Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Cost recovery implementation statement: non-prescribed goods 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 non-prescribed goods (NPG) 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 NPG 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 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. The objective remains to return to full cost recovery by 2028-29.

This CRIS provides information on how the department implements cost recovery charging for the NPG exports arrangement. It 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 NPG 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 NPG 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 NPG exports arrangement are forecast to increase by $0.78 million or 10.6% over the next 4 years. Revenue is forecast to increase by $4.01 million or 97.2% 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.

Further to the changes outlined in this CRIS, the government is committed to reforming the regulatory assurance framework for some NPG exports to address evolving market requirements and ensure fair cost recovery. This commitment stems from the need to modernise the regulatory model so it can respond effectively to changes in international trade, maintain Australia’s reputation for high-quality exports, and ensure that the costs of providing regulatory assurance are recovered from those who benefit.

The department is currently developing a new regulatory framework for the export of many NPGs, to be referred to as General Products. The new export assurance framework will help to instil greater confidence among our trading partners, further strengthen Australia’s position as a trusted source of premium agricultural products, and help to safeguard market access for exporters of wool, rendered products, hides and skins, animal food, honey, food and beverages, and animal-derived pharmaceutical and blood products.

These planned reforms, set to begin implementation in 2027, will require new charging arrangements that will ensure costs are fairly and appropriately allocated to the recipient of those services. The introduction of new charging arrangements for General Products will also require amendments to the current cost recovery arrangements for the products that remain under the existing regulatory arrangements for non-prescribed goods. The introduction of new charging arrangements, and the amendments to existing charging arrangements, will be developed and implemented through consultation with affected stakeholders alongside the consultation that is occurring for the new regulatory framework. The department maintains its commitment to the creation and implementation of a more sustainable, transparent and equitable system for stakeholders, while supporting industry adaptation to new regulatory expectations and funding models through these important reforms.

Introduction

Purpose

This cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) provides information on how the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry implements charging for the non-prescribed goods (NPG) exports cost recovery arrangement. It reports actual financial and non-financial performance information for the NPG 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, we implement cost recovery across export activity through both fees and levy-based charges. Currently, the NPG arrangement provides for both fees and charges, but under current regulatory settings these are limited to fees and charges for documents (also referred to as certificates). While the department undertakes a broader range of regulatory activities in support of NPG exports, direct intervention activities (such as audits, inspections and assessments) are not charged as standalone fee-bearing activities. Where consistent with the charging framework, the costs of these broader activities are recovered through charges embedded in documentation. 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

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

The primary function of the NPG export program is to provide regulatory oversight of export of NPGs, and assurances to overseas government authorities through export certification. Export certification provides assurance that NPG have been manufactured, sourced 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 auditing, verifying and enforcement activities to ensure that the production, storage, handling and transportation of NPG products intended for export comply with the conditions of Australian export controls and any additional requirements imposed by an importing country
- 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 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 NPG exporters. 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.

Subject to planned reform of the regulatory assurance framework for NPG over the next 12 months, the details of fees and charges and proposed prices will be superseded by updates to this CRIS.

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
2026–27	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 2028 for the non-prescribed goods exports arrangement.
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 includes $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 arrangement. 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.

Date	Government decision	Details
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 1 July 2019, and included: • enforcement activities to support compliance with Australian regulation and international import conditions. Activities that will be cost recovered include 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 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 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 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 2028–29. Therefore, the prices presented in this CRIS for 2026–27 are unchanged from 2025–26. As prices were already proposed to remain on hold for the non-prescribed goods arrangement, this has not impacted the forecast prices for 2026–27.

For NPGs specifically, we are undertaking a further reform process to implement a new regulatory assurance framework that can respond to changes in market requirement and fairly recover the costs of providing assurance where the demand is created. We will be undertaking this work throughout 2026, with implementation planned to commence in early 2027. These changes are not reflected in this CRIS at this time, and consultation on amendments to support this reform will be undertaken separately.

