supporting market access and improving the industry's competitive edge.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	29-Nov-2024	\$467,500.00	Australian Wool Exchange Limited	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$4,494,600.00	Australian Wool Innovation Limited	NSW	NSW
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Barossa Australia Incorporated	SA	SA
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$705,947.00	Basscoast Landcare Network Inc	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$107,904.50	Basscoast Landcare Network Inc	VIC	VIC
Fisheries Resources Research	Program 1.4: Fishing Industry	Fisheries Research Ad-Hoc Grants	Support the research and management of sustainability of Australian fisheries and aquaculture.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	5-Sep-2024	\$275,000.00	Blue Economy CRC-Co Ltd	TAS	TAS
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$107,250.00	Buchanan Family Trust	NSW	NSW
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	2-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	Charles Darwin University	NT	WA, NT
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	9-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	Charles Sturt University	NSW	NSW
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	16-Oct-2024	\$2,459,873.90	Charles Sturt University	NSW	NSW
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Chestnuts Australia Inc.	SA	SA
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	31-Oct-2024	\$1,249,069.00	Cotton Research and Development Corporation	NSW	NSW
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Nguran: Crocodile Industry (Skin, Meat, Consumer Goods), Supply Chain Traceability Using Existing Blockchain Technology – Automating Regulatory Compliance and Protecting Trade.	The project will adapt an existing Australian blockchain technology platform called ChainFS to develop a transparent supply chain traceability system for the Australian crocodile industry.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$550,000.00	Crocodile Farmers Association of the Northern Territory Incorporated	NT	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS

Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$104,500.00	Delta Agribusiness Pty Ltd	NSW	NSW
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Digital Horse Traceability System in Tasmania: A Proof of Concept	The project aims to develop a proof-of-concept digital horse traceability system to improve traceability and biosecurity management and control within the Tasmanian horse industry.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	13-Dec-2024	\$305,000.00	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania	TAS	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Enhancing Traceability in Smallstock Processors Using Hook Tracking and the Implications for Industry.	This project aims to enhance the adoption of traceability within processing plants and break down barriers to adopting traceability technologies along the supply chain.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	14-Jan-2025	\$169,985.00	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Forestry Australia 2024 Symposium.	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Forestry Australia 2024 Symposium	To assist with the running of the symposium, with a theme "healthy and resilient forests for the future".	One-off/Ad-Hoc	11-Jul-2024	\$18,150.00	Forestry Australia	VIC	VIC
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$81,160.00	Forestry Corporation of New South Wales	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$208,800.00	Forestry Corporation of New South Wales	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	19-Aug-2024	\$73,008.10	Forestry Investment Trust	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$1,430,000.00	G 5 Forestry Pty Ltd	SA	SA
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$547,910.00	Geographe Catchment Council Incorporated	WA	WA
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Gippsland Agricultural Group Inc.	VIC	VIC
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	16-Aug-2024	\$817,834.18	Grower Group Alliance (Inc)	WA	WA
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$5,500,000.00	Grower Group Alliance Inc.	WA	WA
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc.	SA	SA
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$2,053,983.80	Healthy Land and Water Ltd	QLD	QLD
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Holbrook Landcare Group	NSW	NSW
Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	Australian Government Contribution to Support the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions 2024-25	To continue efforts to deliver better solutions to combat established pest animals and weeds that pose a significant threat to Australian primary production, the environment and biodiversity.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	17-Jul-2024	\$874,468.10	Invasive Animals Ltd	ACT	ACT
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Irrigation Research and Extension Committee Incorporated	NSW	NSW

Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	8-Aug-2024	\$743,485.62	James Cook University	QLD	QLD
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	16-Oct-2024	\$5,365,544.80	James Cook University	QLD	QLD
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$109,967.00	Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups Incorporated	NSW	NSW
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	LoadNous by the Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of Victoria and AgriNous	The project aims to address traceability gaps surrounding livestock transportation including the lack of transparency during livestock transport activities, the absence of real-time digital reporting systems, heavy reliance on paperwork, animal health and welfare issues, the threat of major biosecurity outbreaks, and the increasing demand for improved regulatory compliance and reporting especially around animal welfare standards and emissions.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	13-Dec-2024	\$550,000.00	Livestock Transporters Association of Victoria Incorporated	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$871,574.00	Local Land Services	NSW	NSW
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$597,600.00	Mallee Catchment Management Authority	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$100,000.00	Mallee Catchment Management Authority	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$107,800.00	Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc.	VIC	VIC
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Determining Factors Contributing to Success or Failure of eID Tag Retention in Goat Ears in Different Environments and Production Systems	The project will investigate factors that contribute to the success or failure of eID tag retention in goat ears across properties & various environments & production systems, and will establish the first verifiable national data set to determine a true indication of tag loss rates.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	13-Dec-2024	\$506,330.00	Meat & Livestock Australia Limited	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture Measure   National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	The Role of the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) in Future Assurance and Traceability Systems	The project aims to undertake an independent review of the current roles of National Vendor Declaration (NVD) in future assurance and traceability systems.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	13-Dec-2024	\$324,500.00	Meat & Livestock Australia Limited	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Phaseout of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – Transition Support: Market Development Grant	Program 1.9: Meat and Livestock Industry	More Sustainable, Productive, Internationally Competitive and Profitable Australian Agricultural, Food and Fibre Industries Through Policies and Initiatives That Promote Better Resource Management Practices, Innovation, Self-Reliance and Improved Access to International Markets	To promote, market, and advocate for Australian sheep meat and sheep products in key markets to create a fertile environment for increased demand and sales globally. This will assist with planning for, and adapting to, the phaseout of live sheep exports by sea.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	10-Jan-2025	\$3,300,000.00	Meat & Livestock Australia Limited	NSW	NSW
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$801,563.40	Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	NT	NT
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$284,568.44	Mitsui Bussan Woodchip Oceania Pty. Ltd.	VIC	VIC
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$768,986.00	Narrabri Local Aboriginal Land Council	NSW	NSW
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$368,332.80	Northern Australia Aboriginal Kakadu Plum Alliance Co-operative Limited	WA	WA
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Scale Existing Industry Proof-of-Concept for Digitising Beehive Tracking and Tracing, Mandatory Reporting and Live Data-Sharing for Regulatory, Compliance and Emergency Management.	This project will enhance and scale an existing NSW industry-lead proof of concept to digitally track and trace beehives, digitise mandatory reporting as per the legislation for live data exchange for regulatory accountability and compliance for emergency and management requirements.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	10-Dec-2024	\$539,000.00	NSW Apiarists' Association Incorporated	NSW	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Outback Academy Australia Limited	VIC	VIC

Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Outback Academy Australia Limited	VIC	VIC
PHA Membership	Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health	Plant Health Australia Membership Fees	Commonwealth membership fee for Plant Health Australia.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	3-Sep-2024	\$1,079,486.10	Plant Health Australia	ACT	ACT
Priority Pest and Disease Planning and Response	Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health	National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Network and Protocols Bridging Funding	The purpose of this grant is to enhance Australia's plant pest surveillance capability and capacity. This will be achieved through delivery of the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific, providing professional development opportunities for members, and increasing coverage of National Surveillance Protocols for key plant pests.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	25-Oct-2024	\$295,066.00	Plant Health Australia	ACT	ACT
Priority Pest and Disease Planning and Response (PPDPR) Program	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network and Protocols (Bridging Grant)	The purpose of the Grant is to continue the employment of critical personnel and core activities while sustainable funding proposals for this SPHD-supported program of work are being considered by PHC and NBC.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	2-Dec-2024	\$266,639.00	Plant Health Australia Limited	ACT	ACT
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$3,676,200.00	Plantation Pine Products Australia Pty Ltd	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	29-Oct-2024	\$195,800.00	SFA Nature Based Solutions Unit Trust	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$92,510.00	Soil Regen Solutions Pty Ltd	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$102,014.00	South Gippsland Landcare Network Inc.	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$109,723.90	Southern Farming Systems Ltd	VIC	VIC
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$5,500,000.00	Southern Gulf NRM Ltd	QLD	QLD
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$648,402.70	Stirlings to Coast Farmers Inc.	WA	WA
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	19-Aug-2024	\$232,941.50	Tasmanian Carbon Afforestation Sub-Trust	NSW	NSW
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Enhancing Traceability of Stock In-Transit in South Australia	The project aims to automate the recording of livestock moved through transit depots, trucks, transshipping points and saleyards in South Australia on the NLIS database, providing surveillance of all untracked stock movements throughout these facilities.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	7-Jan-2025	\$320,000.00	The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (acting through the Department of Primary Industries and Regions)	SA	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$1,098,130.00	The Mulloon Institute Limited	NSW	NSW
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	15-Oct-2024	\$4,176,370.00	The Mulloon Institute Limited	NSW	NSW
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	31-Oct-2024	\$2,183,500.00	The Queensland University of Technology	QLD	QLD
National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant Round	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Integration of eNVD Tracking from Consignor to Customer Using Automated Systems in a Commercial Pilot Trial at Saleyards to Strengthen Traceability	The project will address the gaps in existing systems, bridge data silos, and create an ecosystem that effectively services industry requirements and standards.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	3-Dec-2024	\$319,500.00	The State of Queensland acting through the Department of Primary Industries	QLD	ACT, NSW, VIC, SA, WA, QLD, NT, TAS
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	12-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	The University of Adelaide	SA	SA

Grant Program	DAFF PBS Program Name	Grant Activity	Purpose	Selection Process	Start Date	Value (AUD)	Recipient Name	Recipient State/Territory	Delivery State/Territory
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	28-Oct-2024	\$5,446,100.00	The University of Adelaide	SA	SA
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$1,095,752.90	The University of Queensland	QLD	QLD
NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	11-Nov-2024	\$5,461,429.60	The University of Western Australia	WA	WA
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	The Wheen Bee Foundation Limited	VIC	VIC
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soils Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	2-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	University of Melbourne	VIC	VIC
Traceability RegTech Research and Insights	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Traceability RegTech Research and Insights	This grant opportunity will contribute to the development of innovative and practicable proposals to increase the use of RegTech along agricultural supply chains.	One-off/Ad-Hoc	30-Aug-2024	\$56,026.85	University of New South Wales	NSW	NSW
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	15-Aug-2024	\$743,485.62	University of Southern Queensland	QLD	NSW, QLD
Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.  This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.  The Grant is being provided as part of the Natural Heritage Trust Special Account program.	Targeted or Restricted Competitive	10-Jul-2024	\$743,485.62	University of Tasmania	TAS	TAS
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$104,170.00	Weddin Landcare Steering Committee Incorporated	NSW	NSW
Support Plantation Establishment Program	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	Support Plantation Establishment	The SPE program will run over 4 years from 2023/24 to 2026/27. The funding will support the establishment of new long-rotation plantation forests and assist the sector respond to the projected growth in demand for domestically sourced timber.	Demand Driven	1-Aug-2024	\$70,180.00	Wespine Industries Pty Ltd	WA	WA
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$368,700.00	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$110,000.00	Western Port Catchment Landcare Network Inc.	VIC	VIC
NHT Capacity Building Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	19-Sep-2024	\$574,212.10	Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated	WA	WA
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$103,857.60	Wodonga Urban Landcare Network Inc.	VIC	VIC
NHT Small Grants	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.	Open Competitive	30-Jan-2025	\$80,500.00	Young Farmers Connect Incorporated	NSW	NSW

Focus	Grant Program	Purpose	Grants Awarded Value for the period (\$)	Number of Grants Awarded	PBS Program No. & Name	Division	Responsible First Assistant Secretary
Building Capacity for Australia's sustainable agriculture, natural resource management and environment protection	Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: Regional Soil Coordinators	Support the Australian Government's investment in public good sustainable agriculture, natural resource management and environment protection. The Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) aims to protect, conserve, and provide for the productive use of Australia's water, soil, plants and animals and the ecosystems in which they live and interact, in partnership with industry, communities and other governments.	\$6,022,233.52	8	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Sustainability, Climate and Strategy	Nick Blong
Supporting Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital	Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Capacity Building: National Soil Community of Practice	Support Australia's agriculture sector to drive climate-smart, sustainable growth, and protect Australia's natural capital by funding best practice sustainable agriculture and natural resource management activities.	\$2,273,740.72	1	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	Sustainability, Climate and Strategy	Nick Blong
Funding to conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure	Natural Heritage Trust Capacity Building Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management.	\$9,546,164.90	13	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	Sustainability, Climate and Strategy	Nick Blong
Funding to conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure	NHT Partnerships and Innovation Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management.	\$43,890,471.10	11	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	Sustainability, Climate and Strategy	Nick Blong
Supporting Communities to	Supporting Communities Manage Pest	To continue efforts to deliver better solutions to combat established pest animals and	\$874,468.10	1	Program 1.2: Sustainable	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	Dr. Beth Cookson

Focus	Grant Program	Purpose	Grants Awarded Value for the period (\$)	Number of Grants Awarded	PBS Program No. & Name	Division	Responsible First Assistant Secretary
Manage Pest Animals and Weeds	Animals and Weeds Program	weeds that pose a significant threat to Australian primary production, the environment and biodiversity.			Management - Natural Resources		
Funding to conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure	NHT Small Grants	To conserve, repair and replenish Australia's natural capital infrastructure. Funding will be spent on the environment, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management.	\$2,330,197.00	22	Program 1.2: Sustainable Management - Natural Resources	Sustainability, Climate and Strategy	Nick Blong
Supporting Plantation Establishment	Support Plantation Establishment Program	Support Plantation Establishment	\$6,252,658.04	9	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	Sarah-Jane McCormack
Wood Processing Innovation	Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation	Under "A Future Grown in Australia", funding will be available to wood processing facilities to embrace innovation to increase the use of logs or fibre, to add value to existing products, create new product and reduce carbon footprint.	\$1,563,223.20	1	Program 1.3: Forestry Industry	AgVet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry	Sarah-Jane McCormack
Promoting, marketing and advocating for Australian sheep meat and sheep products in key markets	Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – Transition Support: Market Development Grant	To promote, market and advocate for Australian sheep meat and sheep products in key markets, to create a fertile environment for increased demand and sales globally. This will assist with planning for, and adapting to, the phase out of live sheep exports by sea.	3,300,000.00	1	Program 1.9: Meat and Livestock Industry	Trade and International	Jo Grainger (Acting)
Enhancing industry capacity and capability to meet national traceability outcomes and comply with current	National -Agriculture Traceability Grants Program - Australian Trade System Support – Cultivating	The purpose of the grant round is to enhance industry capacity and capability to meet national traceability outcomes and comply with current and emerging requirements. Enhancing	\$4,271,815.00	11	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	Trade and International	Jo Grainger (Acting)



Focus	Grant Program	Purpose	Grants Awarded Value for the period (\$)	Number of Grants Awarded	PBS Program No. & Name	Division	Responsible First Assistant Secretary
and emerging requirements	Australia's Traceability – Promoting and Protecting Australian Premium Agriculture measure Livestock and Animal Traceability Development, Implementation, and Improvement Grant	<p>traceability for livestock, animals and animal products will support Australia's access to existing and new markets; enhance our ability to respond to exotic pest, disease, and food safety incidents; and help to demonstrate how our livestock, animal and animal product sectors meet changing consumer expectations.</p> <p>Projects developed under this grant round will assist in reducing barriers to adoption of traceability and increase regulatory compliance capability. While the focus of this grant round is on the livestock, animals and animal products sectors, consideration should be given as to how projects could be applied across other agricultural sectors.</p>					

**From:** "Grants Framework"  
**Sent:** 31/01/2025 9:34:50 AM  
**To:** "grants@finance.gov.au" <grants@finance.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Grants Framework" <s 47E(d) @aff.gov.au>; "DLO Collins" <s 47E(d) @aff.gov.au>; "s 47E(d) @mo.regional.gov.au" <s 47E(d) @mo.regional.gov.au>; "s 47E(d) @education.gov.au" <s 47E(d) @education.gov.au>; "Geysen, Matthew" <Matthew.Geysen@aff.gov.au>; "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au>; "s 22(1)(a)(ii)" <s 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Former Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 – Paragraph 4.12: 1 January 2024 – 30 September 2024 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

To Whom It May Concern,

In relation to the mandatory reporting requirements under paragraph 4.12 of the former *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017*, reporting a 'Nil' response for 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024 on behalf of the following Ministers/Assistant Minister for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio:

Former Minister, Senator the Hon Murray Watt  
 Minister Julie Collins MP  
 Assistant Minister, Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm

From 1 October 2024, as per the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024* – Paragraph 4.12, the relevant Minister is reporting to the Minister for Finance as soon as practicable for any decision made that is within the scope of this paragraph. The relevant decision is also being published on GrantConnect as soon as practicable, where applicable.

Regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director | Grants Team

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au (Direct)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)@protected.agriculture.gov.au (Protected Enclave)

s 47E(d) @aff.gov.au (Grants Framework)

s 47E(d)@aff.gov.au (Grants Hub)

s 47E(d) @protected.agriculture.gov.au (Protected Enclave)



[Grants Service Charter](#)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Accounts Payable, Contract Management Support and Grants | Financial Operations  
Branch | Finance and Investment Division  
CQ2, 70 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra, ACT 2601  
GPO Box 858, Canberra, ACT 2601  
[agriculture.gov.au](http://agriculture.gov.au)



We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

OFFICIAL



## Julie Collins MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Minister for Small Business

MS25-000024

Senator the Hon Sue Lines  
President of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear ~~President~~ *Sue*

Pursuant to the Senate Order on Entity Contracts of 20 June 2001 (amended 14 May 2015), I wish to advise that contracts for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, to the value of \$100,000 or more (GST inclusive), which have not been fully performed or which have been entered into in the 12 months prior to 31 December 2024, are published at the following internet locations:

### Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry:

- Grant contracts – GrantConnect ([www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au))
- Procurement contracts – AusTender ([www.austender.gov.au](http://www.austender.gov.au))
- List of other contracts – [www.agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au)

### Portfolio entities of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio:

- Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
[www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au)
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority  
[www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au)
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation  
[www.crdc.com.au](http://www.crdc.com.au)
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation  
[www.frdc.com.au](http://www.frdc.com.au)
- Grains Research and Development Corporation  
[www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au)

- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (trading as AgriFutures Australia)  
[www.agrifutures.com.au](http://www.agrifutures.com.au)
- Regional Investment Corporation  
[www.ric.gov.au](http://www.ric.gov.au)
- Wine Australia  
[www.wineaustralia.com](http://www.wineaustralia.com)

All contracts that satisfy the reporting criteria will be published online by 28 February 2025.

The contact officer for the entity contracts is Ms Sophia Farmakis, Assistant Secretary, Financial Operations Branch, Finance and Investment Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, who may be contacted on [s 47F\(1\)](#).

Yours sincerely



Julie Collins MP

11 / 2 / 2025



**Julie Collins MP**

**Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Minister for Small Business**

Ref: MS25-000094

Senator the Hon Sue Lines  
President of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to Senate Order 16 - Departmental and Agency Grants of 24 June 2008, please find attached a list of grants approved for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio for the period 3 February 2025 to 12 March 2025.

Reported details of each approved grant includes the recipient, value and the program from which the grant was made.

Yours sincerely



Julie Collins MP

19 / 3 / 2025

Enc.

## OFFICIAL

**SENATE ORDER 16 – DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY GRANTS**

**LIST OF GRANTS APPROVED**

**FOR THE AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY PORTFOLIO**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 3 FEBRUARY 2025 TO 12 MARCH 2025**

All grants include GST unless otherwise stated

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
<b>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</b>		
Australian Livestock Export Corporation Limited	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	132,000.00
Australian Meat Processor Corporation	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	106,700.00
Australian Pork Limited	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	126,500.00
Cotton Research Development Corporation	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	82,830.00
Dairy Australia Limited	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	132,000.00
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	133,760.00
Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	111,055.00
Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	137,500.00
Meat and Livestock Australia	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	137,500.00
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	137,500.00
Sugar Research Australia Limited	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	137,500.00
Wine Australia	Program 1.1: Agricultural Adaptation	129,756.00
The Australian National University	Program 1.10: Agricultural Resources	246,693.00 (excluding GST)
The University of Queensland	Program 1.10: Agricultural Resources	249,888.00 (excluding GST)
Charles Sturt University	Program 1.10: Agricultural Resources	250,000.00 (excluding GST)
Charles Darwin University	Program 1.10: Agricultural Resources	249,000.00 (excluding GST)

## OFFICIAL

Recipient	Program Name	Value of Grant \$
National Farmers Federation	Program 1.10: Agricultural Resources	511,000.00 (excluding GST)
AgriFutures Australia	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	480,000.00
University of Melbourne	Program 2.1: Biosecurity and Export Services	6,428,000.00 (excluding GST)
Australian Chicken Meat Federation Limited	Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health	39,854.00
<b>Rural Industries Research &amp; Development Corporation trading as AgriFutures Australia</b>		
Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Agency Program 1.1: Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation	19,250.00



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

**FID05****SUPERANNUATION OVER AND UNDER PAY****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- In late 2018 the former Department of Agriculture became aware of potential issues with the calculation of superannuation contributions. DAFF and its predecessors had, in some instances, calculated employer superannuation contributions incorrectly. The consequence is that superannuation contributions for some current and former employees have been overpaid or underpaid.
- The department therefore undertook a review of its application of the superannuation legislation and enterprise agreements from 1 December 2005 to 30 September 2022. The review covered 7,767 employees: 5,841 – DAFF and 1,926 – DCCEEW
- Of the 5,841 DAFF employees impacted:
  - 4973 received an outcome letter of their review; or
  - 868 received a letter notifying them of the superannuation salary information that has been provided to the CSC for their actioning. These letters were issued as the CSC advised it will take some time to complete their remediation processes. CSC will advise the outcome of the review to these employees.
- There are currently 191 DAFF remaining reviews pending completion by the CSC.
- There were 1,560 outcome letters provided to DCCEEW employees.
- In July 2024, DAFF handed over the DCCEEW reviews to DCCEEW, including Parks Australia.
- The review data, except for 318 employees from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) that are Parks Australia employees, has been provided to the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) for PSS, CSS and PSSap members for validation and completion of their remediation processes.
- The estimated financial impact of the review outcomes is \$15.718 million:
  - Commonwealth superannuation funds - \$11.922 million

Contact Officer: Sophia Farmakis  
SES Lead: Matthew Geysen  
Last updated: 12 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000031

- Choice superannuation funds - \$3.796 million

## BACKGROUND

- DAFF was made aware of potential issues with the calculation of superannuation contributions for some employees through investigation of individual enquiries in late 2018.
- On further investigation, the department found that some of these issues may also impact other employees, both current and former.
- A broader review of the department's superannuation arrangements was undertaken to address any errors.
- The project was overseen by an internal Superannuation Review Steering Committee whose members included the: Chief Finance Officer; Chief Counsel and Chief People Officer; and Superannuation Review Sub-Committee whose members included representatives from the department's Payroll, Legal and People teams with support also drawing from external advisers who have experience in this type of remediation work.
- The identified superannuation errors are the result of an incorrect calculation of **superannuation salary** as set down in legislation and enterprise agreements. If the **superannuation salary** is not correctly calculated, then the contribution will be incorrect.
- Superannuation is complex and an incorrect **superannuation salary** can be the result of many factors but can include:
  - incorrect interpretation of allowances for superannuation purposes: using the incorrect method for calculating contributions where employees have changed superannuation funds; or
  - a trigger point such as receiving a particular allowance after meeting a qualifying period for superannuation, but the allowance is inadvertently not included in the **superannuation salary**.
- In most cases, the correction of employer **underpayments** occurs between the employer and the superannuation fund.
- For employees whose employer contributions have been **overpaid**, the department is working with the superannuation fund to recover the overpayment amount from the fund and will not deduct any amount from employee's salary.
- Employee contributions – PSS and CSS members generally make employee contributions based on the employee's **superannuation salary**. Where an adjustment is required to the **superannuation salary** following the review, this may result in an over contribution or shortfall in employee contributions. Options to make

up any shortfalls are discussed with employees by either the department or the CSC, depending upon the individual's circumstances.

- For individuals who are members of a Commonwealth superannuation scheme (for CSS, PSS and PSSap), there are additional processes required to be completed by the CSC to enable the finalisation of the review outcome.
- For individuals who are members of Choice superannuation funds, the department has engaged with each fund to confirm arrangements for processing under and over paid superannuation.
- Most current and former employees (84 per cent) have been advised of the outcome of their review and just under half (47 per cent) of these were correct with no errors. In addition, former employees whose review has not been finalised by the CSC, have been advised of their original and revised superannuation salary and the reasoning for the difference. The CSC will liaise directly with the former employees for any changes to their benefit.
- DAFF has the below mechanisms in place for communicating with potentially affected current and former employees:
  - providing updates on the status of reviews
  - a mailbox for all communication, including managing enquiries and complaints
  - an internet site with useful information and frequently asked questions
  - dedicated phone numbers for individuals to contact the review team
  - outcome letters to individuals that detailed the reasoning for any variances and next steps in remediation
  - for variances greater than \$2,000, individuals were personally contacted (where DAFF has current contact details)
  - where an individual has a variance over a threshold, DAFF offers to reimburse costs for the individual to obtain independent financial advice up to \$600. To date, no individual has accessed this offer.
- A provision of \$15.718 million was included in the 2021-2022 financial statements for the estimated remediation costs. The provision has reduced to \$5.888 million in the 2023-2024 financial statements.
- DAFF has advised the CSC, the Fair Work Ombudsman, the Australian Taxation Office and the Department of Finance of the review. DAFF continues to provide monthly updates to the Fair Work Ombudsman of the progress of the review.
- DAFF has provided updates to the Community and Public Sector Union, including written detailed responses to questions.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

Division: Finance and Investment Division

**FID06****LEVIES****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The new agricultural levies legislative framework came into effect from 1 January 2025.
- The new framework aims to modernise the agriculture levy system and make it easier for levy payers, collection agents and recipients of levy funds to understand their obligations.
- The implementation of the new primary industry legislation will be staged in line with the legislated start dates for each individual agriculture product.
  - The department has published a list of dates and other documentation to reflect the changes in legislation, including new return forms and due dates, compliance and enforcement measures, however the penalty rate on late payment has not changed.
  - The department continues to update departmental systems, guidance documentation, websites and forms, and will inform impacted stakeholders of the changes when available.

**BACKGROUND**

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) administers agricultural levies on behalf of Australian agricultural industries to fund research and development (R&D), marketing, biosecurity, and residue testing programs.
  - The department administers 110 agricultural levies and charges collected on over 70 commodities across the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.
  - Each commodity has different collection mechanisms that are relevant to an industry's production period, supply chain and business practices.
  - Agriculture levies and charges received by the department are disbursed monthly to the 18 levy recipient bodies (LRBs).
- The department recovers the cost of administering the levy system from LRBs using activity based costing methodology.

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
SES Lead: Maria Loyman  
Last updated: 24 March 2025

Telephone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000032

- As at 31 January 2025 the administration costs were \$3.84 million or 1.20% of the \$321.02 million in levies disbursed. This is in line with the performance target being the cost is equal to or less than 1.20% of total levies disbursed.

Financial Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Levies Administration Cost (\$m)	4.76	4.62	4.03	3.77	4.65
Levies Disbursed (\$m)	461.51	494.56	602.60	634.38	603.42
Ratio as a percentage	1.03%	0.93%	0.67%	0.60%	0.77%

- There are approximately 7,000 collection agents operating at identified narrow points in the supply chain where most leviable products flow through.
  - Collection agents include market agents/retailers, grain traders/consumers, abattoirs and stock agents and wool brokers/processors.
  - Some levy payers pay the department directly, for example if they sell their products by retail sales such as those in the Turf and Wine industry.
- The department administers a risk-based National Compliance Program (NCP) that encourages collection agents to comply with legislation and identify levy leakage.
  - Levies are self-assessed and are generally collected by intermediaries, a collection agent on behalf of a levy payer who is liable for the domestic levy or export charge.
- The compliance programs include the Operational Compliance Program (OCP), a risk-based record inspection program and a Targeted Compliance Assessment Program (TCA), which complements the OCP assesses agents that are not selected for record inspection under the OCP.
- The cases selected for the inspection program consider compliance risk, assessed on likelihood and consequence parameters. The program reviews agents who collectively contribute approximately 20 to 30 per cent of revenue at the commodity level annually and approximately 500 inspections are completed each year.
- On an annual basis the department's levy officers undertake field visits to inspect transaction records of levy agents.
- The Strategic Compliance Program in partnership with industry involves the identification of strategic projects that can be undertaken to address specific areas of non-compliance in an industry.
- A Variation Risk Tool is used to monitor the lodgment of levy returns and identifies distinct variations in return values by comparing against the value of a past return at the commodity level. The department recovers costs from the LRBs for administering the levies using an activity-based costing methodology.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Finance and Investment Division

**FID07****BUDGET MEASURE SUMMARY****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES.****2025-26 Portfolio Budget Statements**

- The 2025-26 Budget committed \$63.2 million for the AFF portfolio priorities over three years.
- Key measures and funding variations included:
  - \$23.8 million over three years to sponsor agriculture trade events, of which \$22.4 million is new funding and a further \$1.4 million to be reprioritised from existing resources.
  - \$11.0 million in 2025-26 to continue to reduce the economic and environmental burden of established feral animals, pests and weeds.
    - This includes \$5.0 million in SPP funding and a further \$0.6 million to be reprioritised from existing resourcing.
  - \$6.8 million in 2025-26 for the Department to sustain a non-regulatory agriculture exports and trade functions, including international engagement in multilateral fora and technical market access services.
  - \$3.5 million over two years from 2025-26 to develop a national food security strategy.
  - \$18.1 million for biosecurity services in new and redeveloping ports; offset by
  - \$7.7 million in offsets provided by the department for the 'Agricultural Priorities' measure by reprioritising existing activities.
- There has been an expansion of the 2022-23 October Budget measure 'Savings from External labour', totalling \$13.9 million in 2028-29 for the Portfolio. The financial year details include:
  - \$12.8 million for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
  - \$0.7 million for the Regional Investment Corporation.
  - \$0.4 million for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

Contact Officer: Maria Loyman  
SES Lead: Matthew Geysen  
Last updated: 25 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000049

- \$0.03 million for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

## **2024-25 Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)**

- In the 2024-25 MYEFO update the Government provided the department with a \$83.3 million in appropriations over the forward estimates. This comprised of:
  - Departmental funding of \$49.9 million over 4 years.
  - Administered funding of \$33.4 million over 4 years.
- Approved MYEFO measures included:
  - \$56.1 million over four years from 2024-25 for DAFF to support a range of agricultural priorities:
    - \$46.6 million in 2025–26 to sustain export regulatory functions, including assurance and verification to meet trading partner requirements and exporter demand.
    - \$7.9 million over three years from 2025–26 (and an additional \$0.2 million in 2028–29) to continue the Improved Access to Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals program to help farmers gain access to safe and effective agricultural and veterinary chemical.
    - \$2.2 million over two years from 2024–25 for climate policy and technical capabilities within the Department.
    - The cost of this measure is partially offset by \$0.6 million in savings identified within the Department.
  - \$24.6 million over two years from 2024-25 was provided to the Department as part of the ‘Supporting Australia’s Avian Influenza preparedness and response’ initiatives to protect Australian agriculture against HPAI H5N1, including improved national biosecurity response, surveillance and scientific capabilities, vaccines for priority threatened bird species, enhanced wild bird surveillance through Wildlife Health Australia, and a national communications campaign. In addition, this measure provided \$12 million over two years from 2024-25 to State and Territory Governments.
  - \$2.5 million over four years to be collected from 2024-25 (\$0.7 million ongoing from 2028-29) from agricultural levies and associated charges at the request of industry to better reflect the current needs of the horticultural sectors (Lychees, Custard Apples, Macadamia nuts, Apples and Pears). The related payment is estimated to be \$2.6 million over four years.
  - The Government will provide an additional \$32.6 million over three years from 2025–26 (and \$0.2 million in 2028–29) to support the phase out of live sheep exports by sea, including to assist sheep producers and businesses in associated supply chains to adapt. While \$11 million in funding from this measure has been released to the Western Australian Government, the



Department's funding of \$21.6 million is currently held in the Contingency Reserve pending the finalisation of a co-design process with industry.

- \$3.6 million over 2 years (part of \$29.4 million cross portfolio measure led by DFAT) to establish a simplified trade system unit to continue trade simplification coordination and deliver a Digital Trade Accelerator program to improve cross-border trade by enhancing border and biosecurity risk assessments and government to business trade data sharing.
- \$13.9 million over four years from 2024–25 (and \$3.4 million per year ongoing) to maintain drought policy capability in the Department to support Australia's readiness to respond to drought events.
- \$3.4 million over four years from 2024–25 to develop a national Timber Fibre Strategy and review the National Forestry Policy Statement in collaboration with the states and territories.
- \$1.5 million over two years from 2023–24 to improve existing arrangements for the accurate and clear labelling of plant-based alternative protein products.
- \$1.0 million over two years from 2024–25 for a skilled agricultural work liaison pilot to attract graduates to work in agriculture.
- \$0.5 million over two years from 2024–25 to continue the AgCAREERSTART pilot program for two cohort years to encourage young people to consider a career in agriculture.
- \$0.4 million over three years from 2024–25 for Farmsafe Australia to extend the National Farm Safety Week campaign.

## BACKGROUND

### 2024-25 Portfolio Budget Statements

- The 2024–25 Budget delivered \$789.0 million over 8 years to help farmers and producers adapt to the impacts of climate change, build their resilience and maintain Australia's position as a trusted and reliable trading partner. This was comprised of:
  - Departmental funding is \$136.8 million over 8 years
  - Administered funding is \$618.8 million over 8 years
  - Other Agencies is \$33.4 million over 8 years (AFMA, Austrade, DCCEEW)
- Approved 2024-25 Budget measures include:
  - \$63.8 million over ten years from 2024–25 (and \$0.9 million per year ongoing) to support initial emission reduction efforts in the agriculture and land sectors as part of Australia's transition to net zero by 2050.
  - \$519.1 million over eight years from 2024–25 from the Future Drought Fund for initiatives that provide improved support to farmers and communities to manage



drought and adapt to climate change. With further \$42.2 million provided to the Department over four years from 2024–25 to support the delivery of the Future Drought Fund initiatives.

- \$107.0 million over five years from 2024–25 for a suite of actions for sheep producers and the supply chain, market development, sheep welfare, implementation and engagement to support an orderly phase out of live sheep exports by sea, so that individuals, supply chain businesses and communities are well positioned and ready when the trade ends.
- \$16.9 million over 4 years for the fit out of border processing equipment and other facilities at Western Sydney International Airport.

### **2023-24 Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)**

- In the 2023-24 MYEFO update the Government provided the department with a further \$231.1 million in departmental appropriation over the forward estimates.
- The 2023-24 Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) measures addressed immediate financial pressures faced by the Department in 2022-23 in relation to export cost recovery arrangements.
- These measures, combined with the Biosecurity Sustainable Funding package announced in the 2023-24 Budget, assisted in putting the department in a strong financial position.
- Approved MYEFO measures included:
  - \$95.5 million over three years from 2023-24 for DAFF to sustain export regulatory functions, including through capability improvements, assurance and verification to meet trading partner requirements and responding to exporter demand
  - \$75.7 million over three years from 2023-24 to enable border services at Western Sydney Airport
  - \$2.6 million in 2023–24 to establish a taskforce to identify options to reform APVMA informed by the Rapid Evaluation
  - \$4.3 million to support the ongoing resumption of live cattle trade with Indonesia and Malaysia and mitigate the risk of further trade suspensions.
  - \$21.0 million over three years from 2024–25 (and \$7.2 million per year ongoing) to maintain biosecurity clearance activities in international mail gateway facilities
  - \$11.6 million over four years from 2023–24 to continue development and delivery of a simplified trade system that will simplify cross-border trade
  - \$9.7 million over four years from 2023–24 (and \$2.8 million per year ongoing) for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences to deliver forestry data analysis to support industry development

- \$4.9 million over two years from 2023–24 to develop the Agriculture and Land Sectoral Plan to address key issues for agriculture as part of the whole-of-economy transition to net zero emissions
- \$3.2 million in 2023–24 to continue to deliver Future Drought Fund programs and meet associated legislative requirements
- \$2.8 million over four years to implement changes to eligibility, compliance and case management for the Farm Household Allowance program.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Legal Division

**LD01****MANAGEMENT OF FOI REQUESTS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND MINISTER****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- All Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to the Department and portfolio Ministers are coordinated by the Legal Division and are managed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).
- All FOI matters are dealt with in accordance with the process and timeframe requirements under the FOI Act, regulations and guidance from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).
  - This includes applying charges in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act (Charges) Regulations 2019*.
  - The FOI Act also requires the department or Minister to publish information that has been released in response to each FOI request within 10 working days after the day the applicant is given access (subject to certain exceptions). This is done by publishing information on the department's disclosure log.
  - Minister Collins and Assistant Minister Chisholm have arrangements in place to receive and respond to FOI matters with assistance from the department.
  - Department assistance includes providing legal advice and assistance with preparing decisions and responses to reviews, training where required, preparing authorisation instruments and meeting reporting requirements.

