Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Cost recovery implementation statement: meat exports 2026–27

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Acknowledgement of Country

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.

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The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry performs a range of regulatory activities in support of businesses and individuals who export agricultural products to global markets. Where demand for a government activity is created by identifiable individuals or groups, the Australian Government Charging Framework (Charging Framework) provides that the non-government sector may be charged for some or all of the efficient costs of that activity. We therefore impose fees and levy-based charges on the meat export industry to recover the cost to the department for performing our regulatory activities. We refer to the framework of fees and charges as the meat exports cost recovery arrangement. This cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) provides information on how we implement cost recovery for the arrangement.

Australia's trading environment is changing faster than ever, and the requirements for exporting agricultural products to overseas markets are becoming more complex. This has increased the costs of providing export regulatory services and means that our previous cost model no longer generates the revenue to match expenses incurred in delivering those export regulatory services.

To address the revenue gap, the government committed $142.1 million to sustain the delivery of export regulatory services until 30 June 2026. The measure included funding to develop an ongoing sustainable trade funding model to ensure we are appropriately resourced to carry out trade and export activities into the future.

In the 2025–26 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), the government announced plans to return to full cost recovery and provided $48.7 million in supplementation over 3 years to support a phased transition to full cost recovery. This announcement included adding 5 existing and one new activity, deemed consistent with the Charging Framework, into the exports cost recovery arrangements.

On 31 March 2026, in recognition of the disruptions being experienced by farmers and producers due to the conflict in the Middle East, the government announced a further decision to defer revised cost recovery arrangements for export regulatory services until 1 July 2027 by providing additional $8.2 million in 2026–27. Therefore, the prices presented in this CRIS for 2026–27 are unchanged from 2025–26 other than adjustments to how fees are calculated for the provision of on-plant services by on-plant veterinarians and food safety meat assessors. It is intended that new prices would commence from 1 July 2027. The objective remains to return to full cost recovery by 2029–30.

This CRIS provides information on how the department implements cost recovery charging for the meat exports arrangement and provides details of the fees and levy-based charges applying in 2026–27, noting that these are unchanged from 2025–26. This CRIS also presents a forecast of activity for each of the cost recoverable services covered by the meat exports arrangement.

We also provide an overview of the proposed changes intended to come into effect from 1 July 2027 and in the following 2 financial years. While not a part of the CRIS applying to the 2026–27 financial year, the future pricing provides visibility of modelled prices and how the meat exports arrangement is expected to return to full cost recovery. Included in this is the implementation of charging for activities that have previously been funded through appropriation.

Expenses for the meat exports arrangement are forecast to increase by $14.0 million or 12.4% over the next 4 years. Revenue is forecast to increase by $35.1 million or 38.1% over the same period. These forecasts are underpinned by assumptions including a 3% annual increase in employee cost and a 2.7% annual increase in supplier cost. To establish prices and expected revenue, we modelled stable export volumes and activities to 30 June 2030.

Stakeholders were consulted on the prices and the underlying assumptions such as the estimates of activity in section 5. A summary of stakeholder feedback and how key issues have been considered is included at Appendix B.

Introduction

Purpose

This cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) provides information on how the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry implements cost recovery charging for the meat exports cost recovery arrangement. It reports actual financial and non-financial performance information for the meat exports cost recovery arrangement and contains financial and demand forecasts for 2026–27 to 2029–30. This CRIS also describes the proposed fees and levy-based charges for 2026–27 to 2029–30 and how supplementation provided by the government through the 2025–26 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) measure will be used to support the phased transition to full cost recovery.

About the department

Our department is the lead government agency for the agricultural sector (agriculture, fisheries and forestry) in Australia.

Our purpose is to work together to safeguard and grow sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry for all Australians. To achieve our purpose, we focus on 3 strategic objectives:

- **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 to Australia's people, our environment and economy.

As a regulator, we enforce laws and administer export controls relating to agricultural products exported from Australia. This allows us to provide government-to-government assurances, instil greater confidence among Australia's trading partners, thereby strengthening Australia's position as a trusted source of premium agricultural products.

We continue to improve our regulatory practice in accordance with the principles of regulator best practice and improving regulator performance, capability and culture as required under the Department of Finance's Resource Management Guide – Regulator Performance (RMG 128). Effective and efficient regulation enhances Australia's economy, supports business and benefits the wider community.

Australian Government Charging Framework

The Australian Government Charging Framework applies across government. It ensures a consistent approach to policy development and helps determine when it is appropriate to charge for a government activity. The framework consists of:

- the Australian Government Charging Policy (Charging Policy)

- the Australian Government Cost Recovery Policy (Cost Recovery Policy).

The government's default policy position is that the full cost of an activity should be recovered from those creating the effort. The government decides as part of the policy approval for specific cost recovery whether it is full or partial cost recovery.

The Cost Recovery Policy supports consistent, transparent and accountable charging for government activities to ensure public resources are used properly. The Cost Recovery Policy describes how the Australian Government charges the non-government sector some or all of the efficient costs of specific government activities. In this context, efficiency means delivering government activities at the lowest cost while still achieving policy objectives and meeting legislative requirements.

Consistent with the Charging Framework, cost recovery for meat exports activities is implemented through fees and levy-based charges. The type of charge is determined by the characteristics of the activities:

- **Fees** – charged when regulation is provided directly to an individual or organisation for the delivery of regulatory activities such as inspections of goods, audit of registered premises, or assessment of export certification.
- **Levy-based charges** – applied when regulation affects an entire industry sector rather than a specific individual or organisation. These charges recover the costs of maintaining regulatory infrastructure and integrity, including program management and administration, assurance and incident management activities.

Description of the regulatory activity

Meat exports are regulated in accordance with the *Export Control Act 2020* (Export Control Act) and associated legislative framework.

The primary function of the meat export program is to provide regulatory oversight of the meat export industry, and assurances to overseas government authorities through export certification. Export certification provides assurance that meat and meat products have been sourced, prepared and exported consistent with Australia's export legislation and in accordance with importing country requirements.

To certify a product's compliance with Australia's export requirements and the importing country requirements, we undertake a range of activities, including:

- developing, implementing and monitoring of operational policy and systems that ensure compliance with Australian export controls and any importing country requirements. These activities serve to maintain the eligibility of commodities for export from Australia and to protect and promote Australia's reputation for premium agricultural goods, while maintaining existing, and seeking increased, market access opportunities
- providing inspection, auditing, verifying, and enforcement activities to ensure that the production, storage, handling and transportation of meat and meat products intended for export comply with the conditions of Australian export controls and any additional requirements imposed by an importing country

- issuing permits, export certification and other documentation necessary to confirm compliance with the Australian export controls and any additional importing country requirements
- managing quota allocation and quota certification to enable exporters to access tariff rate concessions offered under trade agreements
- providing support through our overseas counsellors including assistance with detained consignments, government certification and other issues which result in goods being held at the border
- providing scientific and technical advice to improve, maintain or restore market access and to demonstrate adherence to export requirements
- managing the National Residue Survey (NRS) which supports Australia's primary producers and agricultural industries by confirming Australia's status as a producer of clean food and facilitating access to export markets
- enforcing regulation of certified organic goods exported from Australia.

The full range of activities are described in the Description of cost model activities using the categories in our cost model activity framework (Appendix A).

The Department of Finance was consulted in the assessment of these activities against the Charging Framework and confirmed that inclusion of activities described in the CRIS is consistent with the framework.

Payers of regulatory fees and charges

This CRIS outlines the regulatory charges that we cost recover from participants in the meat exports supply chain, including exporters, producers and operators of storage facilities. For details of the fees and levy-based charges and the prices for 2026–27 to 2029–30, see CRIS updates. The government will continue to provide supplementation funding for a portion of the regulatory activities within the arrangement from 2026–27 to 2028–29, with the objective to return to full cost recovery by 2029–30.

Government policy approval to cost recover

Under the Charging Framework, cost recovery for export regulatory services requires policy approval and legislative authority. This section provides information on government approval of regulatory charging for export regulatory activities and the legislation that enables us to collect fees and levy-based charges.

Regulatory charging is appropriate because exports regulatory activities are provided to a clearly identifiable individual, organisation, or group participating in the agriculture, food and fibre export supply chain. If it were not for the business activities of these entities, the regulatory activities would not be required.

For these reasons, the government has determined regulatory charging to be the most appropriate mechanism for funding exports regulatory activities. Regulatory charging of export regulatory activities is consistent with the Charging Framework. This has been reaffirmed in various measures, including in the 2025–26 MYEFO when the government announced the *Securing the future of agricultural trade* measure.

Table 1 describes key government approvals for continued and expanded regulatory charging for agricultural exports since 2015.

Table 1 Government decisions impacting regulatory charging for agricultural export activities

Date	Government decision	Details
2025–26	Securing the future of agricultural trade	In March 2026, in recognition of the disruptions being experienced by farmers and producers due to the conflict in the Middle East, a further decision of government deferred the revised cost recovery arrangement for export regulatory services until 1 July 2027 by providing additional $8.2 million in 2026–27. The timeline for achieving full cost recovery of these export regulatory services was confirmed to remain 1 July 2029.
2025–26	Securing the future of agricultural trade	In the 2025–26 MYEFO, the government committed to providing $147.5 million over 4 years from 2025–26 (and $32.7 million per year ongoing) for the department to sustain agricultural export regulatory and trade functions. This included $65.8 million over 3 years from 2026–27 (and $25.2 million per year ongoing) to continue export regulatory services while we commence a phased transition to full cost recovery over 3 years from 2026–27 for most agricultural exports cost recovery arrangements. The measure also includes the introduction of cost recovery for 5 existing export regulatory services and an ongoing regulatory efficiency program.
2024–25	Enabling agricultural exports into the future	The government invested an additional $46.6 million as part of the 2024–25 MYEFO to continue to sustain the delivery of the department's export regulatory services through 2025–26. This funding supported significant lead time for consultation and engagement on the design and implementation of a fit for purpose sustainable funding model.
2023–24	Securing the future of agricultural trade	In the 2023–24 MYEFO, the government committed $91.8 million over 2 years to ensure Australia's regulatory export and trade system remains able to meet the needs of both our exporters and the expectations of our trading partners, while supporting industry to achieve its goals now and into the future. $3.7 million over 3 years was also provided for the development of an ongoing sustainable funding model to support our export regulatory and trade activities.
2020–21	Busting congestion for agricultural exporters	Policy authority for export regulatory charging was reaffirmed in the 2020–21 Budget when the then government announced the Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters package. The package consisted of reforms for the Australian agricultural sector as part of the Economic Recovery Plan to rebuild the economy and recover from the COVID-19 recession. This included $71.1 million to improve the financial sustainability of export certification services, supporting a stepped return to full cost recovery, and enabling reforms to be rolled out while maintaining existing systems.
2020	Introduction of the *Export Control Act 2020*	The *Export Control Act 2020* and related rules and charging regulations for exported commodities, set out the overarching legislative framework for the regulation of exported goods, including food and agricultural products, from Australian territory. A fundamental aspect of this framework is the recovery of costs from exporters for regulatory activities carried out by the department.
2018–19	Expanded cost recovery	In the May 2018 Budget, the government confirmed continuing cost recovery from industry through the Expanded Cost Recovery measure, which commenced on 1 July 2019, and included: • enforcement activities to support compliance with Australian regulation and international import conditions. Activities that will be cost recovered include

Date	Government decision	Details
		investigations and engagement with clients about compliance but does not include the costs of infringement notice schemes or undertaking litigation. • provision of scientific and technical advice to improve or maintain existing export markets. Examples include the provision of scientific or technical advice to re-open or maintain market access following a pest or disease incursion or change in import conditions; and improving existing market access by seeking to reduce import requirements or simplify certification processes. • services provided by overseas counsellors relating to detained consignments, government certification and other issues which result in goods being held at the border.
2015	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources – Comprehensive review of cost recovery	Over the period 2014–15, we redesigned our cost recovery arrangements as part of a funding strategy for our biosecurity and export certification activities. The review sought to streamline existing frameworks to address inequities, ensure all costs are recovered and reduce the complexity of the department's fees and levy-based charges. Outcomes of the review were implemented 1 December 2015.