1.1 Planned reform to NPG

Work undertaken since 2023–24, supported the government's recent announcement in December 2025 to provide $21 million to implement reforms to establish appropriate export regulatory and cost recovery arrangements for certain non-prescribed goods, such as honey, wool, skins and hides, rendered products, animal food, food and beverages, and animal derived pharmaceutical and blood products. Under this measure, the government will fund a new regulatory model for General Products and a supporting cost recovery arrangement.

It is intended that NPGs and General Products will return to full cost recovery in 2028–29. The prices and assumptions presented in this CRIS have forecast a return to cost recovery without considering the future changes that may result from reform to NPG. Further information and consultation on the reform will occur as work progresses in 2026.

1.2 Transition of regulatory activities into cost recovery

Separately to the planned reform to NPG regulatory framework, 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 4 existing regulatory activities relevant to the NPG 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 2.

Table 2 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 NPG arrangement, the regulatory activities to be transitioned into cost recovery are:

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

The costs associated with each of the activities detailed below are included in the proposed fees and levy-based charges presented in Table 3 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 is forecast to total $0.69 million in 2029–30. We have attributed $0.23 million to the NPG 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 non-prescribed goods arrangement. As wider reform is underway these costs would not be driven into the NPG arrangement in 2026–27. The modelling in this CRIS has added $122,902 to the cost base for 2027–28, $176,189 for 2028–29 and $232,480 for 2029–30.

Nominally these costs are incurred due to activities related to establishments. As the fees and levy-based charges for documentation are the only current cost recovery point, the costs at this time have been attributed to documentation for non-prescribed goods. This will be superseded by an updated CRIS which may drive costs to other regulatory points.

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 $0.03 million to the NPG 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 NPG products. Micor would be used by establishments and by exporters, but as wider reform is underway these costs would not be driven into the NPG arrangement in 2026–27. The modelling in this CRIS has added $15,815 to the cost base in 2027–28, $24,357 in 2028–29 and $33,380 in 2029–30.

These costs have been attributed to the charging for certificates for NPGs but will be superseded by an updated CRIS which may drive costs to other regulatory points.

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 increasingly complex 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 NPG exports arrangement, but will now be transitioned into cost recovery.

The forecast cost for 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 $0.02 million to the NPG 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. As reform to the NPG arrangement is underway these costs would not be driven into the NPG arrangement in 2026–27. The modelling in this CRIS has added $18,691 to the cost base in 2027–28, $21,265 in 2028–29 and $23,980 in 2029–30.

These costs have been attributed to the charging for certificates for NPGs, but will be superseded by an updated CRIS which may drive costs to other regulatory points.

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 this work is $0.78 million in 2029–30 across all 7 exports arrangements. We have attributed $0.02 million to the NPG exports arrangement based on an assessment of the effort performed by the department in undertaking these activities related to preparing and exporting NPG products. In 2027–28, $13,544 will be included in cost recovery, increasing to $18,442 in 2028–29 and $23,604 in 2029–30.

These costs have been attributed to the charging for certificates for NPGs, but will be superseded by an updated CRIS which may drive costs to other regulatory points.

1.3 Proposed regulatory prices 2026–27 to 2029–30

Table 3 shows the proposed impact on regulatory prices from 2026–27 to 2029–30, taking into consideration the proposed pathway for sustainable funding of export regulatory services described in section 1.1 and section 1.2.

Note this is not reflective of changes that will occur following implementation of NPG reforms. Changes to regulatory prices because of that reform will be consulted on at a later date.

There are structural changes to the way fees and levy-based charges are applied from 2026–27 compared with 2025–26 and which are described below.