**BACKGROUND**

- FOI requests received by portfolio ministers (figures are at 31 December 2024):
  - Minister Collins received two FOI requests from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024. Both FOI requests have been finalised.
    - One request where the documents were released in full.
    - One request where the documents were released in part.
  - Assistant Minister Chisholm has not yet received any FOI requests.

Contact Officer: Annabelle Alexander  
SES Lead: Cassandra Ireland  
Last updated: 12 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000033

S 42(1), 47F(1)

s 42(1)

s 42(1)

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

Division: People Property and Security Division

**PPSD01****SES CAP AND RECRUITMENT****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The department's allocated SES Cohort is 96.
- As at 12 March, the department was operating with 107 SES positions. This consists of departmental substantive SES, employees acting in SES positions and temporary transfers.
- The department's SES vacancies and placements are regularly reviewed to:
  - consider job redesign and the continuing need for SES leads
  - current and upcoming work priorities and associated division/branch structures
  - placements for SES employees returning from long term leave, secondments and temporary transfers
  - determine whether the SES position is required on an ongoing basis or in a temporary capacity
  - consider known cessations and the appropriate movement of existing SES employees to further develop capability and address work priorities.
- Of the 107 positions, seven are considered temporary roles, being:
  - a) Assistant Secretary, Organisational Design (approved until 30 April 2025)
  - b) First Assistant Secretary, Chief Regulatory Officer (approved until 30 June 2025)
  - c) First Assistant Secretary, Sustainable Trade Strategy Taskforce (approved until 30 June 2025)
  - d) Assistant Secretary, ABARES Projects (approved until 30 June 2025)
  - e) Assistant Secretary, HPAI Taskforce (approved until 30 June 2025)
  - f) Chief of Staff (approved until 30 June 2025)
  - g) Assistant Secretary, Strategic Policy (approved until August 2025)

Contact Officer: Bryce McNicol  
Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Last updated: 13 March 2025

SES Lead: Tim Simpson  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000035

**BACKGROUND**

- The Government's policy for approval and monitoring of SES numbers provides each department or agency with an SES Cohort to operate within.
- The SES Cohort is based on positions (not employees) and forms part of departments' and agencies' average staffing level (ASL) estimates.
- The department is required to operate within its allocated SES Cohort of 96 or seek approval for an increase from the APS Commissioner and the Minister for the Public Service.



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: People Property and Security Division

**PPSD02**

## DEPARTMENT STAFFING NUMBERS AND CONTRACTORS

## KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

**APS employees – Average Staffing Levels (ASL)**

- **FY2023-24 ASL:**
  - The department's **published** 2023-24 ASL estimate (as per 2023-24 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (PAES) was **5,896**.
  - The department's **actual** ASL from 2023-24 was **5,086 (810 under** the published ASL estimate).
- **FYTD 2024-25 ASL:**
  - The department's published 2024-25 ASL estimate (as per 2024-25 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) is **6,176**.
  - The department's actual ASL from 1 July to 31 January 2025 was **5,693 (483 under** the published ASL estimate).

**Paid Full Time Equivalent (FTE):**

- During January 2025 there were **5,916** paid FTE.

**Headcount:**

- On 31 January 2025, the department's APS headcount (excluding the Secretary) was **6,487**.
- This has **increased by 599 during this financial year (and was up by 122 since 31 December 2024)**.
- See table 1 for APS headcount changes since 30 June 2023.

**Table 1: Departmental APS headcount by employment type**

Employment Type	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2023	31 Mar 2024	30 Jun 2024	30 Sep 2024	31 Dec 2024	31 Jan 2025
Ongoing	4,956	4,967	5,201	5,414	5,653	5,869	6,003
Non-ongoing	328	316	287	264	273	293	288
Casual	200	183	215	210	202	203	196
<b>Total Headcount*</b>	<b>5,484</b>	<b>5,466</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>5,888</b>	<b>6,128</b>	<b>6,365</b>	<b>6,487</b>

\*Headcount figures exclude the Secretary.

Contact Officer: Sophie Nelson  
 Telephone: **s 47F(1)**  
 Last updated: 24 March 2025

SES Lead: Shane Lysons-Smith  
 Mobile Number: **s 47F(1)**  
 SB25-000036

### Headcount increases by region

- Of the increase of **599** APS employees in this financial year (to 31 Jan 2025), the increase of 383 staff (**64%**) was in offices **outside of Canberra**.

APS Headcount by Location – Net changes 2024/25 FYTD				
Location by State	30-Jun-24	31-Jan-25	Net change	% change
ACT	2795	3011	<b>216</b>	36%
VIC	841	986	<b>145</b>	24%
NSW	775	849	<b>74</b>	12%
QLD	788	841	<b>53</b>	9%
SA	234	283	<b>49</b>	8%
WA	348	392	<b>44</b>	7%
NT	59	73	<b>14</b>	2%
TAS	15	20	<b>5</b>	1%
External Territory	14	14	<b>0</b>	0%
OS	19	18	<b>-1</b>	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5888</b>	<b>6487</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Headcount increases by Group

- The largest workforce increases this financial year (up to 31 Jan 2025) were in the Biosecurity Operations and Compliance Group (+344). More details are provided in the table below.

APS Headcount by Group – Net changes 2024/25 FYTD			
Group/Division	30 Jun 2024	Net change	31 Jan 2025
Agricultural Trade & Regulation	1186	<b>97</b>	1283
Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Policy	545	<b>48</b>	593
Biosecurity Operations & Compliance	3167	<b>344</b>	3511
Office of the Secretary	27	<b>12</b>	39
Strategy Enterprise & Engagement	963	<b>98</b>	1061
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5888</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>6487</b>

#### APS Headcount by Group/Division – Net changes 2024/25 FYTD (Top 5 divisions)

Group/Division	30 Jun 2024	31 Jan 2025	Net change
<b>Biosecurity Operations &amp; Compliance</b>			
Biosecurity Operations	1860	2085	225
Compliance & Enforcement	282	314	32
<b>Strategy Enterprise &amp; Engagement</b>			
Finance and Investment	205	258	53
People Property and Security	241	292	51
<b>Agricultural Trade &amp; Regulation</b>			
Exports and Veterinary Services	648	688	40

### **External workforce**

- On **31 January 2025**, the department's contractor headcount was **954** (including labour hire). This represented **12.8%** of the total workforce.
- On **30 June 2024**, the department's contractor headcount was **926** (including labour hire). This represented **13.2%** of the total workforce.
- This is a **net increase of 28 over 2024/25 FY** and a decrease of **20 from the end of the 2023/24 FY** given the contractor headcount was **974** (representing **15.1%** of the total workforce).
- See table 2 for contractor number changes since 30 June 2023.

### **Contractor Conversions**

- From 1 July 2024 to 31 January 2025, **41 contractors** and **2 service providers were converted to APS employees** (against the published Strategic Commissioning target of 50 contractor and 2 service provider conversions for 2024/25 FY).
- For the 2023/24 FY (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024) **62 contractors were converted** to APS employees.
- Contractors have been engaged where there is an identified critical need, such as for specialist expertise, short-term projects, surge in demand, backfilling, temporary vacancies, and specific budget measures.
- The department's procurement process requires staff to consider if a role is core APS business before engaging a contractor.
- The department continues to review its use of contractors and seeks opportunities to convert existing contractor roles into APS, where appropriate.

**Table 2: External contractors**

<b>Employment Type</b>	<b>30 Jun 2023</b>	<b>31 Dec 2023</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>30 Jun 2024</b>	<b>30 Sep 2024</b>	<b>31 Dec 2024</b>	<b>31 Jan 2025</b>
<b>Contractor numbers</b>	974	868	930	926	951	991	954
<b>% of DAFF workforce</b>	15.1%	13.7%	14%	13.2%	13.4%	13.5%	12.8%

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The following are the definitions of measures used in this brief.

Term	Definition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average Staffing Level (ASL)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASL is defined as the average number employees receiving wages or salaries over the financial year, accounting for casual and part-time arrangements and half-pay/unpaid leave takings. ASL includes the Secretary, DAFF.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paid Full Time Equivalent (FTE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paid FTE is the average number of employees receiving wages or salaries over the pay periods during a month, accounting for casual and part-time arrangements and half-pay/unpaid leave takings. FTE is reported by fortnightly pay periods and not end of month dates.</li> <li>Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all active APS staff paid through payroll (part-time employees are converted to full-time equivalent based on the hours they work).</li> <li>The Secretary, DAFF</li> </ul> </li> <li>Excludes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overtime</li> <li>Employees on unpaid leave.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headcount</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of employees directly employed by the organisation at a point in time.</li> <li>Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ongoing and non-ongoing employees engaged for a specified term or task or for duties that are irregular or intermittent (casuals)</li> <li>employees on leave (e.g. maternity leave, long service leave etc)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Strategy Performance and Engagement Division

## SPED01

## STATUS OF ELECTION COMMITMENTS

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry tracks the status of election commitments made by the Australian Government in 2022 relevant to its portfolio.
  - As at 21 March 2025, the department is tracking and monitoring **22 election commitments**. *An additional commitment on the National Reconstruction Fund listed is being led by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.*
  - Of the 22 election commitments managed by DAFF, 9 have been completed and 13 are on track to be delivered within the timeframe specified in each commitment.
  - Of the 13 commitments remaining, many are largely delivered except for some minor components. This includes:
    - the 'Supporting Regional Trade Events' which has committed funding, with the funded events themselves still being delivered.
    - 'Regional Forestry Hubs' and 'National Livestock traceability reform' are both due for completion in June this year; and
    - the Department's component of 'Protecting Australia from illegally logged imports' is complete.

## BACKGROUND

2022 Election Commitments	
Completed	
1A	Bolstering Australia's biosecurity system – Package to address foot-and-mouth and lumpy skin diseases
1B	Bolstering Australia's biosecurity system – Increase Detector Dog Capability
1C	Bolstering Australia's biosecurity system – Exotic Animal Disease
4	2nd Dairy Symposium

Contact Officer: Lucy Vincent  
SES Lead: Michelle Wellington  
Last updated: 27 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: 0434 479 205  
SB25-000009

7	Considering a Framework that Addresses the Importation of Seafood from Fisheries That Involve Illegal, Unreported, And Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Practices
8	Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by sea
9	Inspector General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports
12	National Institute for Forest Products Innovation
17	Wood Volume Analysis
19	Establish a Strategic Forest & Renewable Materials Partnership
20	Forest Industry Roundtable
21	Development of Australia's Seaweed Farming

### On track for delivery

Measure	Comment
Bolstering Australia's biosecurity system – Sustainable long-term funding for the biosecurity system	<i>This includes work to develop sustainable long-term funding for the biosecurity system and a number of 2022–23 Budget measures that have been completed – residual measure (below) 'National Livestock Traceability Reform to Enhance Agricultural Biosecurity and Exports' is due for completion in June 2025.</i>
Bolstering Australia's biosecurity system – National Livestock Traceability Reform to Enhance Agricultural Biosecurity and Exports	<i>This measure is on track for completion by June 2025, with the project entering the phased software build and deploy and transition phases.</i>
<i>National Reconstruction Fund – Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Component (Managed by DISR)</i>	<i>DISR is the lead agency on this measure – DAFF does not report on this measure.</i>
Support Regional Trade Events	<i>This measure is funded for 3 years through to FY2025-26; all funds have been funded and events agreed, with 49 events delivered up to December 2024 with more funded for delivery in 2024-25.</i>
Accurate and Clear Food Labelling	<i>This measure has been funded under a new 2024-25 Budget measure ('Implementing Our Election Commitment to Ensure Accurate and Clear Food Labelling'), having originally been funded over two years from 2023-24 (\$1.5m), but with no additional funding under the 2024-25 Budget. Consumer research has been finalised and work is underway with industry to identify how arrangements can be improved, with meetings scheduled in March 2025. .</i>
Supporting the Development of Sustainability codes to maintain and grow market access	<i>This measure is on track to be delivered by June 2026, with the National Agricultural Traceability Strategy Implementation Plan 2023-2028 launched last November, and funding continuing through to 2025-26.</i>
Renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)	<i>This measure is funded through to FY2026-27; work is ongoing with the publication of the national Statement on Animal Welfare in December 2024 and continued stakeholder engagement to develop and endorse the 6 AAWS chapters.</i>
Accelerate The Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation Fund	<i>A total of \$100.7 million has been awarded to 33 projects across Australia from FY2022-23 to FY2025-26; grant funding continues and the</i>

	<i>department is working with the Community Grants Hub on implementing this program.</i>
Support Plantation Establishment	<i>This measure is funded through to FY2026-27, with 27 projects approved and a number of grants rounds underway. The department continues to work with the Community Grants Hub on implementing this program.</i>
Regional Forestry Hubs	<i>This measure is on track for finalisation June 2025 with current funding for the hubs ending in June 2025, and Deeds of Variation offered in December 2024.</i>
Protecting Australia from Illegally Logged Imports	<i>The department's component of this measure is complete.</i>
Support For Training and Accreditation in Forestry Sector	<i>This measure is funded through to FY2026-27, with a contract signed with ForestWorks to deliver the program following an approach to market, as announced in August 2024.</i>
Commercial Opportunities for Fire Mitigation	<i>States and territories discussed approaches to management of residues from forest management activities at the November 2024 Forest Ministers' Meeting – next steps will depend on wood volumes analysis and senior official discussions. No funding is provided for this measure.</i>
Improve Job Security in the APS	<i>Under the APS Reform, the department is implementing the Strategic Commissioning Framework released in October 2023. The department released a Recruitment Strategy and Workforce Strategy 2024 – 2027 in December 2024 to enhance employee attraction and retention. No funding is provided for this measure.</i>
Boosting First Nations Employment in the APS	<i>A First Nations Workforce Strategy is being developed to support improvements on recruitment and employment experiences, and the department continues a range of actions in training and retention. The government's commitment to boost First Nations employment across the APS to 5% is an ongoing target, with the goal for completion by 2030. No funding is provided for this measure.</i>

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

Division: Strategy Performance and Engagement Division

**SPED02****CORPORATE PLAN 2024-25****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) published its 2024-25 *Corporate Plan (the Plan)* on 30 August 2024, as required under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act)*.
- The Plan explains how the department will deliver against its purpose – to work together to safeguard and grow sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry for all Australians, over the next four years.
- The 2024-25 Corporate Plan was developed in line with the requirements of the Commonwealth Performance Framework and sets out the department's strategic objectives, portfolio budget statement outcomes, performance measures and targets for key activities, and operating environment.
- The department continues to build its performance reporting capability and is implementing an endorsed Enterprise Performance Framework.
- The Framework provides best-practice guidance to lift the department's capability and support staff in improved business planning, the development of meaningful performance measures and reporting against them.
- In producing the corporate plan, the department considered input from the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and the Department of Finance, particularly around improving performance measures and the ANAO's annual performance statements audit.
- Planning to develop the Corporate Plan 2025-26 has commenced, and the department is reviewing the performance measures in response to the ANAO's Annual Performance Statements Audit of 2023-24.

**BACKGROUND**

- In line with the requirements of the *PGPA Act*, all entities are required to prepare corporate plans in line with the *PGPA Act*, PGPA Rule and Department of Finance resource management guides (Commonwealth Performance Framework).

Contact Officer: Lucy Vincent  
SES Lead: Michelle Wellington  
Last updated: 12 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: 0434 479 205  
SB25-000008



- The corporate plan is designed to be a Commonwealth entity's primary planning document. It provides parliament, the public and stakeholders with an understanding of our purpose and objectives. It sets out how we undertake our functions and role and how we will measure performance in achieving our purpose, objectives and key activities.
- Under the Commonwealth performance framework, the corporate plan is developed at the beginning of the reporting cycle and sets out the department's strategies for achieving its purposes and how success will be measured.
- The annual report and annual performance statements are produced at the end of the reporting cycle and provide an assessment of the extent to which the department has succeeded in achieving its purpose.

***Clearance timeframes***

- The Secretary provided approval on 5 August 2024 for the Corporate Plan 2024–25.
- The final version of the corporate plan was provided to the Minister of Agriculture on 14 August 2024.
- As required under the PGPA Act, the Minister for Finance was provided a copy of the corporate plan on 28 August 2024 prior to publishing by 31 August 2024.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Strategy Performance and Engagement Division

**SPED03****INTEGRATED TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM****Transformation Taskforce Costs**

Expenditure	2023-24		1 July 2024 - 31 December 2024	
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals
Division	\$5,566,286	\$5,289,023	\$3,169,925	\$2,441,442
FTE	34	33	31	23.4

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The Transformation Taskforce was established on 26 September 2023.
- A team of 23.4 FTE (budgeted for 31 FTE) concluded on 31 December 2024.
- The ongoing program of work is known as the Integrated Transformation Program (ITP).
- The ITP is designed to provide governance on the delivery of four programs of work: the Transformation Action Plan (TAP), Statement of Strategic Intent, Organisation Design and Culture.

(A table with ITP Pillars and Projects status as at February 2025 is at **Attachment A.**)

**Achievements**

- **The Transformation Action Plan:**
  - **Enhanced governance arrangements** have been established to support effective resource allocation and decision-making in the department.
  - the **10-year Digital Investment and Sustainment Plan** was released in June 2024. The first phase of the plan sets out how critical information and communication technology (ICT) upgrades and cyber security strategies will be funded. The second phase will see the establishment of integrated ICT investment processes within the department's governance structure.
  - the **Enterprise Performance and Reporting** project released the Enterprise Performance Framework in November 2024 which has embedded regular, transparent, accurate and meaningful reporting processes into business-as-usual

Contact Officer: Lucy Vincent  
SES Lead: Michelle Wellington  
Last updated: 20 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Telephone: 0434 479 205  
SB25-000037

operations through integrating workforce, financial and business performance and assurance data.

- The **Financial Management** project established a new financial training program, and financial reporting and monitoring arrangements in 2024, and financial systems were upgraded to improve functionality. The Financial Management and Accountability Framework was released in February 2025.
- The **Workforce Planning and Development project** has published the Workforce Strategy 2024-27 and the Workforce Planning Framework in December 2024. An SES Workforce Report was also launched in December 2024.
- The **Stakeholder Engagement and Practice project** has developed a Stakeholder Collaboration and Practice Framework which was launched in January 2025.
- Statement of Strategic Intent:
  - The department published its first **Statement of Strategic Intent** (the Statement) on 30 August 2024, which sets out our vision, purpose and strategic objectives.
  - Commencing work in April 2024, the Statement was developed through extensive engagement with key external stakeholders across state and territory governments, Commonwealth agencies, and industry.
  - Development of the Statement was led by a team of strategy, content and design, and communications experts.
- More information about the Statement can be found in KIB SPED04.
- Organisation Design: Began in March 2024 with four high-level changes underway to renew the department's operating model and address review findings:
  1. **Building a strong corporate centre:** corporate functions have been strengthened through adopting a business partner model. Implementation is largely complete with further changes to mature the model in early 2025.
  2. **Building regulatory capability:** the Office of the Chief Regulatory Officer has been established to uplift regulatory capability.
  3. **Uplifting strategic policy capability:** the Strategic Policy Branch has been established to boost our strategic policy capacity and capability and elevate our strategic policy work.
  4. **Effective identity:** completed. Group names accurately reflect functions and role.
- Culture: **The Census Action Plan** was published in early December 2024 in response to workplace cultural issues identified in the 2024 APSC Census.

### Delivery governance

- The Executive Board's Finance and Performance Committee oversees the ITP through the Transformation Steering Committee, which is responsible for guiding and monitoring delivery, and benefits realisation for the program.
- Over the next 3 years, the ITP will continually be reviewed, assessed and updated.

### Next Steps

- Organisation design planning will continue, with some consultation and implementation to be delivered in early 2025.
- Delivery of the transformation action plan initiatives will continue until 2027.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The TAP was developed in response to the APSC Capability Review and incorporates findings and recommendations from the Independent Financial Review commissioned by the Department of Finance, the ANAO Cultural Reform Audit, the ANAO Performance Statements Review, and the APS Census.
- The TAP was published on 30 November 2023, comprising 10 priority actions to uplift capability in the department's leadership and culture, collaboration, delivery, people and resourcing, and risk by 2027.
  1. [APSC Capability Review](#)
  2. [Transformation Action Plan - DAFF](#)

Attachment A: List of ITP Pillars and Projects February 2025

Integrated Transformation Program Pillars and Projects

Transformation Action Plan (TAP)			
Domain	Priority Action/ Project	Achievements	Planned/Actual Completion Date
1. Leadership & Culture	1.1 Enhancing our Governance System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Enhanced governance arrangements</b> have been established to ensure collective responsibility for setting, monitoring and clearly communicating enterprise-wide priorities.</li><li>• We brought in governance experts ThoughtPost to review and make recommendations to enhance our governance arrangements.</li><li>• The recommendations have been implemented, which has included a new governance framework for the department that provides improved clarity for decision making responsibility, which is better supporting executive decision making.</li><li>• The system now supports effective resource allocation and decision-making (including a financial performance management framework) and incorporate the principles of our First Nations Platform.</li></ul>	Completed - June 2024
	1.2 Embed an Enterprise Approach to Program Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We undertook a stocktake of evaluation activities undertaken across the department and engagement across government on best practice evaluation delivery models.</li><li>• We have established an Enterprise Program Management Office which is developing and will oversee an enterprise-wide evaluation framework that is closely connected to our program and project</li></ul>	December 2025

		<p>delivery. We'll then focus on uplift activity to drive an evaluative culture in the department.</p>		
2. Collaboration	2.1 Stakeholder collaboration and practice framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The department acknowledges the crucial role that meaningful stakeholder engagement plays in improving our policy, program and service delivery</li><li>• The Stakeholder Collaboration Framework was published in January 2025 as a resource for all staff, developed to uplift staff capability at the enterprise level by providing a centralised resource outlining best-practice engagement principles, standards and methods within the department's unique operational context.</li><li>• It delivers on our Transformation Priority Action 2.1 to develop a framework that clarifies staff engagement responsibilities, improves consistency and uses stakeholder insights to drive innovation and service excellence.</li><li>• To inform the Framework and capability uplift program, the department consulted staff and stakeholders and collaborated with the Australian Public Service Commission and the International Association for Public Participation Australasia. Using insights to inform a reliable capability baseline, we will continue to measure capability through the Framework and capability uplift program.</li></ul>	Framework: January 2025 Phase 1: December 2025	
3. Delivery	3.1 Strategic Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We undertook a design and discovery process to develop and implement a new strategic policy operating model and recently announced the establishment of a new Strategic Policy Branch.</li><li>• We are currently establishing the Strategic Policy Branch which will then amplify our policy efforts, explore cross-cutting strategic issues and upskill the department's strategic policy capabilities.</li></ul>	October 2026	

	3.2 Enterprise Performance and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Enterprise Performance Framework</b> released in November 2024 embeds regular, transparent, accurate and meaningful reporting processes into business-as-usual operations through integrating workforce, financial and business performance and assurance data.</li> <li>• We have developed supporting educational material that will drive improvements in the development, monitoring and evaluation of performance measures.</li> <li>• This includes staff-facing tools and guidance materials and updated templates that improve linkage between business activities, the Corporate Plan and our Statement of Strategic Intent.</li> <li>• Through early 2025, our focus will be on embedding the Enterprise Performance Framework through a range of presentations, workshops and online education tools to improve staff performance information capability across all four phases of the Framework.</li> </ul>	July 2025
	3.3 Improving Regulatory Service Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority action 3.3 is the department's commitment to improving the regulatory services it delivers. Key to the delivery of this priority action is working with stakeholders and industry to develop solutions that improve the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of departmental regulatory services.</li> <li>• For example, the department conducted a public survey to capture stakeholder views on the regulatory services the department delivers well, and those that can be improved</li> <li>• The survey was published on the department's internet site, through about 2800 emails being sent to key stakeholders, and on the department's Facebook, Linked-in and "X" social media platform webpages.</li> <li>• The department received 254 responses to the 'Have Your Say' survey with an additional five written submissions from farmers, freight forwarders, brokers and peak industry bodies.</li> </ul>	June 2027

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Survey results will be used to inform the department's next steps in improving the regulatory services it delivers, and we are aiming to establish Process Improvement Working Groups that will include two external stakeholders plus one expert from each of the department's regulatory domains, to improve regulatory service delivery in the department. In addition, a proof-of-concept trial was conducted focussing on imported table grape inspections from the USA. The trial has resulted in a 20-25 percent reduction in inspection times with the changes in process now being incorporated into business as usual.</li></ul>	
4. People	4.1 Workforce Planning and Development – Planning and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To improve workforce planning and reporting, the department developed a workforce planning framework that incorporates strategic, tactical, and operational workforce planning to ensure DAFF has the workforce capability to do its job well.</li><li>• A new <b>Workforce Planning Framework</b> was released in December 2024 to underpin workforce planning activities by Senior Executives, managers, workforce planning practitioners and corporate, strategy and enterprise planning functions.</li><li>• The <b>Workforce Strategy 2024-2027</b> released in December 2024 has also been developed to outline the department's approach and key initiatives to attracting, developing and retaining the talent necessary to achieve its goals.</li><li>• This will be underpinned by improved workforce data and analytics capability using integrated digital solutions.</li><li>• We have delivered new dashboards that provide managers with an improved and customisable view of their workforce to enable better</li></ul>	June 2026



5. Resourcing & Risk	5.1 Financial Management Capability Uplift	<p>decision making on staff allocation, with an enhanced dashboard for Senior Executive managers scheduled for release in December 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improvements to <b>financial management capability</b> through a new financial training program, new financial reporting and monitoring arrangements established and financial systems upgraded to improve functionality. Financial performance has also been embedded into Senior Executive Service performance process.</li><li>• The department has undertaken a significant refresh of financial support content to ensure it is accurate and easy to understand for staff undertaking financial processes.</li><li>• The Transformation Action Plan’s Financial Management project has reformed financial literacy and capability for the SES cohort and Executive-level officers through the Mastercraft Series. This series began on 20 March 2024. It consists of internal webinars for relevant staff and resources available on the intranet.</li><li>• 7 seminars have been run in 2024 on: budget management; probity; frontline defence for cyber security, including financial implications; financial management systems upgrades; forecasting and recruitment; engaging contractors and managing contracts; and integrity and ethics. More than 950 officers have attended the webinars with an average attendance of 186 staff per event.</li><li>• The Mastercraft Series will continue in 2025—3 webinars have scheduled during March to May on: the role of human resources in senior leadership; embedding lessons from the RoboDebt Royal Commission; and financial risk management.</li></ul>	December 2027
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial responsibilities are now included in SES performance plans, and a financial management and accountability framework is now in development, which will be supported by financial literacy training to ensure staff with financial delegations are able to execute their responsibilities effectively.</li><li>We are reviewing and improving our budgeting and forecasting methodology to ensure accountability for forecasting accuracy, initially focusing on immediate issues and moving to a preferred model in 2025-26.</li></ul>	
5.2 10-year Digital Sustainment Investment Roadmap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The roadmap was delivered in June 2024 and now supports departmental investment planning.</li><li>This plan's first phase sets out how critical information and communication technology (ICT) upgrades and cyber security strategies will be funded. The second phase will see the establishment of integrated ICT investment processes within the department's governance structure.</li><li>We will review it regularly to align with departmental strategic priorities and address emerging risks.</li></ul>	Completed - June 2024
5.3 Data Maturity Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In this past year, we have completed analysis of data activities across the department and developed a high-level roadmap of the department's data maturity.</li><li>This year, we will establish an Enterprise Data and Analytics function to meet operational requirements in data, analytics, artificial intelligence, data management and data governance.</li></ul>	June 2027

Statement of Strategic Intent (SoSI)			
	Statement Design and Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On 24 August 2024, we released the Statement of Strategic Intent. This communicates the department’s vision and aspirational goal to external partners and stakeholders, and plays an important role in departmental planning.</li></ul>	Completed - November 2024
Organisation Design (OD)			
	Build a Strong Corporate Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As part of renewing our model for how the department operates, we are improving how our functions deliver our objectives and priorities.</li><li>This means our department’s groups are going to have improved corporate services and capabilities to do support their work.</li><li>We are using a business partner model, where our corporate staff use a partnership approach, suitable to their clients’ needs, to build a stronger corporate centre.</li><li>Under this initial proposal, tailored business partner models will be established within the finance, human resources and learning and development, the enterprise program management office, and communications functions to deliver corporate services to the Groups.</li><li>Phased implementation of this model began on 1 November 2024 following all-staff engagement, planning and targeted consultation with potentially affected staff.</li><li>Once fully implemented, we believe that this new delivery model will deliver improved collaboration through closer working relationships, greater agility in responding to changes, specialised business</li></ul>	April 2025

		knowledge, and increased efficiencies to how the department operates.	
	Uplifting Strategic Policy Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We received clear feedback from the APSC's Capability Review that our strategic policy capability should be strengthened for the department to continue to take a leadership role in policy issues in our portfolio.</li> <li>• Following engagement with our staff through a Transformation Action Plan's project, we are now establishing a new Strategic Policy branch within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group.</li> <li>• This function will increase our strategic policy capacity and capability by providing policy coordination, horizon scanning and policy sprint capability for the whole department.</li> <li>• This new branch is based a discovery process, held from December to February, which identified strategic policy issues and opportunities, previous strategic policy models, and available resources in the department.</li> <li>• We used structured workshops to test and refine options for a new strategic policy function between February and May to develop three options for decision by the Executive Board.</li> <li>• The Executive Board approved the proposal for the new branch in May, which was announced to all staff on 12 June 2024.</li> </ul>	November 2024
	Building Regulatory Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another key finding by the Capability Review was to boost and renew how the department manages its wide-ranging responsibilities as the regulator for the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector.</li> <li>• To do this, we established the Office of the Chief Regulatory Officer in the Agricultural Trade and Regulation Group.</li> </ul>	June 2025

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This function will increase our regulatory maturity and performance through a coherent and robust approach to regulatory stewardship.</li> <li>One of our most experienced senior officers, Peta Lane, has been appointed as the Chief Regulatory Officer to lead the establishment of the office.</li> <li>Not all regulatory activity will move to, or report to this role. Regulatory activity will remain distributed through our organisation. Instead, this move is to bring focus and clarity to our organisational effort and approach.</li> <li>Following engagement with our staff, the new function's roles is being discussed with stakeholders, including other agencies and industry, before moving to the planning phase later in November.</li> </ul>	Completed - July 2024
	Updating Group Names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make sure our department structure reflects our current operating environment and our transformation program, we have updated the names of our functional Groups.</li> <li>Portfolio Strategy and Services Group (PSSG), led by myself (Tess Bishop), is now <b>Strategy, Enterprise, and Engagement Group</b>.</li> <li>Biosecurity and Compliance Group, led by Justine Saunders, has become <b>Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group</b></li> <li>Agriculture Trade Group, led by Tina Hutchison, has become <b>the Agricultural Trade and Regulation Group</b></li> <li><b>Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group</b>, led by Matt Lowe, is unchanged.</li> </ul>	
Culture			
	Census Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We released the <b>census action plan</b> in November 2024.</li> </ul>	Yearly requirement

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each year, like all other agencies, we participate in the annual APS Census. This gives valuable insights into what our staff are thinking and feeling about working in the department.</li><li>• We use the Census results to better understand what is working well at DAFF and what areas we need to focus on to implement improvements for our people and how we operate as a department.</li><li>• Like last year's survey, this year's Census tells us we still have work to do in the areas of change management, internal communications and health and wellbeing.</li><li>• Our Action Plan includes clear accountabilities and regular reporting to demonstrate our progress in delivering on our commitments.</li></ul>	
	Culture Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As part of our Integrated Transformation Program, we are seeking to continue to ensure our department's culture is healthy, positive and attractive to both staff, our clients and stakeholders, and the general public.</li><li>• To do this, we are planning a culture audit to support our Census Action Plan.</li><li>• This work should support the values and behaviours that will make our transformation program successful.</li><li>• We have confirmed funding to conduct the audit with work now in train to approach the market. An audit report is scheduled to be completed in April 2025.</li></ul>	July 2025

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Strategy Performance and Engagement Division

# SPED04

## STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The Statement of Strategic Intent (the Statement) is an externally facing document that sets out the vision, purpose and strategic objectives for Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. DAFF published its first *Statement of Strategic Intent* on 30 August 2024.
- The Statement aligns with and complements the department's *Corporate Plan 2024-25*.
- The department's vision is for a more sustainable and prosperous Australia through biosecurity, production and trade.
- The department's purpose is to safeguard and grow sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry for all Australians.
- The department's strategic objectives are:
  - Sector growth: Support Australia's agricultural sector, including the food and fibre industries, to be increasingly prosperous and internationally competitive in an ever-changing world.
  - Sector resilience and sustainability: Increase the contribution agriculture, fisheries and forestry make to a healthy, sustainable and low-emissions environment.
  - National biosecurity: Strengthen our national biosecurity system to provide a risk-based approach and an appropriate level of protection for Australia's people, our environment and economy.
- The Statement acknowledges the department's domestic and international partnerships, with Australian Government agencies, state, territory and local governments, private and philanthropic sectors, research and academic entities, First Nations Peoples, communities, particularly in rural and regional Australia.
- The Statement commits to empowering First Nations economic self-determination across Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries, and to embedding

Contact Officer: Lucy Vincent  
SES Lead: Michelle Wellington  
Last updated: 4 February 2025

Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: 0434 479 205  
SB25-000046

the priority reforms and supporting the achievement of outcomes under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

## BACKGROUND

- Development of the Statement involved extensive engagement with key external stakeholders across state and territory governments, Commonwealth agencies, and industry, including:
  - early establishment of a strong relationship with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to help inform the department's approach to engagement with industry and socialisation with the Minister's Office.
  - the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, NEMA, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Department of Health, the CSIRO, and the Tasmanian Government following our offer of bilateral discussions to all jurisdictions.
  - Presentations on the Statement at key meetings including Agriculture Senior Officials Committee meeting on 14 June 2024.
  - Industry round tables chaired by the Secretary on 20 June 2024 (18 stakeholders attended) and 02 August 2024 (22 stakeholders attended).
- Internally, the Statement replaced the former POPVV statement (Purpose, Objectives, Priorities, Vision and Values).
- The Statement of Strategic Intent is one of the four pillars of the Integrated Transformation Program. It intersects with and complements the other three pillars - the Transformation Action Plan, the Organisation Design, and Culture.