Statutory authority to apply fees and charges

Section 399 of the Export Control Act provides that rules may prescribe fees that may be charged in relation to fee-bearing activities carried out by, or on behalf of, the Commonwealth in the performance of functions or the exercise of powers under the Export Control Act. The specific fees and price points are set out in the Export Control (Fees and Payments) Rules 2021.

Cost recovery charges are imposed under the:

- *Export Charges (Imposition—General) Act 2015*
- *Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Act 2015*
- *Export Charges (Imposition—Excise) Act 2015.*

Details of specific price points and charges payable are included in the:

- Export Charges (Imposition—General) Regulations 2021
- Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Regulations 2021.

It is intended that legislative instruments will be updated to reflect new prices for the cost recovery arrangement from 1 July 2026.

1 CRIS updates

Since the regulatory prices were last set in 2020–21, the rate of change in Australia’s export trade landscape has accelerated. The complexity of market access requirements (the requirements we must meet to get agricultural products into overseas markets) has grown, patterns of demand for Australian agricultural exports have changed, and inflation has continued to increase the costs of delivering services. These changes meant that our previous cost model no longer reflected the real cost of delivering export services. By 2023–24, a revenue gap emerged that required government supplementation to maintain essential trade and export services needed to support agricultural sector exports.

To address the revenue gap, the government committed $142.1 million to sustain the delivery of export regulatory services until 30 June 2026 (see Table 1). As part of the 2023–24 Budget measure, we received government authority to develop an ongoing sustainable funding model to support our export regulatory and trade activities. We have reviewed export fees and levy-based charges in detail, including consideration of future costs, expected volumes of regulatory activity and limited structural or pricing reforms.

In MYEFO 2025–26, the government announced an additional $48.7 million in supplementation funding to support a phased return to full cost recovery over the next 3 years (2026–27 to 2028–29) for all exports arrangements. The decision also allowed for cost recovery of 5 existing regulatory activities and a new regulatory efficiency program that fall within the scope of the Charging Framework. These include regulatory activities in maintenance of market access.

On 31 March 2026, in recognition of the disruptions being experienced by farmers and producers due to the conflict in the Middle East, the government announced a further decision to defer revised cost recovery arrangements for export regulatory services until 1 July 2027 by providing additional $8.2 million in 2026–27. The objective remains to return to full cost recovery by 2029–30. Therefore, the prices presented in this CRIS for 2026–27 are unchanged from 2025–26 other than adjustments to how fees are calculated for the provision of on-plant services by on-plant veterinarians and food safety meat assessors.

1.1 Phased return to full cost recovery

The MYEFO 2025–26 announcement provided a phased reduction in government supplementation across the exports cost recovery arrangements. The supplementation will cease at the end of 2028–29 when the exports cost recovery arrangements are modelled to return to full cost recovery. An updated decision to provide additional government supplementation in 2026–27 means that prices will be unchanged in 2026–27.

The supplementation means that the meat, dairy, fish and egg, horticulture, and grain and plant products exports arrangements will return to full cost recovery by 2029–30 with stepped increases in pricing after 2026–27.

Table 2 shows the supplementation provided by the government as a proportion of the cost recovery revenue gap that existed as of the 2025–26 budget. Supplementation will be provided in full in 2026–27 and reduce from 1 July 2027. The phasing schedule aims to reduce potential impact on export businesses from sudden increases in regulatory prices and to provide time to adapt. It also considers the current supply chain uncertainties due to conflict in the Middle East.

Consequently, the indicative prices over the phasing years provided in Table 4 reflect the reductions in government supplementation provided as the arrangements return to full cost recovery.

Table 2 Reduction in government supplementation for dairy, fish and egg, meat, horticulture and grain and plant products exports cost recovery arrangements

Financial year	Proportion of 2025–26 revenue gap funded by government supplementation [a] (%)
2026–27	100
2027–28	50
2028–29	25
2029–30	0

a Revenue gap in the context of 2025–26 budget.

1.2 Transition of regulatory activities into cost recovery

We have completed a review of the activities that we undertake to deliver our agricultural trade and export regulatory and non-regulatory services. Through this review, we identified 5 existing regulatory activities relevant to the meat exports arrangement that have been funded through government appropriation and that are within the scope of current policy authority for export cost recovery and the Charging Framework. To ensure ongoing sustainability of essential regulatory services, we would transition the funding mechanism of the identified activities in section 1.2 into cost recovery. This will occur in a phased manner over 3 years in the schedule specified in Table 3.

Table 3 Schedule for the phasing additional regulatory activities into cost recovery arrangement

Financial year	Proportion of cost funded through cost recovery (%)	Proportion of cost funded through appropriation (%)
2026–27	0	100
2027–28	50	50
2028–29	75	25
2029–30	100	0

Relevant to the meat arrangement, the regulatory activities to be transitioned into cost recovery are:

- China Import Food Enterprise Registration
- Manual of Importing Country Requirements sustainment
- Fit-and-proper-person assessment
- Market maintenance
- Non-compliance investigation and triage.

In addition, we will introduce a new and ongoing regulatory efficiency program into the cost recovery arrangement. Regulatory efficiency programs (such as Meat Modernisation) are necessary to improve regulatory efficiencies and reduce the cost of exports arrangements that benefit the sector. The program is therefore deemed appropriate for cost recovery in accordance with the Charging Framework. We will work with industry on program design and governance prior to phasing this work into cost recovery from the 2027–28 financial year.

The costs associated with each of the activities detailed below are included in the proposed fees and levy-based charges presented in Table 4 from 2027–28.

China Import Food Enterprise Registration

On 1 January 2022, China's *Administrative Provisions on Registration of Overseas Manufacturers of Imported Foods* (commonly known as Decree 248) came into force. The Decree requires all establishments that manufacture, process, and store food and beverage products for export to China to be registered in the China Import Food Enterprise Registration (CIFER) system, administered by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

As the Australian competent authority, we are required to verify applications for new, varied, or renewed listings for some products exported to China, prior to submitting the applications to GACC. As this is a critical activity undertaken to access the China market (and imposed by the Chinese government as an importing country requirement), cost recovering this work is consistent with the Australian Government Charging Framework and the export CRIS structure.

Appropriation funding is currently being used to support CIFER registrations for the meat exports and non-prescribed goods arrangements, a cost which we forecast to total $0.69 million in 2029–30. We have attributed $0.46 million to the meat exports arrangement based on an assessment of the effort required for us to support and oversee CIFER applications and endorse applications as attributable to the meat exports arrangement. There will be no increase to cost recovery within the meat exports arrangement in 2026–27 to fund this work. In 2027–28, $240,714 will be included in cost recovery, increasing to $345,080 in 2028–29 and to $455,331 in 2029–30.

These costs would be added to establishments' monthly registration charges for establishments with, or seeking to obtain, a CIFER listing for relevant commodities within the meat exports arrangement.

Manual of Importing Country Requirements sustainment

The Manual of Importing Country Requirements (Micor) is a departmental system capturing known trading partner requirements that exporters and the department must meet so that agricultural products exported will be accepted by overseas countries. This system requires ongoing maintenance and user support services.

The maintenance and existence of Micor is critical for ensuring that Australian exports meet the requirements of both the Export Control Act and importing country regulations. The service directly supports industry participants to understand importing country requirements and their obligations. The digital platform is like other digital and web-based information management resource services that exist for the agricultural export industry. Because this service supports efficient decision-making and improves compliance with importing country requirements and the Export Control Act, cost recovering this work is consistent with the Charging Framework and the export CRIS structure.

The forecast cost for sustainment of the Micor system is $1.16 million in 2029–30 which supports all 7 of the department's exports arrangements. We have attributed $0.58 million to the meat exports arrangement based on an assessment of the effort required for the department to manage information, including infrastructure, security, content updates, licences and usage volume related to the export of prescribed meat and prescribed meat products. There will be no increase to cost recovery within the meat exports arrangement in 2026–27 to fund this work. In 2027–28, $273,608 will be included in cost recovery, increasing to $421,402 in 2028–29 and $577,503 in 2029–30.

As Micor benefits and is used by establishments and exporters, the costs have been apportioned 50% to the meat exporters pricing pool, 33% to the other establishments pricing pool, and 17% to the abattoir levy pricing pool. The exporters pricing pool drives costs to documentation charges associated with export activity. The other establishments pricing pool drives costs to the application and annual registration charges for meat establishments other than abattoirs. The abattoir pricing pool drives costs to abattoir registration and throughput charges.

Fit and proper person assessment

We undertake fit-and-proper-person (FPP) assessments to determine the integrity of certain Australian export supply chain participants. The assessments inform decision-makers when considering different permissions under the Export Control Act, including establishment registrations, export licences, approved arrangements, when approving individual persons such as authorised officers and when details are updated (such as new persons in management or control).

This activity relates to our direct intervention services in administering the Export Control Act. Similar activities such as technical assessments undertaken to assess an application under the Export Control Act are currently funded through cost recovery. Cost recovering this work is consistent with the Charging Framework and the export CRIS structure.

The forecast cost for FPP assessments across all exports arrangements is $1.38 million in 2029–30. We have attributed $0.72 million to the meat exports arrangement based on an assessment of the effort required in conducting FPP assessments for participants involved in the export of prescribed meat and meat products. There will be no increase to cost recovery within the meat exports arrangement in 2026–27 to fund this work. In 2027–28, $407,465 will be included in cost recovery, increasing to $561,423 in 2028–29 and $723,203 in 2029–30.

These costs have been included against the price points where FPP activity occurs. We have apportioned 48% of the total cost to the annual charges for meat licences that are not held by the occupier of a registered establishment, 31% to registered establishments other than abattoirs where FPP activity is driven by changes in management and control and in managing export licences, and 22% of the cost to abattoir monthly registration charges.

Market maintenance

Our market maintenance work helps exporters and industry clarify and meet importing country requirements and facilitates exports and certification. This work enables the release of detained or distressed consignments, supports and coordinates trading partner system and listing audits, and addresses trade suspensions resulting from increasingly complex or changed importing country requirements. In the last 5 years, market maintenance activities have expanded due to increasing complexity in trading partner requirements and additional audits that we have needed to facilitate to keep markets open.

This activity falls within the scope of current policy authority for cost recovery following decisions of government in the 2018–19 Budget. Some of the costs of this work are not currently included within the expense base for the meat exports arrangement but will now be transitioned into cost recovery.