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 3 Fees and levy-based charges for NPG 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 ($)
Fee	Replacement export document – general export certificate	Per document	574	574	597.11	629.48	663.59
	Audit	Per quarter hour	46	46	47.38	48.80	50.27
	Inspection	Per quarter hour	46	46	47.38	48.80	50.27
Fee/charge	Export document – general export certificate – electronic (including fee and levy-based charge) a	Per document	88	88	163.12	188.08	194.74
	– Levy-based charge		64	64	138.16	161.76	166.99
	– Fee		24	24	24.97	26.32	27.75
	Export document - general export certificate – manual (including fee and levy-based charge) [a]	Per document	122	122	198.49	225.37	234.05
	– Levy-based charge		64	64	138.16	161.76	166.99
	– Fee		58	58	60.34	63.61	67.05
	Export document - export certificate issued under arrangement (including	Per document	180	180	361.73	420.61	434.79

Type of charge	Cost recovery charges	Unit	Current 2025–26 ($)	Proposed 2026–27 ($)	Proposed 2027–28 ($)	Proposed 2028–29 ($)	Proposed 2029–30 ($)
	fee and levy-based charge) [a]						
	– Levy-based charge [b]		156	156	336.76	394.29	407.04
	– Fee		24	24	24.97	26.32	27.75
	Export document – tariff rate quota certificate (including fee and levy-based charge) [a]	Per document	87	87	143.69	170.08	173.02
	– Levy-based charge		46	46	48.01	56.83	57.81
	– Fee		41	41	95.68	113.25	115.21
Outside ordinary hour (OOH) fee	Weekday continuous	Per quarter hour	15	15	23.50	24.16	24.84
	Weekday non-continuous (up to 30 minutes)	Any period up to 30 minutes	30	30	47.00	48.32	49.68
	Weekday non-continuous (after 30 minutes)	Per quarter hour	15	15	23.50	24.16	24.84
	Weekend and public holiday non-continuous (up to 30 minutes)	Any period up to 30 minutes	40	40	62.67	64.43	66.24
	Weekend and public holiday non-continuous (after 30 minutes)	Per quarter hour	20	20	31.33	32.22	33.12
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 levy-based charge for organic goods certification operation	Per applicatio n	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: Forward year prices shown are for illustrative purposes only and subject to further reforms. Modelled prices have been rounded to the nearest cent. **a** Export documentation attracts both a fee and a levy-based charge and this CRIS shows the total price followed by each component separately. **b** A higher levy-based charge is applied where the department carries out regular audits in relation to the goods for the purpose of assisting the Secretary to decide whether to issue a government certificate for the goods under Section 69 of the *Export Control Act 2020*. **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 NPG cost recovery arrangement the implementation risk has been rated as low, 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%)
- The assessment of the type of charges was considered not applicable as there will be no changes to fees or levies in 2026–27
- The assessment of changes to regulatory charges was considered not applicable as there is no change to the value or structure of regulatory charges in 2026–27
- a low-risk rating for legislative changes due to the level of change in legislative arrangements which only requires a change to subordinate legislation to specify the value of fees and levy-based 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 low-risk rating for consultation as the CRIS was consulted with stakeholders and while certain issues were raised, they related to wider government policy and would apply to the separate reforms planned for NPG. The issues raised were not applicable to 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 viability 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. Ten of these activities were for, or included participants within, the NPG arrangement.

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 NPG export industry provided feedback through written submissions through our Have Your Say platform as well as an all-industry live webinar and face-to-face meetings (including in regional centres).

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 NPG 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 NPG export industry. We have identified that the key cost driver for certificate-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