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries and Forestry Division

**ACFFD01****AGVET CHEMICALS POLICY****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The Australian Government has a clear reform agenda to ensure Australia maintains its strong and effective agricultural and veterinary chemicals regulatory system.
- The detailed Australian Government response (the detailed response) to the *Future structure and governance arrangements for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority* (APVMA) report - and other recent reviews of the APVMA - was published on 4 November 2024.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is moving forward with consultation and implementation of reforms identified in the detailed response. Initial areas of focus are:
  - Establishing a sustainable funding model for the APVMA
  - Enhancing the efficiency and transparency of chemical reconsiderations
  - Ensuring consistency in the application of limits on use of information
  - Investigating a cyclical registration model that provides appropriate assurances that products continue to meet the statutory criteria following their registration
  - Creating appropriate risk-based regulation for emerging products and low-risk products
- The department has already started consultation with stakeholders regarding this reform process including the National Farmers Federation, CropLife Australia, Accord and Animal Medicines Australia.
- We will be proactively consulting and providing opportunities for engagement with community groups, non-government organisations and the broader agricultural community and Australian public.
- The work to implement the detailed response builds on other recent reforms to ensure for an efficient and fit-for-purpose regulator including:

Contact Officer: Guy Bursle  
SES Lead: Sarah-Jane McCormack  
Last updated: 24 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000023

- Repealing the Government Policy Order about the APVMA location on 4 June 2024, ensuring the APVMA Board can make decisions on the location of its staff that best suit operational requirements.
- Appointing a new chair of the APVMA Board, Dr Catherine Ainsworth.
- The APVMA Board has appointed Mr Scott Hansen as the new Chief Executive Officer for the APVMA.

## BACKGROUND

- Following serious allegations concerning behaviours of APVMA staff in November 2022, an independent investigation was conducted into those allegations.
  - The investigation's interim report contained further serious allegations, which were referred to the Australian Public Service Commissioner (APSC) and the NSW Police.
- At the same time as referring those matters (and ceasing the investigation), the then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, instructed the APVMA Board to commission an independent review (the Strategic Review) of its operations.
- On 14 July 2023, Minister Watt released the Strategic Review findings showing significant issues in APVMA governance and operational practices, including a focus on activities to assist industry, while deprioritising other regulatory activities.
- In July 2023 the substantive CEO and APVMA Board Chair both resigned.
- In response to the Strategic Review's findings, Minister Watt issued the APVMA a ministerial direction to finalise safety reviews of eight chemicals on 13 July 2023, and appointed Mr Ken Matthews AO to undertake a rapid evaluation of the APVMA's administration and governance.
- In October 2023, Mr Ken Matthews AO delivered the *Future structure and governance arrangements for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority* report which was publicly released on 17 April 2024.
- A new APVMA Board Chair and APVMA CEO were appointed with effect from 12 July 2024 and 24 July 2024 respectively.
- Three Board Members' terms expire on 28 March 2025. A selection process was finalised on 7 March 2025.
- Detailed timeline of APVMA reviews at **Attachment A**.

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Detailed timeline of APVMA reviews

## ATTACHMENT A

## Detailed Timeline

Date	Theme	Action
5 September 2019	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie appointed an independent panel to undertake a first principles review of the regulatory framework underpinning the National Registration Scheme for agricultural and veterinary chemicals.</li> </ul>
28 May 2021	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The panel delivered the Final Report of the Independent Review of the Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory System in Australia (Independent Review).</li> </ul>
November 2022	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, ordered an independent review into the culture of the APVMA following allegations about APVMA staff conduct raised during Senate Estimates.</li> </ul>
8 February 2023	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">interim report of the APVMA Independent Cultural Review</a>, undertaken by Ms Mary Brennan, was provided to Minister Watt. The interim report identified serious misconduct, including potential breaches of the law and the public service code of conduct. Minister Watt referred these matters to relevant authorities and the Australian Public Service Commission respectively.</li> <li>Minister Watt also requested the APVMA board commission an independent review into the operations of the APVMA, which was conducted by law firm Clayton Utz.</li> </ul>
13 February 2023	CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The APVMA <a href="#">announced</a> Chief Executive Officer, Lisa Croft, would take a period of extended leave with Ms Nicola Hinder PSM appointed as Interim CEO of the APVMA.</li> </ul>
11 July 2023	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The APVMA board chair Carmel Hillyard tendered their resignation, effective as of 11 July 2023.</li> </ul>

12 July 2023	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Steve Jefferies AM commenced as Acting Chair of APVMA until 12 April 2024.</li> </ul>
13 July 2023	Ministerial Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Watt had issued a Ministerial Direction to the APVMA to finalise the safety reviews of eight chemicals (ongoing for more than 17 years) as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
14 July 2023	Reviews & Chemical safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Watt released the APVMA Strategic Review Report, which found serious deficiencies in the administration and governance of the APVMA.</li> <li>Minister Watt <a href="#">announced</a>:</li> <li>Mr Ken Matthews AO would undertake a rapid evaluation of the APVMA and provide recommendations for the future governance, structure and funding arrangements of the APVMA to Minister Watt by 30 September 2023.</li> </ul>
14 July 2023	CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEO Lisa Croft tendered their resignation, effective as of 18 July 2023.</li> </ul>
24 July 2023	CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Melissa McEwen commenced as Acting CEO of the APVMA until 24 July 2024.</li> </ul>
19 September 2023	Chemical safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The APVMA <a href="#">issued</a> a 12-month suspension notice for dimethoate, after testing found dimethoate residue above the maximum permissible limit on the skin of mango and avocado samples.</li> <li>Dimethoate <u>is not</u> one of the eight chemicals covered by Minister Watt's Ministerial Direction.</li> </ul>
3 October 2023	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Watt <a href="#">announced</a> Mr Matthews' rapid evaluation of the APVMA report would have an extended deadline until 27 October 2023.</li> </ul>
20 October 2023	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Matthews delivers Rapid Evaluation Final Report to Minister Watt.</li> </ul>
12 December 2023	Chemical safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The APVMA <a href="#">released</a> a proposed regulatory decision to restrict the majority of uses of</li> </ul>

		<p>chlorpyrifos (insecticide) to address health, environment and trade risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chlorpyrifos is one of the eight chemicals subject to Minister Watt's direction for expeditious completion of review.</li> </ul>
4 March 2024	Board Chair & CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recruitment process for the permanent Board Chair and CEO commenced.</li> </ul>
9 April 2024	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Steve Jefferies AM was extended as Acting Chair of the APVMA until 11 July 2024.</li> </ul>
17 April 2024	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Watt <a href="#">released</a> the Rapid Evaluation and preliminary government response and announced key government decisions in response to the recommendations in the report.</li> </ul>
22 May 2024	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Watt caused a review of the APVMA Board.</li> </ul>
4 June 2024	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following consultation with the APVMA Acting Board Chair, CEO, staff and the CPSU, the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016 was repealed.</li> </ul>
12 July 2024	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Catherine Ainsworth has been appointed as the new Chair of the APVMA Board for a 4-year term.</li> </ul>
24 July 2024	CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The APVMA Board has appointed Mr Scott Hansen as the new Chief Executive Officer for the APVMA for a 5-year term.</li> </ul>
4 November 2024	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government released the Detailed Response to the future structure and governance arrangements for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority report.</li> </ul>

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries and Forestry Division

**ACFFD02****AQUACULTURE IN MACQUARIE HARBOUR****SALMON ISSUE INDEX**

Issue	Appropriate referral agency	Briefing reference
Macquarie Harbour – Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry engagement in enduring partnership with industry.	DAFF Fisheries Branch	See below
Macquarie Harbour EPBC Act referral reconsideration decision, conservation measure implementation and related changes to environmental laws.	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	N/A
<i>Piscirickettsia salmonis</i> mortalities in Atlantic salmon in Tasmania	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, DAFF Biosecurity Animal Division involved in updating the National List of Reportable Diseases of Aquatic Animals	N/A
Audits of export registered Tasmanian salmon processing plants	Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Exports and Veterinary Services Division	BP-RFB-07 Antibiotic use and die off of farmed Tasmanian salmon
Chilean salmon imports	DAFF, Biosecurity Animal Division	SB 25-000050 - Chilean Salmon Imports BAD BPB01 – Salmon Imports
Antibiotic use in aquaculture	Shared responsibility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water quality, environment monitoring, vaccine and treatments, domestic food safety, public health: Tasmanian Government</li> <li>- Exports - (DAFF), Exports and Veterinary Services Division.</li> </ul>	Depending on issue, see ACFFD09 Current Fisheries Issues for more detail. Food safety questions to be led by Exports.

Contact Officer: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
SES Lead: George Day  
Last updated: 26 March 2025

Telephone: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
Mobile Number: **s 47F(1)**  
SB25-000024

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

### Prime Minister's letter

- The Prime Minister wrote to the salmon industry outlining his commitment to introduce legislation to ensure appropriate environmental laws are in place to continue sustainable salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour. The letter also committed to this department, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, working with industry to build an enduring partnership.
- Following this letter, representatives of DAFF and PM&C have met with the salmon industry to begin establishing this enduring partnership, reinforcing the government's commitment to a productive and sustainable aquaculture industry.
  - Huon on 3 March 2025, Petuna on 1 March 2025 and Tassal on 4 March 2025.
  - Huon, Petuna and Tassal (together) on 21 March 2025.
- The Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Reconsiderations) Bill 2025 was introduced and agreed to in the House of Representatives on 25 March 2025.
- The nature of the legislation is a matter for Government. The Minister for the Environment and Water and DCCEEW are responsible for the administration of environmental law.

### Australian Government support

- DCCEEW is leading implementation of more than \$31 million worth of measures to extend successful conservation activities in Macquarie Harbour. This includes scaling up oxygenation, expanding the Maugean skate breeding program, skate population and environmental monitoring and community engagement.
  - The department has engaged with DCCEEW on the implementation of the measures, including to ensure industry perspectives are understood.
  - Questions about the delivery of the measures are best directed to DCCEEW.
- The Australian Government continues to provide broader support to the aquaculture industry. Our commitments to the industry are outlined in the *Australian Government Aquaculture Statement* released in June 2024. Specifically, the department is:
  - progressing a review of the National Aquaculture Strategy 2017 – to assess the progress of the current strategy and consider the impact of emerging issues – to support the growth of a sustainable, diverse and resilient industry.
  - supporting the Tasmanian Government and the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) to develop and progress a proposal for a trial of aquaculture in Commonwealth waters which could provide avenues for aquaculture expansion.

### Reconsideration decision

- DAFF is committed to supporting the growth of a sustainable and diverse aquaculture industry.
- The reconsideration of a 2012 decision made under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* governing salmon and ocean trout farming in Macquarie Harbour is solely the responsibility of the Minister for the Environment and Water.
  - No specific statutory timeframes apply to the reconsideration process.
- The Minister for the Environment and Water is advised by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
- The Tasmanian Government is responsible for management of aquaculture, operations and licences in Macquarie Harbour under state legislation.
- The department will continue to respect the independent EPBC Act statutory reconsideration process and engage with industry as required.

### Mortality events

- As part of Tasmanian aquaculture licence conditions, salmon companies are required to report elevated mortality events to the Tasmanian Government.
- Questions about mortality rates and causes of elevated mortalities are best directed to the Tasmanian Government.

## **BACKGROUND**

- A key issue driving the reconsideration of the 2012 decision was the availability of new information about the endangered Maugean skate. The Maugean skate is currently listed as endangered under the EPBC Act, with a listing reassessment underway to determine if it should be uplisted as critically endangered.
- The aquaculture research trial in the Bass Strait is limited to 3 years from the date of commencement and is being led by the Blue Economy CRC. It will investigate the viability of offshore aquaculture beyond three nautical miles, potentially opening more areas for the aquaculture industry to farm.
  - On 13 January 2025, the department facilitated the relocation of the trial site under the Memorandum of Understanding with Tasmania, through consultation with Commonwealth departments and the Tasmanian Government to allow trial preparations to progress.
- The department is aware of public concern for planned aquaculture expansion in another offshore high energy exposed site located in Storm Bay, SE Tasmania. (Refer EC25-000107 - ACFFD11 - Current Fisheries Issues).



- Aquaculture is now the largest seafood producing sector in Australia and the industry is forecast to reach approximately \$2.3 billion in the 2024-25 FY. The Government supports local jobs generated by the aquaculture industry and acknowledges the importance of the salmon industry's contribution to the Tasmanian economy.
- There have been recent media reports of mortality events in salmon farms in south-east Tasmania. The Tasmanian Environmental Protection Agency is investigating how congealed fish oil washed up on shorelines in the southern D'Entrecasteaux Channel area.
- Reporting by the salmon industry operating in the south of Tasmania, Tassal and Huon, shows that over 5,500 tonnes of salmon mortality waste was received across a number of facilities in February 2025.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agvet Chemicals Fisheries and Forestry Division

**ACFFD03****FORESTRY PROGRAMS****TOTAL ADMINISTERED FUNDING:** \$302.05 million**TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL FUNDING:** \$33.89 million

Program	Funding Source	Financial Year						Total
		2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027-28	
National Institute for Forest Products and Innovation (NIFPI)	Administered <i>Terminates 2026-27</i>	\$2.54m <sup>i</sup>	\$24.00m	\$25.00m	\$25.00m	\$25.00m	-	<b>\$101.54m</b>
Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation (AAWPI) Program	Administered	\$14.73m <sup>ii</sup>	\$30.54m <sup>iii</sup>	\$32.39m	\$20.90m <sup>iv</sup>	\$3.14m	-	\$101.70m
	Departmental	\$0.90m	\$0.52m	\$0.52m	\$0.60m	\$0.02m	-	\$2.95m <sup>v</sup>
	Total <i>Terminates 2025-26</i>	\$15.63m	\$31.06m <sup>vi</sup>	\$32.90m	\$21.50m	\$3.16m	-	<b>\$104.65m</b>
Support Plantation Establishment (SPE) Program	Administered	-	\$0.98m	\$10.43m	\$36.43m	\$25.92m	-	\$73.76m
	Departmental	\$0.30m	\$3.24m	\$2.78m	\$2.80m	\$3.04m	-	\$12.46m <sup>vii</sup>
	Total <i>Terminates 2026-27</i>	\$0.30m	\$4.22m	\$13.21 m	\$39.23m	\$28.96m	-	<b>\$86.22m</b>
Extension of Regional Forestry Hubs	Administered <i>Terminates 2026-27</i>	-	-	\$0.60m	\$4.00m	\$4.00m	-	<b>\$8.60m</b>
Protecting Australia from Illegally logged Imports	Departmental <i>Terminates 2023-24</i>	\$2.80m	\$1.60m	-	-	-	-	<b>\$4.40m</b>

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

SES Lead: Guy Bursle

Last updated: 24 March 2025

Mobile Number: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mobile Number: s 47F(1)

SB25-000025

Program	Funding Source	Financial Year						Total
		2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027-28	
Support for training and accreditation in forestry sector	Administered <i>Terminates 2025-26</i>	\$0.30m	\$0.20m	\$3.50m	\$6.00m	-	-	<b>\$10.00m</b>
Delivering the Government's Commitments on Forestry Strategy Development	Administered (SPP Payments)	-	-	\$1.16m	\$0.62m	-	-	\$1.78m
	Departmental	-	-	\$0.65m	\$0.51m	\$0.21m	\$0.21m	\$1.58m
	Total <i>Terminates 2027-28</i>	-	-	\$1.81m	\$1.14m	\$0.21m	\$0.21m	<b>\$3.36m<sup>viii</sup></b>
Forestry data improvements for industry development (ABARES)	Departmental	-	\$1.40m	\$2.70m	\$2.80	\$2.80	\$2.80	<b>\$12.50<sup>ix</sup></b>
Overall Funding (rounded)		<b>\$21.57m</b>	<b>\$62.48m</b>	<b>\$79.72m</b>	<b>\$99.67m</b>	<b>\$64.13m</b>	<b>\$3.01m</b>	<b>\$331.28m</b>

<sup>i</sup> This includes \$1.54 million that was reprofiled from existing regional National Institutes for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPIs).

<sup>ii</sup> The 2022-23 administered allocation was originally \$15 million, a \$0.27 million underspend was returned to consolidated revenue.

<sup>iii</sup> The 2023-24 administered allocation was originally \$35 million, a \$3.36 million underspend was directed to support forestry election commitments (2024-25 Budget commitment).

<sup>iv</sup> \$4.67 million in uncommitted funding was identified as offsets in the 2025-26 Budget.

<sup>v</sup> AAWPI departmental funding total includes \$0.4m in 2021–22.

<sup>vi</sup> Reflects redirect of \$3.362m to 'Delivering the Government's Commitments on Forestry Strategy Development'.

<sup>vii</sup> SPE departmental funding total includes \$0.3m in 2021–22.

<sup>viii</sup> This measure includes \$1.784m in state and territory funding which is broadly seen as an administered funding source.

<sup>ix</sup> \$9.7m over 4 years from 2023–24 (and \$2.8 million per year ongoing).

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The Australian Government is delivering a \$300 million package of measures aimed at supporting the long-term future of the forestry industry. This investment aims to:
  - Shore up Australia's supply of timber fibre by investing in new plantations
  - Improve Australia's timber processing sector's productive capacity by investing in manufacturing
  - Expand opportunities by supporting industry research and development and workforce skills and training
  - Drive change by working with industry to develop an industry-led Timber Fibre Strategy and ensuring a rigorous illegal logging framework.
- The **Support Plantation Establishment Program** (\$73.76 million) is supporting the establishment of up to 36,000 hectares of new long-rotation plantations to secure future domestic wood supply and contribute to Australia's emissions reduction commitments.
  - The program's third round opened on 11 October 2024 and closes on 5 November 2025.
  - To date, \$268.52 million in grant funding has been approved by the minister to establish 46 new plantation projects totalling over 14,500 hectares in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.
  - Successful projects in Round 3, Batch 1 were announced by Minister Collins on 24 February 2025. Round 3, Batch 1 will deliver 14 projects worth over \$10.4 million (GST exclusive).
  - Successful projects in Round 3, Batch 2 were announced by Minister Collins on 27 March 2025. Round 3, Batch 2 will deliver 5 projects worth over \$2.3 million (GST exclusive).
- The **Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation (AAWPI)** Program is supporting wood processors to adopt new and upgraded wood processing facilities to improve available wood supplies, increase production facilities and reduce the industry's carbon footprint.
  - The program is delivering 33 projects totalling \$100.72 million being awarded across Australia which are leveraging approximately \$200 million of co-investment.
  - As at 28 February 2025, \$64.45 million has been released in payments to grantees.
  - The 2025-26 Budget included \$4.67 million in offsets from the program reducing the overall administered funding to \$101.70 million (previously \$106.37 million).
  - Grantees have reported many positive impacts from their projects including:

- s 47G(1)(a)
- s 47G(1)(a)
- The government has awarded a grant to the University of Tasmania (UTAS) to establish *Australian Forest and Wood Innovations* (AFWI) (\$100 million) with regional research centres at UTAS in Launceston, the University of Melbourne and the University of the Sunshine Coast.
  - AFWI's first National Open Call for research supported 8 research projects with \$5 million in total funding. A second National Open Call for research opened on 7 March 2025.
  - The newly appointed Executive Director for AFWI, Dr Joseph Lawrence, started on 13 January 2025.
- The 2024-25 Budget included \$3.4 million to help Australia's forestry **industry to plan for the long term**. This includes reviewing the National Forest Policy Statement, supporting the Strategic Partnership, developing a Timber Fibre Strategy and delivering on the election commitment to conduct a Forestry Industry Roundtable.
  - The Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership hosted an industry roundtable in Hobart on 5 December 2024 and met on 20 February 2025 to discuss their Timber Fibre Strategy. The Strategy was delivered to Minister Collins on 7 March 2025. The department is considering the Strategy.
- ForestWorks has been appointed to deliver the **Forestry Workforce Training Program** (\$10 million) to support the forestry and wood processing sector specific qualifications, competencies and credentials.
- Additional funding of \$8.6 million for the 11 **Regional Forestry Hubs** will extend their operation for a further 2 years, until June 2027 and introduce the delivery of activities to promote the outcomes of forestry research, particularly from the AFWI.
  - All 11 Hubs have extended their grant agreements through a Deed of Variation.
- The Australian Government committed to combat **illegally logged imports** (\$4.4 million) through trialling timber identification methods to verify claims of species and/or origin and exploring IT solutions for collecting and managing due diligence data.
  - The department is considering results from both completed projects and will quantify likely costs before making recommendations for formal implementation under reformed illegal logging legislation after 3 March 2025.
- The **Wood Volumes Analysis** was funded under the 2023-24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook decision. The intention is to deliver a wood volume analysis that

considers the suite of supply options available to meet Australian demand for forest and wood products.

- The report will be published in quarter 1 of 2025 and will cover domestic supply, domestic demand and international trade.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

**PA01****AUSTRALIAN PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES  
AUTHORITY (APVMA)**

Funding Source	Financial Year	
	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Industry Contributions</b> (departmental) Ongoing	\$44.753m	\$42.164m
<b>Commonwealth Contributions</b> (departmental) Ongoing	\$5.905m	\$2.260m
<b>Own-source/Other</b> (departmental) Ongoing	\$0.681m	\$2.726m
<b>Not requiring Appropriation</b> (departmental) Ongoing	(\$3.966m)	\$5.296m
<b>Overall Expenditure</b>	<b>\$45.598m</b>	<b>\$52.446m</b>

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**Timeframe performance – Quarter 2 FY2024–25

- The APVMA continues to achieve steady timeframe performance in Q2 FY2024–25 with 89.7% (90.4% FY2024-25 YTD) of applications completed within statutory timeframes. The current target is completion of 90%.

Table 1 – *Timeframe performance between FY2021–22 and FY2024–25 YTD.*

FY 2021–22	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25 YTD
97.0%	96.8%	94.6%	90.4%

Contact Officer: Kilifoti Eteuati  
SES Lead: Scott Hansen  
Last updated: 12 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000044

- Media coverage has pointed to declines in timeframe for Pesticide Majors. In Q2, performance has improved to 78.8%. However, there has been a sudden decline in performance for both Veterinary Minor and Major applications.
- It is anticipated timeframe performance may drop below the target before the end of this financial year due to the impact of post-market review activities.

#### Ministerial direction on chemical reviews

- On 13 July 2023, the former Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry issued a direction to the APVMA to prioritise the finalisation of 8 chemical reconsiderations that had been in progress for more than 17 years.
- The APVMA is progressing long-standing chemical reviews in line with the direction, undertaking two other review processes (anticoagulant rodenticides and neonicotinoid), and continuing work on prioritisation of future chemical reviews.
- The current status of chemical reconsiderations is at **Attachment A**.

#### Cost Recovery Implementation Statement 2025–26

- In the Detailed Response to the Rapid Evaluation of the APVMA, the government committed to developing a sustainable funding model for the APVMA.
- Following detailed consultations with the department and industry on the APVMA's Cost Recovery Implementation Statement, the government has decided to maintain all existing fees and levies except the product registration renewal fee, while work on a sustainable funding model commences.
- An additional \$5.2 million dollars of one-off funding for the APVMA will complement an increase in cost recovered product registration renewal fees. This will provide a balanced budget for the APVMA in the 2025–26 financial year.

### **BACKGROUND**

- The APVMA regulates agvet chemicals to protect the health and safety of people, animals and the environment, and to protect Australia's international trade.
- The terms of three APVMA Board members, Mrs Maree Gooch, Dr Jeremy Burdon, and Dr Steve Jefferies all expire on 28 March 2025. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is conducting a full selection process to provide the Minister with candidates to consider for appointment for the next term.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Current status of chemical reconsiderations



**Attachment A – Current status of chemical reconsiderations**

Chemical Name	Proposed Regulatory Decision	Public consultation period closed	Final Regulatory Decision
<b>Chemical reconsiderations listed in the Ministerial Direction</b>			
<b>Malathion</b>	22 November 2022	23 February 2023	30 April 2024
<b>Diazinon</b>	12 March 2024	11 June 2024	10 September 2024
<b>Chlorpyrifos</b>	12 December 2023	11 March 2024	3 October 2024
<b>Neomycin</b>	27 February 2024	26 May 2024	19 May 2025
<b>Fenitrothion</b>	9 April 2024	8 July 2024	May 2025
<b>Diquat</b>	30 July 2024	29 October 2024	Quarter 4 2025
<b>Paraquat</b>	30 July 2024	29 October 2024	Quarter 4 2025
<b>Fipronil Ag</b>	29 June 2025	9 September 2025	9 December 2025
<b>Fipronil Vet</b>	23 June 2025	22 September 2025	9 December 2025
<b>Ongoing chemical reconsiderations</b>			
Neonicotinoids (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam)	Delayed until late 2025 – Mid 2026		Late 2026
First and Second-Generation Rodenticides (warfarin, coumatetralyl, diphacinone, brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, difethialone, flocoumafen)	April 2025		Quarter 4 2025

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**PA02****AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (AFMA)****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES***“Spatial Squeeze”: Competition for Marine Access*

- AFMA has increased its engagement with proponents of non-fishing activities to ensure greater understanding of the prospective impacts on the fishing industry.
- AFMA works closely with both the Commonwealth Fisheries Association and fishery-specific associations to ensure the costs of management are minimised while meeting the agency’s legislative objectives.
- There is significant pressure on commercial fishing retaining secure access across Australia’s marine estate. The main pressure on the Commonwealth fishing industry come from offshore renewables and expanded protection in marine parks.
  - Industry has highlighted concerns with its ability to continue operating in the face of cumulative losses of fishing grounds and whether its existing access rights are properly accounted for in decision making.
  - Industry is concerned about loss of productive fishing grounds and its ability to adapt to future changes – and costs – brought about by climate change.
  - Displaced effort, climate impacts and the increasing costs of doing business are having a compounding impact on fishing businesses.

*Climate change and depleted fish stocks*

- AFMA has taken comprehensive – and in some cases longstanding – action to rebuild depleted stocks including significant catch and effort reductions as well as large spatial closures.
- AFMA is working to explicitly incorporate known and modelled impacts of climate change into the management of Commonwealth fisheries.
- Several species in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector are not recovering from historic overfishing, are slow to recover, or in some cases, continuing to decline, despite substantial reductions in catch. The main species of concern are Jackass morwong, John dory, Blue warehou, Gemfish (east), School shark and Redfish.

Contact Officer: Wez Norris  
SES Lead: Wez Norris  
Last updated: 05 February 2025

Telephone: **s 47F(1)**  
Mobile Number: 0411 885 566  
SB25-000045

- As the impacts of climate change become better known, and grow, it is expected that some of these stocks will continue to decline, or not recover, even in the face of very low fishing mortality.

### Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

- AFMA's sustained investigation and prosecution efforts are having an impact on illegal fishing. A number of fishers before the court in this financial year have been subject to prior findings of guilt, with higher penalties imposed by courts.
- From 1 July 2024 to 17 March 2025, there have been 210 interdictions of illegal foreign fishing vessels (FFVs) of Indonesian origin.
- 189 FFVs have been subject to legislative forfeiture and 21 apprehended.
- 138 Indonesian fishers have been prosecuted in Australian courts (a further 18 fishers are in detention awaiting court).
- Penalties have ranged from 12-month good behaviour bonds to imprisonment for periods of up to two months. 38 FFVs have been seized and destroyed.
- Regular sightings of FFVs vessels continue on the Australian mainland, with recent increases within the Cobourg Peninsula in the Northern Territory. Vessels are often heavily concealed within mangroves. This poses serious risks to Australia's border security, protected marine environments and biosecurity interests.
- Current information suggests illegal fishing ventures are now originating from a far wider geographical area in Indonesia.
- AFMA interprets this trend as indicating the economic benefit of illegal fishing in Australian waters, with high market values of targeted species (sea cucumber and shark fin), continues to outweigh the impact of Australia's current enforcement options, particularly those that don't involve prosecution and/or vessel destruction.
- The most effective enforcement options of vessel destruction and prosecution are contingent on ABF's ability to detain illegal foreign fishers. ABF continues to advise that detention capacity is significantly limited, though options are being explored to remedy this. Any increase to detention capacity will increase AFMA's work on vessel disposals and prosecutions.
  - AFMA works closely with Maritime Border Command and other government agencies in implementing a multi-faceted response to illegal fishing. This includes enforcement actions at sea, targeted operations and collaborative patrols with Indonesia. This action results in seizure of catch, fishing equipment and disposal of seized foreign fishing vessels.
  - The Government's investment of an additional \$48.8 million during the 2024-25 financial year has supported the Australian Border Force's efforts to counter illegal foreign fishing. Further, AFMA received \$1.72M in 2024-25 to facilitate

prosecutions, oversee an increase in vessel disposals, increase engagement with Indonesia and support operational capability gaps.

- AFMA is supporting Australian Border Force's enhanced presence in the NT under Operation LUNAR. This has included efforts to increase engagement with local Ranger groups and embarking AFMA officers onboard patrol vessels.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Historical foreign fisheries enforcement activity 2000-2024

**Attachment A – Historical Foreign Fisheries Enforcement Activity 2000-2024**

Year	Apprehensions	Legislative Forfeitures	Total
		In addition to apprehensions	
2000-01	66	30	96
2001-02	98	48	146
2002-03	144	29	173
2003-04	133	83	216
2004-05	203	178	381
2005-06	367	281	648
2006-07	216	5	221
2007-08	156	9	165
2008-09	27	8	35
2009-10	23	0	23
2010-11	14	0	14
2011-12	12	0	12
2012-13	7	0	7
2013-14	26	7	33
2014-15	6	1	7
2015-16	20	2	22
2016-17	15	0	15
2017-18	14	0	14
2018-19	5	0	5
2019-20	4	0	4
2020-21	0	85	85
2021-22	0	337	337
2022-23	6	119	125
2023-24	22	215	237
2024-25*	21	189	210
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>1606</b>	<b>3206</b>

\*As of 17 March 2025

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Sustainability Climate and Strategy Division

# SCSD01

## AGRICULTURE AND LAND SECTOR PLAN

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

*How is agriculture and land being considered in Australia's net zero planning process?*

- The Australian Government is developing a Net Zero Plan to articulate how Australia can transition to a net zero economy by 2050.
- The plan is being informed by six sectoral decarbonisation plans (announced 18 July 2023), which cover all major components of the Australian economy.
- The Agriculture and Land Sector Plan is being led by Minister Collins, together with Minister Plibersek and Minister Bowen.

*Why do we need a plan for Agriculture and Land?*

- Activity in agriculture and the land makes up a significant part of Australia's, and the world's, greenhouse gas emissions and sequestration.
- In 2021-22:
  - agriculture contributed 17.9% of Australia's net emissions.
  - Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) was a net carbon sink, contributing -20.4% of net emissions.
- Finding ways to increase the efficiency of agricultural production systems and build carbon stores will make an important contribution to the 2050 goal.

*Will the government set an emissions reduction target for agriculture?*

- Australia's emissions reduction targets under the *Climate Change Act 2022* are economy-wide.
- The government has clearly stated there will be no emissions reduction target set for agriculture through this process, but that the sector will play a vital role in our economy-wide emissions reductions targets.

Contact Officer: Heather McGilvray  
SES Lead: Nick Blong  
Last updated: 14 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000018

*How are stakeholders being involved in developing the plan?*

- Stakeholder engagement has been a core part of developing the sector plan.
- As stated by Ministers, decarbonisation must be achieved with the sector, not imposed on the sector.
- The department ran a public consultation process in late 2023 and early 2024 comprising of workshops, meetings and a submissions process.
  - Workshops were attended by farmers, experts, representatives from industry bodies, business, finance, First Nations groups, state and territory governments and environmental organisations.
  - The department received over 230 submissions from a wide range of stakeholders reflecting a diverse range of views and issues.
- The Sustainable Agriculture Summit, held 23 May 2024 in Toowoomba, brought together over 150 stakeholders to discuss the plan and ways in which the sector can meet its own emissions goals.
- The sector plan has been discussed in many of the department's and the Minister's regular meetings. In addition:
  - The department held two roundtables with supply chain and finance sector participants on 10 & 11 September 2024 in Sydney and Melbourne to discuss opportunities to support on-farm practice change through the value chain.
- During December 2024, three roundtables were held to provide stakeholders with an update on the development of the plan, and to discuss key priorities and policy elements of the plan.
  - The roundtables were attended by industry, research, business, finance, environmental and First Nations stakeholders.
  - The first roundtable was hosted by Minister Collins in Sydney on 4 December, and two online roundtables were hosted by the department on 11 and 13 December.

*What is the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan expected to cover?*

- Key themes have emerged from the government's stakeholder engagement processes and are strongly shaping development of the sector plan.
- There is a strong view that agriculture and land can make a meaningful contribution to Australia's net zero goals. This must be achieved alongside other strategic objectives including:
  - Ensuring Australian producers remain global leaders in low emissions food and fibre production.

- Supporting diverse landscapes, with agricultural production, carbon storage and nature repair.
- Delivering benefits for regional communities, producers, land managers and First Nations people.
- The plan will set out priority areas for foundational action, based on themes arising in stakeholder consultation. Areas under consideration include:
  - Understanding emissions at the enterprise and national level.
  - Supporting innovation to deliver commercially viable abatement options.
  - Strengthening on-ground action and capacity.
  - Scaling up carbon storage in the land including meeting nature positive commitments and managing landscape outcomes.
- This feedback informed the measures announced in the 2024 Budget and continues to inform the development of the plan.
  - Refer *SCSD02 SB25-000019 Emissions Reduction Budget Measures* for more information on the 2024 Budget outcomes.

*What are the timeframes for developing and releasing the plan?*

- The sector plan is part of a broader whole-of-government process.
- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is coordinating that work and is best placed to address questions about delivery.

*What are the departmental costs associated with the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan?*

- In 2023-24 MYEFO, \$4.9 million over two years was allocated to the department to support its climate policy capability. In 2024-25 MYEFO, the department was allocated an additional \$2.2 million over two years.
- These are terminating measures, used by the department to:
  - undertake policy work and analysis supporting the development of the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan
  - undertake formal consultation processes to inform the sector plan
  - and co-design with industry on potential initiatives to support the sector to reduce emissions over time.
- This funding has also enabled the department to collaborate across government agencies to underpin portfolio interests in cross-cutting issues.



*How is the government responding to the Climate Change Authority's (CCA) Sector Pathways Review for agriculture and land?*

- Commissioned by the Australian Parliament, the CCA review considered the potential pathways and technology transition for six sectors, including agriculture and land, to support Australia's transition to net zero emissions by 2050.
- The report will be an important resource for government as we work with industry and other stakeholders on the development of the sector plan.

*How is the government working with states and territories?*

- State and territory governments have their own initiatives to address climate change and support emission reductions in agriculture. The plan will pursue opportunities for collaboration and coordinated action.
- An example of existing collaboration is the National Statement on Climate Change and Agriculture, which was endorsed by Agriculture Ministers on 13 July 2023.
- The department works most directly with states and territories through the Climate Change Task Group, which sits under the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting.
  - The Climate Change Task Group received an update on the development of the plan on 28 November 2024.

*Is the government addressing the concerns from the livestock sector regarding the GWP100 metric and agriculture's contribution to Australia's net zero goal?*

- Some parts of the livestock sector are calling for methane to be treated differently to other greenhouse gases.
  - The National Farmers' Federation has suggested that Australia should report agriculture emissions using GWP\* alongside the existing GWP100 standard.
  - Cattle Australia has suggested that shifting the focus from emissions metrics to the actual warming impact of beef production is a key issue requiring further investigation.
- These are complex scientific issues. Australia prepares its emission reports in line with international reporting requirements.
  - Further questions about the basis for these metrics should be directed to DCCEEW.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Sustainability Climate and Strategy Division

## SCSD02

## CLIMATE PROGRAMS

Note: Below table shows DAFF 2024-25 Budget Measures

Funding Source	Financial Year (\$'000)				Total funding for measure
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	
<i>Building Capacity for On-Ground Action</i>  <i>Terminates 2027-28</i>	<b>Administered</b>				
	7,000	7,000	3,000	3,000	
	<b>Departmental</b>				
	287	4,014	1,408	1,460	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,287</b>	<b>\$11,014</b>	<b>\$4,408</b>	<b>\$4,460</b>	<b>\$27,169</b>
<i>Driving Innovation to Reduce Emissions from Agriculture</i>  <i>Ongoing</i>	<b>Administered</b>				
	300	300	300	300	
	<b>Departmental</b>				
	245	229	199	182	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$545</b>	<b>\$529</b>	<b>\$499</b>	<b>\$482</b>	<b>\$2,055</b>
<i>Improved GHG accounting</i>  <i>Terminates 2027-28</i>	<b>Administered</b>				
	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	
	<b>Departmental</b>				
	323	196	198	253	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,023</b>	<b>\$1,896</b>	<b>\$1,898</b>	<b>\$1,953</b>	<b>\$7,770</b>
<b>Total funding for DAFF</b>					<b>\$36,944</b>

PBS Reference: Table 1.2: DAFF 2024-25 Budget Measures (Page 21)

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The Government is implementing foundational measures to support emissions reduction efforts in the agriculture and land sectors. This investment reflects feedback received during Agriculture and Land Sector Plan consultations.