The forecast cost for the market maintenance activities that are not currently being cost recovered is $0.82 million in 2029–30 within the meat, dairy, fish and egg, and non-prescribed goods arrangements. We have attributed $0.52 million to the meat exports arrangement based on an assessment of the effort performed by the department in supporting market access across the export supply chain, in meeting importing country requirements, including the implementation of systems and regulations, provision of assurance, facilitation of trading partner audits, and resolution of trade suspensions. There will be no increase to cost recovery within the meat exports arrangement in 2026–27 to fund this work. In 2027–28, $432,076 will be included in cost recovery, increasing to $473,970 in 2028–29 and $518,083 in 2029–30.

We have assigned 90% of these costs to the meat exporters pricing pool with 5% to both the abattoir pricing pool and the other establishments pricing pool. The exporters pricing pool drives costs to documentation charges associated with export activity. The abattoir pricing pool drives costs to abattoir registration and throughput charges. The other establishments pricing pool drives costs to the application and annual registration charges for meat establishments other than abattoirs.

Non-compliance investigation and triage

Under the Export Control Act, we administer direct intervention activities that include investigation and triage related to reported non-compliances with the Act. Our Compliance and Enforcement Division oversees non-compliances and non-compliance trends. They triage and prioritise responses to non-compliances and associated reporting.

Included in the cost recoverable activities are investigations and engagement with clients about compliance and associated case triage. Policy authority for cost recovery of these activities was included in the decision of government in the 2018–19 Budget. Activities to issue fines and penalties or those associated with prosecutions are not cost recoverable under the Charging Framework and are therefore not included.

The forecast cost associated with the work is $0.78 million in 2029–30 across all 7 exports arrangements. We have attributed $0.17 million to the meat exports arrangement based on an assessment of effort performed by the department in undertaking these activities related to preparing and exporting prescribed meat and prescribed meat products. There will be no increase to cost recovery in 2026–27 to fund this work. In 2027–28, $98,916 will be included in cost recovery, increasing to $134,687 in 2028–29 and $172,387 in 2029–30.

We have assigned these costs to the other establishments pricing pool which drives costs to the application and annual registration charges for meat establishments other than abattoirs which is where this work occurs. Non-compliance activities related to abattoir activities is undertaken through the work of area technical managers and the export meat program and is already factored within the cost base.

Regulatory efficiency program

This program represents an activity that would be new to cost recovery arrangements. The program is aimed at ensuring the regulatory system is contemporary, efficient and effective. Historically, we undertook short-term and ad-hoc activities to implement improvements to regulatory systems through specifically provided funding. Ongoing capability and capacity do not exist under the current funding arrangements, and this is intended to provide ongoing support to drive regulatory efficiency, in partnership with the sector.

The scope of activities under this function could include:

- developing approaches that use data and analytics to support a risk-based, digitally enabled regulatory system that simplifies compliance for exporters, focuses regulatory effort on higher risk activities, and could support reductions in compliance requirements such as audit frequency)
- recognising industry processes and alternative verification technologies that achieve equivalent regulatory outcomes and reduce regulatory burdens on businesses
- simplifying regulatory systems, making them easier for businesses to navigate
- streamlining processes for regulated entities and the department in delivering services to businesses, and corporate functions related to cost recovery
- automating more processes, including export certifications.

The increasing complexity in the export regulatory system and the requirements of trading partners heighten the need to maintain a strong and responsive export regulatory system to support exporters. For example, our previous work within Meat Modernisation recognised the role of third-party authorised officers to perform meat inspection while meeting importing country and certification requirements. Without stable and sustainable investment, it would not be possible to keep pace with the growing demand for this type of activity.

The decision of government in the 2025–26 Budget provided policy authority to include $2.49 million into cost recovery across the meat, dairy, fish and egg, horticulture, and grain and plant products exports arrangements. Cost recovery would commence in 2027–28 with 50% of the final planned revenue, increasing to 75% in 2028–29 and 100% from 2029–30.

We have split this across those 5 exports arrangements and will phase in these new costs over 3 years. This will result in $233,373 being included in cost recovery for the meat exports arrangement in 2027–28, increasing to $387,466 in 2028–29 and $495,870 in 2029–30. These costs would be allocated only to the meat exporters pricing pool.

Throughout 2026–27, we will work closely with industry consultative committees to design the structure, scope and priorities of the program for the meat exports arrangement, including the principles that will guide investment. This collaborative design process will ensure the program delivers benefits for government and industry, while maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the regulatory system.

1.3 Regulatory prices 2026–27 to 2029–30

Table 4 shows the regulatory prices from 2026–27 to 2029–30, taking into consideration the pathway for sustainable funding of export regulatory services described in section 1.1 and section 1.2. There are several structural changes to the way fees and levy-based charges are applied from 2026–27 compared with 2025–26 and which are described below.

The monthly fee for food safety meat assessors (FSMA) and on-plant veterinarians (OPV) has been removed, leaving only the quarter hourly rate for planned and unplanned services as the basis for charging. The previous monthly rate was established by applying the quarter hourly fee for a standard 40-hour week in an average month. Prior to implementation of new arrangements in this CRIS, the hours of service requested on an establishment's Australian Export Meat Inspection System (AEMIS) form would direct how the fees were calculated. In cases where more than 40 hours of FSMA or OPV service were requested, the total fees charged were based on the monthly rate plus the number of quarter hour units in excess of 40 hours. Where an establishment requested less than 40 hours of FSMA or OPV service the total fees would be calculated only by the total number of quarter hourly units. Removing the monthly fee simplifies calculation and billing of the total fees.

The minimum overtime fee payable for non-continuous FSMA services was previously based on a minimum of 4 hours. This will be amended to a minimum of 3 hours, consistent with the overtime charging for on-plant veterinarian service and the department's Enterprise Agreement.

We have added a new monthly charge to export registered abattoirs, casings establishments and storage and transport establishments for CIFER. This charge will only be applied to those types of establishments that are registered, or have applied for registration, through China's CIFER system for the export of relevant products. This charge would come into effect from 2027–28.

The separate Tier 1 (T1) slaughter throughput charge listed in previous CRISs has been removed. The charge in previous CRISs was based on certain on-plant services that were not provided at Tier 1 abattoirs. Those on-plant services are now charged separately and the services funded through the throughput charge are provided across the meat export sector as a whole. As such, this CRIS details that throughput charges should be consistent across establishment market access levels.

Notably, the levy-based charge for a meat export licence held by a person who is not the occupier of a registered establishment will increase significantly from 1 July 2027. This reflects the updated price modelling and inclusion of the costs of FPP assessments into the price of holding a meat export licence.

Starting from 1 July 2030, prices would be adjusted utilising an indexation mechanism based on the wage price index (WPI). Alongside these adjustments, annual cost base reviews will take place to monitor performance of the arrangement and to inform any future actions, including any adjustments to regulatory pricing. Importantly, the prices for 2027–28 to 2029–30 reflect current modelling of costs and export activity. Changes to the costs, underlying assumptions about inflation, or export activity may warrant future prices to be revisited. Changes to prices would require legislative amendments which may impact how quickly any revised price modelling can be completed and implemented.

Table 4 Fees and levy-based charges for meat exports regulatory activities, 2025–26 to 2029–30

Type of charge	Cost recovery charges	Unit	Current 2025–26 ($)	Proposed 2026–27 ($)	Proposed 2027–28 ($)	Proposed 2028–29 ($)	Proposed 2029–30 ($)
Levy-based charge	Meat export licence	Annual	345	345	1,486.65	1,564.12	1,668.86
	Registration application	Per application	854	854	883.93	990.01	1,082.65
	Establishment – abattoir	Monthly	880	880	1,125.22	1,225.75	1,305.06
	Establishment – casings	Monthly	880	880	910.84	1,020.15	1,115.61
	Establishment – further processing	Monthly	1,309	1,309	1,354.87	1,517.48	1,659.46
	Establishment – independent boning rooms	Monthly	1,309	1,309	1,354.87	1,517.48	1,659.46
	Establishment – poultry	Monthly	1,309	1,309	1,354.87	1,517.48	1,659.46
	Establishment – storage and transportation	Monthly	880	880	910.84	1,020.15	1,115.61
	Establishment – CIFER casings [a]	Monthly	n/a	n/a	1,036.69	1,161.11	1,269.75
	Establishment – CIFER storage and transportation [a]	Monthly	n/a	n/a	1,036.69	1,161.11	1,269.75
	Establishment – CIFER abattoir [a]	Monthly	n/a	n/a	1,251.07	1,366.70	1,459.20
	Throughput – full unit (cattle, buffalo, camel)	Per animal	0.46	0.46	0.59	0.64	0.68
	Throughput – pig	Per animal	0.16	0.16	0.21	0.22	0.24
	Throughput – sheep, goat, lamb	Per animal	0.12	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.18
	Throughput – deer and game deer	Per animal	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.13
	Throughput – calf	Per animal	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.07
	Throughput – kangaroo, wild boar	Per animal	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04
	Throughput – rabbit, possum, hare	Per animal	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Throughput – emu, ostrich	Per animal	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.06
Fee	Audit – non-vet	Per quarter hour	64	64	83.14	89.89	94.97
	Audit – vet	Per quarter hour	109	109	137.31	148.28	156.53
	FSMA – planned	Per quarter hour	27	27	35.12	37.98	40.14
	FSMA – unplanned	Per quarter hour	39	39	50.73	54.86	57.98

Type of charge	Cost recovery charges	Unit	Current 2025–26 ($)	Proposed 2026–27 ($)	Proposed 2027–28 ($)	Proposed 2028–29 ($)	Proposed 2029–30 ($)
	OPV – planned	Per quarter hour	36	36	41.98	45.42	48.03
	OPV – unplanned	Per quarter hour	51	51	59.48	64.35	68.04
	Export document – manual	Per document	43	43	42.72	45.95	48.60
	Replacement document	Per document	551	551	547.41	588.83	622.77
	Application for exemption	Per quarter hour	39	39	40.99	43.13	46.02
Fee/levy-based charge	Export document – electronically-issued certificate (including fee and levy-based charge) [b]	Per document	37	37	41.42	43.70	46.57
	– Levy-based charge		32	32	36.45	38.35	40.92
	– Fee		5	5	4.97	5.34	5.65
	Export document – tariff rate quota certificate (including fee and levy-based charge) [b]	Per document	37	37	41.42	43.70	46.57
	– Levy-based charge		32	32	36.45	38.35	40.92
	– Fee		5	5	4.97	5.34	5.65
Outside ordinary hour (OOH) fee	FSMA during a period of 3 or more hours – if overtime rate is single time	Per quarter hour	10.43	10.43	13.06	13.44	13.82
	FSMA during a period of 3 or more hours – if overtime rate is time and a half	Per quarter hour	15.64	15.64	19.59	20.16	20.73
	FSMA during a period of 3 or more hours – if overtime rate is double time	Per quarter hour	20.86	20.86	26.12	26.88	27.64
	FSMA during a period of 3 or more hours – if overtime rate is double and a half	Per quarter hour	26.07	26.07	32.65	33.60	34.55
	FSMA during a period of less than 3 hours – if the overtime rate is single time	Any period under 3 hours	166.88	125.16	156.72	161.29	165.85
	FSMA during a period of less than 3 hours – if the overtime rate is time and a half	Any period under 3 hours	250.24	187.74	235.09	241.93	248.78
	FSMA during a period of less than 3 hours – if the overtime rate is double time	Any period under 3 hours	333.76	250.32	313.45	322.58	331.71
	FSMA during a period of less than 3 hours – if the	Any period under 3 hours	417.12	312.90	391.81	403.22	414.64