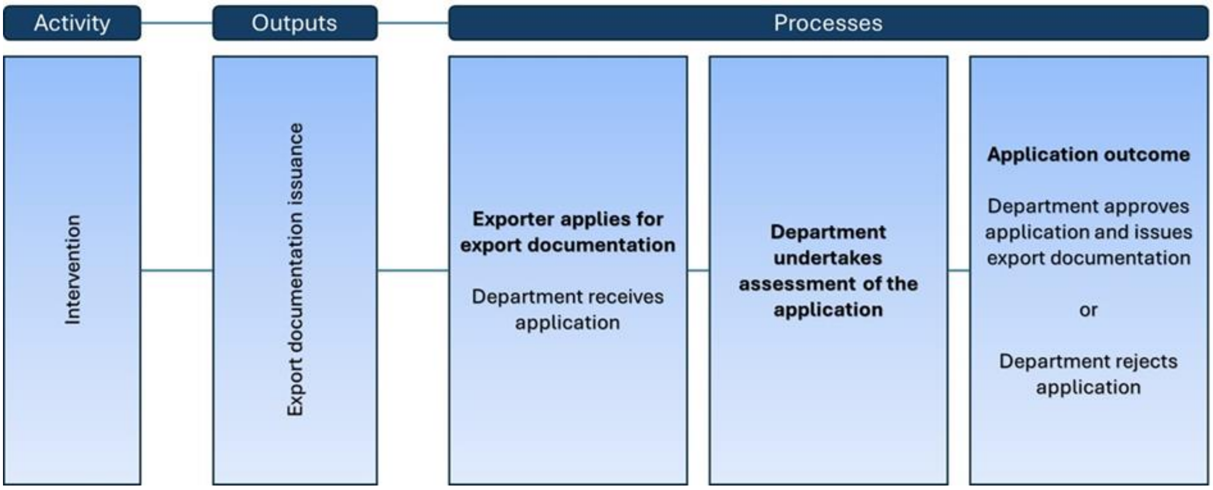
In preparing this CRIS, we reviewed the cost base for the NPG arrangement fees and levy-based charges, including consideration of future costs, the expected volume of regulatory activity, continued supplementation to close the existing funding gap and Transition of regulatory activities into cost recovery. The cost bases used in our modelling to establish pricing are represented in Table 4, Table 5 and Table 6. 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 costs 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 4 shows the NPG exports arrangement cost base for 2026–27.

The cost base of $7.5 million is made up of:

- $6.15 million in levy-based-charge-related activities
- $1.35 million in fee-related activities.
- A description of cost activities and the methodology for attributing costs to these activities are provided in Appendix A.

Table 4 Cost base for NPG 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 Assurance • Incident management – Incident management – Investigative support – Corrective action	6,149,490	Export documentation, and management of approved arrangements for organic goods certification operations
Fees	Intervention – assessment	826,704	Assessment
	Intervention – audit	7,519	Audit
	Intervention – export documentation issuance	516,720	Documentation
Total cost base	**–**	**7,500,434**	**–**

Figures in Table 5 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 5 Cost type breakdown, NPG exports cost recovery arrangement, 2026–27

Category	Expense	Forecast ($)
Direct	Employee	4,713,422
	Operating	680,707
	Other	119,367
	Subtotal	**5,513,497**
Indirect	Digital Services	638,259
	Finance and Investment	428,232
	Legal	103,854
	People, Property & Security	761,162
	Strategy Performance and Engagement	55,431
	Subtotal	**1,986,937**
Total	**–**	**7,500,434**

5 Design of regulatory charges

This CRIS includes a mix of fees and levy-based charges for documents. 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).

For the NPG exports arrangement, direct intervention activities (such as assessment of information, audit or inspection) are undertaken to meet regulatory and assurance objectives linked to importing country requirements under the Export Control Act. These activities are not charged to NPG exporters as individual fee-bearing services, and are recovered through fees and levy-based charges applied via export documentation.

5.1 NPG 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 NPG exports. The prices, modelled cost and volume for 2026–27 are shown in Table 6. Figures are derived from current modelling and methodology to set prices between 2026–27 and 2029–30. Indicative forward year prices are provided in Table 3.

The prices detailed in Table 6 are unchanged from those in the 2025–26 CRIS. This is because a more detailed review of program costs, regulatory charge points and export activity is being undertaken as discussed in Section 1.1. Leaving prices unchanged in anticipation of the outcomes of that reform work reflects no substantive change to the program structure and will provide pricing stability ahead of an updated CRIS.