Contact Officer: Heather McGilvray  
SES Lead: Nick Blong  
Last updated: 26 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000019

- The Australian Government committed a total of \$63.8 million over 10 years and \$0.9 million ongoing through new measures in the 2024 Federal Budget to support emissions reduction efforts in the agriculture and land sectors.
- Of this, \$55.9 million (DAFF<sup>1</sup> and DCCEE<sup>2</sup> combined funding) is to be invested over the forward estimates. \$36.944 million of that is being delivered by DAFF.
  - These investments respond to priority order issues that government heard through consultation on the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan.
  - Implementation will be guided by a continued partnership with industry and creating a joint vision for a world-leading climate-smart agriculture sector that can thrive in a low emissions future.

#### *Building Capacity for On-Ground Action*

- \$27.169 million to DAFF and \$3.624 million to DCCEE from 2024-25 to 2027-28 is being invested in building the capacity of farmers, land managers and their advisors to integrate carbon emissions reduction knowledge and practices into their core business decisions and activities.
  - **NOTE:** \$3 million from this program has since been redirected to partially offset other initiatives, bringing the total value of the expanded CFOP to \$27.8 million.
    - This is reflected in Budget Paper 2 of the 2025-26 Budget.
  - Funding will expand the existing Carbon Farming Outreach program, to mainstream 'climate literacy' across the sector, and provide clear pathways for farmers and land managers to reduce emissions and sequester carbon. It includes:
    - establishing a 'knowledge bank' providing centralised and freely available training and information resources
    - support for the Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) to develop commodity-specific information for the 'knowledge bank'
    - additional train-the-trainer sessions for trusted advisors.
- DAFF is working with DCCEE on the roll-out of its components of the package.
- Applications from RDCs relating to commodity-specific information for the 'knowledge bank' have been assessed. Applicants were notified of outcomes on 7 March 2025 and the Community Grants Hub is working with successful applicants to finalise grant agreements.

### *Driving Innovation to Reduce Emissions from Agriculture*

- \$2.055 million to DAFF from 2024-25 to 2027-28 (\$4.4 million over 10 years) will fund the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to partner with the Zero Net Emissions Agriculture Cooperative Research Centre (ZNE Ag CRC).
  - ZNE Ag CRC, established on 1 July 2024 to operate for 10 years, will be a major vehicle for long-term research required to support emission reductions from agriculture.
  - Partnership will ensure the Government is actively involved in driving a lower emissions future for the sector. It reflects the important national leadership role the department plays in stewarding a coordinated agriculture R&D system.
  - This measure is in addition to the \$87 million in Commonwealth funding announced by Minister Husic in December 2023 to establish the ZNE Ag CRC.
- DAFF became a formal partner with the ZNE Ag CRC on 18 February 2025.

### *Improved Greenhouse Gas Accounting*

- \$7.770 million to DAFF from 2024-25 to 2027-28 is being invested to improve greenhouse gas accounting by facilitating the incorporation of voluntary emissions estimation and reporting 'standards' into farm-level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculators and accounting tools.
  - This is part of a \$23.1 million package (from 2024-25 to 2027-28 and inclusive of \$0.9 million ongoing from 2028-29) to improve agricultural and land greenhouse gas accounting at the national through to farm level. Other elements are being administered by DCCEEW:
    - improving the National Greenhouse Accounts and data collection processes.
    - developing, publishing and maintaining voluntary emissions estimation and reporting 'standards' for the agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.
- The DAFF-led measure is being delivered through the \$6.8 million Improving Consistency of On-farm Emissions Estimates grant program.
- The grant program aims to increase the proportion of producers that know and understand their business' net emissions profile, and the on-farm activities and practices that affect their net emissions.
- It will help producers meet growing interest from supply chains and financial institutions in farm-level emissions information, including for climate-related financial disclosures.
  - Refer to *SCSD1d SB25-000020* for more information about the climate-related financial disclosures regime.

- In late 2024, DAFF commenced the first stage of delivering the program via a call for expressions of interest (EOIs) in facilitating consistent application of the standards into on-farm calculators. The EOI process identified respondents to invite to apply for the \$6.8 million grant (Stage 2 of the program).
  - The call for EOIs closed on 23 December 2024.
  - EOI respondents were advised of the outcome on 4 March 2025.
- On 7 March 2024, DAFF opened the targeted competitive grant opportunity.
  - Only successful EOI respondents were invited to apply for the grant.
  - The grant will close to applications on 22 April 2025.
- DAFF is working closely with DCCEEW to deliver this integrated package of GHG accounting measures.
  - A shared reference group (with industry representatives and subject matter experts) has been established and is already providing advice to support development of the 'standards', and stakeholder views on the incorporation of the 'standards' into GHG calculators and accounting tools.

## SOURCES

1. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Portfolio Budget Statement Budget Related Paper No 1.1 pg. 23 and 24
2. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Portfolio Budget Statement Budget Related Paper No 1.3 pg. 25

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Sustainability Climate and Strategy Division

**SCSD03****CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES***What is the climate-related financial disclosures regime?*

- Climate-related financial disclosures provide transparency about an entity's exposure to climate-related risks and opportunities.
- The main climate-related financial disclosure requirements relate to governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets, including information about greenhouse gas emissions.
- Detailed questions on climate-related financial disclosures should be referred to Treasury.

*When will disclosures commence and who is required to report?*

- Reporting entities are separated into three groups and their obligations are phased in over three years.
- The first group comprises the largest companies and emitters.
  - Their disclosure requirements commence for the financial year commencing on or after 1 January 2025.
- Treasury estimated approximately 1800 entities (across all sectors) will be reporting once the requirements have been fully phased in.
  - The threshold for reporting is based on the existing and well-understood 'large proprietary company' definition used for financial reporting requirements.
- Many of Australia's large publicly-listed companies already make climate disclosures.
  - For example, Woolworths Group, Coles Group and Bega Cheese Limited reported that Scope 3 accounted for more than 90% of their overall emissions.

*Why do we need climate-related financial disclosures?*

- Several other countries are taking or have taken similar steps.
  - The EU and New Zealand already require Scope 3 emissions to be reported. By 2026, Brazil and Turkey will also require Scope 3 disclosures.

Contact Officer: Heather McGilvray  
SES Lead: Nick Blong  
Last updated: 18 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000020

- The UK, Canada, Japan, China, Hong Kong and Singapore have all consulted on climate disclosure obligations that include Scope 3 emissions reporting.
- A climate disclosures regime that aligns with international best practice supports Australia's reputation as an attractive destination for capital.
- As an export-oriented sector, it is critical the Australia's food and fibre sector is ready to respond to shifting global expectations on climate change – changes driven by international governments and the private sector.

#### How will agricultural producers be affected?

- Relatively few agricultural businesses will meet the thresholds for mandatory reporting in their own right.
- However, some producers may be asked by reporting entities for information to support reporting of Scope 3 emissions.
- While some data may be requested, the disclosure regime does not require reporting entities to collect primary data from all their suppliers. The Climate-Related Disclosure Standard allows reporting entities to use secondary data for Scope 3 estimates.
  - This approach allows reporting entities to use, for example, industry averages to estimate Scope 3 emissions rather than require direct reporting from suppliers, including producers.
- Prior to mandating climate disclosures, we were already seeing examples of supply chains working with their suppliers to improve estimates of agriculture emissions.
  - The food and agribusiness bank, Rabobank, has supported over 1100 clients nationally through a 1.5-day course about what emissions mean for their business, how to calculate their emissions and what they can do to reduce them.
- Industry has also been working for many years to develop tools to support producers to calculate their emissions and improve the efficiency of their production systems.
  - For example, producers can use the AIA Environmental Accounting Platform to calculate carbon emissions for a range of commodities, including beef, sheep, grains, cotton, pork, poultry, eggs and sugar.

#### How is government supporting businesses with implementation?

- The government has taken steps to give reporting entities time to build their Scope 3 reporting capabilities. For example:
  - Scope 3 emissions reporting is required from an entity's second reporting year
  - reporting entities only need to use information that is available to them without undue cost or effort

- reporting is based on the concept of materiality; information is only required to be disclosed if reasonably expected to affect the entity's prospects.
- The government is providing \$28.7 million over 10 years to improve greenhouse gas emissions accounting and reporting on-farm and in the national inventory.
  - This measure will support the sector to better identify on farm emissions and respond to requests for emissions data from the supply chain.

## BACKGROUND

- Treasury's Policy Impact Analysis estimated the annual regulatory costs of climate-related financial disclosures to be \$1.15 billion.
  - Note that the Coalition Senators' Dissenting Report to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee's report used a figure of \$2.3 billion.
  - Costs would be shared among businesses that have at least \$50 million in annual consolidated revenue or at least \$25 million in consolidated gross assets.
  - Costs per business are expected to fall over time and costs will vary depending on the size of the company.
- On 2 January 2025, media outlets reported that Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor announced that the Coalition had committed to unwinding the laws for climate-related financial disclosure if they win the next election.



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Sustainability Climate and Strategy Division

# SCSD04

## LAND USE CHANGE AND COMPETITION

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

*How will the roll-out of energy infrastructure impact farmers, agricultural production and communities?*

- The transition to net zero emissions will require an expansion of renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure. Some of this will occur on and alongside agricultural land; albeit a small proportion of total agricultural land<sup>1</sup>.
- Hosting energy infrastructure can be a way for landholders to secure reliable, diversified income streams and increase their business resilience.
- In most cases agricultural production can continue alongside renewable energy infrastructure – for example, livestock grazing under solar panels, between wind turbines or within transmission easements.
- The department is aware that some stakeholders are concerned about the impact on food and fibre production. The department has not observed notable impacts on agricultural production as a result of the renewable energy roll-out.

*How are concerns about inadequate community consultation being addressed?*

- The department is aware of community concerns about renewable energy infrastructure projects, including the impacts on visual amenity, property values and other local infrastructure (particularly roads and housing).
- There are additional concerns around decommissioning responsibilities and the conduct of project developers.
- Where these projects occur, it is critical that landholders and affected communities are consulted across all phases of project delivery in a transparent manner.
- The government is working to build social license for the energy transition by implementing recommendations from the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner's Community Engagement Review.

- Key themes of the Review included:
  - equity in the sharing of community benefits
  - making community engagement more efficient through reforms to planning and approval processes
  - improving information sharing about the transition.
- Implementation of the Review's recommendations is being led by Energy and Climate Ministers Ministerial Council, supported by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
  - Further questions should be directed to DCCEEW.

*Will a domestic biofuels industry negatively impact food and fibre production?*

- Australia already participates in global biofuel supply chains through the export of feedstocks to places like the EU, US and Singapore, where it is refined into biofuels.
- A domestic biofuel industry could see these exported feedstocks redirected to domestic processing facilities, with no additional pressures placed on domestic food or fibre security.
- We are seeing the advancement of biofuel production pathways that utilise non-edible feedstocks, such as agricultural waste and forestry residues.
- The government is considering ways to support a domestic biofuel industry through the Future Made in Australia agenda and the recently announced National Food Security Strategy: Feeding Australia, in a way that balances fuel production with food security, and provides economic benefits to Australia's primary sectors.

*Does the government agree with the Climate Change Authority's projections of land-based sequestration in Australia's net zero transition?*

- The Climate Change Authority (CCA) sectoral pathways report projected that between 3 and 6 million hectares of new plantings may be required by 2050 for Australia to reach net zero<sup>2</sup>.
- This estimate was based on analysis conducted for CCA and included a range of different assumptions around sequestration rates and uptake by farmers.
- The government is considering the CCA's advice part of its net zero planning process, including development of the agriculture and land sector plan.
  - Further questions on the CCA's methodology and advice should be directed to the Climate Change Authority or DCCEEW.

*How is the Agriculture and Land plan considering land-use challenges?*

- The Agriculture and Land Sector plan is one of six sectoral plans being developed to support the government's broader net zero planning process.
- The sector plan is examining ways to reduce emissions from agriculture and to increase carbon storage in the land. It will consider land use and land use change.
- It has a strong focus on ways to achieve those goals whilst improving agricultural productivity, building farm resilience, creating opportunities for the forestry industry and delivering outcomes for nature.

*How much land sequestration will be needed in Australia's net zero transition?*

- Australia will need to increase carbon storage as part of its net zero transition.
- Recognising the agriculture sector cannot be expected to provide offsets for other sectors whilst they continue business as usual emissions, the government is taking a whole of economy approach in reducing our emissions.
- Through the Agriculture and Land sector plan, the government is examining ways to increase carbon storage in the land whilst improving agricultural productivity, building farm resilience, creating opportunities for the forestry industry and delivering outcomes for nature.
- These goals have been developed in response to stakeholder feedback during sector plan consultations.
  - Questions about the broader net zero plan should be directed to the DCCEEW.

*Is Australia's ACCU scheme affecting agriculture and agricultural production?*

- Australia's Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) scheme will continue to play an important role in the whole-of-economy transition to net zero emissions.
- Alternate income streams from carbon projects can support farm business resilience and provide funds which can be reinvested into the business.
- Carbon projects can also improve land management and sustainability, for example environmental plantings that also provide shelter for livestock.
- Participation in the ACCU Scheme is voluntary. The department has not observed notable impacts on agricultural production or domestic food security as a result of farmer participation in the scheme.
- The department works closely with DCCEEW and the Clean Energy Regulator who have policy and regulatory responsibilities for the ACCU scheme.
  - More detailed questions on the effect of the scheme should be directed to those agencies.

## BACKGROUND

- Australia's transition to net zero will place increasing demands on agricultural land, including sequestering carbon, hosting renewable energy infrastructure and producing feedstock for biofuels.
- These changes will involve new financial opportunities for farmers, landholders, and regional and rural communities.
- However, concern has been expressed by some communities and stakeholders about the prospect of large-scale land use change and the flow-on effects for agriculture and regional communities.

## SOURCES

1. [Australian-guide-to-agrisolar-for-large-scale-solar.pdf \(cleanenergycouncil.org.au\)](https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/australian-guide-to-agrisolar-for-large-scale-solar.pdf)
2. [Sector Pathways Review Part 1 Introduction \(climatechangeauthority.gov.au\)](https://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sector-pathways-review-part-1-introduction)

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Sustainability Climate and Strategy Division

**SCSD05****LIVE SHEEP EXPORT BY SEA INDUSTRY TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE**

Funding	Financial Year					
	2024-25 (\$m)	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)	2027-28 (\$m)	2028-29 (\$m)	TOTAL (\$m)
Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea – transition support *	15.578	48.990	46.558	26.729	1.901	139.75
<b>Overall Expenditure</b>	<b>15.578</b>	<b>48.990</b>	<b>46.558</b>	<b>26.729</b>	<b>1.901</b>	<b>139.75</b>

\* includes \$9.022 million for Austrade.

Program	Sub-program	(m)
<b>\$97.3</b> - Producer and Supply Chain Program Includes funding to support the industry co-design process and administer the programs	Co-design	\$45.5
	Processing Capacity (delivered by WA)	\$40.0
	Community wellbeing (delivered by WA)	\$1.5
	Rural Financial Counselling	\$2.4
<b>\$27.0</b> - Enhancing Market Demand program Includes funding to administer the enhancing market demand program	Agriculture Counsellors	\$8.6
	Market Development Grant to MLA	\$3.0
	Enhancing Market Demand grants	\$4.4
	Enhancing Market Demand - Austrade	\$9.0
<b>\$15.4</b> - Policy and Oversight	Transition Advocate	\$1.7
	Policy implementation and engagement	\$11.1
	Animal welfare	\$2.6
<b>TOTAL \$139.7</b>		

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The Australian Government has delivered on its commitment to the Australian people to phase out live sheep exports by sea – the trade will cease on 1 May 2028.
  - Until May 2028 the trade continues without caps or quotas and the export regulatory requirements, including for animal welfare, remain in place.
  - Other livestock exports continue, including the export of live cattle by sea and live sheep by air.

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

SES Lead: Nick Blong

Last updated: 17 March 2025

Mobile Number: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mobile Number: s 47F(1)

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- The Government's focus is now on delivering its transition plan. The Government's plan provides certainty, time and assistance for the transition.
- The Government's decisions on how and when to phase out the trade were based on the advice of an independent panel, which was underpinned by extensive consultation and consideration of over 800 written submissions, a wide range of existing data and specifically commissioned analysis.

### Transition assistance

- The Government announced funding of \$107 million on 11 May 2024, and a further \$32.7 million on 15 October 2024 taking the total package to \$139.7 million.
- The package has been designed to help sheep producers, supply chain businesses and communities to make decisions on when and how they will transition away from the live sheep export by sea trade, based on their own individual circumstances.
- The package:
  - is not intended to mandate a single path to transition away from the trade
  - is not based on offsetting the potential impact to industry. It has been designed to give the best effect to the panel's recommendations to deliver transition support for the phase out
  - is not intended as an exit or compensation package (as sheep production continues).
- The Government has committed to undertaking a stocktake in 2026-27. The stocktake will also inform future government considerations on what further steps may be required.

### Implementation progress

- There are a number of steps the department has taken to support finalisation of the Government's policy decisions and funding allocations and, more recently, the implementation of the transition package.
  - There are steps the department needed to prioritise first to give effect to the Government's decision.
  - The department is implementing measures sequentially, noting about 90% of the funding becomes available from 2025-26 onwards.
- The department has moved quickly to implement measures that leverage existing delivery mechanisms. For example:
  - Extension of the Rural Financial Counselling Service with Rural West (WA service provider) was executed on 23 December 2024.

- Market Development Grant has been executed with Meat & Livestock Australia to support efforts to enhance demand for Australian sheep products in Australia and in international markets.
- Austrade in-market promotion activities have commenced with trade shows and industry delegations pursuing opportunities in a wide range of markets.
- Some measures have required some time to establish new delivery mechanisms and/or finalise appointments but are now in place. For example:
  - The Federal Funding Agreement between the Commonwealth and the WA Government was executed on 19 December 2024 and enables the commencement of the \$43.5m processing grants and community wellbeing program. The department is liaising with WA counterparts on progressing the implementation of this measure.
  - Dr Chris Rodwell was announced as the Transition Advocate on 29 January and appointed on 6 February 2025. Dr Rodwell spent February and March 2025 travelling around WA and to Canberra, meeting with stakeholders, participating in co-design workshops developing his work plan for this role.
- The government has also provided \$45.5m for programs to be co-designed with industry to help support sheep producers and the associated supply chain prepare for the phase out of live sheep exports by sea.
  - We have been working closely with industry groups and producers to ensure the right priorities are being targeted.
  - This takes a little longer but also reflects we have taken a consultative approach requested by industry and funding comes online next Financial Year.
  - 16 co-design sessions have now been held in regional and metropolitan areas. These discussions brought together a diverse range of expertise from industry and community representatives and generated many ideas to enhance confidence and profitability in the industry.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Farm Resilience Division

**FRD01****DROUGHT, INCLUDING FUTURE DROUGHT FUND**

Funding Source	Financial Year		
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Source 1 administered, ongoing	\$100 million available <i>Future Drought Fund</i>	\$100 million available <i>Future Drought Fund</i>	\$100 million available <i>Future Drought Fund</i>
Source 2 departmental	\$7.44 million  <i>FDF departmental – \$3.2 million provided as part of 2023-24 MYEFO, \$1.585 million in the 2018-19 Budget, \$2.659 million in the 2019-20 MYEFO</i>  \$3.2 million terminates 30 June 2024	\$11.12 million  <i>FDF departmental funding varies over the forwards</i>  <i>Terminating 2027--28</i>	\$10.66 million  <i>FDF departmental funding varies over the forwards</i>  <i>Terminating 2027--28</i>
Source 3 departmental, Ongoing	\$3.11 million  <i>Drought Policy departmental – committed as part of the October 2022 Budget measure titled: Ensuring the government is prepared for the next drought</i>  <i>Terminated 30 June 2024</i>	\$3.25 million  <i>Drought Policy departmental – committed as part of the May 2024 Budget measure titled: Prepare for the next drought</i>  <i>Ongoing</i>	\$3.65 million  <i>Drought Policy departmental – committed as part of the May 2024 Budget measure titled: Prepare for the next drought</i>  <i>Ongoing</i>

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- Many agricultural regions in South Australia, as well as western, southern and central Victoria, are experiencing dry conditions.
- Western Australia and Tasmania also experienced dry conditions in 2024, with rainfall in the second half the year improving conditions in those states.

Contact Officer: Courtney Bryant,  
Laura Smith, Kim Farrant  
SES Lead: Mel Brown  
Last updated: 17 March 2025

Telephone: 02 6272 5744,  
**s 47F(1)** , **s 47F(1)**  
Telephone: **s 47F(1)**  
SB25-000026



- In response to the dry conditions, the South Australian, Victorian, Tasmanian and Western Australian governments released drought support packages in their jurisdictions in 2024.
- The department has been working with state government agencies in affected jurisdictions on joint outreach and communications activities to improve awareness of Australian Government support measures.
- The department is aware of the severe conditions in many agricultural regions of South Australia, with some areas experiencing lowest on record rainfall.
  - The department is working closely with the South Australian Government to connect farmers, regional industry representatives and trusted advisors with information about the support programs available.
  - This has included the department providing information about Australian Government support measures at regional roundtables and state drought advisory group meetings held by the South Australian Government.
- Key Australian Government measures that farmers can access whenever they are experiencing adverse conditions include:
  - drawing down on their Farm Management Deposit holdings,
  - accessing a concessional loan via the Regional Investment Corporation,
  - seeking support from the Rural Financial Counselling Service, and
  - when individuals have taken a significant financial hit, accessing the Farm Household Allowance.
- The government's approach to drought is described in the new Australian Government Drought Plan, which was released on 13 December last year. The approach is also guided by the National Drought Agreement between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments.
- As part of the 2024-25 Budget, the government committed ongoing departmental funding to ensure it maintains its state of readiness for drought. \$13.9 million will be provided over 4 years, with a further \$3.4 million provided per year from 2028-29.
- We are also helping Australian farmers and communities prepare for the impacts of drought through the Future Drought Fund (FDF). The FDF provides secure, continuous funding for drought and climate resilience initiatives.
- On 7 May 2024, the Prime Minister committed \$519.1 million over 8 years for FDF programs (see **Attachment A**). These programs are being implemented progressively from 1 July 2024 (see **Attachment B** for details).
- A further \$42.2 million over 4 years of departmental funding has been committed to ensure the effective management of the FDF.

- Out of the new \$42.2 m departmental funding, \$35.9 million has been provided for ASL for the FDF over the period 2024–25 to 2027–28.
- The remaining \$6.3 million is available for other departmental costs such as legal advice, training, and the costs associated with running grants programs, such as Community Grants Hub fees.

## BACKGROUND

- In its drought statement released on 6 March 2025, the Bureau of Meteorology identified that for the 13 months since February 2024:
  - there are areas of South Australia experiencing severe, and in some cases, lowest on record rainfall deficiencies for that period. Areas that have had lowest on record rainfall include around Eyre Peninsula, York Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula, the Adelaide Plains, County Light, Murraylands and the Upper South East districts.
  - Western, southern and parts of central Victoria are experiencing serious or severe rainfall deficiencies.
- As at 28 February 2025, \$363.6 million from the FDF has been spent (see **Attachment C** for details).
- Examples of key achievements delivered under the FDF are at **Attachment D**.

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – FDF media release

Attachment B – FDF Drought Resilience Funding Plan (2024-2028) programs

Attachment C – FDF funding as at 28 February 2025

Attachment D – FDF achievements

**ATTACHMENT A**

# Joint media release: \$519 million boost to help farmers mitigate impacts of drought

*7 May 2024*

Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese MP  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Federal Minister for Emergency Management, Senator Murray Watt

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The Albanese Labor Government will invest a record \$519.1 million into the Future Drought Fund to help farmers and regional communities prepare for the next drought and build climate resilience.

The previous Fund under the Morrison Government did not acknowledge climate change as a driver of longer and more severe droughts. Today we have fixed this.

Labor has restructured the Fund and its objectives to get better results for farming families and communities and will provide record funding for it in next week's budget.

Farmers are on the frontline of climate change and the Albanese Government has listened to what they need.

This Fund will provide:

- Better tools for farmers to help mitigate the impact of drought on their farms.
- Strategies for local communities to prepare for and manage risks through drought.
- Increased investment in the existing network of drought hubs.

The programs will start to become available from 1 July 2024.

Communities can find out more by reaching out to the Department of Agriculture online or by phone.

Today's announcement is in response to the recent Productivity Commission review, last year's National Drought Forum, and extensive consultation with stakeholders.

Improving the sustainability of the agricultural sector is a key priority for the sector and the Albanese Government and this investment today responds to the increasing risk climate change is posing to rural and regional communities.

**Examples of programs included in the Fund:**

- \$235 million to extend the Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs, the Future Drought Fund Communities program and the next phase of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program.

- \$137.4 million to extend and improve the existing Farm Business Resilience and Climate Services for Agriculture programs, and the new Scaling Success Program. The Farm Business Resilience program has already helped thousands of farmers with business planning, coaching, and financial literacy training.
- \$120.3 million for programs that trial innovative solutions to build long-term resilience to drought and climate risks.
- Expansion of the Long Term Trials Program, roll out of the revised Resilient Landscapes Program, and implementation of a new Innovation Challenges Pilot to drive the uptake of evidence-based, innovative practices, approaches and technologies.

**Quotes attributable to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese:**

“It’s vital that we support Australian farmers and producers to be prepared for more severe weather impacts.

“That is why we’re investing hundreds of millions more in the agricultural sector and regional communities to plan and prepare for drought through the Future Drought Fund.

“By doing the work now our rural and regional communities are not just reacting to events as they unfold, but will have considered plans to make them more resilient to climate change.”

**Quotes attributable to Agriculture Minister Murray Watt:**

“Every morning when farmers around the country wake up, put their boots on and go to work, they are one day closer to the next drought.

“We are already seeing very dry conditions in Western Australia and some parts of Tasmania.

“Time is of the essence when it comes to planning for drought, that’s why we’re investing heavily now in a new and improved Future Drought Fund.

“We’re helping farmers across the country develop business plans to manage diversification in a changing climate, we’re helping regional communities manage drought and other climate risks, and helping individuals get leadership training and mentoring.

“I’ve seen firsthand the great work under the FDF, like trialling new, drought-resistant livestock feed and connecting farmers with the latest scientific advice on reducing drought impacts.

“Our commitment of nearly \$520 million from the FDF supports farmers and farming communities to take steps ahead of time.

“This not only empowers farmers and communities but makes them more self-reliant when drought hits.”

For more information visit: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund>

**ATTACHMENT B****FDF Drought Resilience Funding Plan (2024-2028) programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<b>PARTNERING FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS</b>		
<b>Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs</b>	Providing regionally focused information and support to develop, extend and encourage the adoption of drought resilient technologies and practices. A review of the Hubs will inform any longer-term opportunity for funding.	\$28 million over 2 years from 2024–25 Post-review, \$104 million over 6 years from 2026–27
<b>Regional Drought Resilience Planning</b>	Helping regions prepare for and manage drought and other interconnected risks through locally tailored actions identified in community-owned and led plans.	\$67 million over 4 years from 2025–26
<b>Communities</b>	Strengthening social resilience to drought and other climate impacts by supporting and developing leaders, networks and organisations in agriculture-dependent communities.	\$36 million over 4 years from 2024–25
<b>PARTNERING FOR FIRST NATIONS INITIATIVES</b>		
<b>Strengthening Drought Resilience on Country Pilot Program</b>	A new pilot program will be established to facilitate place-based, First Nations-led activities. First Nations delivery partners will facilitate co-design and delivery of projects, with First Nations peoples. Projects will support First Nations individuals, businesses and communities to build drought and climate resilience.	\$12 million over 3 years from 2025–26
<b>First Nations Supporting Participation Activities</b>	Funding will be provided to deliver activities which seek to improve the participation of First Nations peoples in the FDF's drought and climate resilience activities.	\$3 million over 4 years from 2024–25
<b>First Nations Advisory Group</b>	A strategic policy partnership with eminent First Nations peoples to facilitate improved strategic outcomes from the FDF for First Nations peoples within the agriculture sector, landscapes, and communities.	Additional departmental funding to 2027–28
<b>BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAPABILITY</b>		
<b>Farm Business Resilience</b>	Helping farmers build skills and capabilities to plan for and manage all kinds of risks, including drought and other climate risks. This program will include and integrate Drought Resilience Scholarships.	\$83.2 million over 5 years from 2024–25
<b>Climate Services for Agriculture</b>	Enabling farmers and farm advisers, rural communities and others to access local, regional and commodity-specific climate information, useful for informing farm business, community and government decision-making to prepare for future drought and climate change.	\$17.2 million over 4 years from 2024–25

<b>Scaling Success</b>	Extending the reach of previous FDF projects that have proved successful in building drought and climate resilience and contributing to broader change.	\$37 million over 3 years from 2025–26
<b>INNOVATING FOR TRANSFORMATION</b>		
<b>Long-term Trials</b>	Investigating innovative farming practices, technologies and approaches through evidence-based trials to inform farmers, drive adoption and foster transformational change to build drought and climate resilience.	\$60.3 million over 6 years from 2024–25
<b>Resilient Landscapes</b>	Supporting projects to demonstrate how implementing and scaling of practices, technologies or approaches to manage natural resources on farm contribute to building drought and climate resilience by improving landscape function and ecosystem services.	\$40 million over 6 years from 2024–25
<b>Innovation Challenges Pilot</b>	Fostering innovative solutions for challenges related to drought and climate impacts.	\$20 million over 3 years from 2025–26
<b>MEASURING PROGRESS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING</b>		
<b>Evaluation and Support</b>	Determining how, and to what extent, the FDF and its programs contribute to building social, economic and environmental resilience to drought and broader climate risks.	\$3.25 million over 4 years from 2024–25
<b>Knowledge Management</b>	Making the knowledge generated by the FDF more accessible and promoting wider adoption through a systematic and strategic approach.	\$7.3 million over 4 years from 2024–25
<b>Science to Practice 2.0</b>	Generating accessible, visual evidence of the FDF's influence on the ground.	\$800,000 over 4 years from 2024–25

**ATTACHMENT C****FDF funding as at 28 February 2025 (figures have been rounded)**

Funding Plan 2 Programs	2020 to 2024 Allocation	Budget Allocation 2024-25 to 2027-28	Spent SINCE 2020	Notes
<b>PARTNERING FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS</b>				
Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs	*\$79.0m	\$132.0m	\$97.0m	2-year extension from 2024-25, with a review to inform any longer-term opportunity for funding. The review will deliver a final report to government in early 2025.
Communities	\$40.8m	\$36.0m	\$40.8m	Includes legacy programs (Leaders and Networks).
Regional Drought Resilience Planning	\$40.8m	\$67.0m	\$31.8m	Includes support funding for CSIRO.
<b>FIRST NATIONS INITIATIVES</b>				
First Nations Initiatives	N/A	\$15.0m	N/A	Includes supporting activities funding of \$3m.
<b>BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAPABILITY</b>				
Farm Business Resilience	\$75.9m	**\$80.0m	\$55.9m	
Drought Resilience Scholarships	\$1.6m	^\$3.2m	\$1.6m	
Climate Services for Agriculture	\$28.9m	\$17.2m	\$29.0m	
Scaling Success	N/A	\$37.0m	N/A	
<b>INNOVATING FOR TRANSFORMATION</b>				
Long Term Trials (3 rounds)	\$20m	***\$60.3m	\$11.2m	Round 1 contracted in 2022. Round 2 applications closed on 19 November 2024.
Resilient Landscapes	N/A	\$40.0m	N/A	Program opened in Sept 2024. Applications closed on 19 November 2024.
Innovation Challenge Pilot	N/A	\$20.0m	N/A	
<b>MEASURING PROGRESS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING</b>				
National Enabling Activities	\$7.8m	\$11.4m	\$2.2m	Includes MEL, Knowledge Sharing and Hubs review

\* This program had a further \$10m reallocated to it in 2023-24 financial year.

\*\* Figure includes \$10.828m from FBR underspend in Phase 1.

\*\*\* Figure includes \$2.315m from LTT underspend in Phase 1.

^ From 2024-25 the scholarship program is managed through the Farm Business Resilience program.

Programs established under Funding Plan 1	2020 to 2024 Allocation	Budget Allocation 2024-25 to 2027-28	Spent SINCE 2020	Note
Drought Resilience Commercialisation Initiative	\$10.0m	N/A	\$5.7m	Delivery till 2026.
Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool	\$10m	N/A	\$9.5m	Tool decommissioned.
Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes Grants	\$23.1m	N/A	\$23.1m	Grants still being delivered.
Extension and Adoption of Drought Resilience Farming Practices Grants	\$14.2m	N/A	\$13.0m	Delivery till 2025.
Innovation Grants	\$33.9m	N/A	\$28.8m	Grants still in progress.
NRM Drought Resilience Program (Grants and Landscapes)	\$13.4m	N/A	\$13.4m	Program closed. Grants: \$7.8m. Landscapes: \$5.6m. \$0.4m returned to dept for projects completed under budget.



**ATTACHMENT D****FDF achievements**

Below are examples of activities undertaken under the FDF:

<b>Farm business resilience</b> — builds the skills and capabilities of farmers to manage all kinds of risks, including drought and other climate risks.	Over 56,000 farmers have benefited from business and risk management learning and development activities.
<b>Regional drought resilience planning</b> — working with regional stakeholders, including local councils, to plan for drought.	69 regions are taking part in the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program.
<b>Practice change</b> — driving adoption of drought resilient farming practices.	8 regionally based and focused hubs providing regionally focussed support, with over 125 on-ground activities.
	Over 180 projects supporting development, demonstration, extension of drought resilience practices more broadly, including long-term trials
<b>Climate information</b> — helping people understand how the seasonal outlook and changing climate might impact them, and what they can do.	The My Climate View platform is live, providing regional and commodity specific climate information (Climate Services for Agriculture program).
<b>Helping communities</b> prepare for future droughts.	30 regions have been through a codesign process to develop a tailored package of support to build community resilience. From this, 121 organisations were allocated over \$10 million in funding.
	A further 75 organisations have received more than \$2 million for projects through the Small Network Grants program to deliver projects that build community resilience to drought.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Regional Investment Corporation

**PA03****REGIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION (RIC)**

Funding Source	Financial Year		
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<b>Revenue from Government</b> (departmental) ongoing	\$22.203m	\$22.586m	\$23.353m
<b>Overall Expenditure</b>	\$22.203m	\$22.586m	\$23.353m
<b>Loan funding available</b> (administered) Terminates 2025-26	\$195.53m	\$350.19m	\$349.69m

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**Response to the RIC Act Review

- An independent review of the operation of the *Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018* was provided to the government on 1 July 2024 and published on 31 July 2024.
- The key review findings/recommendations are:
  - Concessional loans are an effective policy tool to support farmer businesses in financial need, particularly during drought.
  - The government should retain the RIC as the mechanism for delivering concessional loans to farm businesses, and
  - A number of changes should be made relating to program management and RIC operations.
- Many of the recommendations require government consideration as they involve legislative change, policy decision or major administrative changes.

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

SES Lead: Chris Toyne

Last updated: 26 March 2025

Telephone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mobile Number: s 47F(1)

SB25-000053

- Decisions relating to the timing and nature of a government response are a matter for government.
- Around one-third of the review recommendations go to improvements in program management or operational matters that the department and the RIC are progressing now.
- Key areas of progress include: improved data collection; reporting, monitoring and evaluation; and enhancing stakeholder outreach.