Type of charge	Cost recovery charges	Unit	Current 2025–26 ($)	Proposed 2026–27 ($)	Proposed 2027–28 ($)	Proposed 2028–29 ($)	Proposed 2029–30 ($)
	overtime rate is double time and a half						
	Veterinarian during a period of 3 or more hours – if overtime rate is single time	Per quarter hour	16.17	16.17	18.36	18.90	19.43
	Veterinarian during a period of 3 or more hours – if overtime rate is time and a half	Per quarter hour	24.26	24.26	27.55	28.35	29.15
	Veterinarian during a period of 3 or more hours – if overtime rate is double time	Per quarter hour	32.34	32.34	36.73	37.80	38.87
	Veterinarian during a period of 3 or more hours – if the overtime rate is double time and a half	Per quarter hour	40.43	40.43	45.91	47.25	48.59
	Veterinarian during a period of less than 3 hours – if the overtime rate is single time	Any period under 3 hours	194.04	194.04	220.38	226.80	233.22
	Veterinarian during a period of less than 3 hours – if the overtime rate is time and a half	Any period under 3 hours	291.12	291.12	330.57	340.20	349.82
	Veterinarian during a period of less than 3 hours – if the overtime rate is double time	Any period under 3 hours	388.08	388.08	440.76	453.60	466.43
	Veterinarian during a period of less than 3 hours – if the overtime rate is double time and a half	Any period under 3 hours	485.16	485.16	550.95	566.99	583.04
Organics c	Organic certifying body	Annual	8,608	8,608	8,455.25	8,588.96	8,863.99
	Organic certifying body – part year	Annual	4,304	4,304	4,227.63	4,294.48	4,432.00
	Application charge for organic goods certification operation	Per application	689	689	384.32	390.39	402.90
	Audit fee for organic good certification operations	Per quarter hour	39	39	49.96	50.75	52.38
	Assessment of applications or approvals	Per quarter hour	39	39	49.88	50.68	52.31

Note: Modelled prices have been rounded to the nearest cent. **a** The proposed charge for establishments with CIFER listing would be applied instead of the listed charge for the same type of establishment without a CIFER listing. As a new charge it would not be applied in 2026–27 and the existing establishment charge would be applied. **b** Export documentation attracts both a fee and a levy-based charge and this CRIS shows the total price followed by each component separately. **c** Organic certifiers support a small number of exporters in each of the export arrangements (excluding live animal exports) and therefore the prices have been reflected in each CRIS.

2 Risk assessment

2.1 Charging Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Australian Government Charging Policy, we have undertaken a Charging Risk Assessment (CRA), involving the ongoing assessment and management of risk at each phase of the cost recovery process. The CRA applies to the 2026–27 financial year and for the meat exports cost recovery arrangement the implementation risk has been rated as medium, which is based on an assessment of each component, including:

- a low-risk rating for the expected percentage change in total annual revenue (less than 10% in 2026–27)
- a low-risk rating for the expected change in total value of annual revenue (less than $10 million in 2026–27)
- a low-risk rating for the highest percentage increase in price a payer may experience (less than 5%)
- a medium-risk rating for the type of charges as the changes proposed apply to both fees and levies
- a medium-risk rating for changes to regulatory charges as the proposal involves changes to the structure of existing regulatory charges
- a medium-risk rating for legislative changes as there would be changes to the existing charging mechanisms, including for on-plant services and establishment charges
- a low-risk rating for the level of impact of cost recovery on payers as regulatory charges will not be changing in 2026–27
- a low-risk rating for the level of complexity in working with other government entities to deliver the regulatory functions
- a medium-risk rating for consultation as the CRIS was consulted with stakeholders and issues raised have been addressed for the 2026–27 CRIS.

2.2 Revenue variability

In line with the Charging Framework, complexity, materiality and sensitivity are considered in assessing and managing the risk associated with the cost recovery process. Variation in revenue from cost-recovered activities may arise due to complexity of the processes (activities) within arrangements and factors beyond our control. This includes changing demand for regulatory services where fluctuations will contribute to variability in the revenue stream. For example, demand for commodities, overseas economic factors and climatic events can all impact regulatory effort, costs and volumes of activities. Challenges of projecting revenue from fees and levy-based charges may translate into risk of further revenue gap over the forward years.

2.3 Accumulated results

Regulatory charging is set to recover reasonable costs. However, several factors – including volume variances and changes in expenses based on risk profiles – can affect the difference between revenue and expenses. The differences that may be accumulated within an arrangement at the end of a financial year are referred to as accumulated results.

Accumulated results help keep revenue, expenses and forecast volumes aligned, and we have been recording these amounts since the start of the arrangement. We do not use any excess amounts we collect to subsidise shortfalls in other arrangements or our non-cost recovered functions.

Under-recoveries result from the arrangement not recovering the full costs of regulatory activities. This results in the arrangement operating at a loss and adversely impacts the accumulated result for the arrangement at the end of the year. Ongoing under recovery will lead to the need for further review of the regulatory charging arrangement to ensure its return to sustainable recovery for all regulatory costs. This excludes any accumulated deficits, which are not factored into future price setting, consistent with the Cost Recovery Framework.

3 Stakeholder consultation

Stakeholder engagement plays an important role in the development and management of cost recovery arrangements. We acknowledge that our stakeholders have unique insights into how our regulatory activities impact their businesses and help us design efficient cost recovery frameworks for these activities. The purpose of our stakeholder engagement strategy is to work with industry to update the CRIS as needed and provide information on the performance of the cost recovery arrangement.

This strategy helps us to plan, design, undertake and evaluate stakeholder engagement activities in a transparent and accountable way.

Our stakeholder engagement is designed to meet the requirements of the:

- Australian Government Charging Framework
- Australian Government Guide to Regulation
- Australian Public Service Framework for Engagement and Participation.

3.1 Principles

Our principles for engagement are to listen, be genuine and be transparent. We will achieve this by:

- engaging with a diverse group of stakeholders to ensure a clear explanation of the objectives and context
- communicating what aspects are in scope and out of scope for consultation
- providing sufficient time for stakeholders to engage in consultation processes
- communicating challenges and outcomes
- explaining how stakeholder feedback has been considered.

3.2 Methodology

Throughout 2024 and 2025, the department held more than 98 engagement sessions across 12 different industry consultation groups, including providing policy position papers and conducting online public consultation. Twenty-four of these sessions were for or included the meat export industry.

From February to April 2024, we sought feedback from stakeholders across the export supply chain, including peak industry bodies, primary producers, packers and exporters, through our Have Your Say platform. We also provided additional updates through the regular industry consultative meetings and industry briefings during 2024 and 2025. The government considered the feedback received when deciding on a future sustainable funding model for agricultural trade and export functions.

On 30 October 2025, we held an industry briefing to share information on the cost base analysis of our exports cost recovery arrangements. Preliminary feedback from industry indicated they would like to receive further details of the cost base. Industry engaged on our proposed options to achieve financial sustainability and sought assurance that productivity and efficiency are incorporated into the pricing model. Some stakeholders expressed concern that the increasing prices of export regulatory services would contribute to elevated input costs and affect viability of export businesses.

On 12 December 2025, the government announced the decision to introduce a new cost recovery arrangement for export regulatory functions from 1 July 2026, including a phased return to cost recovery over the next 3 years for most export arrangements. We held an industry briefing on that day to provide industry with information about the decision and further background can be found in Export cost recovery reform for sustainable trade funding.

We held a 7-week formal industry consultation process from 29 January to 20 March 2026. We invited stakeholders to provide comments on the impact of proposed changes to cost recovery arrangements. During the consultation period, the meat export industry provided written submissions through our Have Your Say platform as well as feedback through an all-industry live webinar, face-to-face meetings (including in regional centres) and the pre-existing meat export industry consultative meetings, the Export Meat Industry Advisory Committee Finance and Staffing Subcommittee (EMIAC-FSSC).

We have consulted with industry stakeholders on:

- the new proposed price structure for export regulatory services including tables comparing current and proposed fees and levy-based charges over the full phasing timeframe
- the rationale and explanation of the changes including the drivers of change to the cost base, and description of activities being transitioned from appropriation funded to cost recovery set out in consultation papers or fact sheets
- how proposed fees may impact businesses.

We have addressed comments received as part of the consultation process for the finalisation of this CRIS. A summary of our responses is included in Appendix B.

4 Cost recovery model for meat exports

This section describes the meat exports cost recovery model and additional financial information associated with audit, inspection and certification activities for meat exports.

4.1 Cost base assumptions

The 2025–26 budget was used as the starting point for determining the cost base applied in this CRIS. The cost base was modelled to reflect the full cost of delivering regulatory services to support the meat export industry. We have identified that the key cost driver for permit and assessment-based activities is complexity, which determines the amount of time and effort spent on a regulatory output. We also note that employee related costs are the largest part of our regulatory activity cost. External suppliers and operating support for our export IT systems are the other major direct costs.

Compared to the previous financial model developed in 2020–21, new assumptions made in the current financial modelling are:

- 3% annual increase in employee-related expenses in line with public sector wage settings in recent years
- 2.7% annual increase in supplier cost to account for inflation, which is within the anticipated range of headline inflation.

4.2 Modelled cost base

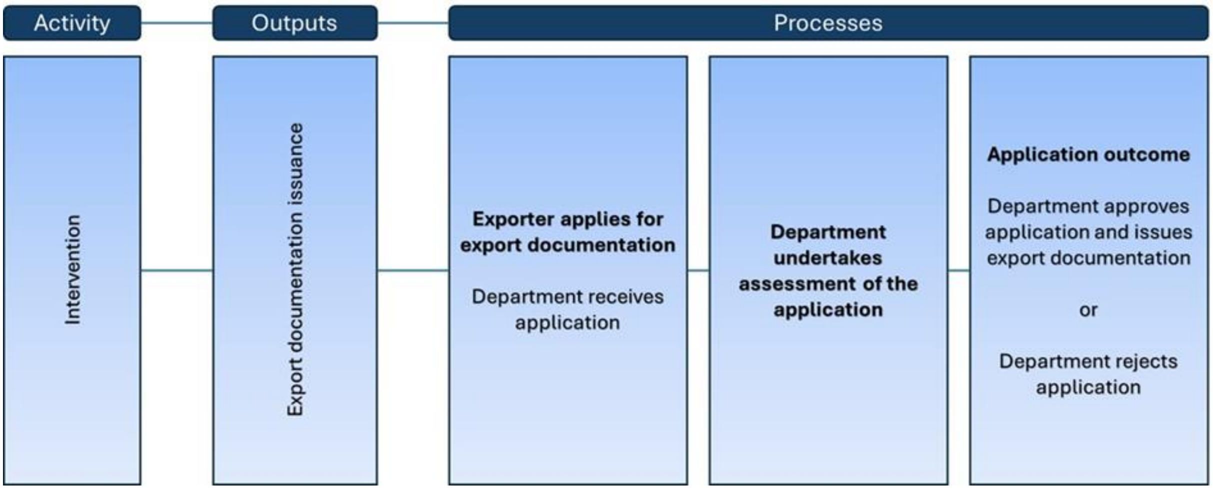
In preparing this CRIS, we reviewed the cost base for meat exports arrangement fees and levy-based charges, including consideration of future costs, the expected volume of regulatory activity, Phased return to full cost recovery and Transition of regulatory activities into cost recovery. The cost bases used in our modelling to establish pricing are represented in Table 5, Table 6 and Table 7. We allocate employee, supplier, system and corporate costs to each type of regulatory activity (see Appendix A).