Table 6 Fees, levy-based charges and volumes, NPG exports cost recovery arrangement, 2026–27

Type of charge	Cost recovery charges	Unit	Modelled revenue ($)	Modelled volume (unit)	2026–27 price ($)
Fee	General export certificate replacement	Per document	179,662	313	574
Fee/levy-based charge	General export certificate – electronic (including fee and charge) [a]	Per document	2,688,996	30,557	88
	– Levy-based charge				64
	– Fee				24
	General export certificate – manual (including fee and levy-based charge) [a]	Per document	853,332	6,995	122
	– Levy-based charge				64
	– Fee				58
	Export certificate issued under arrangement (including fee and levy-based charge) [a]	Per document	151,020	839	180
	– Levy-based charge				156
	– Fee				24
	NPG quota certificate (including fee and levy-based charge) [a]	Per document	2,784	32	87
	– Levy-based charge				46
	– Fee				41
	Total		**3,875,794**		

Note: **a** 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 NPG exports costs recovery arrangement are provided in Table 7.

Table 7 Financial estimates, NPG exports cost recovery arrangement, 2025–26 to 2029–30

Finance element	2025–26 ($)	2026–27 ($)	2027–28 ($)	2028–29 ($)	2029–30 ($)
Revenue = X	4,124,578	3,875,794	6,845,992	7,850,810	8,135,154
Expenses = Y	7,358,599	7,500,434	7,674,992	7,850,810	8,135,154
Balance = X – Y	(3,234,021)	(3,624,640)	(829,000)	0	0
Appropriation funding [a]	3,234,021	4,086,000	829,000	0	0
Balance after appropriation	0	461,360	0	0	0
Forecast opening balance	(667,972)	(667,972)	(206,612)	(206,612)	(206,612)
Transfer	0	0	0	0	0
Forecast closing balance	(667,972)	(206,612)	(206,612)	(206,612)	(206,612)

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
- 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 funding 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 NPG exports cost recovery arrangement is provided in Table 8.

Table 8 Financial performance, NPG exports cost recovery arrangement, 2021–22 to 2024–25

Finance element	2021–22 ($)	2022–23 ($)	2023–24 ($)	2024–25 ($)
Revenue = X	2,835,730	3,599,046	4,085,912	4,093,141
Expenses = Y	4,187,308	5,127,813	6,343,379	7,305,244
Balance = X – Y	**(1,351,578)**	**(1,528,767)**	**(2,257,467)**	**(3,212,103)**
Remissions, rebates and adjustments = Z	1,351,578	848,878	2,257,467	3,212,103
Net balance = balance + Z	0	(679,889)	0	0
Balance	**11,918**	**(667,972)**	**(667,972)**	**(667,972)**

7.2 Summary financial performance 2024–25

The NPG exports 2024–25 CRIS forecast a surplus of $23,214. Actual expenditure totalled $7.3 million with cost recovery from participants returning $4.1 million resulting in a deficit of $3.2 million (Table 9).

Table 9 Summary of financial position, NPG exports arrangement, 2024–25

Category	Actual ($)	CRIS ($)	Variance ($)	Variance (%)
Revenue	4,093,141	4,197,982	(104,841)	(2)
Expenses	7,305,244	4,174,768	3,130,476	75
Net surplus/(Deficit)	**(3,212,103)**	**23,214**	**(3,235,317)**	**<100**
Appropriation	3,212,103	n/a	n/a	n/a
Balance	**(667,972)**	**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 the 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% of what the final 2023–24 eCert number is
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.