#### RIC funding after 2025-26

- Loan funding for the RIC is profiled to the end of 2025-26. No decision has been made on loan funding past this date.
- Regardless of a decision on future loan funding, operational funding for the RIC is required post 2025-26 to administer the government's concessional loan book.

#### *RIC operational funding (revenue from government, departmental)*

2024-25 (estimated actual)	2025-26 (budget)	2026-27 (forward estimate)	2027-28 (forward estimate)	2028-29 (forward estimate)
\$22.586m	\$22.353m	\$19.853m	\$19.905m	\$19.445

2025-26 DAFF Portfolio Budget Statement

#### RIC Board appointments

- The RIC Chair and all four other members of the RIC Board were reappointed to their positions by the Responsible Ministers for the RIC on 25 February 2025.
- The new terms are for periods of between 18 months and two years and expire between October 2026 and April 2027.

### **BACKGROUND**

- The Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) administers concessional loans on behalf of the Australian Government for farm businesses and drought-affected small businesses.
- The purpose of the loans is to improve the long-term resilience and profitability of eligible businesses.
- The RIC is a corporate Commonwealth entity with an independent Board whose role is to ensure the proper, efficient and effective performance of the RIC's functions.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

**APD01****COST OF LIVING****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The Australian Government is working to address competition issues in the agricultural supply chain to help combat cost-of-living pressures.
- The department is working across government to ensure that producers are treated fairly and receive appropriate remuneration for their hard work.
- The final report of the ACCC Supermarket Inquiry was released on 21 March 2025 and contains 20 recommendations:
  - 11 specifically target grocery supply chains and trading arrangements to improve how supermarkets negotiate with fresh produce suppliers to better share information and be more transparent in their bargaining practices, pricing, and use of supplier rebates and contributions.
  - The government agrees in principle with the recommendations, which builds on actions we have already taken and will be considered as part of existing work. This includes:
    - Last week we released guidelines for best practice in commercial planning and zoning to support state reform efforts
    - consulting on the buying power recommendations as part of the review of the remade Food and Grocery Code within the next 18 months
    - continuing to clamp down on shrinkflation
    - Taking into account the recommendations about improving choice and supply in remote locations as the government rolls out the National Strategy to improve food security in remote First Nations communities
- The government committed \$30 million in additional funding to the ACCC to help the regulator combat misleading and deceptive pricing practices and unconscionable conduct in the supermarket sector.
- The mandatory Food and Grocery Code of Conduct will come into force on 1 April 2025 and will include greater penalties for breaches of the code.

Contact Officer: Sarah Burr  
SES Lead: Joanna Stanion  
Last updated: 25 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Telephone: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000011

- The government is providing \$2.9 million to fresh produce industry associations to help suppliers understand and enforce their rights under the Food and Grocery Code of Conduct.
- CHOICE, Australia's leading consumer advocacy group, was provided with \$1.1 million over three years to develop and publish quarterly supermarket price comparison reports providing consumers with clear, reliable information about different supermarket prices.
- Dr Craig Emerson is leading an independent analysis of fair trading, competitive relationships, contracting practices and risk allocation in the grape and wine sector.
  - We expect this work to be completed soon.
- All of these actions will support consumers and improve transparency for producers and processors, so they have improved information to use in their contractual negotiations with the retail sector.

## BACKGROUND

- Competition is critical for lifting dynamism, productivity and wage growth, and putting downward pressure on prices, which will ease cost of living pressures.

### Food and Grocery Code of Conduct

- Following a review by Dr Craig Emerson in 2024, the government has now legislated to make the Food and Grocery Code mandatory.
- The *Treasury Laws Amendment (Fairer for Families and Farmers and Other Measures) Act 2024* received Royal Assent on 10 December 2024.
  - The Act provides that the maximum fines that can be prescribed under the Food and Grocery Code will be the greater of:
    - \$10 million
    - three times the value of the benefit gained from the contravening conduct, or
    - 10 per cent of turnover in the preceding 12 months.
- The new code:
  - replaces the previous voluntary code.
  - includes obligations to protect suppliers from retribution and strengthened dispute resolution mechanisms for suppliers.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

## APD02

## RED WINE OVERSUPPLY

Funding Source	Financial Year
	2023-24
<i>Grape and Wine Sector Long-term Viability Support Package (departmental) Terminates 30/06/2026</i>	\$3,030,000 (GST Exclusive)
<i>Wine and Grape Sector Regulatory Impact Analysis (departmental) Terminates 24/04/2025</i>	\$470,000 (GST Exclusive)
<b>Overall Expenditure</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- There have been positive signs for the Australian wine sector following the **resumption of trade with China in March 2024**.
  - Since tariffs were lifted, Australia exported more than **\$907 million** to China.
  - Brings **total value of exports** to **\$2.5 billion** (12 months to December 2024).
  - Total **value of the sector** is now at **\$5.7 billion** (financial year 2023-24), the strongest result since 2021 total (value was \$5.9 billion 2020-21).
- However, the government acknowledges that many wine producers and growers continue to experience a challenging period of oversupply.
- In June 2024, the Australian Government announced the **\$3.5 million** Long Term Viability Support Package. This comprises:
  - extending and expanding market development in Japan, China and the US
  - a domestic consumer campaign to promote local Australian wine
  - research and tools to help growers reach new markets and diversify crops
  - research into lighter, alternative alcohol products
  - examining regulatory and competition issues in the wine sector,

Contact Officer: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
 SES Lead: Joanna Stanion  
 Updated: 14 March 2025

Mobile: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
 Mobile: **s 47F(1)**  
 SB25-000012

- development of a National Vineyard Register.
- The \$3.5 million package responds to the recommendations of the *Viticulture and Wine Sector Working Group* (Working Group) which was established by Agriculture Ministers to develop a national approach to the oversupply of red wine grapes.
- The Working Group's Final Report (October 2024) makes **6 recommendations** and is published on the department's website (**Attachment A**).

### *Competition Issues*

- The Working Group heard that the oversupply of red wine grapes, particularly in the warm inland regions, has exacerbated concerns about competition and fair trading in the sector.
- On 23 August 2024, Minister Collins announced **Dr Craig Emerson** would lead an independent impact analysis of the sector's regulatory options concerning **fair trading, competitive relationships, contracting practices** and **risk allocation**.
  - We expect this work to be completed soon.
- Similar issues were raised in the **Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee** February 2025 **Inquiry into the Australian Winegrape Purchases Code of Conduct**.
- The government will respond to the Committee's report in due course, however:
  - Many of the issues identified in the Report were examined by the Working Group in its 2024 Report to Agriculture Ministers.
  - Many of the Committee's recommendations are already being delivered through the government's \$3.5 million Long Term viability Support Package.

### *Transition Support*

- While recommended by the Committee, the Working Group did not recommend a government-funded exit package.
  - Previous government intervention in the market was ineffective and had unintended consequences, including the loss of valuable vineyards and an inability for industry to respond to changes in demand.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Working Group Recommendations and Actions

## VITICULTURE AND WINE SECTOR WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Address mental health and financial challenges

Actions	Responsible lead(s)	Timing*
Ensure wine grape growers are accessing existing support services, such as the Rural Financial Counselling Service, Regional Investment Corporation low-interest loans, Farm Household Allowance and mental health services, by promoting those services.	Australian and state governments, industry representative groups	Immediate and Ongoing
Monitor the efficient delivery and update of the existing support services to identify and resolve any issues.	Australian Government	Ongoing
Provide support for regional community events to support mental health and social cohesion.	Relevant state governments, industry representative groups	Short term
Work with lending institutions to discuss issues raised by industry and community groups and potential solutions.	Relevant state governments	Medium term

### 2. Address barriers to exit and diversify

Actions	Responsible lead(s)	Timing*
Support grape growers and winemakers diversify their farming enterprises, product development or move to non-traditional revenue streams or alternative alcohol products by providing information and support services.	Australian and relevant state governments, Wine Australia	Short to Medium term
Investigate options to support waste management to avoid environmental, biosecurity, financial and social risks and impacts associated with transitioning from grape production and abandoned vineyards.	Relevant state and local governments	Medium term

### 3. Provide data and insights for better informed decision making

Actions	Responsible lead(s)	Timing*
Establish a national vineyard register, including future forecasting based on nursery data.	Wine Australia and Australian Government	Long term
Host events and activities on the state of the Australian wine industry to increase awareness of tools and information currently available.	Australian Grape and Wine and Wine Australia	Short to Medium term



## 4. Examine commercial contract arrangements across the grape and wine sector supply chain

Actions	Responsible lead(s)	Timing*
Investigate the regulatory options available to improve fair trading, competitive relationships, contracting practices and risk allocation across the wine and grape sector value chain, from vineyard to retail shelf.	Australian Government	Medium term

## 5. Boost demand for Australian wine at home and overseas

Actions	Responsible lead(s)	Timing*
Support Australian wine export businesses to diversify and expand Australia's wine exports through more effective international marketing and improved market access.	All working group members	Ongoing
Build the domestic market for Australian wine and grow opportunities for regional wine tourism.	All working group members	Ongoing
Ensure Sustainable Winegrowing Australia program is future-proofed, and consider concerns about social and governance principles and its value to industry.	Australian Grape and Wine	Medium term

## 6. Improve industry leadership and long-term strategic direction, supported by investment in research and development

Actions	Responsible lead(s)	Timing*
Explore ways to improve representation of grape growers and their interests on industry boards and committees.	Peak industry representative and advocacy bodies	Medium term
Assess the true demand position of the sector and advise on options to future-proof its supply base to ensure its long-term viability.	Australian Grape and Wine and Wine Australia	Medium term
Review the national wine and grape levy system to assess whether it is fit for purpose and meets the future needs of the sector.	Australian Grape and Wine	Medium term

\*Timing: Short-term = under 6 months, Medium-term = 6 to 12 months, Long-term = over 12 months

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

## APD03

## PLANT BASED LABELLING

Funding Source	Financial Year	
	2023-24	2024-25
2024-25 Budget Measure (Departmental, absorbed from existing resources) Terminates: 30/06/2025	-	-
Overall Expenditure	\$1.5 million	

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- There are diverse and strongly held views around consumer confusion, truth in labelling, and nutritional equivalence for plant-based alternative products.
- The Australian Government is taking forward its commitment to support meat and plant industries to deliver accurate and clear food labelling in two phases.
- Firstly, the department commissioned Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to undertake consumer research on the level of consumer confusion.
  - The research concludes there is no confusion: consumers can accurately identify the ingredient content and intended use of plant-based alternatives and do not believe they are nutritionally equivalent to an animal counterpart.
  - The report will be published on the department's website following further discussions with the working group.
- Secondly, the department has established a working group to consider improvements to existing arrangements.
  - Members are from the Alternative Proteins Council, Australian Dairy Farmers, Australian Dairy Products Federation and Red Meat Advisory Council, the Australian Chicken Meat Federation, Australian Pork Limited and Seafood Industry Australia. [Latter three groups joined working group in 2025].
  - Four working group meetings have been hosted by the department on 18 September, 24 October 2024, 5 February 2025 and 6 March 2025.
- We are continuing to work with working group members on next steps.

Contact Officer: Paul Denny  
SES Lead: Joanna Stanion  
Last updated: 14 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000013

## QUESTION AND ANSWER

### ***Why is this election commitment still outstanding?***

- There has been significant progress on this election commitment.
- The consumer research has added significantly to our understanding of this issue.
- We continue to work with a diverse set of stakeholders to ensure we adequately understand and address their needs.

### ***What is the government doing to protect meat and dairy industries from brand denigration by plant-based protein products?***

- There are existing restrictions on food labelling under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code and the Australian Consumer Law.
- There is room for both traditional animal and plant-based alternative industries to thrive. In supporting the entire agricultural sector, we are conscious of not denigrating one industry in favour of another.
- The alternative protein sector remains small
  - accounts for 0.47% of in-home fresh meat volume sales (Meat and Livestock Australia's *2024 State of the Industry Report*).
  - only 2% of households exclusively buy plant-based milks (Dairy Australia).
  - consumption declined by 7% between 2021-22 and 2022-23 (ABS).

## BACKGROUND

- There are long-standing concerns from meat and dairy industries that current food labelling laws do not provide appropriate oversight to protect consumers from confusion when purchasing plant-based protein products.
- The government made the election commitment to "support[ing] meat and plant industries through improving existing regulations that deliver accurate and clear food labelling so that consumers have informed choice".

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

## APD04

## ORGANICS

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The government acknowledges there is support from key parts of the organics industry for the introduction of a domestic organics regulatory scheme
  - In addition, at least 2 parliamentary inquiries have recommended a domestic scheme, and separately, the RRAT Committee's Inquiry to the *National Organic Standard Bill 2024* recommended further scoping work.
- The government is actively considering these inquiries and listening to industry.
- We have had initial discussions with industry about the best path forward, and these discussions will continue.
- Previously, governments have considered the need for domestic regulation but decided not to introduce a domestic scheme.
  - A key reason is the regulatory burden it would impose on industry and the impact it could have on costs for consumers.
  - There has also been a lack of industry consensus on what it wanted.
- We acknowledge industry views have evolved and we are willing to work with industry to consider options on next steps.
- Any decision to implement a regulatory scheme is a broader decision for the government and needs to consider the costs and benefits across the economy as well as interaction with the existing regulatory arrangements.

## BACKGROUND

- Australia has a *National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce*.
  - This is a mandatory standard for organic exports, managed by the department and the basis for equivalence arrangements with trading partners.
  - In 2023-24, Australia exported \$39.5 million in organic goods with a valid Organics Goods Certificate to the USA, New Zealand, China, Singapore and The Republic of Korea.

Contact Officer: Paul Denny  
SES Lead: Joanna Stanion  
Last updated: 11 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000014

- On 19 November 2024, Senator Bridget McKenzie presented the *National Organic Standard Bill 2024* to Parliament. The Bill would establish National Export Standard as the mandatory domestic standard for organic products in Australia.
- On 28 November 2024, the Senate referred the Bill to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry. The department made two submissions to the inquiry, outlining some policy and regulatory issues, including:
  - its legislative authority and interaction with other regulatory schemes
  - application of civil penalties and potential enforcement overlap
  - regulation of issuing bodies and scope and utility of auditing powers
  - competitiveness and interaction with existing consumer protection legislation and
  - costs to industry, consumers and government.
- In its report published 11 February 2025, the Committee made two recommendations: (1) the Senate does not pass the Bill in its current form; and (2) the government works with stakeholders regarding the need for domestic regulation, including through a scoping exercise led by the department.
  - The Coalition senators' dissenting report recommends the government work with industry to develop a domestic regulatory framework that includes a legislated definition of 'organic' and a mandatory standard.
  - The Australian Greens are yet to make a final decision on the Bill.
- The *Trading North* report, released November 2024 by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, made 13 recommendations, including one recommending Australian Government support for the trade in organic agriculture in Southeast Asia through regulating Australia's domestic market.
- The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources report *Food for Thought: The opportunities and challenges for Australia's food and beverage manufacturing industry* was released 20 February 2025. It recommended the government introduce certification for the domestic organic food market, and amending the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission's definition of the term 'organic' to mean 'certified organic'.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

**APD05****COMPETITION IN THE CHICKEN MEAT INDUSTRY****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The government is concerned by claims made by chicken growers and wants to investigate further by gathering evidence from across the poultry meat supply chain.
- Minister Collins and Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, have asked ABARES to undertake an independent investigation into the chicken meat industry to ascertain whether there has been a market failure.
  - ABARES will examine costs, benefits and impacts of regulatory and non-regulatory actions to address any market failure, if identified.
  - ABARES will approach the investigation with a view to broad consultation to gather data on market and contractual arrangements, and to understand trends impacting growers and processors to better recognise the drivers of any market failure that may be identified.
  - It is absolutely vital that there is buy-in and engagement from across the supply chain in the investigation – ABARES, with its strong reputation for independent advice, has the best chance of achieving this.
  - The ABARES report is expected to be provided to Minister Collins in mid-2025.
- We have had initial meetings with the key industry groups to discuss the investigation and will soon commence more detailed consultation/discussions across the supply chain.
- Regulation of any sort brings with it a cost and this investigation is critical to understanding the costs, benefits, and other impacts of potential options to the chicken meat industry, to government, and to consumers.

**BACKGROUND**

- Competition is critical for lifting dynamism, productivity and wage growth, and putting downward pressure on prices, which will ease cost of living pressures.

Contact Officer: Sarah Burr  
SES Lead: Joanna Stanion  
Last updated: 17 March 2025

Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000048

### ABARES Independent investigation Terms of Reference (ToR)

- ABARES will undertake an independent investigation into the relationship between growers and integrated producers in the Australian chicken meat supply chain.
- The investigation will examine whether there is evidence of market failure within the industry. If market failure is identified within the industry, ABARES will:
  - examine the nature, drivers and effects of this market failure, and
  - the costs, benefits, and impacts of potential regulatory and non-regulatory actions that could be introduced to address identified issues.

### ACCC Supermarket Inquiry 2024-25

- On 1 February 2024, the government directed the ACCC to conduct an inquiry into Australia's supermarket sector, examining:
- An issues paper was released on 29 February 2024 seeking views on key issues related to grocery retailing and supply chains.
- The final report was provided to the Treasurer on 28 February 2025.

### Food and Grocery Code of Conduct

- Following the review the government has legislated to make the Food and Grocery Code mandatory with the mandatory code coming into force 1 April 2025.
- The mandatory code will include obligations to protect suppliers from retribution, strengthens dispute resolution mechanisms for suppliers and increase ACCC powers including the ability to apply significant fines.

### NFF Report

#### Issues alleged in the NFF report

- Market concentration: including that the industry is highly concentrated and vertically integrated at both ends of the supply chain; processors own and control most assets; this leads to significant market and power imbalance between growers and processors; and processors may misuse their market power via unfair trading practices.
- Unfair contract terms and unfair trading practices: processors may renew contracts under worse conditions knowing growers are commercially pressured to accept; and processors increasingly seeking to control production data to set contract prices.
- Commercial retribution: anecdotal evidence of growers attempting to negotiate contracts may be 'terminated on the spot'; and growers fear losing contracts and being left with stranded assets.
- Pool system: variability of processor-provided inputs leads to unfairness in the pool system; and growers don't know how their position or payment in the pool system is determined.
- The Australian Chicken Growers Council (ACGC) have been vocal about their desire for a mandatory code of conduct and are actively pushing for a government response to the NFF's recommendation:

- ACGC have been critical of the government's delay in responding to the NFF report's recommendation and claim growers are under critical, unsustainable pressure.



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

**APD06****FEEDING AUSTRALIA: FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY**

Funding Source	Financial Year	
	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)
<i>Departmental Terminates 30 June 2027</i>	\$2.24	\$1.25
<b>Overall Expenditure</b>	<b>\$2.24</b>	<b>\$1.25</b>

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The Australian Government has committed **\$3.5 million over two years** for a national food security strategy: *Feeding Australia*. The strategy aims to:
  - elevate food security as a key pillar of national security
  - boost the security and resilience of the food supply chain
  - minimise price volatility through resilience to shocks which impact food prices
  - bring together existing work into one holistic, coordinated strategy.
- The strategy will:
  - be overseen by a **National Food Council** with industry and community experts.
  - explore the potential to grow a **biofuels feedstock industry**.
- As the strategy will be **co-designed with industry**, further details – including its scope, process and potential actions, are yet to be determined. However:
  - **s 47C(1)**
  - The department will undertake a strategic examination of Australia's food system, drawing on existing resources and processes.
  - It will be a nationwide co-design approach, including regional and remote areas, to ensure all have an opportunity to contribute.

Contact Officer: Paul Denny  
 SES Lead: Joanna Stanion  
 Last updated: 14 March 2025

Telephone: **s 47F(1)**  
 Mobile Number: **s 47F(1)**  
 SB25-000051

## BACKGROUND

- The strategy responds to:
  - consistent calls from multiple parts of the food industry for a food plan (including the National Farmers Federation (NFF), AUSVEG, and the Food Supply Chain Alliance).
  - recommendations by the 2023 House of Representatives inquiry into food security, *Feeding the Nation and Beyond* and the 2025 Food and Agriculture Taskforce *Land of Plenty* report.
  - the need to manage our exposure to global supply and demand pressures, climate change and other risks, including reliance on imports such as fertiliser.
- **s 47C(1)**
- Consideration of biofuel feedstock supply will encourage a coordinated approach to feedstock production, assisting Australia's transition to net zero while ensuring food security.
  - This approach will respond to calls from industry for a coordinated approach in developing this new industry.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Agricultural Policy Division

**APD07****SHOWCASING AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE – REGIONAL TRADE  
EVENTS**

Funding Source	Financial Year			Total (\$m)
	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)	2027-28 (\$m)	
Departmental Funding  Terminates 2027-28.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Administered Funding  Terminates 2027-28.	9.8	8.6	3.7	22.1
Reprioritised Departmental  Terminates 2027-28	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.4
<b>Overall Expenditure</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>23.8</b>

**BUDGET MEASURE**

- **Government investment of \$23.8 million** over three years from 2025-26 to 2027-28 to sponsor events and forums that promote the Australian agriculture sector:
  - Administered funding of **\$22.1 million**.
  - Departmental funding of **\$0.3 million** for Community Grants Hub expenses.
  - Reprioritised departmental funding of **\$1.4 million** to cover costs associated with the department's administration of the program, including Community Grants Hub, attendance at events, program evaluation and communications support.

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 SES Lead: Joanna Stanion  
 Last updated: 26 March 2025

Telephone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
 SB25-000052

## EVENTS RECEIVING FUNDING

- **Beef Australia 2027** will receive **\$12 million** in funding. This was announced on 19 February 2025.
- Other events receiving funding will be announced by the government.
- **s 47E(d)**

## QUESTION AND ANSWER

### *How does investing in these events represent value for money for government?*

- Supporting Regional Trade Events provides an opportunity to:
  - **showcase** the agricultural sector to domestic and international markets
  - **promote** innovation, technology, sustainability, education and training
  - **benefit** farmers, processors, exporters, agribusinesses, agritech companies, and regional communities
  - **boost economic benefits** for Australia, both regionally and nationally.

### *Why is the 2025-26 Budget Measure Showcasing Australian Agriculture – Regional Trade Events more costly to government than the October 2022-23 Budget Measure Support for Regional Trade Events?*

- The October 2022-23 Budget Measure Support for Regional Trade Events provided **\$12.3 million** in funding over three years from 2022-23 to 2024-25.
- The **increase** in available sponsorship funding to **\$22.1 million** builds on previous sponsorships and provides additional funding to support new events aligned with government priorities.
  - Funding to Beef Australia is doubling from \$6 million to \$12 million. The funding will support a larger event, which will in turn enhance the economic and trade opportunities that will come out of the event.
- The measure demonstrates the government's commitment to Australian agriculture and its economic importance.

### *What are the new events being funded and what is the criteria for choosing them?*

- The government has announced **\$12 million** in funding for **Beef Australia 2027**.
- Beef Australia is a **premier trade event** with a track record of success. It aligns with government priorities to improve industry productivity, sustainability and resilience.
- Some opportunities will be available through competitive processes so a range of events and industries will be supported.
- The government will **announce** further sponsorships **in due course**.

## BACKGROUND

- The 2025-26 Budget measure Showcasing Australian Agriculture – Regional Trade Events builds on the 2022-23 October Budget measure Support for Regional Trade Events.
  - The 2022-23 Budget measure provided **\$12.3 million** in funding (including \$0.3 million of departmental funding) to sponsor a total of **73 events**.
  - As at February 2025, **59 events** have been delivered. The remaining **14 events** are expected to be **completed in 2025**.
  - Events which received sponsorship through the 2022-23 Budget measure include Beef Australia 2024, Casino Beef Week, LambEx, Hort Connections and evokeAG.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division

**BSRD01****BIOSECURITY SUSTAINABLE FUNDING**

Table 1. Current biosecurity budget (as at 2025-26 Budget)

Funding source	Subcategory	2024-25 (\$m)	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)	2027-28 (\$m)	2028-29 (\$m)
<b>Cost recovery</b>	Existing cost recovery arrangement	368.8	390.9	398.2	407.7	417.5
	Cost recovery - SACs	27.1	64.4	65.9	67.5	69.1
	Australia Post	15.3	15.6	15.8	16.0	16.0
	Defence	1.9	1.5	2.3	1.8	1.8
	Other s74 revenue	10.0	8.1	12.7	12.2	11.3
	<b>Total cost recovery</b>	<b>423.1</b>	<b>480.5</b>	<b>494.9</b>	<b>505.3</b>	<b>515.7</b>
<b>Appropriation</b>	Departmental appropriation	371.7	394.9	337.9	345.8	347.7
	Departmental equity injection	29.8	26.8	2.5	0.6	0.3
	DoF gateway review departmental appropriation	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Administered	50.0	25.5	23.9	24.8	25.3
	<b>Total appropriation<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>451.6</b>	<b>447.3</b>	<b>364.3</b>	<b>371.2</b>	<b>373.3</b>
<b>Total budget</b>		<b>874.7</b>	<b>927.8</b>	<b>859.2</b>	<b>876.5</b>	<b>889.0</b>

**a** Does not include funding for nationally cost-shared biosecurity emergency responses which is retained by the Department of Treasury and expended through Specific Purpose Payments.

**Note:** Total values are rounded. Refer Sources section below. Figures reflect current biosecurity budget as at the 2025-26 Budget and differ to those presented in the 2023-24 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report (which presented figures as of 2024-25 Budget).

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- In the 2023-24 Budget, the Government announced the sustainable biosecurity funding package, which provided additional funding of more than \$1 billion over 4 years (2023-24 to 2026-27), and \$267 million per year ongoing from 2027-28.
  - This funding supports Commonwealth biosecurity activities undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry including regulatory and surveillance activities at the border, post entry quarantine, biosecurity policy and technical functions and biosecurity programs such as the Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program.

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
SES Lead: Julia Wells  
Last updated: 26 March 2025

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000038

### Key revenue and transparency elements of the sustainable funding package

- From 1 July 2023, importer fees and charges were returned to full cost recovery (i.e. aligned with the cost of delivering biosecurity regulatory activities), indexation of fees and charges was legislated, and a commitment made to an annual review cycle.
  - Fees and charges were again increased by 4.1% (by indexation) on 1 July 2024.
- From 1 October 2024, a new Self-Assessed Clearance (SAC) cost recovery charge on low value (\$1,000 or less) goods imported into Australia by air or sea commenced.
  - This charge covers the cost of biosecurity clearance on imported goods that are not currently subject to cost recovery.
  - The implementation of this charge was delayed from 1 July 2024 to ensure sufficient time for industry to be prepared for implementation; despite the delay, the department expects to meet the estimated revenue for 2024-25.
  - For 2025-26 onwards, the estimated revenue from the SAC charge has been increased due to the expected growth in SAC volumes.
- The package also included a proposed Biosecurity Protection Levy, to be paid by agricultural, fisheries and forestry producers as a direct contribution to Commonwealth biosecurity funding. (*Further information in KIB BSRD03 Biosecurity Protection Levy*).
- In October 2024, the inaugural Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report (**Attachment A**) was published, providing greater transparency on the department's biosecurity funding as at the 2024-25 Budget, including expenditure for 2023-24.
  - This significant milestone delivers on the Government's commitment to increased transparency and accountability of biosecurity funding and expenditure

### Biosecurity investments since the 2023-24 sustainable funding package

- Since the announcement of the sustainable biosecurity funding package at the 2023-24 Budget, the Government has further invested in Commonwealth biosecurity (refer Table 1 for current biosecurity budget). These investment measures amount to \$171.8 million over 5 years from 2023-24, and \$33.6 million ongoing from 2028-29 (note the qualifications below to an outcome 1 2025-26 Budget measure not included).
  - Consistent with reporting in the Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report, the additional investment outlined below is resourcing held by the department; it does not include resourcing to other departments, including the Department of the Treasury for distribution to the states as part of the biosecurity emergency response funding.

- Each milestone also updated the biosecurity budget to account for adjustments to forecast cost recovery revenue, as part of the routine management of these arrangements, and other estimates variations.

Table 2. Additional investments since the 2023-24 Budget

Milestone	Additional investment commitments
2023-24 MYEFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$75.7 million over four years from 2023–24 (and \$26.4 million per year ongoing from 2027–28) for the department to deliver biosecurity operations at the new international airport in Western Sydney, of which \$7.6 million in 2026–27 (and \$7.7 million per year ongoing) will be cost recovered through existing regulatory arrangements.</li> <li>• \$21 million over 3 years from 2024–25 (and \$7.2 million per year ongoing from 2027–28), to help manage biosecurity risks in international mail.</li> </ul>
2024-25 Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$16.9 million over 4 years to ensure the biosecurity integrity of Australia's border remains contemporary and adaptable to evolving global risks by underpinning biosecurity operations with specialist technology and equipment at Western Sydney Airport.</li> </ul>
2024-25 MYEFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$37 million over two years from 2024–25 as part of the additional \$95 million investment announced in October 2024 to enhance national preparedness and response capability for a potential outbreak of H5 high pathogenicity avian influenza in Australia. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$24.6m for the department (part of the department's sustainable biosecurity funding)</li> <li>• \$0.4m absorbed by the department</li> <li>• \$12m of Treasury appropriation as a payment to the states for boosting biosecurity response capability. Note this is not part of the department's sustainable biosecurity funding.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Further detail about avian influenza activities is in KIB BAD01- High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (H7 and H5).</i></p>
2025-26 Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional Outcome 2 Budget measures</li> <li>• Note \$11 million provided in 2025–26 for a one-year extension to the existing Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Program. This is an Outcome 1 program and not included in the Table 1 biosecurity budget.</li> </ul>



### National Biosecurity Strategy

- Sustainable investment is one of the 6 key priorities of the National Biosecurity Strategy.

### Next steps

- The department continues to communicate with industry on the sustainable biosecurity funding model and engage on further sustainable biosecurity funding reforms.
- The department will also work with industry to provide advice on potential changes to biosecurity cost recovery models to ensure they are fit for purpose and continue to be aligned to the actual costs of managing biosecurity risk associated with imports.

### **SOURCES**

Internal Budget, Reporting, Policy and Training Section, Finance and Investment Division, 18 March 2025.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report 2023-24



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry

# Biosecurity funding and expenditure report 2023–24

Sustainably funding a strong  
biosecurity system



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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web [agriculture.gov.au](https://agriculture.gov.au)

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### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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# Introduction

## Purpose

The Australian Government's [sustainable biosecurity funding package](#) in Budget 2023–24 committed to annual publication of biosecurity funding and expenditure to provide transparency and accountability. This report delivers on that promise.

This inaugural version of this report has been prepared based on the information available in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's reporting systems, and future versions may evolve as this new reporting activity matures.

We will publish the report following the end of each financial year. This will complement existing public reporting, including portfolio budget statements, annual reports and corporate plans. While budget statements and annual reports show aggregated financial information at an outcome (biosecurity and export services) and departmental level, this report shows biosecurity-specific financial information. Biosecurity funding figures provided in this report are represented as budgeted figures up to and including Budget 2024–25. Expenditure figures are actuals for the 2023–24 financial year.

# Biosecurity in action

Australia's biosecurity system is critical to protect our economy, environment and way of life. By reducing the risk of pests and diseases entering Australia and investing in a stronger biosecurity system, we support the sustainability, profitability and competitiveness of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries. This helps drive a stronger Australian economy and preserve our unique natural environment.

The volume of incoming cargo, people, mail and vessels is significant and predicted to continue to grow. In 2023–24 biosecurity officers supported the biosecurity clearance of more than:

- 113 million imported cargo consignments
- 138,000 containers
- 19 million international travellers
- 19,800 vessels arriving in Australia
- 104,000 international aircraft.

This section showcases examples of the current and future benefits of 2023–24 biosecurity funding use. For analysis and performance results for biosecurity activities, measured against goals and objectives set for 2023–24 in the portfolio budget statements and corporate plan, see the [Annual report 2023–24](#).

## Trade and market access

A strong biosecurity status plays a significant role in shaping Australia's export landscape by ensuring product quality, facilitating market access, protecting domestic agriculture, influencing trade negotiations and driving ongoing innovations in biosecurity practice.

Continued and sustained investment in activities that directly or indirectly strengthen the biosecurity system supports export of around two-thirds of Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry products.

In 2023–24, Australia's biosecurity status directly helped the department improve, maintain and restore access to international export markets:

- We maintained access for meat and meat products to Taiwan through assurance of Australia's low-risk freedom status for 3 animal diseases – classical swine fever (CSF), peste des petit ruminants (PPR) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). This ensured Australian meat exporters can continue to access a market worth \$419 million in 2023.
- We provided revised veterinary health certificates to maintain access for queen bees exported to Canada – Australia exported \$2.9 million of live bees to Canada in 2023. This ensured ongoing trade following the changed *Varroa destructor* status in Australia. Conditions for package bees were also updated to recognise resumption of state freedom from small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) in Tasmania.

- We successfully negotiated reinstatement of market access for sheep meat to be exported to Brazil. Brazil changed certification requirements in 2020. We negotiated new certificate requirements, including a shorter attestation list based on Australia's disease status.
- We improved access for horticulture to China through reinstatement of the northern Tasmania Pest Free Area (PFA) after 5 years. Reinstatement of the PFA has been of high interest to Tasmanian horticultural industries because it will help reduce the cost of export to the Chinese market.

## Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System program

In Budget 2023–24, the government committed \$145.2 million over 3 years to the [Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System \(STEPS\) program](#) – a modern digital initiative to create a faster, simpler and more integrated system that will enhance efficiency of biosecurity clearance in the cargo pathway and strengthen biosecurity risk management. STEPS is a multi-year investment that is projected to deliver over \$600 million in savings over 10 years. To date, the program has delivered 3 products:

- 1) External verification for eCertificates – allows accredited brokers to view secure digital sanitary and phytosanitary certificates as they assess commodities under an approved arrangement.
- 2) Approved Arrangement Management Product – allows industry participants to update and view their approved arrangements details online, including contact information, notices and classes.
- 3) Biosecurity Cargo Status Tracker – an interactive, real-time reporting tool that provides reliable visibility to industry of the cargo being managed by the department.

## Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program

The essential partnership with First Nations people through the [Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program](#) provides vital surveillance for the early detection of biosecurity threats along the sparsely populated northern Australian coastline. Indigenous ranger groups are engaged on a fee-for-service basis to undertake biosecurity activities.

In addition to protecting us at the biosecurity frontline, the Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program provides skills, employment and economic opportunities on Country for First Nations people in remote and regional communities. In May 2023, the government announced funding of \$40.6 million over 4 years from 2023–24 and ongoing funding of \$12 million per year from 2027–28 to sustainably fund the program.

Key achievements for 2023–24 were:

- delivery of 1,271 biosecurity surveillance activities by rangers resulting in 4,115 observations across northern Australia
- establishment of 3-year contracts with ranger organisations, including expansion of the network to 67 ranger groups
- continuation of 8 departmental biosecurity engagement officers in Cairns, Darwin and Broome to support ranger groups, and increased visits to ranger groups in the field

- provision of grants to 17 ranger groups to support capability-building activities such as training, purchase of equipment and ranger exchanges
- delivery of hands-on biosecurity fundamentals training to 103 rangers in Cairns, Darwin and Kununurra covering the latest biosecurity threats and surveillance activities
- procurement of essential equipment valued at over \$1.2 million (field and IT equipment) for gifting to 63 ranger groups undertaking biosecurity activities, and training valued at over \$120,000
- convening of a roundtable with 46 ranger coordinators and managers to gain their input into how the Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program can be strengthened and improved.

## Hitchhiker Pest Program

The [Hitchhiker Pest Program](#) aims to address the risk of hitchhiker pests that can be carried via sea containers, their cargoes and associated packaging. The program is focused on plant arthropod hitchhiker pests that can arrive via sea containers and the cargo they contain. The program includes the Sea Container Design Improvement Project and the honey bee molecular test.

### Sea Container Design Improvement Project

Shipping containers have been identified as the source of incursions and invasions of key pest species, including khapra beetle, giant African snail, yellow crazy ant, tropical fire ant and spongy moth. This project aims to improve the design and structure of sea containers, making them less attractive to hitchhiker pests and to reduce soil and plant contamination.

