



Environmental Biosecurity Interdepartmental Group (EBIG)

2024 ANNUAL REPORT CARD

What is Environmental Biosecurity?

Environmental biosecurity is the protection of Australia's natural environment, cultural assets and social amenities from the harmful impacts of exotic and established pests, weeds and diseases. The outcome delivers robust landscapes, thriving native species, resilient industries and healthy communities - preserving our unique way of life.

Environmental biosecurity is a shared responsibility, and a priority of the Australian Government, who play a crucial role in prevention, detection and management of invasive species under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Formally established in December 2022, EBIG brings together key representatives from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to address environmental biosecurity challenges.

2024 Achievements:

- Progressed national policies, activities and investment to reduce the impacts of invasive species (including national action plans, threat abatements plans and innovative control tools).
- Supported the delivery of national coordination programs for priority pest species (feral pigs, deer, foxes, cats and rabbits).
- Played a key advisory role in scoping Australia's ambitious national target for invasive species eradication, control and minimisation (Target 6) under Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030, which implements our obligations under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Provided representation and leadership in national forums to strengthen consideration of environmental biosecurity (including the Environment and Invasives Committee and its sub committees, H5 avian influenza preparedness taskforce and national fire ant eradication program).
- Championed First Nations engagement in environmental biosecurity matters (inclusion of cultural impact assessments for priority weeds).
- Contributed to independent reviews to improve policy alignment and maximise mutual outcomes for the environment, agriculture and our communities (improved import risk analysis processes).

2025 focus areas:

- Support the delivery of an engaging environmental biosecurity roundtable that strengthens partnerships between biosecurity and environmental agencies, non-government organisations and community stakeholders.
- Address recommendations from the 2025 Inspector-General Biosecurity Environmental Biosecurity review to improve our effectiveness in delivering environmental biosecurity outcomes.
- Continue to support collaborative national coordination programs, encourage joint threat abatement planning and contribute to the Exotic Environmental Pest List review.
- Promote the importance of environmental biosecurity in whole of government/One Health initiatives.
- Support progress on the collective implementation plan to achieve the Strategy for Nature invasive species target.

EBIG FRAMEWORK



COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

proactive | consistent | aligned

Deliver a shared, positive and aligned narrative to improve public engagement and awareness of environmental biosecurity.



FIRST NATIONS

champion | connect | engage

Break down barriers to meaningful engagement by undertaking work that is informed by, and inclusive of, First Nations perspectives, experiences and interests.



GOVERNANCE

lead | communicate | participate

Strengthen environmental biosecurity advice and increase communication between agriculture and environment committees and agencies.



INVESTMENT

strategic | complementary | prioritised

Influence investment towards prioritised and mutual issues for common benefits and complementary outcomes.



LEGISLATION, POLICY & REGULATION

harmonise application | strengthen synergies

Improve legislative connectivity to guide policy development and application, to reduce risks and improve compliance.



RESEARCH, INNOVATION & DATA

robust | targeted | innovative

Decisions are underpinned by strong science, robust data and the latest research.



SHARED PRIORITIES

mutual benefits | national priorities | key species

Prioritise prevention of new arrivals, limit and reduce the impacts of invasive species through timely and coordinated responses and promote integrated management for national priorities.



STAKEHOLDERS

inclusive | impactful | inspired

Work collaboratively with stakeholders to elevate interest and investment, assist in determining priorities and implementing coordinated actions.