Direct costs

Direct costs are primarily the costs for employees who provide regulatory activities. In addition to the employee costs, it also includes supplier costs, such as direct capital expenses. Direct costs are allocated to the regulatory activity, which best reflects the activity undertaken.

Figure 1 provides an example of the connection between the activity of intervention and output of export documentation for an exported good.

Figure 1 Example intervention activity process for regulated entities



Indirect costs

Indirect costs are enabling costs, which cannot be attributed to a specific activity or output. These include information and communications technology, maintenance, office accommodation, and costs for finance and corporate services needed for regulatory staff to do their job. We include indirect expenses in the cost base to reflect the systems and processes which exist to support efficient administration and benefit the cost-recovered arrangements. Indirect costs are allocated to cost recovered and appropriated activities using cost drivers, such as headcount and full-time equivalents (FTE), in line with our cost allocation policy.

Capital costs

Capital costs included in the operating costs of business processes are depreciation of property, plant and equipment (including furniture, IT hardware and infrastructure), amortisation of IT systems and software, non-capital software development costs and accommodation.

Table 5 shows the meat exports arrangement cost base for 2026–27. The cost base of $116.8 million comprises:

- $31.8 million in levy-based charge-related activities
- $85.0 million in fee-related activities.

A description of cost activities and the methodology for attributing costs to these activities is provided in Appendix A.

Table 5 Cost base, meat exports cost recovery arrangement, 2026–27

Charge type	Activity	Expense ($)	Cost recovery charges
Levy-based charges	• Program management and administration – Workforce and business administration – Business system administration – Stakeholder engagement – Policy and instructional material – Business improvement • Assurance – Risk management – Verification – Surveillance • Incident management – Incident management – Investigative support – Corrective action	31,824,360	Annual registration, export documentation, throughput, application and management of approved arrangements
Fees	Intervention – assessment	1,686,364	Assessment
	Intervention – audit	4,387,978	Audit
	Intervention – inspection	77,700,633	Inspection
	Intervention – export documentation issuance	1,245,444	Documentation
	Total cost base	**116,844,780**	–

Figures in Table 6 are sourced from modelling based on the 2025–26 budget with updates as part of the mid-year budget process. This modelling has been used to establish the cost base and for determining future prices.

Table 6 Cost type breakdown, meat exports cost recovery arrangement, 2026–27

Category	Expense	Forecast ($)
Direct	Employee	71,177,816
	Operating	17,167,405
	Other	7,449,543
	Subtotal	**95,794,764**
Indirect	Digital Services	6,932,776
	Finance and Investment	3,840,250
	Legal	1,610,328
	People, Property & Security	7,807,344
	Strategy Performance and Engagement	859,319
	Subtotal	**21,050,016**
Total	–	**116,844,780**

5 Design of regulatory charges

This CRIS includes a mix of fees and levy-based charges for regulatory activities. These charges are made under the Export Control (Fees and Payments) Rules 2021, the Export Charges (Imposition—General) Regulations 2021 and Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Regulations 2021.

Fees are charged when regulation is provided directly to an individual or organisation for delivery of regulatory activities, such as inspection of goods, audit of registered premises, or assessment of export certification (see Direct intervention activities).

Levy-based charges are applied when regulation is imposed on an industry sector rather than directly to a specific individual or organisation. These charges recover the costs of maintaining regulatory infrastructure and integrity through program management and administration, assurance, and incident management activities (see Program management and administration activities).

5.1 Meat exports fees and charges

Fees and levy-based charges are legislated in the Export Control (Fees and Payments) Rules 2021, the Export Charges (Imposition—General) Regulations 2021 and the Export Charges (Imposition—Customs) Regulations 2021.

The prices set between 2026–27 and 2029–30 are derived from the financial modelling methodology described in Cost recovery model for meat exports. The prices, modelled volume and revenue for 2026–27 are shown in Table 7.

We have not included outside ordinary hour fees in this table as these volumes are not typically forecast.

Table 7 Fees, charges and volumes for meat exports cost recovery arrangement, 2026–27

Type of charge	Cost recovery charges	Unit	Modelled Revenue ($)	Volume (unit)	2026–27 price ($)
Levy-based charge	Meat Export Licence	Annual	122,130	354	345
	Registration application	Per application	40,138	47	854
	Establishment – abattoir	Monthly	140,800	160	880
	Establishment – casings	Monthly	49,280	56	880
	Establishment – further processing	Monthly	1,188,572	908	1,309
	Establishment – independent boning rooms	Monthly	252,637	193	1,309
	Establishment – poultry	Monthly	534,072	408	1,309
	Establishment – storage and transportation	Monthly	1,255,760	1,427	880
	Throughput – full unit (cattle, buffalo, camel)	Per animal	3,654,762	7,945,134	0.46
	Throughput – pig	Per animal	784,418	4,902,613	0.16

Type of charge	Cost recovery charges	Unit	Modelled Revenue ($)	Volume (unit)	2026–27 price ($)
	Throughput – sheep, goat, lamb	Per animal	4,194,511	34,954,262	0.12
	Throughput – deer and game deer	Per animal	1,076	11,955	0.09
	Throughput – calf	Per animal	17,637	352,734	0.05
	Throughput – kangaroo, wild boar	Per animal	18,360	611,999	0.03
	Throughput – rabbit, possum, hare	Per animal	13	1,331	0.01
Fee	Audit – non-vet	Per quarter hour	947,776	14,809	64
	Audit – vet	Per quarter hour	2,263,821	20,769	109
	FSMA – planned [a]	Per quarter hour	24,840,972	920,036	27
	FSMA – unplanned	Per quarter hour	1,851,864	47,484	39
	OPV – planned [a]	Per quarter hour	31,753,080	882,030	36
	OPV – unplanned	Per quarter hour	1,713,625	33,600	51
	Export documents – manual	Per document	43,043	1,001	43
	Replacement export document	Per document	1,272,259	2,309	551
	Application for exemption	Per quarter hour	195	5	39
Fee/levy-based charge	Export document – electronically-issued certificate (including fee and levy-based charge) [b]	Per document	12,447,100	336,408	37
	– Levy-based charge				32
	– Fee				5
	Export document – tariff rate quota certificate (including fee and levy-based charge) [b]	Per document	1,161,615	31,395	37
	– Levy-based charge				32
	– Fee				5
		Total	**90,549,516**		

Note: **a** Table does not show FSMA and OPV monthly fees to reflect that monthly fees will be calculated based on the quarter hourly rates and the number of planned hours specified in an establishment's AEMIS form as opposed to the previous 40-hour work week. **b** Export documentation attracts both a fee and a levy-based charge and this CRIS shows the total price followed by each component separately. Volumes and revenue for the separate components are not presented here.

6 Financial estimates

6.1 Financial estimates

The financial estimates of the meat exports cost recovery arrangement are provided in Table 8.

Table 8 Financial estimates, meat exports cost recovery arrangement, 2025–26 to 2029–30

Finance element	2025–26 ($)	2026–27 ($)	2027–28 ($)	2028–29 ($)	2029-30 ($)
Revenue = X	92,248,129	90,549,516	111,228,380	120,119,362	127,382,685
Expenses = Y	113,354,968	116,844,780	119,896,796	123,321,271	127,382,685
Balance = X - Y	(21,106,839)	(26,295,264)	(8,668,416)	(3,201,908)	0
Appropriation funding a	21,106,839	26,295,264	8,668,416	3,201,908	0
Balance after appropriation	0	0	0	0	0
Forecast opening balance	(6,402,731)	(6,402,731)	(6,402,731)	(6,402,731)	(6,402,731)
Transfer	0	0	0	0	0
Forecast closing balance	(6,402,731)	(6,402,731)	(6,402,731)	(6,402,731)	(6,402,731)

Note: Numbers in brackets are negative. **a.** Appropriation allocated from 2025–26 to 2028–29 is notional until financial results are finalised and published in the department's annual report.

Notable movements between 2025–26 and forward estimates from 2026–27 are due to:

- inflation where employee related expenses increase by 3% per annum and supplier costs increase by 2.7%
- updates to the department's cost base to incorporate ongoing operational expenses (e.g. maintaining security of ICT systems through the CapSTAR program)
- change of funding mechanism, from appropriation to cost recovery, for existing regulatory activities described in section 1.2
- inclusion of the new regulatory efficiency program described in section 1.2 into the cost recovery arrangement
- regulatory prices remaining unchanged for 2026–27 through continued full supplementation for the cost recovery revenue gap that existed as of the 2025–26 budget
- expected uplift in revenue through adjustments in price and volume as cost recovery for additional regulatory activities are phased into the arrangement and phased reduction of revenue gap commencing in 2027–28, as described in CRIS updates.

7 Financial and non-financial performance

This section provides an overview of our performance in recovering forecast costs and meeting regulatory objectives.

7.1 Financial performance

The financial performance for the previous 4 financial years for the meat exports cost recovery arrangement is provided in Table 9.

Table 9 Financial performance for meat exports cost recovery arrangement, 2021–22 to 2024–25

Finance element	2021–22 ($)	2022–23 ($)	2023–24 ($)	2024–25 ($)
Revenue = X	71,000,823	77,860,338	79,040,670	93,989,935
Expenses = Y	71,789,805	86,951,487	97,290,574	112,281,826
Balance = X – Y	**(788,982)**	**(9,091,150)**	**(18,249,904)**	**(18,291,891)**
Remissions, rebates and adjustments = Z	788,982	5,048,039	18,249,904	18,291,891
Net balance = balance + Z	0	(4,043,111)	0	0
Balance	**(2,359,620)**	**(6,402,731)**	**(6,402,731)**	**(6,402,731)**

7.2 Summary financial performance 2024–25

The meat exports 2024–25 CRIS forecast a surplus of $535,438. Actual expenditure totalled $112.3 million with cost recovery from participants returning $94.0 million, resulting in a deficit of $18.3 million (Table 10).

Table 10 Summary of financial position for meat exports arrangement, 2024–25

Category	Actual ($)	CRIS ($)	Variance ($)	Variance (%)
Revenue	93,989,935	79,637,285	14,352,650	18
Expenses	112,281,826	79,101,847	33,179,979	42
Net surplus/(Deficit)	**(18,291,891)**	**535,438**	**(18,827,329)**	**<100**
Appropriation	18,291,891	n/a	n/a	n/a
Balance	**(6,402,731)**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**

n/a Not applicable.