### Honey bee molecular test

The honey bee is critical to Australia's agriculture. The industry is worth more than \$14 billion annually in the form of honey, honey products and through pollination services. Protecting the industry against pests and pathogens through strict biosecurity policies for honey products and bee genetics is crucial across agricultural industries. This project aims to develop, optimise and validate a single method that can detect 3 key honey bee mite pests in bee swarms at border locations.

Our key achievements and outcomes in 2023–24 include:

- accelerated ability to identify exotic bee mites and conduct appropriate surveillance activities, potentially increasing the chance of eradication if an incursion occurs
- development of a draft national diagnostic protocol
- development of an additional tool for surveillance and monitoring.

The CSIRO also delivered training on novel honey bee tests at the Annual Diagnostics Workshop.



# Funding the biosecurity system

## Overview of funding

Funding for the Commonwealth biosecurity system is allocated to meet the department's statutory responsibilities for managing biosecurity risks. The secretary of the department is the Director of Biosecurity and is responsible for the general administration of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Biosecurity Act). The Commonwealth biosecurity system is funded through appropriations from government, cost recovery revenue and [section 74 revenue](#).

## Appropriations from government

The department receives departmental and administered appropriations from government. Departmental appropriations are funds associated with the day-to-day operations and program-support activities of the department, and over which the secretary usually has control. They typically include salaries, purchase of general goods and services, property costs and other operational expenditure. Administered appropriations are funds administered by the department on behalf of the government. This can include payments to states and territories, grant programs and other expenditure for specific government or public purposes.

## Cost recovery revenue

The department also receives revenue through fees and charges for the provision of biosecurity regulatory activities under the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement. The department has authority to recover costs from industry for a range of regulatory activities. The use of cost recovered revenue must align with the rules set under the [Australian Government Charging Framework](#).

The department also receives cost recovered revenue from Australia Post for biosecurity clearance activities undertaken in international mail gateway facilities. This is a statutory fee set in legislation.

## Section 74 revenue

Section 74 of the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013](#) provides a mechanism where funds (revenue) received by the department may be retained to cover the costs of specified activities. This type of revenue mostly relates to amounts likely to be received by the department to meet the cost of providing a good or service. Examples may include application or processing fees or the provision of services to another government entity.

## Emergency biosecurity response funding

The department leads the Australian Government's effort in minimising the impact of pests and diseases on Australian agriculture and our environment. This includes contributing to funding for nationally cost-shared emergency biosecurity responses under the emergency response deeds (plant, animal and environment).

Emergency biosecurity response funding is separate to biosecurity operational funding and is outside the scope of this report (see [Emergency biosecurity response budget](#)).

## Cost recovery

The [2023–24 Biosecurity Cost Recovery Implementation Statement](#) sets out the fees and charges that applied in 2023–24 under the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement. In the 2023–24 financial year, cost recovery revenue from importers was \$365.0 million (excluding Australia Post). This was \$65.3 million or 21.8% higher than the previous financial year. This is due to a number of factors, including the increased fees and charges applied from 1 July 2023.

The revenue figure of \$365.0 million varies slightly from the amount published on 16 July 2024 of \$360.1 million, due to the timing of biosecurity-specific accrued revenue (seaports) and appropriation (anti-smuggling) processed after 1 July 2024.

On 1 July 2024, fees and charges were again increased in line with indexation, consistent with the government's commitment to review biosecurity fees and charges annually. The 4.1% increase ensures the department will continue to recover the cost of providing regulatory activities without drawing on funds allocated for other critical biosecurity functions.

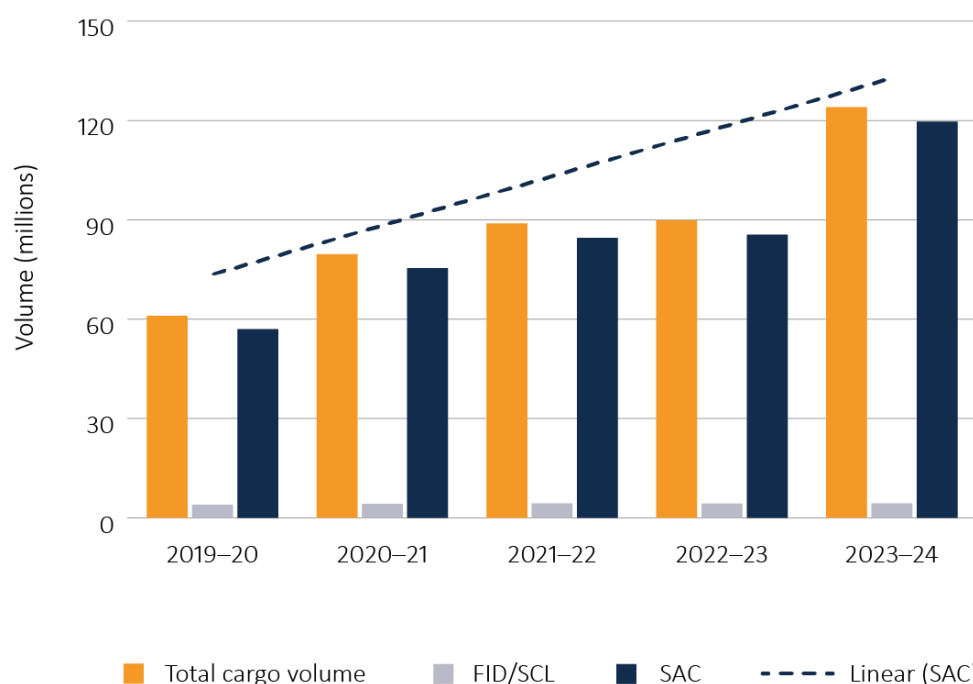
Learn more about the [biosecurity cost recovery arrangement](#).

## Self-assessed clearances (SAC)

As part of the sustainable biosecurity funding package in Budget 2023–24, the government announced that the industry biosecurity cost recovery arrangement would be extended to low-value (\$1,000 or less) goods imported into Australia by sea or air cargo.

In 2023–24, 119 million self-assessed clearance (SAC) goods valued at \$1,000 or less were imported by sea or air cargo into Australia. SAC cargo volumes have steadily increased over the past 5 years by an average of 15% annually (Figure 1).

**Figure 1 Cargo volumes, 2019–20 to 2023–24**



**FID** Full import declaration. **SCL** Cargo reported self-assessed clearance. **SAC** Self-assessed clearance.

The cost of biosecurity clearance in relation to these goods was previously met by taxpayers. The new charge, which will raise approximately \$27 million per year, will ensure that risk creators (importers) are meeting this cost. The new charge will commence from 1 October 2024. It will cover the direct and indirect costs incurred by the department in managing the growing volume of low-value items brought into Australia and the biosecurity risks associated with these goods. A SAC-specific cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) will be published on commencement of the charge for the 2024–25 financial year. The SAC CRIS will be amalgamated into the Biosecurity CRIS from 2025–26.

## **International mail**

Australia Post pays the department a legislated annual fee of around \$15.3 million for biosecurity clearance activities at international mail gateway facilities.

Due to the increased risks of this pathway, the cost of assessing and managing biosecurity risks at international mail gateway facilities has grown. This has created an annual shortfall in funding. Through the 2023–24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), the government provided additional ongoing appropriation funding to the department of approximately \$7 million per year from 2024–25 to address the shortfall.

# Biosecurity budget

The department has a biosecurity budget of approximately \$800 million per year, which is split relatively evenly between appropriation funding and cost recovered revenue.

Table 1 shows the biosecurity budget by funding source for 2023–24 and over the forward estimates. Budget numbers include all government decisions made up to and including Budget 2024–25.

**Table 1 Biosecurity budget**

Funding source	2023–24 (\$m)	2024–25 (\$m)	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)
Cost recovery <sup>a</sup>	379.1	417.1	420.0	435.6	443.0
Base appropriation	366.4	366.6	375	365.2	368.3
STEPS program appropriation	46.5	57.4	41.3	n/a	n/a
<b>Total biosecurity funding</b>	<b>792.0</b>	<b>841.1 <sup>b</sup></b>	<b>836.3</b>	<b>800.8</b>	<b>811.3</b>

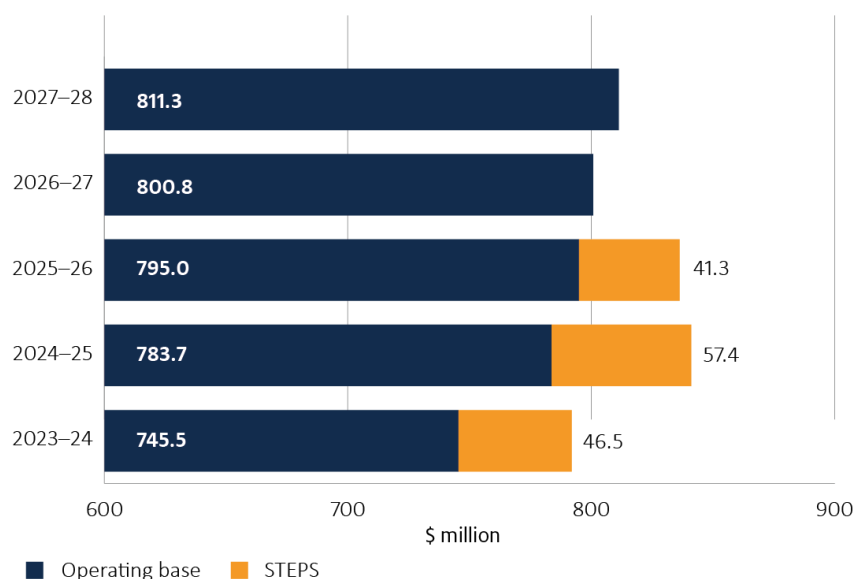
**a** Includes the cost recovery arrangement, Australia Post, Defence and other s74 contract revenue. **b** Includes the self-assessed clearance charge. The delayed commencement date of 1 October 2024 may vary the amount of revenue collected. **n/a** Not applicable. **STEPS** Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System.

## Stable base operating funding

The sustainable biosecurity funding package delivered long-term certain and stable base operating funding for biosecurity, enabling better planning and resource management.

Figure 2 shows the significant increase in base operating funding and its continuation into the future. Higher levels of total biosecurity funding in 2023–24 to 2025–26 reflect the inclusion of the STEPS terminating measure and do not represent a decline in base operating funding in future years.

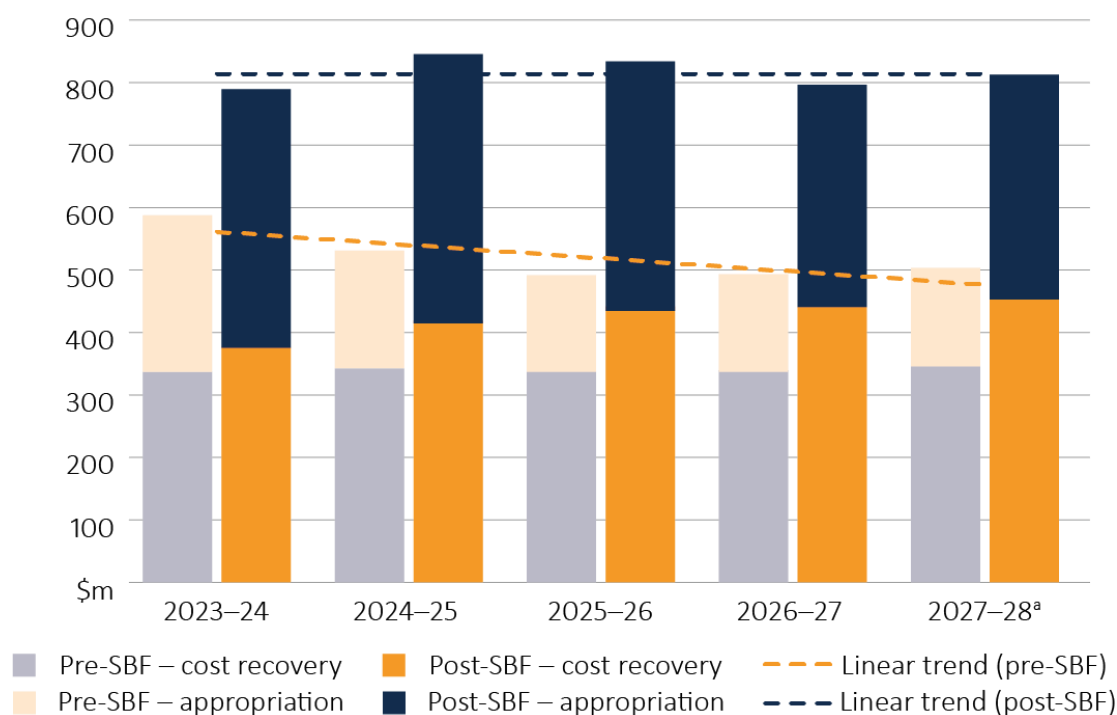
**Figure 2 Operating base funding, 2023–24 to 2027–28**



**STEPS** Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System.

Budget 2023–24 provided significant and permanent increases to funding for biosecurity. Through MYEFO 2023–24 and Budget 2024–25, the Australian Government has further increased funding for biosecurity. This increased funding can be seen in comparison to the funding that would have been available for biosecurity prior to these decisions of government, and assuming no further decisions that impact funding (Figure 3).

**Figure 3 Biosecurity funding, pre- and post-sustainable biosecurity funding**



<sup>a</sup> 2027–28 pre-SBF appropriation and cost recovery amounts are estimates. **SBF** sustainable biosecurity funding.

Table 2 outlines biosecurity funding for 2023–24 and over the forward estimates, current at Budget 2024–25. The table incorporates additional funding for biosecurity provided through MYEFO 2023–24 and Budget 2024–25. Table 3 shows the biosecurity budget following the announcement of the sustainable biosecurity funding package in Budget 2023–24.

**Table 2 Biosecurity funding, 2023–24 to 2027–28, at Budget 2024–25**

Funding source	Subcategory	2023–24 (\$m)	2024–25 (\$m)	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)
<b>Cost recovery</b>	Existing cost recovery arrangement	350.7	365.7	373.0	388.0	395.7
	Cost recovery – SACs	0.0	27.1	27.1	27.1	27.1
	Australia Post	15.3	15.3	15.6	15.8	16.0
	Defence	0.3	1.1	0.4	1.5	1.5
	Other s74 revenue	12.8	7.9	3.9	3.2	2.7
	<b>Total cost recovery</b>	<b>379.1</b>	<b>417.1</b>	<b>420.0</b>	<b>435.6</b>	<b>443.0</b>
<b>Appropriation</b>	Departmental appropriation	373.4	377.1	377.8	337.9	341.9
	Departmental equity injection	13.2	19.8	15.0	2.2	0.3

## Biosecurity funding and expenditure report 2023–24: sustainably funding a strong biosecurity system

Funding source	Subcategory	2023–24 (\$m)	2024–25 (\$m)	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)	2027–28 (\$m)
	Department of Finance gateway review departmental appropriation	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
	Administered	26.2	26.9	23.4	25.1	26.1
	<b>Total appropriation</b>	<b>412.9</b>	<b>424.0</b>	<b>416.3</b>	<b>365.2</b>	<b>368.3</b>
<b>Total biosecurity funding</b>	–	<b>792.0</b>	<b>841.1<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>836.3</b>	<b>800.8</b>	<b>811.3</b>

Note: Total values are rounded. Budget numbers include government decisions made up to and including Budget 2024–25.

<sup>a</sup> Includes the self-assessed clearance charge. The delayed commencement date of 1 October 2024 may vary the amount of revenue collected. **SACs** Self-assessed clearances.

**Table 3 Biosecurity funding, 2023–24 to 2026–27, at Budget 2023–24**

Funding source	Subcategory	2023–24 (\$m)	2024–25 (\$m)	2025–26 (\$m)	2026–27 (\$m)
<b>Cost recovery</b>	Existing cost recovery arrangement	312.4	314.1	315.7	317.3
	Cost recovery – SACs	0.0	27.1	27.1	27.1
	Australia Post	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.4
	Defence	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
	Other s74 revenue	4.0	2.6	2.2	2.2
	<b>Total cost recovery</b>	<b>333.3</b>	<b>360.7</b>	<b>361.9</b>	<b>363.5</b>
<b>Appropriation</b>	Departmental appropriation	410.0	400.5	393.9	370.1
	Departmental equity injection	13.2	17.5	12.6	0.0
	Department of Finance gateway review departmental appropriation	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
	Administered	27.5	25.7	22.7	24.9
	<b>Total appropriation</b>	<b>450.9</b>	<b>443.9</b>	<b>429.3</b>	<b>395.0</b>
<b>Total biosecurity funding – sustainable biosecurity funding package</b>	–	<b>784.2</b>	<b>804.6</b>	<b>791.2</b>	<b>758.5</b>

**SACs** Self-assessed clearances.

## Emergency biosecurity response budget

The scope of this report is limited to funding to meet the department's operational responsibilities for managing biosecurity risks (see [Overview of funding](#)). The Australian Government contributes separately to nationally cost-shared emergency biosecurity responses under the:

- Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)
- Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD)
- National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA)
- National Fire Ant Eradication Program (NFAEP)
- other responses established outside of EADRA, EPPRD, NEBRA and NFAEP.

Responses are cost shared between the Commonwealth, states and territories and, where appropriate, industry parties to EADRA and EPPRD. The Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness and Response Programs provides the mechanism for the Commonwealth to pay its cost-sharing contribution to the responsible jurisdiction on an individual response basis. The impacted state or territory delivers the response activities.

Funding contributions by parties, including industry, are approved by the National Management Group (NMG) as set out in the relevant deed or agreement in response to biosecurity incidents. The NMG is made up of a representative of each cost-sharing party to the individual response.

At Budget 2024–25, the Commonwealth had committed \$471.1 million in funding from 2023–24 to 2027–28 under the project agreement ([Budget Paper No. 3](#), page 98). This includes provision for underwriting industry contributions, which are repaid through levy arrangements prescribed in each deed or agreement, or voluntary means. Because these payments are made to states and territories for specific purposes, the Treasury facilitates the payments in consultation with our department.

# Biosecurity expenditure

In 2023–24 the department's biosecurity expenses totalled \$739.7 million. Our activities are largely focused on direct border protection activities, including import clearance, post-entry quarantine (PEQ), seaports program, and biosecurity clearance of international mail and international passengers. Direct border regulatory activities, with the exception of biosecurity clearance of passengers, are typically cost-recovered.

Appropriation funding supports biosecurity activities that may not be recoverable, including statutory functions, and functions that contribute to enduring planning and effort to prepare and respond to the threat of pests and diseases. These activities include:

- providing scientific and policy analysis and advice – including analysis undertaken to support our biosecurity import conditions and other regulatory controls, forecasting and ongoing reform to the national biosecurity system
- undertaking preparedness and surveillance activities, including the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy and the Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program
- supporting ongoing biosecurity work of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer and Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer, and their offices, to provide technical expertise and advice to government on Australia's animal and plant health status, and assist continued and expanded overseas market access
- supporting the Commonwealth's effort towards emergency response functions separate to established cost-sharing and funding arrangements for responses (see [Emergency biosecurity response funding](#))
- meeting international obligations and work to build the capability of other nations (particularly in the Pacific) to reduce biosecurity risk, including providing vaccines, training and development
- delivering communication and engagement activities to build biosecurity awareness in the community, industry and international audiences
- supporting national coordination and engagement mechanisms
- funding the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences to support research and analysis of biosecurity science and economics to assist the department and external organisations
- delivering innovation and new technologies to improve biosecurity outcomes, including through the Biosecurity Innovation Program
- continuing investment in system improvements to better manage risk and drive improved diagnostics and data analytics to support the biosecurity system.

All organisations require supporting and enabling services to deliver their outcomes. A portion of the biosecurity expenditure includes payroll, human resources, finance, ICT, legal and communication support, as well as uniforms and operational consumables such as personal protective equipment and scientific equipment. These expenses are disbursed across activities (Table 4).



**Table 4 Departmental biosecurity expenses, by activity, 2023–24**

Activities	Expenses (actuals) (\$m)
Import clearance (international air cargo, sea cargo and containers)	263.2
Post-entry quarantine (PEQ)	26.3
Seaports Program (maritime vessels entering Australia)	30.8
International mail	17.5
International passengers	86.6
<b>Total direct border protection activities</b>	<b>424.4</b>
Administered funding – biosecurity activities programs	24.3
Government-funded and s74 external revenue (incl. offshore) biosecurity activities <sup>a</sup>	206.7
Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System	17.9
Digital capability and business function	28.1
Indirect costs <sup>b</sup>	38.3
<b>Total non-direct border activities</b>	<b>315.3</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>739.7</b>

**a** Includes surveillance, compliance, risk analysis, workforce management, policy development, international engagement, commodity import forecasting and staff training activities. **b** Includes asset and/or lease-related expenses such as depreciation and amortisation (e.g. lease expenses from Melbourne Mickleham office are attributable to post-entry quarantine activities within the biosecurity cost recovery arrangements).

## Financial performance

Table 5 shows a breakdown of the department's biosecurity budget, expenditure and variance for 2023–24. The biosecurity budget for 2023–24 was \$792.0 million, but expenditure amounted to \$739.7 million (Refer to Table 5).

**Table 5 Biosecurity expenditure and budget variance, 2023–24**

Category	Actual (\$m)	Budget (\$m)	Variance (\$m)
Appropriation and other s74 revenue	341.4	386.2	44.8 <sup>a</sup>
Existing cost recovery arrangement	351.2	350.7	–0.52
Australia Post	19.3	15.3	–4.0 <sup>b</sup>
Defence	0.8	0.3	–0.5
Departmental equity injection	2.7	13.2	10.5 <sup>c</sup>
Department of Finance gateway review departmental appropriation	0.1	0.1	0.0
Administered	24.3	26.2	1.9
<b>Total biosecurity expenditure</b>	<b>739.7</b>	<b>792.0</b>	<b>52.3</b>

Note: Variances of less than \$1 million have not been noted. **a** The STEPS program incurred a significant operating underspend of \$17.9 million in 2023–24 due to delays in its ICT program of work. Other expenses were also below budget, reflecting slower than anticipated recruitment of front-line staff, which required additional effort by existing staff to meet service standards. Activity is underway to improve staffing levels to decrease service delivery times. The retained funding from the 2023-24 underspend will be used to support the department's request for a re profiling of the STEPS funding to continue its delivery over the coming financial years, and to support departmental capital expenditure that spans multiple years. **b** Deficit position in 2023–24 reflected an increasing volume of work. This is expected to continue and will be supplemented by ongoing funding of approximately \$7 million per year from 2024–25. **c** Includes \$0.3 m for Modern

## Biosecurity funding and expenditure report 2023–24: sustainably funding a strong biosecurity system

Seamless Border Clearance and \$12.9 m for STEPS. Due to the significant STEPS capital underspend of \$10.7 m in 2023–24, the department is exploring options to re-profile this funding to sustain project delivery.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division

# BSRD02

## BIOSECURITY KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- Increases in trade volumes and passenger movements, shifting trade and travel patterns and climate change continue to alter biosecurity risk profiles and make biosecurity risks increasingly complex to manage.
- To combat the omnipresent and evolving biosecurity threats facing Australia, the Australian Government invests significant resources into our world-leading national biosecurity system.
- In the 2023-24 Budget, the Australian Government announced a significant boost in biosecurity funding through the sustainable biosecurity funding package.
  - The package provided additional funding of more than \$1 billion over 4 years (2023-24 to 2026-27), and \$267 million per year ongoing from 2027-28.
- This additional and ongoing funding is critical to support a range of Commonwealth biosecurity activities including regulatory and surveillance activities at the border, post entry quarantine, biosecurity policy and technical functions, international outreach and on-ground biosecurity activities.
- In the 12 months to January 2025, this funding has supported biosecurity achievements that demonstrate our ability to keep effectively Australia safe, in collaboration with our key partners.
- Some examples of key achievements relate to enhanced preparedness and response, strategy and reporting, enhanced compliance, capability uplift, and strong partnerships.

#### Enhanced preparedness and response

- The Government **H5 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) Preparedness** Taskforce continues to lead and coordinate national activity on strengthening H5 HPAI surveillance, preparedness and response capability.
  - This includes implementing the Australia government's commitment of around \$100 million of preparedness funding announced in 2024 to bolster the nation's capacity in alignment with a 'One Health' approach.

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
SES Lead: Julia Wells  
Last updated: 10 February 2025

Telephone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000039

- The department currently **supports 15 ongoing national emergency biosecurity responses** to plant pests and animal diseases.

### Strategy and reporting

- The inaugural **National Biosecurity Strategy (NBS) 2024 Action Plan** was released in December 2024.
  - The NBS Action Plan sets out a strategic approach to bolster Australia's biosecurity system, guiding national biosecurity activities, planning and investment.
- The **DAFF Biosecurity 2030 Roadmap** was published in October 2024.
  - This refresh of the former Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 ensures the department's strategic goals and actions remain contemporary to the changing needs and priorities of the national biosecurity system.
- A revised **National Priority Plant Pests List** was agreed.
  - The updated list will ensure that biosecurity stakeholders are aware of Australia's priority plant pest risks, and we can better target efforts to mitigate the threat they pose and prepare for potential incursions.
- In October 2024, the department published the inaugural **Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report (BFER)**.
  - This is the first time the department's biosecurity funding and expenditure has been published in this way, providing greater transparency over biosecurity funding and expenditure.

### Compliance

- The department took **compliance action against a major international airline, United Airlines**, for failing to meet pre-arrival reporting obligations on multiple occasions. United Airlines entered into an enforceable undertaking with the department, highlighting that no one, including large organisations, is exempt from complying with Australia's biosecurity requirements.
- Through **Operation Cascade**, the department continues to collaborate with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to **address the illegal trade of animals** – an activity that poses significant biosecurity risk.
  - As part of the ongoing operation, the department has referred two matters to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecution, recommending charges under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.
- The department launched **AusTreat**, Australia's new government-to-industry treatment provider assurance scheme. Controls established under AusTreat provide the department with confidence to 'whitelist' approximately 50,000 consignments a

year - reducing intervention for industry and allowing the department to reprioritise resources to higher risk pathways.

### Capability uplift

- An improved regulatory and decision-support tool, the **Traveller and Mail System (TAMS)**, was developed and implemented for use by biosecurity officers to digitally record outcomes of assessments, inspections and non-compliance activities.
  - TAMS has been implemented at all international airports, cruise terminals and international mail centres as part of efforts to modernise border systems and processes.
- The first phase of the **Australia Travel Declaration (ATD)** trial, an initiative to provide a digital alternative to the paper Incoming Passenger Card, has been successfully completed.
  - Future phases are being planned that aim to use advanced traveller information to enhance biosecurity risk assessment capability and support targeted interventions at the border.
- In December 2024, the final **detector dogs** and handlers were onboarded by the department, fulfilling an election commitment to add 20 new detector dogs and 20 detector dog handlers to strengthen Australia's front-line biosecurity defences.

### Strong partnerships

- The department celebrated the significant contributions of dedicated people and organisations to biosecurity at the **2024 Australian Biosecurity Awards** held in November 2024.
  - These awards demonstrate the varied work that supports the biosecurity system and promotes biosecurity excellence and the importance of shared biosecurity responsibility.
- The **Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program** was expanded to include four new Indigenous ranger groups.
  - The program is now partnering with 67 Indigenous ranger groups and two Indigenous cattle stations, who provide vital frontline surveillance in northern Australia.
- **Approved arrangement class 14.4** was expanded to authorise biosecurity industry participants to perform **rural tailgate inspections** on containers with no specific biosecurity concerns.
  - The expansion of these arrangements means industry benefits from faster inspections and release of cargo, and reduced costs associated with the expedient return of empty shipping containers.

- The department **supported the import of two panda bears** from the People's Republic of China (PRC) by working with Adelaide Zoo and the exporting zoo in the PRC to ensure biosecurity obligations were met. The loan of pandas holds diplomatic significance and symbolises the strengthening relationship between the two countries.

## BACKGROUND

- Table 1 provides an overview of the biosecurity operating environment and the department's efforts to protect Australia from pests and diseases in the cargo, traveller and mail pathways in 2023-24.

Table 1. Biosecurity operating environment and departmental effort in 2023-24<sup>1</sup>

Pathway	Volume	Interventions	Interceptions
<b>Cargo</b> <i>High &amp; low value consignments by sea &amp; air</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 124 million cargo import consignments</li> <li>• 2,586,100 containers arrived in Australia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 667,500 containers referred to the department for intervention</li> <li>• 6240300 items that had documentation assessed</li> <li>• 275,100 cargo items inspected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19,400 pests and diseases identified</li> </ul>
<b>International travellers</b> <i>Air and sea, including air/ship crew</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21.6 million traveller arrivals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7.9 million traveller interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 369,300 travellers intercepted with biosecurity risk material</li> </ul>
<b>Mail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A <sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.3 million mail items screened <sup>b</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 49,200 detections of biosecurity risk material</li> </ul>

**Note:** This data may differ to previously reported figures due to updates associated with data reporting protocols and corrections arising from time-to-time.

**a** Mail volume unavailable as it is commercial-in-confidence. Refer questions about mail volumes to Australia Post.

**b** Data from 1 July 2023 to 24 April 2024 only due to the rollout of the Traveller and Mail System (TAMS).

### Cargo

- Import cargo volumes have been increasing year on year, rising to 124 million consignments in 2023-24. This was a 38% increase on the previous financial year (89.9 million) and more than twice the volume of consignments than 2018-19 (54.8 million; 126% increase).
- In 2023-24, the number of containers arriving in Australia was 2.59 million, an increase of nearly 5% on the previous year (2.47 million) and up 7% since 2018-19 (2.41 million).

### International travellers

- In 2023-24, 21.6 million travellers arrived in Australia. Traveller arrivals are increasing year on year and are nearly back to pre-COVID levels from 2018-19 (23.2 million).
- In 2023-24, there were 7.9 million traveller interventions (an interaction or control imposed by biosecurity officers). This was greater than any time in the previous 5

years. In 2023-24, there were also about 369,000 interceptions of travellers with biosecurity risk material. This is a 34% increase since 2018-19 (about 275,000).

### Mail

- In 2023-24, there were 49,200 detections of biosecurity risk material in the mail pathway. This is an average 135 of detections of each day.

### **SOURCES**

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as at January 2025, Biosecurity Analytics Centre Dashboard - Overview – Senate estimates key statistics, Canberra.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division

**BSRD03****BIOSECURITY PROTECTION LEVY****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- The proposed Biosecurity Protection Levy (the levy) was intended to be a new levy and charge payable by primary producers.
- It was one part of the 2023-24 Budget measure '*Strengthened and Sustainably Funded Biosecurity System*', which delivered increased, broad-based and long-term sustainable funding for Australia's biosecurity system.
  - The levy was intended to raise around \$50 million per year.
- The bills to introduce the levy framework were discharged from the Senate Notice Paper on 12 February 2025.
- The Government has acknowledged that the bills will not be part of the solution for sustainable biosecurity funding, which is why it supported the removal of the Bills.
- With the exception of the levy, all elements of the sustainable biosecurity funding package have been implemented (*Refer KIB BSRD01 – Biosecurity Sustainable Funding*).
- The Government will continue engaging with key industry stakeholders to ensure a sustainably funded biosecurity system into the future and engage producers in the policy solutions that protect their livelihoods.

**Biosecurity funding impact**

- While the levy did not commence on 1 July 2024 as planned, there is currently no impact on the amount of funding for biosecurity as the revenue was not to be hypothecated to the department.
- The levy revenue would have been paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund to partly offset the significant uplift in appropriation funding provided for the biosecurity system under the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding package.
- Whether the amount of appropriation funding provided for biosecurity is reduced in line with the foregone levy revenue is a matter for government.

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
SES Lead: Julia Wells  
Last updated: 14 March 2025

Telephone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000040



- In 2024-25, increased receipts of \$47.5 million through the levy were forecast as per Table 1 below (2023-24 DAFF portfolio budget statements refer).

Table 1. Commonwealth revenue forecast over 3 years

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
<b>Receipt</b>	\$47.5m	\$52.4m	\$53.1m	\$153.0m

- The revenue to be collected from the proposed levy would not have specifically covered any one biosecurity activity.
- Any reduction in appropriation funding could have broad impacts across the department's non-cost recovered biosecurity activities, such as:
  - surveillance activities in northern Australia (e.g. Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program),
  - ongoing support for engagement with near-neighbour countries to manage emerging biosecurity threats that pose a risk to Australia, and
  - expanding diagnostic capabilities to safely support faster biosecurity clearance of imported plant and animal-based products.

#### Container levy

- Our biosecurity cost recovery arrangements need to remain fit for purpose and aligned to the actual costs of managing biosecurity risk associated with imports.
- Any reforms to our border charging models would need to be consistent with Australia's trade law obligations.
  - The department works closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on this.
- The Government has already returned importers to full cost recovery.
- On 1 July 2024, fees and charges were again increased in line with indexation, in line with the Government's commitment to review biosecurity fees and charges annually.

#### Primary producers as key beneficiaries of a strong biosecurity system

- The proposed levy would have been payable by producers of agricultural, forestry and fisheries goods and products, whether produced for domestic or overseas markets.
- Primary producers, whether growing for the domestic market or exporting into overseas markets—benefit considerably from Australia's biosecurity status. However, producers do not currently contribute directly to the cost of Commonwealth biosecurity efforts to prevent pests and diseases from entering Australia.

- The sustainable biosecurity funding model was designed around the principle that biosecurity is a shared responsibility.
- As announced in the 2023-24 Budget, forecast revenue from the levy was equivalent to around 6% of total Commonwealth biosecurity funding in 2024-25 (refer Table 2).

**Table 2. Stakeholder contributions to Commonwealth biosecurity funding in 2024-25 (as announced in 2023-24 Budget sustainable biosecurity funding package).**

Stakeholder	Amount (\$m)	Percentage
Taxpayers	350.9	44
Importers <sup>(a)</sup>	390.7	49
Australia Post	15.4	2
Primary producers <sup>(b)</sup>	47.5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>804.6</b>	<b>100</b>

**a** Includes existing fees and charges for importers, the new self-assessed clearance charge, other section 74 revenue and cost-recovered funding from the Department of Defence.

**b** Includes primary producer contributions through the levy, which have not occurred.

### Next steps

- The department will continue engaging key industry stakeholders, including through but not limited to the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel, to ensure a sustainably funded biosecurity funding system into the future.

## **BACKGROUND**

### Sustainable biosecurity funding

- The broader sustainable biosecurity funding package announced in the 2023-24 Budget is delivering additional funding of more than \$1 billion over 4 years, and \$267 million per year from 2027-28 onwards, to strengthen our biosecurity system into the future. (*Refer KIB BSRD01 - Biosecurity Sustainable Funding*).

### Biosecurity Protection Levy legislation

- The three Bills to enable the proposed levy were introduced to Parliament on 28 February 2024.
- The Bills passed the House of Representatives on 27 March 2024.
- The three Bills would have introduced a new legislative framework to provide for the imposition, collection and administration of the new levy. The package included two imposition Bills and one collection Bill, including:
  - Agriculture (Biosecurity Protection) Levies Bill 2024
  - Agriculture (Biosecurity Protection) Charges Bill 2024
  - Agriculture (Biosecurity Protection) Levies and Charges Collection Bill 2024.
- On 12 February 2025, the bills to introduce the levy framework were discharged from the Senate Notice Paper.

### Senate inquiries

- The Senate referred the Bills to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry and report.
- The department provided a written submission and appeared at the inquiry hearing. The Committee report published in May 2024 recommended that the Senate pass the Bills. Coalition Senators provided a dissenting report that recommended:
  - That the Australian Government properly consult on a sustainable biosecurity funding mechanism including: a full cost recovery basis for managing biosecurity risks of both passengers and commodities entering Australia; and an import container levy to pay for the biosecurity risk created.
  - That the Senate does not pass the bills.
- The Government is in the process of finalising its response to the report.
- On 15 November 2024, the final report of the Senate Select Committee inquiry on the Cost of Living was tabled.
  - The Select Committee recommended the Australian Government “remove the Biosecurity Protection Levy increases introduced in the 2023-24 Budget”.
- Tabling of the Government’s response is a matter for the Treasurer.