7.3 Non-financial performance

Our Annual report 2024–25 provides comprehensive information on performance measures and performance results. Rather than duplicating information from the *Annual report 2024–25*, this section highlights the key objectives and performance results relevant to exports cost recovery arrangements. Non-financial performance measures are given as high-level objectives and are not reported at a level specific to each arrangement.

For a complete picture of our performance, see *Annual report 2024–25*, Part 1: Annual performance statements – Our performance measures.

Objective 1 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.

Key activity 1.1 Support sector productivity growth and innovation

Measure SG-01	Greater growth in average agricultural productivity (adjusted for climate and weather effects) for the past 10 years, compared with average annual market sector productivity growth over the same period
Measure type	Quantitative effectiveness measure
Target	Greater than 0% difference over past 10 years
Sources	*Corporate Plan 2024–25*
	Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25 Programs: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.12
Result	Achieved – agricultural productivity growth was sustained at a higher rate (0.80%) than the average annual market sector growth rate (0.19%)
Tolerances	Achieved – average annual growth in the agricultural productivity (climate-adjusted) series exceeds average annual market sector productivity growth over the same period Partially achieved – not applicable Not achieved – average annual growth in the agricultural productivity (climate-adjusted) series is lower than average annual market sector productivity growth over the same period

Measure SG-02	Equal or reduced cost of levies administration compared with levies disbursed
Measure type	Quantitative effectiveness and regulatory measure
Target	Cost is less than or equal to 1.2% of levies disbursed
Sources	*Corporate Plan 2024–25*
	Portfolio Budget Statements 2023–24 Programs: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.12
Result	Achieved – cost was $6.94 million or 1.10% of levies disbursed
Tolerances	Achieved – levies administration cost is less than or equal to 1.2% of levies disbursed Partially achieved – not applicable Not achieved – levies administration cost is more than 1.2% of levies disbursed

Key activity 1.2 Regulate exports and enable, improve and protect access to international markets

Measure SG-04	Grow access to a diverse range of international markets for Australian exporters of agricultural, fisheries and forestry products
Measure type	Qualitative output
Target	Each year, the department can qualitatively describe the impact of technical market access achievements and how these achievements grow access for Australian agricultural, fishery and forestry producers. Achievements may include opening, improving, maintaining or restoring access
Sources	*Corporate Plan 2024–25*
	Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25 Program: 1.13
Result	Achieved – technical market access was either opened, improved, restored or maintained across 79 export pathways: opened 10 new export pathways, improved 44 export pathways, maintained 17 export pathways and restored 8 export pathways
Tolerances	Achieved – the department provides examples of opening, improving, maintaining and restoring technical market access for different markets and different commodities. Examples of market access changes have been implemented and are available to agricultural exporters Partially achieved – the department provides examples of opening, improving, maintaining or restoring access but not all 4. Alternatively, if the examples do not demonstrate that clear benefits have been achieved for different markets and commodities (i.e. examples are all focused on a single market or commodity, or the achievements are not of value to Australian exporters). Examples of market access changes have been implemented and are available to agricultural exporters Not achieved – the department cannot provide any examples of opening, improving, maintaining or restoring access to any markets or commodities

Measure SG-05	Significant representation of Australian interests on multilateral standard-setting bodies.
Measure type	Quantitative proxy
Target	At least one meeting, with in-person attendance, to each of the multilateral trade standard-setting bodies (WTO, OECD, WOAH, IPPC, and Codex).
Sources	*Corporate Plan 2024–25*
	Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25 Program: 1.13
Result	Achieved – representatives of the department attended 7 meetings with the WTO, 12 with the OECD, 8 with WOAH, 15 related to the IPPC and 6 with CODEX.
Tolerances	Achieved – there is evidence the department has represented in-person at each of the multilateral trade standard-setting bodies WTO, OECD, WOAH, FAO (IPPC and Codex). Partially achieved – there is evidence the department has represented in-person at least one, but not all, of the WTO, OECD, WOAH, FAO (IPPC and Codex). Not achieved – the department does not participate in-person at any of the WTO, OECD, WOAH, FAO (IPPC and Codex).

Measure SG-06	Effective delivery of regulatory responsibilities for relevant export applications under the *Export Control Act 2020*.
Measure type	Quantitative, effectiveness and regulatory
Target	Establish a baseline
Sources	*Corporate Plan 2024–25*
	Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25 Program: 1.13
Result	Achieved – 99.83% of all relevant export applications were completed within the requisite consideration period. This sets the baseline.
Tolerances	Achieved – over 95% of all relevant export applications are completed within the requisite consideration period specified by the *Export Control Act 2020*. Partially achieved – over 85% of all relevant export applications are completed within the requisite consideration period specified by the *Export Control Act 2020*. Not achieved – under 85% of all relevant export applications are completed within the requisite consideration period specified by the *Export Control Act 2020*.

Measure SG-07	Increase in the number of electronic certificates issued for export
Measure type	Quantitative efficiency and regulatory
Target	Plus 2% from the final 2023–24 eCert number
Sources	*Corporate Plan 2024–25*
	Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25 Program: 1.13
Result	Achieved – 12.5% increase in the number of electronic certificates issued for export (84,180 in 2024–25 compared with 74,661 in 2023–24).
Tolerances	Achieved – 2% or more increase. Partially achieved – 1–1.99% increase. Not achieved – less than 1% increase.

8 Review process

We continue to consider and be guided by the Australian Government policies outlined in the Australian Government Charging Framework section, as we analyse, design and, as appropriate, implement a new funding model for our export regulatory and non-regulatory trade services. We review all cost recovery arrangements and update our CRISs annually. Figure 2 outlines the annual CRIS review process.

Updates to CRISs may result from:

- changes in cost inputs (increasing or decreasing)
- changes in operating environment
- stakeholder feedback
- policy changes
- internal monitoring and evaluation.

This ensures charging activity remains aligned with government policy priorities, relevant legislation and the minimum efficient cost of departmental effort.

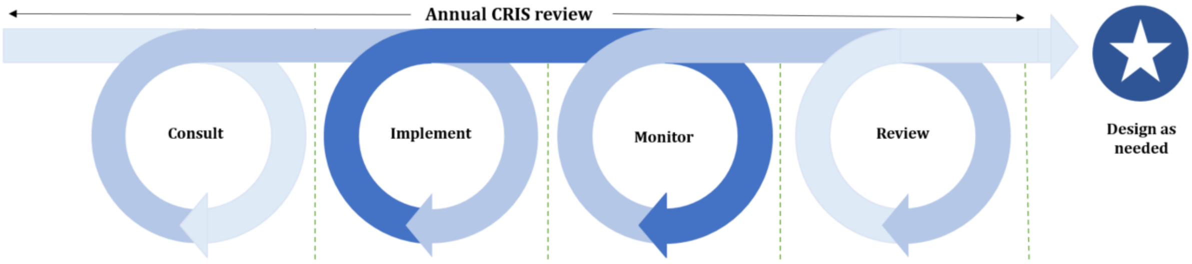
We are working with the Department of Finance to conduct a portfolio charging review (PCR). A PCR is a periodic review required under the Charging Framework and administered by the Department of Finance. PCRs are generally conducted every 5 years and are intended to provide assurance that an entity’s charging activities remain appropriate, transparent and consistent with government policy.

The PCR considers whether activities that fall within the scope of the Charging Framework are being charged appropriately, whether charging arrangements remain fit for purpose, and whether governance, transparency and financial management practices support sound cost recovery outcomes. Where relevant, a PCR may also consider whether any chargeable activities are not currently subject to charging and, if so, whether the department has the authority to bring forward charging proposals through the Budget process. The PCR outcomes may inform future CRIS development.

For exports cost recovery arrangements, the current PCR has been scoped to avoid duplicating the work undertaken in developing the sustainable funding model for export regulatory activities. It complemented the work on sustainable funding by providing high-level assurance that export charging activities are appropriately classified, governed and aligned with the Charging Framework.

To ensure transparency and accountability in the CRIS development process, we will seek feedback from affected parties through stakeholder consultation prior to implementation of future CRISs.

Figure 2 Annual CRIS review process



9 CRIS approval and change register

Table 11 tracks the changes to the CRIS as a result of changes to the regulatory charging activity.

Table 11 CRIS approval and change register

Date of change	CRIS change	Approver	Basis for change
8 May 2026	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Confirmation of regulatory charging activity and validation of cost model
21 May 2026	Approval of CRIS	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	

Appendix A: Cost recovery model

Regulatory charging activity outputs and business processes

The key policy objectives of our cost recovery arrangements are to:

- 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
- support 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 market access.

Our cost recovery arrangements describe how we use resources (such as people, IT, property and equipment) to undertake business processes (regulatory activities). These processes enable us to provide outputs that meet our policy objectives (Figure A1).

Figure A1 Regulatory charging activity outputs and business processes

Resources	Business processes (regulatory activity)	Outputs
• Human resources • Information system resources • Properties • Equipment • Telecommunication systems • Other tangible resources such as fleet vehicles and equipment • Other intangible resources such as intellectual property	• Workforce and business management • Business systems administration • Stakeholder engagement • Policy and instructional material • Business improvement • Risk management • Verification • Incident management • Investigation support • Corrective action • Inspection	• Annual registration • Approved arrangement • Application decision • Assessment • Audit • Export documentation • Licence • Inspection • Permit • Sanction • Testing

The processes listed in Figure A1 are grouped into 4 categories.

1) **Direct regulatory intervention** – activities provided directly to an individual, business or organisation to meet export regulatory activity requirements.

2) **Program management and administration** – administrative activities that support and deliver our export regulatory commitments.
3) **Assurance** – activities that mitigate risks to collective user groups by assessing departmental controls of systems and processes to ensure they operate in accordance with their intended design.
4) **Incident management** – activities that respond to incidents concerning alleged breaches of Australian regulation or international import conditions.

Costs of regulatory charging activity

Cost allocation process

To determine the cost of regulatory activities, we use an activity-based costing (ABC) system endorsed by the Department of Finance. The ABC system allows for complex cost allocation calculations while also being efficient and effective to administer.

The 2 expense categories are:

1) **Direct expenses** – these can be directly attributed to the provision of an activity (e.g. inspections). They comprise staff salaries and supplier costs, including direct capital expenses.
2) **Indirect expenses** – these are not directly linked to an activity we provide. They include corporate employee salaries and overheads, such as information technology, finance, human resources costs, and indirect capital expenses.

The cost allocation process apportions the costs of support functions (indirect expenses) and direct expense to the processes and activities defined in Description of cost model activities. We include indirect expenses in the cost base to reflect the systems and processes that exist to help with efficient administration, which benefit the cost-recovered arrangements. This methodology for allocation of indirect costs to cost recovery arrangement is consistent with our cost allocation policy. This methodology is also used for the allocation of indirect costs into functions funded by government appropriation.

The ABC system allocates costs in a staged approach.

Stage 1 Cost base by cost centre

Cost centre managers in regulatory areas set budgets in accordance with the resources required to perform their function. Indirect costs such as property, finance, information technology, human resources and divisional executives are then allocated to these direct cost centres using a cost driver, which estimates the relative usage of each of the corporate services. Cost drivers for corporate services include:

- **Work points** – distributes costs based on space occupied, with the work point count reflecting the space where a person may be able to work.
- **Full-time equivalent (FTE)** – distributes costs based on each program's full-time equivalent staff numbers.
- **IT assets** – distributes costs based on the number of IT assets (including PCs, laptops, tablets and printers) in a program.