### Levy administration costs

- Funding of \$1.1 million per year from 2023-24 to 2024-25 and then \$0.8 million per year from 2025-26 to 2026-27 was provided to the department to administer the levy (figures as at 2023-24 Budget).

### Implementation readiness

- Significant consultation and design work was completed by the department to support the intended 1 July 2024 levy implementation date, including for the proposed levy rates and imposition points that would be set in delegated legislation following the passage of the Bills.
- The proposed levy rates and imposition points for contributing commodities were in the process of being communicated to industry at the time the Bills were being considered by the Parliament.
- Rates communicated to industry are available on the department’s website.
- Had the Bills passed the Senate, the department was on track to support the commencement of legislation from the announced start date of 1 July 2024.

## **SOURCES**

BSRD01 – Key Issues Brief on Biosecurity Sustainable Funding (SB25-000038)

Division: Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity Division

# PPEBD01

## NATIONAL FIRE ANT ERADICATION PROGRAM

Funding Source	Financial Year					TOTAL
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	
<i>Administered (SPP 188*) Terminates 30 June 2027</i>	\$28.2M**	\$74.1M	\$73.9M	\$79.2M	\$41.0M	\$296.4M

\* Part of the total biosecurity emergency response budget item that covers the Commonwealth contribution to national emergency responses (budget item includes varroa mite and other eradication responses)

\*\* Previously approved under the 2017-27 plan

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The Australian Government closely monitors and has confidence in the Program, its current level of resourcing, and its delivery by the Queensland Government. The Program has strong governance, with participation and oversight from all jurisdictions as cost-sharing parties.

#### *Impact of Tropical Cyclone Alfred*

- The recent videos and images on social media of fire ants forming rafts are concerning.
- The National Fire Ant Eradication Program (the Program) is assessing the impacts of ex-tropical Cyclone Alfred including an increase in suspected fire ant reports and rafting fire ants.
- The Program has resumed surveillance and eradication efforts where weather conditions permit, and it has been safe to do so. This is also done in accordance with APVMA guidelines, considering that broadscale treatment (a critical part of the response) cannot be applied during wet weather.
- The Australian Government is closely monitoring the situation and providing support to the Program as required.
- The Program has dealt with similar weather events before and this event is not expected to spread fire ants outside already infested areas.
  - Hydrological analysis and modelling demonstrate rafting fire ants will not reduce the Program's ability to eradicate this pest, as most waterways affected by recent flooding flow into, not out of, already infested areas.

Contact Officer: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
SES Lead: Bertie Hennecke  
Last updated: 24 March 2025

Telephone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000041

- There is no risk of RIFA spreading to NSW through rafting. However, strict movement controls are in place to protect industries, supply chains, and communities from this invasive pest.
  - The NSW government has suspended the movement of hay for at least the next month. This follows the suspension of turf being moved from Queensland Fire Ant Infested Areas into NSW from November 2024. They have also increased surveillance and monitoring of movement of high-risk carrier material across the border.
  - The NSW Fire Ant Team has stepped-up efforts to prevent the spread of fire ants with proactive early detection surveillance across northern New South Wales. The initiative uses specially trained detection dogs and human surveillance teams to monitor high-risk sites to detect and prevent.

#### *Additional funding for suppression efforts - Queensland Government announcement*

- The Queensland Government announced (24 March 2025) an additional **\$24 million** over the next two years (2025-26 and 2026-27) to the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce (FAST) to strengthen suppression activities within the SEQ infested area.
  - The new commitment brings the total (Queensland Government) investment for suppression to \$61 million over 2021-2026.
- This funding will support:
  - Broadscale treatment delivered aurally (drone or helicopter) within the suppression area to support eradication efforts.
  - As part of this, eligible fire ant infested properties of 10 hectares or more can be treated by drone or helicopter at no cost to the landholder.
  - An additional 12 contractors to support RIFA management activities in the suppression area.
- This announcement addresses calls from stakeholders (including through the senate inquiry report) for increased resources for landholders and local government to manage RIFA within the suppression zone.
  - FAST is a Queensland Government led and funded initiative, established in 2021.
  - The 2021 Independent Strategic Review recommended the suppression zone be managed separately to the national cost-shared eradication program.

#### *Independent Program reviews*

- There are two independent program reviews scheduled to be conducted under the 2023-27 Response Plan.
  - An independent review will be delivered this year (due December 2025) to assess the performance of the Program in delivering the response. It will also consider if there is sufficient funding to deliver the final two years of the plan.

- An Program Efficiency and Effectiveness review (as required under the NEBRA) will also be independently delivered by January 2027 to further assess the success of the eradication at that time, feasibility of eradication, and inform the next phase of delivery to ensure eradication by 2032.

#### *2024-25 Program expenditure*

- A high-level indicative budget has been made publicly available on the fire ant website as part of the program's efforts to improve transparency - provided at **Attachment A – Table 1**.
- The revised Program Budget for 2024-25 is **\$175.2 million**. (\$142 million plus carryover from prior years of \$32.2m (underspent due to time taken to double the capacity of the program after confirmation of funding)).
- As of the end of January 2025, the Program had **spent \$75.6 million**. This is under the forecasted expenditure for this period of \$101 million representing approximately \$25m underspend.
- The ~\$25m underspend is due to:
  - multiple staff vacancies which are currently under recruitment (~\$10m), and
  - treatment delays due to wet weather and aircraft hire due to contract negotiations delaying aerial operations (~\$15m).
- Prior to tropical Cyclone Alfred, the Program believed treatment could be caught up (and use a significant amount of the underspend) before the end of this year's treatment season. This is now being reassessed.

#### *Program employment*

- As at 5 March 2025, the Program **employees 690 people** (523 FTE and 167 contractors).

#### *Program reporting*

- All cost sharing parties receive formal reporting including quarterly and annual reports. These reports are approved by the National Management Group (NMG) and published on the Program's website as part of the commitment to transparency.
  - The 2023-24 annual report and 2024-25 workplan will be considered at the next NMG meeting scheduled for April 2025.
- All governance committees receive an update at each of their meetings on Program performance including financial position. The Australian Government is represented on all governance committees.
  - Program Board meetings are held monthly.
  - Consultative Committee meets at least quarterly.
  - National Management Group meets at least quarterly.

### *Response Plan triggers*

- The 2023-27 Response Plan identifies six (6) triggers likely to impact the success of eradication, including the impact of significant detections well outside the containment zone, significant weather events or supply chain issues such as bait availability.
  - The Program's governance committees are considering whether 2 of the triggers have been met in relation to:
    - **8 outlier Detections of Importance** (DOIs) significantly outside the containment zone since November 2023 (detailed at **Attachment B**), and
    - Concerns with the Program's Compliance and Enforcement framework with DOI's resulting from human-assisted movement of high-risk carrier material and increased number of treatment refusals by a small number of residents.
    - We are working with the Program to reduce these risks by providing a compliance and enforcement specialist to consider outlier detections, human assisted movement of high-risk fire ant carrier material, and property entry refusals.
- The impacts of Tropical Cyclone Alfred are also being assessed to determine whether the significant weather event trigger has been met.

### *Detections of Importance outside the containment zone*

- There have been **eight** new detections outside the containment zone since November 2023, including the most recent at North Arm inland from the Sunshine Coast (detailed at **Attachment B**). There have been no new outlier detections since last estimates.
- These detections occurred through the human assisted movement of high-risk carrier material (turf and landscaping material) from within the containment zone and not by natural spread. These detections are not unexpected and have been prioritised for treatment and monitoring.
- Broadscale treatment in these areas will continue in this treatment season (2024-25) and at least the next treatment season (2025-26) in line with established and proven eradication standards. Detections of Importance are not considered eradicated until a Proof of Freedom process is completed.
  - Proof of Freedom can only be declared following implementation of eradication treatments and attainment of meaningful, quantifiable evidence of the absence of fire ants through active surveillance.

### *Compliance*

- The department is working closely with the Program to identify and mitigate risks such as human assisted movement of high-risk material by reviewing compliance measures to strengthen program success.
  - The Program has **treated 168,193 sites** between 1 July 2024 to 11 March 2025.



- There have been **1753 refusals** of treatment in this period (approx. 1 %).
- The Queensland Police have attended **67 properties**. Of these, 14 properties did not result in treatment due to:
  - o 8 - either safety concerns as identified by QPS or inability to access property,
  - o 6 - chemical sensitivity claims

### *Stakeholder concerns*

- Overall, the community is strongly supportive of the Program with 99% of landowners allowing Program officers to deliver treatment on their properties.
- A small proportion of property owners (~1%) have refused entry to field officers to deliver broadscale treatment due to concerns for safety of bait for animals and people.
  - In most cases, field staff were able to access properties by talking with landowners and tailoring their approach to treatment. The need to involve Police to facilitate entry has only been required in a small number of cases.
  - It is important 100% of all targeted properties are treated, and eradication must be carried out at a location systematically, multiple times over several years, to ensure no fire ants remain.
- Organic Operators Australia (peak body) has raised concerns that elements of fire ant treatment may contain genetically engineered ingredients, impacting the ability for organic farmers to receive certification under national standards.
  - The department has worked with the NSW and Queensland Governments and the Program to broaden advice around managing the impact of the Program's broadscale treatment application on organic certification.
  - The Program also works with local farmers to minimise impact to organic properties recognising RIFA treatment can affect organic certification status for a significant period of time.

### *Treatment safety*

- The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has evaluated, registered, or issued permits for RIFA treatments for over 20 years, ensuring they are safe and effective.
  - Where there is a risk to public or animal safety from an active nest (i.e. school, sports field), Fipronil is used to directly inject RIFA nests. Fipronil is also used for managing termites and can only be applied by a licenced pest manager.
  - Broadscale treatment (spread from helicopters, drones and by foot) is corn grit containing the active ingredients (S-methoprene or pyriproxyfen) which do not kill ants but render the queens infertile and stop reproduction.



- S-methoprene, pyriproxyfen and their breakdown products are known to degrade rapidly in the environment. They do not pose any long-term risk of harmful residual effects on the environment.
  - In October 2024, the Program confirmed an independent expert toxicologist had reaffirmed the APVMA assessment that these active ingredients—the same as those found in household pest control products—have very low acute toxicity to mammals, when used in accordance with their label directions (See **Attachment C** for NFAEP Media Release).
  - Questions about chemical safety, use and permits should be directed to the APVMA.
- Further detail is provided in **PPEBD 11 – Red imported fire ant.**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A** – NFAEP 2023-27 Response Plan Indicative Budget and Cwth payments made to date

**Attachment B** – Table – Detections of Importance and response plan approval

**Attachment C** – NFAEP Media release (22 October 2024) Fire ant treatment safe

## Attachment A

**Table 1 - Australian Government Payment schedule for the 2023-27 Response Plan**

*Funds are paid to Qld 6 months in arrears through Federation Funding Agreement.*

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>2023-24 (\$m)</b>	<b>2024-25 (\$m)</b>	<b>2025-26 (\$m)</b>	<b>2026- 27 (\$m)</b>	<b>2027- 28 (\$m)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Milestone 1 - July 2023 to December 2023 2022-23 Annual report</i>	\$28.2 Paid 7 August 2024					
<i>Milestone 2 – January 2024 to June 2024 2023-24 First, second and third Quarterly report</i>		\$38.34 Paid 7 August 2024				
<i>Milestone 3 - July 2024 to December 2024 2023-24 Annual report</i>		\$35.75 <b>Due Feb 2025 - Delayed</b>				
<i>Milestone 4 – January 2025 to June 2025 First, second and third Quarterly report (2024-25)</i>			\$35.75 Due July 2025			
<i>Milestone 5 – Review Response Plan – non- payment</i>			No payment milestone			
<i>Milestone 6 - July 2025 to December 2025 2024-25 Annual report</i>			\$38.16 Due Feb 2026			
<b>Australian Government appropriation</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>296.4</b>

**Table 2 - National Fire Ant Eradication Program Indicative Budget (2024)**

*This information is available on the fire ant website as part of the Program's efforts to improve transparency.*

<b>Program activity</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>Total</b>
Eradication treatment	\$80,619,827	\$86,666,314	\$93,166,287	\$100,153,759	\$360,606,187
Surveillance	\$10,000,000	\$10,750,000	\$11,556,250	\$12,422,968	\$44,729,218
Compliance	\$4,575,128	\$4,918,263	\$5,287,132	\$5,683,667	\$20,464,190
Business services	\$7,099,682	\$7,632,158	\$8,204,570	\$8,819,913	\$31,756,323
Strategy & policy	\$1,595,814	\$1,715,500	\$1,844,163	\$1,982,475	\$7,137,952
Logistics & supply chain	\$9,204,293	\$9,894,615	\$10,636,711	\$11,434,464	\$41,170,083
Scientific services	\$3,949,219	\$4,245,411	\$4,563,817	\$4,906,103	\$17,664,550
Customer experience & engagement	\$8,600,000	\$9,245,000	\$9,938,375	\$10,683,753	\$38,467,128
Information services	\$6,450,000	\$6,933,750	\$7,453,781	\$8,012,814	\$28,850,345
Innovation investment	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000			\$2,000,000
<b>Annual total</b>	<b>\$133,093,965*</b>	<b>\$143,001,013**</b>	<b>\$152,651,089</b>	<b>\$164,099,921</b>	<b>\$592,845,976</b>

\* 2023-24 actual expenditure will be included in the 2023-24 Annual Report to be considered at the April 2025 National Management Group meeting.

\*\* revised budget of \$175m – \$143m as per the indicative budget plus previous spends of \$32.2m.

## Attachment B

## OUTLIER DETECTIONS OF IMPORTANCE SUMMARY

At each DOI - Broadscale treatment and surveillance will be undertaken annually for 3-5 years. Proof of Freedom or eradication can only be determined at the conclusion of the final year of surveillance.

DATE OF DETECTION	LOCATION	RISK	STATUS
24 November 2023	<b>South Murwillumbah</b> (northern NSW)	Low	<u>Nest count</u> : 6 <u>Infected properties</u> : 1 Ants were also discovered and destroyed in May 2024 as part of ongoing surveillance. Response plan (phase 1) approved by NMG 28/03/2024, progress report 1 currently progressing through governance committees.
19 January 2024	<b>Wardell</b> (northern NSW)	Low	<u>Nest count</u> : 6 <u>Infected properties</u> : 1 Response plan (phase 1) approved by NMG 28/03/2024, progress report 1 currently progressing through governance committees.
17 April 2024	<b>Oakey</b> (Toowoomba)	Low	<u>Nest count</u> : 80 <u>Infected properties</u> : 1 Response plan (phase 1) approved by NMG 28/03/2024, progress report 1 currently progressing through governance committees
15 May 2024	<b>Meringandan West</b> (Toowoomba)	Low	<u>Nest count</u> : 3 <u>Infected properties</u> : 2 Response plan (phase 1) approved by NMG 20/05/2024
29 May 2024	<b>Nirimba/Banya</b> (Sunshine Coast)	Low	<u>Nest count</u> : 13 <u>Infected properties</u> : 4 Response plan (phase 1) approved by NMG OOS October 2024
12 July 2024	<b>Currimundi</b> (Sunshine Coast)	TBD	<u>Nest count</u> : 2 <u>Infected properties</u> : 1 Response plan (phase 1) pending NMG approval
31 October 2024	<b>D'Aguilar</b> (Caboolture/Moreton Bay)	TBD	<u>Nest count</u> : 1 <u>Infected properties</u> : 1 Response plan (phase 1) pending NMG approval
17 January 2025	<b>North Arm</b> (Sunshine Coast)	TBD	<u>Nest count</u> : 6 <u>Infected properties</u> : 1 Response plan (phase 1) pending NMG approval

12 Nov 2024 – Detection at Clune (NSW) as part of a shipment of turf from within the SEQ infested area is not considered a DOI.

## Attachment C

## NFAEP MEDIA RELEASE – 22 OCTOBER 2024

## Fire ant treatment safe for mammals

- Fire ant treatments have undergone rigorous testing and are safe for birds and mammals including livestock, such as cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses.
- The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has approved fire ant treatments for over 20 years.
- Pyriproxyfen and S-methoprene in fire ant treatment are not classified as poisons under the Therapeutic Goods (Poisons Standard) Instrument.

The National Fire Ant Eradication Program's fire ant treatment products containing either pyriproxyfen or S-methoprene are safe for mammals, including birds and livestock, such as cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses.

To answer community questions about the safety of fire ant treatment for mammals, the Program engaged an independent expert toxicologist.

The toxicologist confirmed that both pyriproxyfen and S-methoprene have very low acute toxicity to mammals, based on previous studies. The risk of adverse effects on mammals is negligible provided that the products are used in accordance with their label directions.

Fire ant treatment consists of small pieces of corn grit soaked in soybean oil with a low concentration of an insect growth regulator (IGR), either pyriproxyfen or S-methoprene.

The [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority](#) (APVMA) assesses the proposed use and has deemed that the products used to treat fire ants are safe for people, animals, and the environment.

The [Therapeutic Goods \(Poisons Standard\) Instrument](#) does not classify these IGRs as poisons. These IGRs break the life cycle of insect pests by preventing the production of viable young.

IGRs mimic the juvenile hormone that is naturally produced in the bodies of insects and other invertebrates. This hormone does not occur in mammals or birds and has no known action in vertebrate bodies.

Outside of the Program, these classes of chemicals are commonly used in parasite control products for dogs and cats and numerous agricultural applications.

There is no evidence that fire ant treatment has caused poisoning or death in any vertebrate species.

Any reports of suspected adverse reactions to fire ant treatment should be referred to the [APVMA's Adverse Experience Reporting Program](#).

Visit [fireants.org.au](https://fireants.org.au) or call **132 ANT (13 22 68)** to learn more about fire ants and eradication treatment.

**Extract from the toxicologist report:**

*"The currently available evidence is that pyriproxyfen and S-methoprene have low toxicity in the mammalian species in which it has been toxicologically tested (rodents, rabbits and dogs). There is no available evidence that domestic livestock differ in their sensitivity to these two chemicals compared with other mammalian species."*

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Animal Division

**BAD01****HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (H7 AND H5)****H7 HPAI Outbreak Response**

Funding Source	Funding Purpose	Financial Year
		2024-25
<i>Specific Purpose Payment Account</i>	Pest and Disease Preparedness and Response Programs – H7 HPAI Outbreaks in Vic, NSW and ACT and to meet increased risks of future disease outbreaks	<i>\$154.6 million</i>

At 2024-25 MYEFO the government announced \$249.6 million over two years from 2024-25 for High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI). This included the \$154.6 million response funding and \$95 million H5 HPAI preparedness funding.

**RECOMMENDED RESPONSES - 2025 H7N8 HPAI Outbreak**

- As of 9 March 2025, H7N8 HPAI has been confirmed at four poultry properties in northern Victoria near Euroa.
- All four properties are under quarantine and are within the 5km restricted area declared when the first property was detected. A restricted area of roughly 5 km is in place around the infected properties, with a wider control area in place across Strathbogie Shire to the east of the Goulburn Valley Highway. This is to prevent movements that could spread the virus.
- A housing order is in place in the 5km restricted area for producers with 50 or more birds. This means birds must be housed or enclosed in sheds or cages to separate them from wild birds.
- Agriculture Victoria is conducting surveillance and testing in the restricted area to determine the disease spread.
- This is a new outbreak and is not directly related to the 2024 outbreaks in Victoria, New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory. The 2024 outbreaks were

Contact Officer: Louise Palfreyman  
SES Lead: Brant Smith  
Last updated: 14 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000043

successfully eradicated. Importantly, this H7 HPAI outbreak is also not related to the H5 HPAI strain of concern circulating overseas.

- The Australian Government is supporting Victoria and the affected industry to eradicate this virus and to ensure international and domestic trade impacts are minimised.
  - The Australian Government is coordinating the national response through the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) and National Management Group (NMG). It is also working closely with Agriculture Victoria to coordinate communications and monitor response arrangements.
  - The National Management Group have agreed to cost-share up to \$37.6 million for Victoria's outbreak response.
- On 27 February 2025, a National Coordination Mechanism meeting was held to provide situational awareness to key stakeholders and consider supply chain impacts and other potential consequences arising as a result of the current H7 HPAI outbreak in Victoria.
- The national layer hen flock was impacted by the 2024 outbreaks and there continues to be some localised disruption to supply.
- Eggs, poultry and game meat remain safe to eat provided they are handled and cooked according to standard safe food handling practices.
- In Australia there is a low risk of people becoming infected with avian influenza through normal contact with healthy birds.
- Australia has successfully contained and eradicated H7 HPAI a number of times in the past 50 years.
- Following the new outbreak, some of Australia's agreed trade conditions with importing countries from the 2024 HPAI outbreaks have changed, and some trade restrictions were reinstated in order to meet importing country requirements.
- The department was able to maintain market access from outside affected areas (control area or state) from 14 markets, including priority markets Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Taiwan valued at approximately \$80 million annually.
- As of 7 March 2025, the department has successfully reduced the level of restriction from 'country-wide' freedom for HPAI to 'outside control area' for poultry and poultry products in 10 markets, including 5 of our top 20 markets. This includes Hong Kong, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, valued at approximately \$37 million annually.
- The department continues to work closely with industry and trading partners to negotiate import conditions to facilitate maintaining and returning trade in poultry and poultry products, where possible.

- Supply chain monitoring is ongoing. Domestic retailers and food service businesses are aware of the current outbreak. These businesses work closely with their egg suppliers and are reporting eggs are generally available, although there is still constrained supply in some areas since the 2024 outbreaks.
- While some retailers have purchasing limits on eggs in place, we understand most customers purchase only one carton per shopping trip.
- There has been no impact on supply of chicken meat from the current outbreak.
- Supply chains of eggs and chicken meat to consumers in Local Government Areas directly affected by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred have been disrupted. These disruptions are not a consequence of the current outbreak.

#### *2024 H7 HPAI outbreaks*

- In 2024, Australia responded to outbreaks of three separate strains of H7 HPAI, which represented Australia's most significant avian disease incident. These outbreaks were successfully eradicated. There were 11 infected commercial premises, 8 in Victoria, 2 in NSW and 1 in the ACT. There were a further 5 non-commercial premises (4 in NSW and 1 in ACT) that were infected.
- On 3 February 2025, Australia self-declared freedom from HPAI to the World Organisation for Animal Health. Publication of this declaration was retracted after Agriculture Victoria confirmed on 8 February 2025 that H7N8 HPAI had been detected in poultry at an egg farm in northern Victoria.
- The Australian Government coordinates the national response through the CCEAD and NMG. The Australian Government also manages export certification, trade and international reporting obligations. In addition, the Australian Government provides funding to cover a significant proportion of the response costs, in accordance with the cost-sharing provisions of the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement.
- Since the 2024–25 Budget, the Australian Government has provided an additional \$154.6 million in response funding. This will support the Australian Government's share of the H7 HPAI outbreak responses in Victoria, NSW and the ACT, and for its share of the current response and any potential further detections. This figure is not the actual cost of eradication, it includes contingency to enable further commitments (see EC25-000031 for more detail).
- The actual cost of the 2024 eradication program has not been finalised but is expected to be under \$116.49 million (see EC25-000033 for a breakdown between Commonwealth, states and territory governments and industry).
- Arrangements to pay the Australian Government contribution (40 per cent) and underwrite the industry contribution (20 per cent) to Victoria, NSW and ACT are made through the Project Agreement on Pest and Disease Preparedness and Response Programs (see EC25-000031 for more detail).



## H5 HPAI Preparedness

Funding Source*	Funding Purpose	Financial Year	
		2024-25	2025-26
Mixed: \$12 million - Special Purpose Payment Account - Treasury. Administered and departmental funds.	A suite of investments to strengthen HPAI surveillance, preparedness and response capability, in alignment with a One Health approach, part of a broader \$95 million package that was announced.	\$31 million	\$6 million
Administered and departmental funds.	To enhance Australia's capability to detect and respond to avian influenza and promote awareness and understanding of Australia's biosecurity measures and preparedness.	\$6.5 million	\$0.4 million

\*Refer Attachment A for a detailed breakdown of the H5 HPAI funding

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES - H5 HPAI Preparedness

- Australia remains the only continent free from H5 HPAI. However, this strain has spread rapidly between continents, and we must be prepared for the possibility that it could arrive in Australia.
- The Australian Government, in conjunction with national stakeholders, is uplifting national preparedness and enhancing response capability noting preparedness for HPAI as an emergency animal disease has been a national focus for many years.
- The Australian Government is investing over \$100 million to strengthen surveillance, preparedness and response capability in alignment with a 'One Health' approach.
- On 14 October 2024, \$95 million was announced (in addition to \$6.9m in July 2024).
  - \$37 million over 2 years to protect Australian agriculture by enhancing national coordination of response arrangements and communications, strengthening surveillance and boosting biosecurity capacity and capability across the production sector and environmental biosecurity.
  - \$35.9 million over 2 years to boost and accelerate H5 HPAI preparedness planning and protective action by using the best data available to target actions for our most at-risk species and important natural places.
  - \$22.1 million over 2 years to manufacture and store pandemic influenza vaccines that will better prepare and respond quickly to a potential influenza pandemic (in humans).



- \$6.9 million, announced in July 2024 to enhance Australia's capability to detect and respond to avian influenza and promote awareness and understanding of Australia's biosecurity measures and preparedness.
- Refer to Attachment A for a full breakdown of H5 HPAI preparedness funding.
- A dedicated Australian Government HPAI Preparedness Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established in July 2024 to lead and coordinate national activity and is being jointly led by the agriculture, health, environment and emergency management portfolios, to ensure a whole-of-government approach to this cross-sectoral disease threat.
- The Taskforce is actively engaging relevant stakeholders to inform targeted investment decisions, particularly with jurisdictions on enhancing national response capacity.
- Current priorities for the Taskforce include, and as agreed by Agriculture Ministers in November 2024:
  - negotiation of a national agreement to manage governance and cost-sharing for a response in wildlife under a 'One Health' approach to this cross-sectoral disease threat
  - development of national response guidance and principles for managing mass mortality events in wildlife
  - progressing nationally coordinated and integrated communications for preparedness and response.
- The National Management Agreement for H5 HPAI in Wildlife will provide a clear framework for governance and cost-sharing during a response. The agreement was signed by the Commonwealth on 7 March 2025 and has been sent to jurisdictions. The next AMM is scheduled for 28 April 2025 where an update on key HPAI preparedness priorities will be provided to Ministers.
- The Taskforce led a series of 3 national HPAI preparedness activities across August and September 2024 as part of 'Exercise Volare', following a commitment by Agriculture Ministers in July 2024.
- The Australian Government investment in communication and engagement with stakeholders, industry and the general public will strengthen awareness and understanding of Australia's biosecurity measures and preparedness. Of the \$95 million recently announced, up to \$10 million will support nationally coordinated communications that provide clear, trusted and consistent messaging for stakeholders and the Australian public regarding H5 HPAI.
- Examples of departmental engagement focussed on H5 HPAI:
  - regular engagement with the poultry industry to provide updates on the progress of key preparedness activities.

- an H5 HPAI preparedness update was given at an industry session as part of the March 2025 Animal Health Committee face-to-face meeting. A wide range of livestock industry groups were in attendance, including the poultry and dairy industry
  - a workshop was held with First Nations stakeholders on 30 January 2025 to inform how best to develop and distribute culturally appropriate H5 HPAI communications products
  - a national workshop held with jurisdictions in December 2024 to refine principles for managing sick and dead wildlife
  - bilateral meetings held with each state and territory in November 2024 covering all affected portfolios including agriculture, health, environment (including biodiversity and environmental protection agencies), emergency management and land planning
  - Dairy Australia webinar in October 2024, noting the detections in dairy cattle in the United States.
- As part of the \$95 million funding mentioned above, the Australian Government is providing \$12 million in funding for states and territories to boost biosecurity response capability, facilitating new equipment to be purchased for biosecurity surveillance and response for outbreaks in the production sector and/or in Australian wildlife. Table 3 provides a breakdown of the funding that has been offered to each state and territory.
  - The One Health Surveillance Initiative granted to Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) was established in December 2022 to strengthen Australia's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging diseases, including those with pandemic potential through wildlife disease surveillance, investigation and diagnostic activities.
    - An additional \$7 million investment has been approved to fund WHA to support enhanced surveillance and engagement activities, and fund detection and preparation projects.
  - The Australian Government continues to work with international governments, including the US and the UK to learn from their experiences in managing H5 HPAI and with New Zealand on its preparedness activities, including vaccination programs in threatened species.

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – H5 HPAI funding breakdown and status update

**ATTACHMENT A – H5 HPAI funding breakdown and status update****Table 1: \$6.9 million announced July 2024 – H5 preparedness**

Funding Purpose	Financial Year		Status Update
	2024-25	2025-26	
For the Wildlife Health Australia One Health Surveillance Initiative	\$2.2 million (funded from 23-24 budget)	-	Key achievements include expanding risk-based wildlife surveillance to migratory shorebirds and seabirds, project commenced to uplift data collation and analysis from the WHA database; trialling the new wildlife mortality reporting platform and supporting cross-sectoral meetings with USA, New Zealand and Australia to share knowledge.
Granted to Animal Health Australia to support the national response capability for avian influenza in poultry, including investigating the potential of commercial avian influenza vaccines for use in Australia	\$1.95 million (funded from 23-24 budget)	-	Agreement commenced in June 2024 and in place until 30 July 2026. US study tour completed recently providing learnings for higher welfare depopulation methodology which could be implemented in Australia.
To extend the National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Surveillance Program	\$726,000 (\$357,500 funded from 23-24 budget)  (\$368,500 funded 24-25 budget)	\$412,500	Agreement entered with WHA in January 2024 and in place until December 2026.
Communication with stakeholders, industry and the general public to strengthen awareness and understanding of Australia's biosecurity measures and preparedness	\$800,000	-	Persona research has been completed. several other elements are progressing, including delivery of public notices via Universal McCann (including boosted socials and sponsored media posts).
Granted to Wildlife Health Australia (through variation of existing One Health Surveillance Initiative grant)	\$580,000 (funded from 23-24 FY budget)	-	Details under the WHA One Health Surveillance Initiative measure, above.

Funding Purpose	Financial Year		Status Update
	2024-25	2025-26	
to support early detection and response capability for H5 HPAI in wildlife			
To quantify the location, structure, biosecurity, routine husbandry practices, and movement patterns of Australia's commercial poultry industries. Project contracted to Poultry Hub	\$200,000	-	Early stage work has commenced. The project is anticipated to be delivered by September 2025.
To better understand the link between the presence of H7 low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) in Australian wild birds and the outbreaks of H7 HPAI in Australian poultry. Project contracted to Deakin University.	\$70,000	-	First milestone report was delivered in October 2024. Preliminary findings suggest there was increased prevalence of avian influenza in Australian wild birds in the autumn-winter of 2024. Further analysis assessing links between H7 LPAI in wild birds and H7 HPAI in Australian poultry is expected on 28 March 2025.
<b>Funding per financial year</b>	<b>\$6,526,000</b>	<b>\$412,500</b>	
<b>Overall Funding</b>	<b>\$6,938,500</b>		

**Table 2: \$37 million - DAFF component of \$95 million package announced October 2024**

Funding Purpose	Financial Year		Status Update
	2024-25	2025-26	
Boosting response capability	\$9 million	\$3 million	Federation Funding Agreement of \$12 million has been offered to the states and territories.
	\$1 million	\$2 million	\$3 million allocated for mission critical supplies. Tender panel to be established for the supply of carbon dioxide. Further opportunities to contract mission critical supplies are being considered.
Integrated National communications	\$10 million	-	Additional market research activity is expected to commence soon to inform preparedness and response communications. \$8 million allocated for a public information campaign if an outbreak occurs.
Enhancing One Health Surveillance Initiative (Wildlife Health Australia)	\$7 million	-	Ministerial approval to vary the grant provided on 7 March 2025. Contract amendment under negotiation.
Biosecurity and scientific capability	\$4 million	\$1 million	Projects to evaluate avian influenza surveillance in animals and developing decision support tools for HPAI recently commenced. Other projects include a HPAI risk assessment in Australian dairy cattle, validating point of care tests with ACDP, and a liquid nitrogen trial with the Australian Chicken Meat Federation. Further funds are being committed this financial year.
Funding per financial year	\$31 million	\$6 million	*SB25-000038 refers to the HPAI preparedness funding totalling \$24.6 million being received by the department. This does not include the \$12 million Federation Funding Agreement, which was received by Treasury for payments to states and \$0.4 million absorbed by the department
Overall Funding	\$37 million*		

**Table 3: \$12 million in funding for states and territories to boost biosecurity response capability**

Jurisdiction	\$ million		
	2024-25	2025-26	Total
New South Wales	1.64	0.55	2.19
Victoria	1.31	0.44	1.74
Queensland	1.59	0.53	2.12
Western Australia	1.54	0.51	2.05
South Australia	0.96	0.32	1.29
Tasmania	0.55	0.18	0.74
Australian Capital Territory	0.52	0.17	0.70
Northern Territory	0.89	0.30	1.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9 million</b>	<b>\$3 million</b>	<b>\$12 million</b>

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Biosecurity Animal Division

**BAD02****CHILEAN SALMON IMPORTS****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- In September 2024 the department recognised Chile as an approved country to export consumer ready salmon to Australia.
- The approval ended a robust assessment process of Chile's ability to meet Australia's strict biosecurity import conditions for salmon products.
- Since the approval, domestic stakeholders have raised commercial, biosecurity and food safety concerns about Chilean salmon imports.
  - The department is giving due consideration to these concerns.
- Australia has very stringent import conditions for salmon products and the department has not identified pathogens for which the biosecurity risk is not already managed by these import conditions.
- The department is committed to bilateral trade. As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Australia is obliged to consider requests from our trading partners for market access, as other countries are required to assess Australian agricultural market access requests.

**CURRENT SENSITIVITIES*****Evaluation of Chile's competent authority***

- The department's assessment of Chile's Competent Authority, SERNAPESCA, was conducted as a government-to-government process and considered information provided in response to the department's questionnaire on Chile's biosecurity system for salmonids.
  - On completion of the desk-based assessment, departmental officers conducted an in-country visit to Chile from 28 November to 2 December 2022 to verify that SERNAPESCA's regulatory systems would ensure final health certification of salmonids meets Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
- Following the in-country visit, the department reviewed its findings and prepared a detailed report with recommendations for SERNAPESCA.

Contact Officer: Rochelle Pratley  
SES Lead: Brant Smith  
Last updated: 26 March 2025

Telephone: 02 6272 3923  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000050

- Once SERNAPESCA addressed these recommendations, the assessment report was finalised, and a model health certificate was developed.
- The department's assessment concluded that the Chilean salmon industry is well regulated by the Chilean Government, and there is a high level of commitment by the Chilean Government, salmonid growers, and processors in Chile to meet Australia's import requirements.

### ***Chilean salmon imports***

- As at 13 March 2025, 24 consignments comprising 42 product lines of salmon have been imported from Chile (totalling approximately 7,535 kg). This represents less than 1% of fresh or frozen salmon imported into Australia.
- Biosecurity inspections on shipments continue randomly for verification purposes.

### ***The Salmon IRA***

- Current import conditions for salmonid products imported into Australia are based on the *Non-viable salmonids and non-salmonid marine finfish import risk analysis* (Salmon IRA) released in 1999, and the 2019 updated conditions for the onshore processing of imported salmonids.
- The Salmon IRA was a generic import risk analysis (IRA), this means it assumed that all potential source countries would have all pathogens of concern when recommending risk management measures.
- The conservative approach taken in the Salmon IRA in 1999 means that extensive and stringent import conditions were recommended to manage biosecurity risk to a level that achieves Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).
  - These conditions are expected to be also capable of managing new and emerging diseases.
- This is done through the import conditions which require that products are processed in a way that has removed risk tissues (internal organs, head and gills), and made them into a consumer ready form, as well as meeting a range of other requirements related to the age and sexual maturity of the fish and population health requirements.
  - The import conditions that the department implements for salmon products are more stringent than other trading nations, including New Zealand, and they are in excess of the measures recommended by the World Organisation for Animal Health.
- While a formal review of the Salmon IRA has not been conducted, nor considered necessary, the department regularly reviews scientific information to identify changes in biosecurity risks.
- If a change in risk is identified and determined to exceed Australia's ALOP, the department takes immediate action to ensure the risk is managed.



- The department is confident that the current risk management measures manage risks of imported salmon to a level which achieves Australia's ALOP.
- Refer Biosecurity Animal Division Back Pocket Brief: BAD BPB01

### **Recent mortality events in farmed Atlantic salmon in Tasmania**

- The department is aware of Salmon mortalities occurring in eastern Tasmania.
- The Tasmanian Government is responsible for managing animal health and welfare within their jurisdiction, including any response to this event.
- The department is responsible for regulating export registered establishments to ensure arrangements are in place, so any diseased fish are not presented for slaughter, and that fish being processed, sold and exported are fit for human consumption and meet export and importing country requirements.
- Refer Biosecurity Animal Division Back Pocket Brief: BAD BPB01

### **Food safety requirements for imported Chilean salmon**

- Foods imported for sale in Australia must be safe and comply with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) in addition to the department's strict biosecurity requirements.
- The department is responsible for regulating the safety and compliance of imported food at the border. Post border State food regulators check compliance for all food for sale, whether domestically produced or imported.
  - FSANZ is responsible for setting the requirements contained in the Code.
- Ultimately the importer is responsible for ensuring food imported complies with Australian standards including the Code, at the border.
  - It is then the responsibility of relevant participants in the supply chain to ensure the food is handled and managed in a way that ensures continued compliance with the Code, including ensuring the details included on the label are met (e.g. refrigeration temperature, and not misrepresenting food as being ready-to-eat when it is intended to be cooked before consumption).
- Refer Back Pocket Brief Residues and Food Branch (Imported Food section): RFB BPB-05.

### **Industry allegations of food safety issues with imported Chilean salmon**

- The department takes allegations of safety concerns with imported food seriously.
- In response to the allegations the department:
  - is assisting the NSW Food Authority with its investigation into the allegations, providing import data.

- Wrote to the Chilean government advising of the concerns raised and seeking assurances that the imported salmon meets Australia's food safety and labelling requirements. This letter was delivered to the Chilean authorities on 14 February 2025.
- Wrote again to the Chilean government seeking additional information. This letter was delivered to the Chilean authorities on 12 March 2025.
- To date the department is not aware of any food safety risk associated with the importation of chilled salmon from Chile that is intended to be cooked before consumption.
- Refer Back Pocket Brief Residues and Food Branch (Imported Food section): RFB BPB-05

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

Division: Biosecurity Plant and Science Services Division and  
Biosecurity Animal Division

# BPSSD01

## BIOSECURITY MARKET ACCESS MATTERS

### RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The department is committed to bilateral trade. As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Australia is obliged to consider requests from our trading partners for market access, as other countries are required to assess Australian agricultural market access requests.
- Australia's commitment to our WTO obligations is essential to maintain our reputation as a fair-trading nation which enables two-way, risk managed trade.
- The department considers market access requests for plant and animal commodities against our prioritisation principles and criteria. The department is committed to working with Australian agricultural industries that are ready to trade.
- The department has established a set of 5 principles to prioritise international work for market access requests for plant and animal products, which includes:
  - national interest
  - alignment with department's objectives
  - expected benefits to the Australian community
  - challenges that may inhibit market access, and
  - practical considerations such as available resourcing.
- For exports the prioritisation process is undertaken for specific commodity groups with agreement from key industry stakeholders. There are established mechanisms such as industry subcommittees and peak industry bodies for industries to participate in this process. These mechanisms are essential to ensure that the allocation of resourcing is equitable across industries and aligns with the national interest.
- For imports, the department undertakes a range of risk analyses to consider the level of biosecurity risk associated with the request to ensure that Australia's

Plant Contact Officer: Sarah Bruce  
Telephone: 02 6272 3321  
Last updated: 12 March 2025

Plant SES Lead: Peter Finnin  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)

Animal Contact Officer: Rochelle Prattley  
Telephone: 02 6272 3923  
Last updated: 12 March 2025

Animal SES Lead: Brant Smith  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB24-000042

appropriate level of protection is met. Import risk analyses are typically initiated under three categories:

- requests from trading partners
  - changing biosecurity risks, and
  - changes initiated by the Australian Government such as changes to testing methodologies or other technological advancements.
- Negotiating market access is technically complex and sometimes can take years to finalise.

## **CURRENT SENSITIVITIES**

### Chilean salmon imports (refer to SB25-000050)

### North American beef imports (refer BPB BAD02)

- The department is productively engaging with US agencies to progress the final stages of assessment of the US's expanded market access request to cover beef derived from cattle born and raised in Canada and Mexico.
- On 13 February 2025 the department published its final report on the import of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef products from Canada. This report confirmed Canada as eligible for assessment to import beef to Australia.
- The department is currently undertaking a competent authority assessment of Canada to ensure their official animal health, export control, and supervision systems can meet Australia's biosecurity and food safety standards.
- Beef is both the US and Canada's top priority request for animal market access
- The department is also engaging with domestic stakeholders to work through implications of expanded market access requests.

### European Foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks (refer BPB BAD04)

- On 10 January 2025, there was an outbreak of FMD in a buffalo herd near Berlin. At this point this outbreak remains confined to this single property.
- On 3 March 2025 there was a separate outbreak of FMD in dairy cattle in Hungary, near its border with Slovakia. This outbreak affects large number of animals and is still in the very earliest stages of response.
- The Department continues to monitor the outbreaks affecting Germany, Hungary and Slovakia.
- To manage the biosecurity risk to Australia, the department has restricted the import of products from Germany, Hungary and Slovakia that require country freedom from FMD. Potentially impacted products include dairy products, biological products, vaccines, petfood, stockfeed, and reproductive materials.

- The department is working closely with importers, industry groups, and trading partners. The department is assessing the biosecurity risk of specific impacted commodities to minimise disruption to trade where the biosecurity risk can be managed.

#### Avocado market access to China

- Australia's plant market access priorities to China are mainland apples and blueberries, which the department is actively progressing.
- The department continues to work with the avocado industry, as they do with all our horticulture and plant industries on their market access ambitions, including supporting export readiness for agriculture industries seeking export outcomes.
- *If raised: What has the department done to expand market access for Australian avocados?*
  - In 2023, the department finalised market access to India for Australian Hass avocados.
  - In 2023, the department regained market access to Thailand for Western Australian Hass avocados.
  - In 2018, the department finalised market access to Japan for Western Australian avocados.
  - In late 2024, DAFF supported Avocados Australia in applying for a special import permit for the China Import and Export Expo.

#### Apples market access from the Pacific Northwest US (refer to BPB BPSSD-6)

- The department has engaged regularly with Australia's apple industry, through Apple and Pear Australia Ltd on the import risk analysis for fresh apple fruit from Pacific Northwest USA.
- The department engaged with Apple and Pear Australia Ltd in February, May and October 2024 to update them on the status of the operational workplan in meetings and most recently via phone on 5 March 2025.
- The department is in ongoing discussions with the US to reach agreement on final measures. The procedures the US will use to meet the recommended risk management measures have not been finalised.
- On 18 February 2025 the department held technical discussions with officials from the USDA to further progress work to finalise the biosecurity measures.
- Australia wrote to USDA on 6 March 2025 setting out options to work through the remaining plant health requirements to allow the export of Pacific Northwest apples to Australia. The US is currently reviewing the options put forward by Australia in consultation with the US apple industry.

- Once the final import measures have been agreed the department will negotiate with APHIS to finalise an operational work plan that describes agreed operational procedures. On agreement on the operational work plan, the department can publish import conditions in BICON that would allow trade to commence.
- It is important to emphasise that the department will not allow imports unless it is confident that the biosecurity risks can be managed.

## BACKGROUND

### Avocado market access to China

- The avocado industry is actively advocating in a range of forums for prioritisation of technical market access negotiations for Avocados with China.
- The offices of Ministers Collins and Farrell, and departmental officials met with Avocados Australia Limited (AAL) representatives on 20 February 2025. Minister Watt met with Avocados Australia Limited (AAL) representatives John Tyas and Richard Magney on 27 March 2024. Officials from the Biosecurity Plant and Sciences Services Division (Peter Finnin, FAS) met with AAL on 2 September 2024, 11 September 2024 and 10 October 2024.
- It is important that the department follows through with its currently agreed priorities with China, particularly as they continue to balance the national interest of stabilising the bilateral relationship for all agricultural commodities.
- China is progressing their assessments of Australia's requests for access to China for Australian Mainland apples and blueberries. Australia continues to progress the assessment of China's request for market access for jujubes and kiwifruit.
- In December 2024, a delegation from the department met with the General Administration of Customs China (GACC) for the 7th Australia-China Sanitary and Phytosanitary High-Level Dialogue (SPS HLD). During this meeting, GACC confirmed that only once the current 4 market access priorities under the existing '2 and 2' agreement are finalised will consideration be given to the next priorities for Australia and China.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Plant &amp; Live Animal Exports Welfare &amp; Regulation

## PLAEWR01

## AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY

Funding Source	Financial Year			
	2023-24	2024-25 (at 28 Feb 2025)	2025-26	2026-27
2023–24 Budget Measure Appropriation (Terminates 2026-27)	\$1.172m	\$1.194m	\$1.348m	\$1.285m
Expenditure	\$921,063	\$1,036,717	n.a	n.a

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

- The Australian Government committed \$5 million across 4 years (from 2023-24) to the development of the renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS), with the objective of providing a framework for a national approach to animal welfare in Australia. The final strategy is scheduled to be completed in 2027.
- Commonwealth, state, and territory Agriculture Ministers have confirmed their commitment to jointly lead the renewal of the AAWS, including through endorsing the National Statement on Animal Welfare (published on 13 December 2024).
- Endorsement and publication of the national statement is a significant milestone as it underpins all jurisdictions' commitment to renewal of the AAWS. It identifies a vision for animal welfare in Australia, priority workstreams, and recognises the interconnectedness of animal welfare with other national priorities.
- The first two AAWS chapters, dedicated to production and livestock animals, and aquatic animals, are being developed in 2025. The chapters will be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders and include a public consultation process. Chapters will identify practical actions needed for meaningful and practicable improvements in Australia's animal welfare system grouped under work streams.
- Available funding is for the development of a strategy. Implementation is not funded.

## BACKGROUND

- Animal welfare within Australia is primarily a state and territory responsibility, with the Commonwealth's role being limited to international trade – including export of livestock and meat products and contributing during the negotiation of trade

Contact Officer: Dr Carol Sheridan  
SES Lead: Andrew McDonald  
Last updated: 7 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000006

arrangements. However, the AAWS is being developed under a joint leadership approach between all governments under the auspices of the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting.

- A renewed AAWS will provide a national approach to animal welfare and signal to Australian consumers and international trading partners that animal welfare is a priority for Australia. The renewed AAWS will involve multiple animal types and will examine a range of animal welfare priorities.
- With the governance structure underpinning the development of the renewed AAWS including oversight by Agriculture Ministers, there are appropriate checks and balances and close engagement with the states and territories, an animal welfare expert advisory group, and other relevant Commonwealth portfolios.
- A consideration of modern challenges, opportunities, science and evidence is informing the renewal as well as key learnings from the previous strategy, which lapsed in 2014 when it was in an implementation state.
  - The previous strategy took 5 years to develop, reflecting its complexity. Funding was ceased in 2014 as part of a budget review process.
- Consultation to date has included:
  - A first round of public consultation conducted in the first half of 2024 on the approach to renew the AAWS, a summary of which has been published online.
  - Development of the national statement, which was informed through a series of facilitated workshops with key stakeholders in the second half of 2024.
  - A second tranche of public consultation will commence shortly, focusing on chapter development.
- The renewal of the AAWS is not linked to the Government's policy to phase out live sheep exports by sea.
- The development of AAWS is being informed by comprehensive engagement with stakeholders. The Australian Public Service is expected to meet certain standards for engagement<sup>1</sup> and participation and consultation will be broad and comprehensive. During consultation, the scope will be clearly defined, and appropriate boundaries will be set, to support effective engagement with and input from the strategy's many diverse stakeholders.

## SOURCES

1. [Getting stakeholder engagement right | Australian Public Service Commission \(apsc.gov.au\)](https://apsc.gov.au/Getting-stakeholder-engagement-right)



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade and International Division

**TID01****INDONESIA BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**Indonesia's Free Nutritious Meals Program

- Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto (inaugurated on 20 October 2024) made an election commitment to provide free nutritious meals to Indonesia's 82.9 million school children, toddlers and pregnant women. The program commenced in the first week of 2025.
- The department is working with relevant industries and other Commonwealth agencies to consider how Australia can best support Indonesia to achieve its commitment, noting Indonesia is focussed on its own self-sufficiency.

Indonesia's Halal Law

- On 18 October 2024, Indonesia announced a delay to implementation of the Halal Law for imported food and beverage products. Mandatory halal certification requirements were to be imposed on food and beverage commodities from 17 October 2024.
- A delay of up to two years was determined by Indonesia's Minister of Religious Affairs, on a per-country basis. The Australian Government will continue to work closely with Indonesia to understand the impacts of the Halal Law and seek further information regarding the specifics of the delay.

Import Permit Delays

- There have been some delays in the issuance of Indonesian import permits for live cattle, boxed beef, seafood and horticulture products for calendar year 2025. Import permits for live cattle were issued on 7 January 2025, with some import permits for horticulture beginning to be released on 24 January 2025. Import permits for boxed beef allocated to commercial importers were issued on 12 February 2025.
- Issuance of import permits for seafood remains uneven with only some importers having received permits in late February 2025. Delays are not specific to Australia and impact imports from all trading partners into Indonesia.

Contact Officer: Deb Langford  
SES Lead: Jo Grainger  
Last updated: 11 March 2025

Telephone: s 47F(1)  
Mobile Number: s 47F(1)  
SB25-000001

- DAFF and DFAT are continuing to work together on an approach with the Indonesian Government to mitigate future delays to import permits. This has included raising the issue in appropriate forums and through continued advocacy by Jakarta Post.
  - In January and February 2025, Jakarta Post met with a senior Indonesian minister's office and raised the need for greater certainty on import permits for Australian suppliers.
- DAFF continues to keep industry informed as information becomes available so they can make informed commercial decisions. This included online briefings in late 2024 and early 2025.

#### Lamb meat import temporary restriction

- On 2 December 2024, Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) announced a temporary suspension for lamb carcasses and meat imports, effectively halting the trade.
- DAFF wrote to MoA on 10 December 2024 to register Australia's concern with the trade impediment and to seek removal of the temporary suspension. A formal response has not been received (as of 11 March 2025).

#### Cessation of imports of rice, corn for feed, sugar and salt

- On 9 December 2024, Indonesian Coordinating Food Affairs Minister Zulkifli announced that Indonesia intends to stop imports of rice, corn for feed, sugar and salt in 2025, and to completely stop imports of industrial salt in two years to further Indonesia's goal of food self-sufficiency.
  - Apart from import restrictions on salt, these measures have limited potential to impact key Australian agricultural exports to Indonesia in 2025.
  - Australia does not export rice or corn for feed to Indonesia and they are not a major importer of Australian sugar.

#### Full implementation of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA)

- IA-CEPA seeks to provide certainty by automating the import licensing process, with Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) used to quantify the amount of product that can receive an improved tariff and automatic import licence.
- To date there has been no utilisation of the feed grain TRQ under IA-CEPA. IA-CEPA has been in force for over 4 years (entered into force 5 July 2020).
- In 2025 (year 6) the TRQ for feed grain is 638,141 tonnes. Australia continues to raise this issue with the Government of Indonesia at official and ministerial levels. Indonesia's MoA has provided assurances it is working to resolve the issue.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade and International Division

**TID02****CHINA AGRICULTURE TRADE****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- We have seen significant steps forward in the bilateral relationship, with a range of agricultural trade issues resolved, technical improvements achieved, and increased engagement with Chinese counterparts. In 2024, we welcomed:
  - the reinstatement of Australian live rock lobster trade to China on 20 December 2024.
  - the reinstatement of two red meat establishments [3 December 2024]
  - the reinstatement of five meat establishments [29 May 2024]; and
  - the resolution of the World Trade Organization (WTO) China wine dispute and removal of duties on imports of bottled wine from Australia on 29 March 2024.
- Total agriculture, fisheries and forestry exports to China were valued at \$17.1 billion in the 2023-24 financial year.
- DAFF also welcomed the additions by General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) of two new Australian meat establishments [2 July 2024 and 7 August 2024] and four new dairy establishments approved to export to China [15 August 2024]. This is the first time new Australian dairy and meat establishments have gained market access to China since 2017.

**7th Sanitary and Phytosanitary High-Level Dialogue**

- On 3 December 2024, DAFF officials, led by Secretary Fennessy, travelled to China to hold the 7th Sanitary and Phytosanitary High-Level Dialogue (SPS HLD) with GACC. The first time the SPS HLD has been held since 2017.
- At the SPS HLD the department and GACC agreed to the following outcomes:
  - GACC to visit Australia to audit animal germplasm establishments in 2025.
    - Following this commitment, GACC officials travelled to Australia from 20 - 27 February 2025, to conduct audits of Australia's animal germplasm facilities.
  - Finalise horticulture market access protocols for Australian mainland apples and Chinese jujubes by the end of Quarter 1 2025.

Contact Officer: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
SES Lead: Jo Grainger  
Last updated: 11 March 2025

Telephone: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
Mobile Number: **s 47F(1)**  
SB25-000002

- Australia and China will also continue to progress the next horticulture market access priorities – Chinese kiwifruit and Australian blueberries.
- GACC confirmed it had approved certification to support new market access for canned pet food containing poultry, with the new certificates being available to industry from 18 December 2024.
- At the SPS HLD GACC confirmed consideration of the next priorities for both countries will only occur once the current four market access priorities under the existing '2 and 2' agreement are finalised.
  - Horticulture market access to China is negotiated on an established 'two and two' arrangement.
  - Australia's current priorities are apples and blueberries. The department has an established and robust prioritisation process which takes into account the priorities of the entire horticulture industry.

### Tropical Rock Lobster

- While live rock lobster has resumed trade, tropical rock lobster is a separate issue. China placed tropical rock lobster on its domestic conservation list in 2021 and in 2023 began enforcing an import ban on wild caught tropical rock lobster from all trading partners.
- The department is consulting with other affected countries and is exploring further opportunities to raise the matter with China.
- Most recently, on 19 December 2024, the department met with Ministry of Agriculture Rural Affairs for the DAFF-MARA Fisheries Dialogue and raised TRL.
- The department will continue to engage with China on this matter.

### China's WTO safeguard investigation on beef meat imports

- Australia acknowledges China's notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 27 December 2024 of a safeguard investigation on meat of bovine animals imported from all countries.
- This is a global investigation, impacting all markets exporting beef to China.
- The investigation does not target or single out Australia.
- The investigation is expected to be concluded within eight months (subject to extension under special circumstances).
- Normal trade will not be affected during the investigation period, if and until a provisional or final safeguard measure is imposed.

- Australia is a trusted FTA partner with a strong trade and economic relationship with China established over many years of safe and mutual bilateral trade and we have significant trade interests with respect to this investigation.
  - Australia has been a trusted and reliable supplier of beef to China — our second largest market after the United States — helping to meet Chinese consumer demand.
  - The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is leading on this issue with DAFF providing technical advice and support to engage with Australian industry stakeholders.
  - The Australian Government has registered as an interested party in the investigation and will directly participate at appropriate junctures.
  - On 16 January 2025, the Australian Government submitted an initial written submission to China's Ministry of Commerce (MofCom).
  - Australia respects the process of the safeguard investigation which is permitted under WTO rules.
- Refer to DFAT for further information.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2024, the Australia-China agriculture relationship saw significant steps forward with the removal of the remaining trade impediments for live rock lobster, duties for wine and suspensions on several meat establishments. Tropical Rock Lobster remains on China's domestic conservation list and all trading partners remain unable to export wild caught Tropical Rock Lobster. China has also recently commenced a WTO safeguard investigation related to beef imports from all trading partners. Australia has registered as an interested party in this process.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Progress on agricultural trade issues

Attachment B – Recent portfolio bilateral engagement

Attachment C – Trade Data

**ATTACHMENT A****Progress on agricultural trade issues**

- 14 January 2025: Australian dairy manufacturers notified DAFF that two establishments had been registered by the State Administration of Market Regulation China (SAMR) for export of infant formula products.
- 20 December 2024: China notified Australia that full resumption of live rock lobster trade can resume.
- 3 December 2024: The General Administration of Customs China (GACC) removed suspensions for the remaining two red meat establishments which had been in place due to the detection of chloramphenicol.
- 14 August 2024: GACC approved four new Australian dairy establishments for export. These are the first new registrations of Australian dairy establishments since 2017.
- 2 July 2024 and 7 August 2024: GACC approved a new Australian meat establishment and a cold store for export. These are the first new registrations of Australian red meat establishments or cold stores since 2017.
- 29 May 2024: GACC removed the suspensions for five red meat establishments which had been in place for administrative and labelling non-compliances.
- 29 March 2024: The duties applied to Australian bottled wine exported to China were removed by China's Ministry of Commerce.
- 11 December 2023: GACC removed the COVID-19 related suspensions for three Australian meat establishments.
- 28 November 2023: GACC reinstated Northern Tasmania as a recognised Pest Free Area (PFA) for Queensland fruit fly. The Northern Tasmania PFA had been suspended since 29 December 2018.
- 27 September 2023: 20 Australian oaten hay establishments were re-registered and two were renewed.
- 9 August 2023: GACC reinstated trade for two Australian barley exporters, CBH Grain Pty Ltd and Emerald Grain Australian Pty Ltd, who were suspended from trading since September 2020.
- 5 August 2023: After years of work from both the Australian grains industry and government officials, the 80.5 per cent duties applied to Australian barley exported to China were removed. Australia discontinued the WTO dispute, and the parties filed a "mutually agreed solution" with the WTO on 11 August 2023.
- 2 June 2023: GACC published Australia's orchard, packhouse and treatment facility list for citrus, stone fruit, mangoes, and cherries for the 2022-23 season. These lists had not previously been updated since 2020.

- 17 May 2023: GACC lifted the suspension of log exports from Australia.
- 7 February 2023: the COVID-19 related suspension for an Australian dairy exporter was removed.

### **Outstanding trade issues**

- Disrupted products: Animal germplasm facilities and seafood species lists have been affected by unofficial trade measures aimed at disrupting Australian exports to China.
  - Following the commitment made at SPS HLD in December 2024, GACC officials travelled to Australia in February 2025, to conduct audits of Australia's animal germplasm facilities.
- Tropical Rock Lobster: China listed Tropical Rock Lobster on its domestic conservation list in 2021 and began enforcing a trade ban impacting all trading partners, including Australia.

### **China's beef meat safeguards investigation**

- The Australian Government does not consider this investigation to be a new bilateral trade impediment – it is a global safeguard investigation on all imports.
- Australia only represented around 8% of China's total beef imports in recent years.
- Beef was Australia's third largest agricultural commodity exported to China in 2023 after wheat and wool, accounting for 14% of exports. In 2024 to date (to November), beef has been Australia's second largest agricultural export to China after wool worth \$1.96 billion.
  - For questions relating to the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA), please refer to DFAT.

**ATTACHMENT B****Recent portfolio bilateral engagement**

- 19 December 2024: DAFF officials travelled to China to hold the bilateral fisheries dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).
- 6 February 2025: Minister Collins wrote to Minister Han, MARA for Lunar New Year.
- 3 December 2024: Senior DAFF officials, led by Secretary Fennessy, travelled to China to meet with GACC for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sanitary and Phytosanitary High-level Dialogue.
- 18 November 2024: Minister Collins met with Chinese Ambassador Xiao and raised the priority on the resolution of trade impediments for live rock lobster.
- 21 October 2024: Minister Collins met with her Chinese counterpart Minister Luo and signed the Letter of Intent on Cooperation of Organic Products Certification.
- 20 September 2024: Department officials travelled to Beijing for technical discussions with GACC and MARA to progress issues in live rock lobster and tropical rock lobster trade.
- 15-18 June 2024: Premier Li Qiang visited Australia for the Australia-China Annual Leaders' Meeting, the first visit by a Chinese Premier to Australia since 2017. Then Agriculture Minister Watt met with Premier Li and raised the priority Australia places on the resolution of trade impediments for live rock lobster and remaining meat establishments.
- 3-6 June 2024: Department officials travelled to Beijing to hold Technical Working Group meetings on food safety, animal and plant market access matters with GACC.
- 6 May 2024: Minister Watt wrote to his Chinese counterpart Minister Yu Jianhua, in GACC and proposed a ministerial dialogue.
- 30 April 2024: Trade Minister met with his Chinese counterpart Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao for the 17th Joint Ministerial Economic Commission (JMEC) and raised resolution of outstanding trade impediments.
- 19 April 2024: DAFF hosted a senior delegation from China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration to discuss areas of collaboration focussing on grains.
- 16 April 2024: DAFF participated in the ChAFTA Joint Committee Meeting led by DFAT and raised resolution of outstanding trade impediments.
- 16 April 2024: DAFF hosted a senior delegation from GACC during a visit to Port Kembla to observe biosecurity operations.
- 18 March 2024: DAFF hosted a delegation from China for the 13th Joint Working Group on Forestry and the 5th Illegal Logging Working Group meetings.



**ATTACHMENT C****TRADE DATA****Total agriculture exports to China (value by calendar year)**

Calendar year	Export Value	Change from previous year (%)
2024	\$16.6 billion	-4.5%
2023	\$17.4 billion	+16%
2022	\$15.0 billion	+25%
2021	\$12.0 billion	-12%

**Total agriculture exports to China (value by financial year)**

Financial year	Export Value	Change from previous year (%)
2023-24	\$17.1 billion	+2.04
2022-23	\$16.8 billion	+22.4
2021-22	\$13.7 billion	+21.1
2020-21	\$11.3 billion	-30.1
2019-20	\$16.2 billion	+2.3

**Top 10 exported commodity breakdown (calendar year)**

#	Commodity	2021 (A\$m)	2022 (A\$m)	2023 (A\$m)	2024 (A\$m)	Change from previous year
1	Uncarded or uncombed wool	2,540	2,554	2,432	2,306	-5.17%
2	Beef and veal	1,679	2,082	2,396	2,234	-6.8%
3	Barley	-	-	1,162	1,845	+58.77%
4	Wheat	1,174	2,952	3,193	1,413	-55.74%
5	Uncarded or uncombed cotton	102	107	948	1,079	+13.83%
6	Sheep meat	1,097	968	1,094.46	891	-18.54%
7	Wines	30	15	13.48	876	+6401.88%
8	Grain sorghum	510	891	1,078	870	-19.33%
9	Almonds	254	418	256	616	+140.27%
10	Food preparations	408	425	641	598	-6.69%

**Top 10 exported commodity breakdown (financial year)**

#	Commodity	2020-21 (A\$m)	2021-22 (A\$m)	2022-23 (A\$m)	2023-24 (A\$m)	Change from previous year
1	Uncarded or uncombed wool	2,094	2,591	2,532	2,374	-6.2%
2	Barley	63	-	-	2,315	-
3	Beef and veal	1,511	1,901	2,291	2,220	-3.1%
4	Wheat	586	2,318	3,846	2,183	-43.24%
5	Uncarded or uncombed cotton	202	65	192	1,115	+480.5%
6	Sheep meat	972	1,042	1,082	888	-17.89%
7	Grain sorghum	190	723	1,227	778	-36.58%
8	Milk and cream, concentrated	560	733	800	599	-25.06%
9	Food preparations	412	449	560	592	+5.76%
10	Wines	576	26	12	388	+3253.0%

*Data sources: Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Catalogue 9920.0 with partial adjustments made on sugar. Several commodities are subject to confidentiality restrictions, which affects the overall trade.*

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade and International Division

## TID03

## US TRADE

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

Agricultural fisheries and forestry (AFF) trade

- Australia and the US have a strong, mutually beneficial trade and investment relationship underscored by the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
  - Under the FTA, the US enjoys tariff free access into Australia and almost all Australian exports (96.1%) are now tariff-free with all agricultural tariff concessions now implemented.
  - In 2024, Australia's goods exports to the US of agriculture, fisheries and forestry (AFF) products were 45% higher than the average over the previous three years (\$A8.2 billion up from an average of \$A5.7 billion). Key exports that have grown in recent years include beef, offal, and sheep meat. Refer to **Attachment A** for further information.
- In 2024, the US was Australia's second largest AFF export market valued at A\$8.2 billion.
  - This includes beef and veal (A\$4.4 billion), sheep meat (A\$1.4 billion), wines (A\$360 million) and fat from red meat animals (A\$340 million).
  - Australia in turn imported A\$2.8 billion of AFF products from the US and two-way trade is valued at A\$11 billion. Refer to **Attachment A** for further information.
- In 2024 Australia imported an additional A\$1.8 billion worth of fertilisers, agriculture machinery and tractors from the US, bringing our agriculture-related imports up to around A\$4.6 billion. Australia exported A\$149 million of the same commodities.
- The US is also Australia's primary partner in both inward and outward foreign direct investment – about A\$1.1 trillion across all sectors each way in 2023.
- The bilateral agricultural trading relationship has many complementarities and value-adding production, for example Australian lean beef exports to the US are mixed with leftover fat trimmings from US product to produce burger patties.

### Market access

- We continue to work with US counterparts to progress market access requests, including the US requests for improved market access for beef, Pacific Northwest apples and cherries, and Australia's request for expanded citrus access.
- Australia's sheep meat exports to the US remain a trade sensitivity for some US domestic industry figures.
- The department engages to maintain access for kangaroo products, which have been subject to proposed US Congress bills to restrict trade.

### Bilateral engagement

- The department engages on technical market access and trade issues through its posts in Washington DC, direct exchange with US officials, and under established bilateral mechanisms.
  - The AUSFTA Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Matters, which the department co-chairs with the Office of the US Trade Representative, was last held (in person and virtually) in September 2022.
  - DAFF met with US counterparts in the margins of the plant Quads+ meeting in Australia in February to discuss key market access priorities, including increased access for Australian mainland citrus into the US.

*If raised: What is the Government going to do about President Trump's announcement of possible tariffs on agricultural products?*

- We will continue to advocate for Australia's interests in maintaining our open trade between Australia and the United States, which benefits both our countries.
- Australia buys \$2.8 billion of US agricultural products annually (2024)
  - we impose no tariffs on the import of US agricultural produce.
- Australian farmers produce high-quality and competitively priced agriculture products
  - US manufacturing, agricultural technology and products contribute to the efficiency of the Australian agricultural sector.
- We are in regular contact with the agriculture industry on this matter and that will continue.
- We will work with our counterparts in the Trump Administration in pursuing Australia's economic interests and strengthening our agricultural trade relationship.
- Defer to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) who lead on Australia's trading relationship with the US, including for questions on tariffs.

## **BACKGROUND**

Australia has a strong trade relationship in agricultural goods with the US, underpinned by supply chain integration, cross-investment and close cooperation between

governments and industries. Australia will continue to work closely with the US under the Trump Administration to support our strong agricultural trade relationship. The US declined to give Australia tariff exemptions for steel and aluminium tariffs.

**ATTACHMENT A****Key bilateral AFF trade statistics with the US (Source: ABS 2024)****Figure 1 – Top 10 Australian AFF imports and exports with the US in 2024**

Top 10 Australian agricultural exports to the US in 2024 (million A\$)		Top 10 Australian agricultural imports from the US in 2024 (million A\$)	
Beef and veal	4,385.2	Pig meat	427.5
Sheep meat	1383.2	Animal feeding preparations	236.3
Wines	359.7	Food preparations	196.2
Fat from red meat animals	340.2	Spirits	185.8
Wheat gluten	256	Cheese curd	158.2
Goat meat	188.5	Bread and Pastry	83.1
Red meat animal offal	151.8	Chocolate	75.1
Other animal products	103.5	Sweetened water	66.2
Dextrins	83	Kaolin paper	61.5
Uncoated paper and cardboard	71.7	Fresh grapes	50.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,217.3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,826.1</b>

**Figure 2 –Value (A\$ million) of Australia's top agriculture, fisheries and forestry exports to the United States 2021-2024**

Commodity	2021	2022	2023	2024
Beef and veal	1,600	1,704	2,622	4,385
Sheep meat	1,175	1,346	1,037	1,383
Wines	419	412	388	359
Fat from red meat animals	168	541	567	340
Wheat gluten	215	362	386	256
Other	1,227	1,441	1,407	1,494
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,805</b>	<b>5,842</b>	<b>6,407</b>	<b>8,217</b>

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade and International Division

**TID04****EXPORT STATISTICS AND MARKET ACCESS ACHIEVEMENTS****RECOMMENDED RESPONSES**

- In 2024, the department recorded a total of 83 technical market access achievements. The breakdown of achievements includes:
  - 28 actions to maintain and 7 actions to restore existing markets. These actions to maintain and restore protected markets were worth \$2 billion<sup>1</sup>.
  - Opening 11 new markets and 37 improvements to existing market access.

**BACKGROUND**

- Examples of achievements between July and December 2024 include:
  - Restored access for live rock lobsters to China, announced on 20 December 2024. This restores trade that was worth \$700 million prior to the disruption.
  - Improving and modernising export certification for a range of non-prescribed goods to Singapore, through transferring them to the New Export Documentation System (or NEXDOC) platform. This includes products such as processed food and beverages, edible fats, and supplements. Affected exports to Singapore were worth \$478 million in 2023-24.
  - Restored trade in poultry and poultry products to several priority markets following outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Australia in May 2024. These markets included but were not limited to: Singapore, Hong Kong, and several partners in the Pacific.
  - Improved access for table grapes to Japan, through removing varietal restrictions. In 2023-24, exports of grapes to Japan were worth almost \$15 million and industry estimates this could grow to \$50 million in the next few years.
  - New access for plums to Vietnam, opening a new market for Australian plum exports. Australia exported a total \$31 million of plums to the world in 2023-24.
  - Maintained access for dairy to India, which otherwise would have ceased from October 2024. Australia's dairy exports to India were worth almost \$12 million in 2023-24, a seven-fold increase on the previous year.

- New access for bovine germplasm to Samoa, which will help replenish and diversify their breeding stock, improving local production.
- New access for breeder cattle and ruminant germplasm to Ecuador.
- The following examples of market access achievements from January to June 2024 have been provided in previous Senate Estimates hearings:
  - New market access for Australian honey and edible apiculture products to be exported to Vietnam.
  - Improved access to the China meat market through restoring access for five red meat establishments in May 2024. Beef and sheep meat exports to China were worth a total of \$3.1 billion in 2023-24.
  - Improved access through formalising and reducing regulatory burden for hides and skins exported to Brazil – in 2023-24 Australia exported over \$1.8 million of skins and hides to Brazil.
  - Maintained access for queen bees exported to Canada through revised veterinary health certificates. This ensured ongoing trade following the changed *Varroa destructor* (or Varroa mite) status in Australia. Australia exported \$1.6 million worth of live bees to Canada in 2023-24.

## OVERALL VALUE OF EXPORTS

- In 2023-24, agriculture, fisheries and forestry exports were worth \$76 billion, based on ABARES analysis<sup>2</sup>. This is the second highest value on record, and the highest for livestock and livestock products, specifically, which were worth \$29 billion.
- China's market share of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry exports increased to 24% in 2023-24 (up from 21% in 2022-23). This follows restoration of several commodity exports to China including wine, barley, and timber logs.

## SOURCES

1. Unless otherwise specified, all trade value estimates are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), with analysis by the department.

ABS (October 2024), [International Trade in Goods](#), ABS Website, accessed 5 December 2024.

2. ABARES 2024, *Agricultural Commodities Report: December quarter 2024*, ABARES, Canberra, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25814/82b5-tg66>.