- **Transactions** – distributes costs based on the number of transactions incurred over a period, and is used to allocate expenses related to the functions of accounts receivable and accounts payable.
- **Headcount** – allocates costs based on the number of staff that a program area has as a proportion of the total number of staff in the department.
- **Custom drivers** – allocate costs to specific cost centres, primarily based on usage for shared program resources.

Cost drivers are reviewed annually, or as required. Changes to cost drivers are substantiated through effort analysis or other supporting data.

Stage 2 Allocation of costs to activities and programs

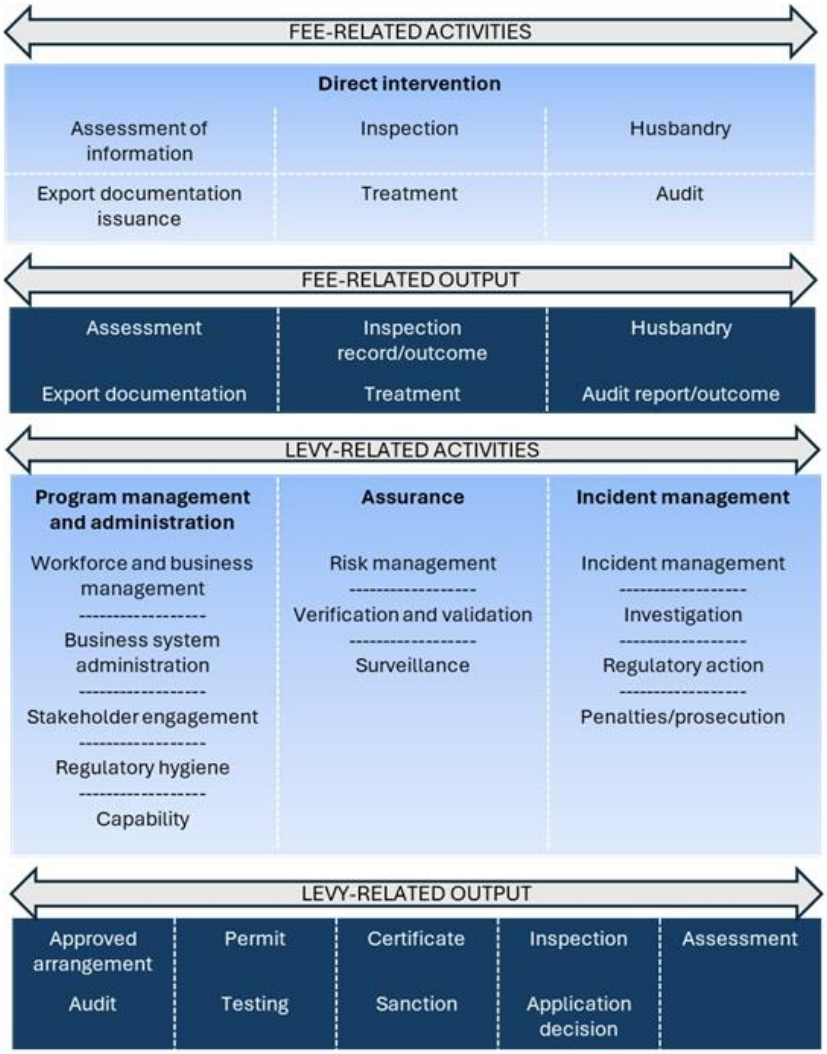
Direct cost centres (including the indirect costs allocated in Stage 1) are allocated to the activity and cost-recovered arrangements that best reflect the activity undertaken. For example, food safety auditors undertake audits across multiple arrangements. Time recording systems allow the accurate allocation of effort to specific activities and arrangements, particularly to intervention activities.

Volumetric forecasts are then applied to estimate the total amount of activity within each arrangement. For example, in the case of food safety audits this includes the number of audits and average time for an audit of each arrangement. The associated costs are allocated to the arrangements and audit function based on total audit hours.

Stage 3 Allocation of costs to regulatory services (charge points)

Activity and arrangement costs (from Stage 2) are allocated to charge points, which identifies the cost associated with that charge. We use a combination of cost recovery fees and levy-based charges. Figure A2 shows the categorisation of cost recovered levy-based charge and fee activities and outputs.

Figure A2 Category of activities



Description of cost model activities

This section details the cost model activities undertaken in our cost recovery arrangements.

Direct intervention activities

Assessment of information

Assessment of information we received for consideration of an application made under the Export Control Act.

Export documentation issuance

Involves the systems and processes for issuance of an export document (including government certificates, export permits, tariff rate certificates) under the Export Control Act.

Inspections

Examination (or supervision of), whether physical or otherwise, of a good, conveyance, place or process to determine compliance with Export Control Act , subordinate legislation, relevant policies, and importing country requirements.

Treatment

Includes the physical treatment of cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material, other conveyances or premises, to ensure requirements of the Export Control Act, subordinate legislation, relevant policies, and importing country requirements are satisfied.

Husbandry

Includes activities relating to the care of plants and animals, such as transport, housing, daily monitoring, feeding, cleaning of facilities, administering of medication, bookings and client assistance.

Audit

The examination of a legislative permission holder's systems, process, or performance under Part 1, Chapter 9 of the Export Control Act to determine whether activities and related results comply with legislation, policies and importing country requirements.

Program management and administration activities

Workforce and business management

This activity has 4 categories:

1) **Workforce management** – staff supervision, allocating workforce resources, managing employee performance, leave, training and other conditions, managing work, health and safety requirements, recruitment and termination.
2) **Business management** – business planning and continuity; requesting legal advice; procurement and contracts; program and project administration, assurance, design and management; management of fixtures, facilities, equipment, supplies and logistics.
3) **Financial management** – billing and accounting, budgeting, charges and payments, collections and receivables, debt management, financial accounts, reporting and policy development.
4) **Information management** – data management, information and records management, and information sharing and collaboration.

Business systems administration

Includes developing, acquiring, testing, implementing and supporting applications and business systems. It encompasses technical support and maintenance of all business systems, communication technology, and system changes necessary to meet importing country requirements.

Stakeholder engagement

Involves engagement with any person, business, organisation (including peak industry bodies) or country competent authority for the purpose of administering and delivering export regulatory systems and services – including any associated travel, secretariat support and attendance at industry consultative committee meetings, country competent authority meetings, publishing website content and other information.

Capability

Includes development, delivery, review and validation of training and assessment programs to support regulatory capability uplift, legislative and importing country requirement compliance.

Regulatory hygiene

Includes activities to review, develop and maintain a contemporary and fit for purpose export regulatory framework and system including:

- export control legislation
- regulatory, operational, and corporate policies
- scientific and technical advice
- instructional material such as guidelines; work instructions and templates
- initiatives to monitor and improve regulatory system performance.

Assurance activities

Risk management

Involves identifying, assessing, and managing risks posed to Australia's agricultural export system, trade, and market access, including regulatory risk exploration, risk assessment and compliance monitoring. This includes communication of risk analysis results, modelling and forecasting to operational areas and the collection, receipt and use of data, information, and intelligence to meet compliance objectives. This work also includes associated travel and client assistance, such as assessment of risks associated with cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material.

Verification and validation

Includes activities providing confidence and assurance that controls Australia's industry and regulatory systems, controls and processes are operating in accordance with their intended design and associated documentation, and/or are addressing, controlling, or mitigating identified risk.

Surveillance

Oversight and delivery of national or targeted monitoring and detection programs necessary to underpin Australia's pest, disease, or food safety status, and ensure Australian exports comply with importing country requirements to maintain market access.

Incident management activities

Incident management

Includes coordination and management of any incident, such as food safety, domestic pest or disease outbreak or post-export matters. This activity falls within the objects of the Export Control Act and is for the purpose of maintaining market access. This includes all associated pre- and post-work, trading partner engagement, travel, and client assistance in relation to an incident, whether there is an alleged non-conformance or otherwise.

This definition does not include work associated with the consideration or decision on any application, which may be made under the Export Control Act in relation to the incident (this work effort is accounted for in the 'intervention' category).

Investigation

Includes investigation support for enforcement activities relating to an alleged breach of portfolio legislation, including any related client assistance and travel.

Regulatory action

Includes all activities taken in response to alleged non-conformance and non-compliance with or in contravention of export legislation or procedures, including follow-up, investigation, briefing, decision-making and implementing regulatory action or sanctioning.

This definition does not include those activities carried out under the penalties and prosecutions definition.

Penalties and prosecutions

Activities carried out to manage or deliver civil and criminal penalties and prosecutions (unless covered by cost recovered incident management).

Appendix B: Summary of stakeholder feedback

Table B1 Stakeholder feedback for the 2026–27 CRIS

Key theme	Stakeholder feedback	Department response
Consultation	Stakeholders conveyed that the initial consultation period was too short given the complexity of information and requested a longer period of time to provide submissions. Stakeholders commented that they would have liked further consultation in the lead up to the decision of government.	The department recognised the importance of providing industry with clear information and the genuine opportunity to comment on how cost recovery arrangements are implemented. The department extended the submission timeframe by an additional 2 weeks until Friday 20 March 2026. Budget decisions are made by government through Cabinet. The Australian Government has made the decision to return to full cost recovery. That decision was compliant with the Budget Process Operational Rules (BPORs), which include several requirements related to the impacts of government decisions. Consultation focused on implementation of that decision. The draft cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) consultation offered the opportunity for industry to provide feedback on the cost modelling, assumptions and fees and levy-based charges.
Timing and audit	Stakeholders requested a 12 month pause on cost recovery changes and an independent audit of the departments export regulatory cost base.	The department notes that the Australian Government made the decision to provide additional supplementation to defer the phased return to full cost recovery by 12 months, until 1 July 2027. This decision recognised the disruptions being experienced by Australia's farmers and producers due to the conflict in the Middle East. The department is held accountable through various mechanisms for proper use of financial resources. The department considers these mechanisms are sufficient to ensure the proper use of financial resources without additional audits required. • Parliament: The department is accountable to Parliament and accounts for its performance, the expenditure of public funds and how decisions are made. • Budget Process Operational Rules: BPORs are mandatory rules that outline the major administrative and operational arrangements for managing the Budget and its related processes. • Australian National Audit Office (ANAO): The ANAO examines and reports on the department's actions and whether public resources are being used economically, efficiently, effectively and ethically. • Australian Government Charging Framework: The department applies this framework to all activities that deliver goods, services or regulation to an individual or organisation in the non-government sector. • Portfolio Charging Review: The department must examine all activities in-scope of the Charging Framework within the portfolio at least every 5 years, in accordance with the published schedule of Portfolio Charging Reviews (PCR) or at other times agreed by the Finance Minister.

Key theme	Stakeholder feedback	Department response
		• Industry consultative committees (ICCs): The department regularly engages with industry on significant operational and financial developments affecting specific arrangements through established ICCs. This provides an opportunity for industry feedback. The department is committed to ongoing discussions with industry to improve understanding of departmental expenses, and enhancing financial and non-financial reporting and monitoring.
Timing	Stakeholders raised concerns about impacts from the current Middle East conflict, and whether the timing of the implementation could be extended to accommodate the current global uncertainty and impacts on access to farm inputs and supply chains.	The department notes that the Australian Government has made the decision to provide additional supplementation to defer the phased return to full cost recovery by 12 months, until 1 July 2027. This decision recognised the disruptions being experienced by Australia's farmers and producers due to the conflict in the Middle East. As a result of this decision, the 2025–26 export CRIS prices will largely stay in place, and full cost recovery is still scheduled to be in place from 1 July 2029.
Efficiency	Stakeholders noted that they did not have confidence in the department's management of budgets or ability to operate efficiently (including with digital costs) and that the Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce review has been focused on revenue and insufficiently looked at cost base, delivery costs and operational efficiency.	The department is required under the Australian Government Charging Framework to recover the efficient cost of delivering regulatory services whilst meeting regulatory requirements and service standards. Internal budgets are set according to this standard and monitored by the department's Finance and Investment Division and internal governance. Improvements and efficiencies have been realised from digital and assurance reform projects. At the same time, factors such as wage growth and increasing regulatory complexity have driven an increase in the cost of providing services and therefore no overall direct reduction in program cost has been observed. The department has also been making capital investments in its enabling capability from appropriation funding, that drive efficiencies into regulatory activities. Efficiencies include investing in ICT security uplifts, and converting contractors performing enabling activities to APS employees. Current pricing reflects a reassessment of the true cost of service delivery, and that previous systemic under (or over) recovery should not continue.
Efficiency	Stakeholders queried the methodology of modelling and allocating costs and indirect costs (corporate overheads).	Cost allocations for direct and indirect costs are based on approved cost drivers—such as full-time equivalent staff (FTE), headcount, work points, IT assets, transactions, or custom drivers—that are designed to fairly reflect usage while remaining efficient to administer. These drivers are reviewed at least annually, with any changes requiring evidence, and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) approval. The overall approach balances accuracy, transparency, and administrative efficiency in reporting the net cost of delivering government outcomes and programs.
Efficiency	Stakeholders queried how a surplus result for an arrangement would be managed, industry's inclusion in decision-making, and whether a surplus could fund other activities or pay an under recovery.	Accumulated results (surplus) help the department manage variations between forecasts and the actual financial performance within an arrangement. The department has built into the new CRIS process more frequent reviews to identify any variations in the arrangements to bring the balance of expense and revenue back more quickly and reduce the chance of large variations. A 5-year forecast has made this challenging, so the department intends to conduct annual reviews of the CRIS.

Key theme	Stakeholder feedback	Department response
		Following the completion of the CRIS process the department will work with industry regarding any surplus funds—this will be a separate exercise from that of the CRIS consultation.
Regulatory reform	Stakeholders raised concerns about the department's ability to implement effective reform or improvements to regulation or programs. Stakeholders gave feedback requesting various reforms to regulatory processes.	The department works to deliver efficient services while ensuring effectiveness in meeting our regulatory obligations and service standards. Some examples of regulatory efficiencies that the department has delivered include: • developing paperless certification for exports of meat, seafood and dairy to the European Union, bringing 532 paper certificates down to 33 for paperless exchange • reducing fees incurred by exporters for sending, collecting, printing and maintaining bilingual paper certificates, realising more than $20 million of trade benefits across government and industry in 2022–23. The department is committed to continuing to work with industry to make regulatory service improvements that meet their needs and our regulatory requirements.
Price structure	Stakeholders sought further details on how fees and levies are calculated and why they are different, how much government supplementation there has been, costs around Micor, travel costs, why the quarter hour charge has been used, and how overtime is charged.	Further information on pricing pools and charge points, quarter hour charges, overtime charging and the difference between fees and levies were communicated through in-location and industry meetings, and information published on the Have Your Say page.
Price structure	Stakeholders queried why the department used a flat export volume assumption to calculate future costs in the arrangements, and whether including a growth per annum would better reflect costs.	The department has used conservative, stable volume assumptions to support prudent pricing and revenue modelling. Assuming stable volumes reduces the risk of under-recovery if projected growth does not materialise. Modelling was based on export volumes over the past four financial years from 2021 and 2025.
Rationale for charging	Stakeholders raised concerns that there were significant cost increases and wanted to understand why these costs would be increasing in this way, including why new activities are being included in cost recovery.	The cost of providing export regulatory services has been greater than cost recovery revenue since the 2017-18 financial year. Government has supplemented the revenue from industry across all exports arrangements to ensure export regulatory services continue to be delivered. Since the last substantial CRIS update in 2020–21 there has continued to be increases in the complexity of importing country requirements, cost base pressures such as supplier cost and wages, and increases in export volume and demand for services. In developing the CRIS, the fees and levy-based charges for the meat exports arrangement have been calculated based on the effort required across the arrangement and allocated to the relevant charge point, such as certification, documentation, registration and audit. The increase in prices reflects the cost of delivering these services and/or the relative under recovery in recent years. These cost increases are being phased in with supplementation from government over a 2 year period, with supplementation continuing for 2026–27, and phasing in 2027–28 and 2028–29 to support industry with the transition.
Rationale for charging	Stakeholders questioned whether the 5 existing activities – Micor sustainment (Manual of Importing Country Requirements), CIFER (China Import	The department has identified 5 existing regulatory activities that are currently funded by government that meet the eligibility requirements for cost recovery under the principles of the Australian Government Charging Framework.

Key theme	Stakeholder feedback	Department response
	Food Enterprise Registration), Fit and Proper Person assessments, market maintenance regulatory activities, and non-compliance investigation and triage - should be included in cost recovery, or should remain as government (appropriation) funded, as they considered the activities as part of export regulatory infrastructure and as a public good.	The department confirms the default position of the Australian Government Charging Framework is to charge for regulatory activities where demand is created by an identifiable group, unless government decides otherwise. In this case, the demand from exporters drives the need for export services work for activities such as Micor and CIFER. As exporters directly create the demand for these services, technically they are not considered a public good. These activities and rationale for cost recovery are outlined in the draft CRIS documents and fact sheets.
Rationale for charging	Stakeholders queried specific links of services to the *Export Control Act 2020*, and how those services implement the Act.	Each service proposed for cost recovery is linked to a statutory function under the *Export Control Act 2020* (the Act), including certification, compliance monitoring, registration, and assurance that exports meet importing country requirements. Section 399 of the Act provides authority for the department to make rules prescribing fees for services such as issuing export permits and certificates, with the specific fees and levy-based charges set out in the Export Control (Fees and Payments) Rules 2021. These charges are imposed through supporting legislation such as the Export Charges (Imposition–General), (Customs), and (Excise) Acts, ensuring cost recovery is legally grounded.
Rationale for charging	Stakeholders queried how the department differentiates government-funded technical market access activities against cost recovery-funded activities and how these activities will be included in cost recovery.	The market maintenance activities identified for cost recovery in the CRIS relate to activities required to maintain access to markets for identifiable groups. Examples of activities include system and regulatory implementation, assurance, trading partner audits, facilitation of detained consignments and responding to trade suspensions. The work to open markets and update trade protocols to support producers and exporters, generally classified as new and improved market access, are not included in cost recovery.
Rationale for charging	Stakeholders queried whether some shared levy-based charges could be adjusted to individual fees, for example CIFER, Fit and Proper Person assessments, Micor and non-compliance investigations and triage.	A key principle for determining whether a fee for service or a levy-based charge applied is whether the activity is directly attributable to a specific entity, or whether the demand is created by a wider group. As a key feature of a regulatory system is compliance, and we are required to maintain that compliance across the whole system to maintain confidence with importing markets. Where these activities relate to the wider regulatory system they are grouped together to create a link between department effort and the final charge, supporting accountability. This is a core requirement of the cost-recovery framework and supports equitable and evidence-based pricing. The department has re-examined the proposed charging approach to incorporate this feedback and has made the following changes: • CIFER-related charges to only apply to those registered meat establishments that have applied for or hold CIFER registrations. This charge would be listed separately and incorporated into monthly billing practices. • More direct charging for Fit and Proper Person assessments will see additional costs for meat export licences and establishment registrations. No change has been made to the charging approach supporting Micor which would continue to be cost recovered

Key theme	Stakeholder feedback	Department response
		across export activity and establishment registration charges. This reflects the areas that draw on Micor. The department confirms that the work behind the non-compliance investigation and triage costs are linked to activities delivered for non-abattoir establishments and that the work benefits that group as a whole. On this basis the department's view is it is appropriate to charge this work as a levy-based charge across non-abattoir establishments. It is not a cost included in abattoir establishments where comparable work is already undertaken through on-plant staff, Area Technical Managers, and Field Operations Managers, supported by the meat export program.
Rationale for charging	Stakeholders raised queries about whether digital costs, including cyber security, had been factored into price increases.	The analysis and modelling of the department's cost base that inform the CRIS include these digital costs. Digital costs, including cyber security costs are recognised as increasing across government and industry. There are certain government obligations and guidelines the department must follow to manage cyber security risks. Cyber security hazards for the Commonwealth have been increasing in recent years. Separate government capital funding has been provided for cyber security remediation and uplift, and these capital investments are not being passed on to industry through cost recovery. However, some ongoing costs to sustain digital services are passed onto industry through cost recovery. Ongoing cyber security costs over the forward years are assumed to be contained within standard public sector cost growth assumptions (around 2–3 per cent), and the department considers its current cyber cost base to be relatively stable after several years of increased investment. Future cyber risks however cannot be predicted with certainty, but mitigation and stabilisation measures are in place.
Regulatory efficiency program	Stakeholders wanted more detail on the regulatory efficiency program, including governance arrangements, any savings and action around it.	The department has taken on board the feedback received during consultation and will work with industry on program design and governance. There will be no cost recovery for this program in 2026-27.
Impact of price increase	Stakeholders gave feedback that significant price increases, costs would be passed on to consumers and the supply chain. Feedback was received on the effects significant price increases would have on export competitiveness and market behaviour.	The Australian Government has made the decision to return to full cost recovery. That decision was compliant with the Budget Process Operational Rules, which include several requirements related to the impacts of government decisions. Consultation was focused on implementation of that decision. The department acknowledges there are broad industry concerns about rising costs and noted the feedback from industry that significant fee increases could undermine export competitiveness or impact new and emerging businesses. The department acknowledges this could also affect market behaviour. The department notes that economic and geo-strategic factors may impact on export markets and therefore cost model assumptions and will continue to review and monitor impacts after implementation.
Impact of price increases	Stakeholders raised concerns that the small-scale organics sector would be disproportionately impacted compared with larger commodity sectors. Stakeholders raised that the public benefits of organic agriculture to areas such as emissions reduction and	The department acknowledges there are specific organic sector concerns about rising costs, noting the price changes in the export CRIS apply to all users of the department's export regulatory services. The development of the costing model has determined the cost of delivering the regulatory services which includes effort that does not vary by the size or nature of the organisation.

Key theme	Stakeholder feedback	Department response
	biodiversity should be recognised through an offset in prices.	The department will continue to monitor impacts after implementation. The department confirms the default position of the Australian Government Charging Framework is to charge for regulatory activities where demand is created by an identifiable group, unless government decides otherwise. As exporters and operators create the demand for export regulatory services the department is obliged to cost recover for these services.