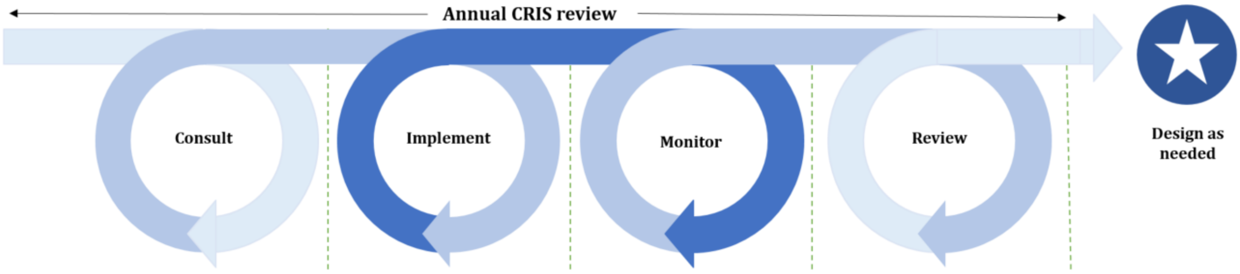
We are working with the Department of Finance to conduct a portfolio charging review (PCR). A PCR is a periodic review required under the Charging Framework and administered by the Department of Finance. PCRs are generally conducted every 5 years and are intended to provide assurance that an entity’s 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 10 tracks the changes to the CRIS as a result of changes to the regulatory charging activity.

Table 10 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

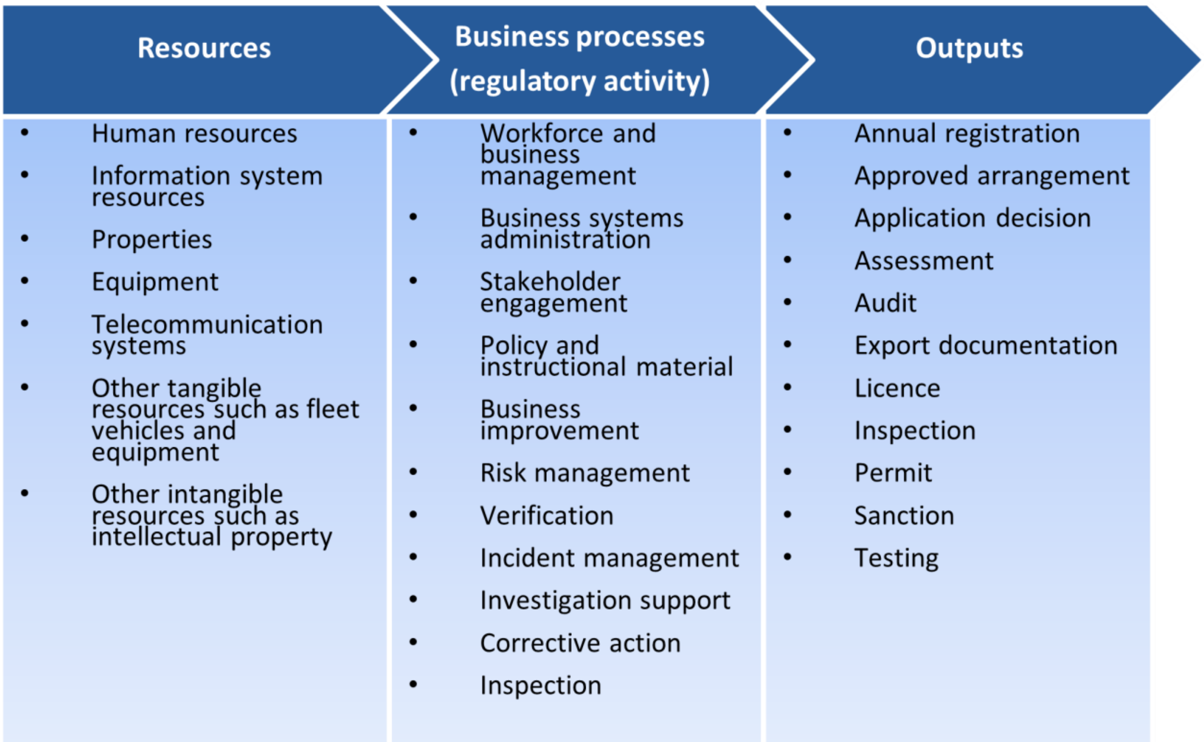
Regulatory charging activity outputs and business processes

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



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

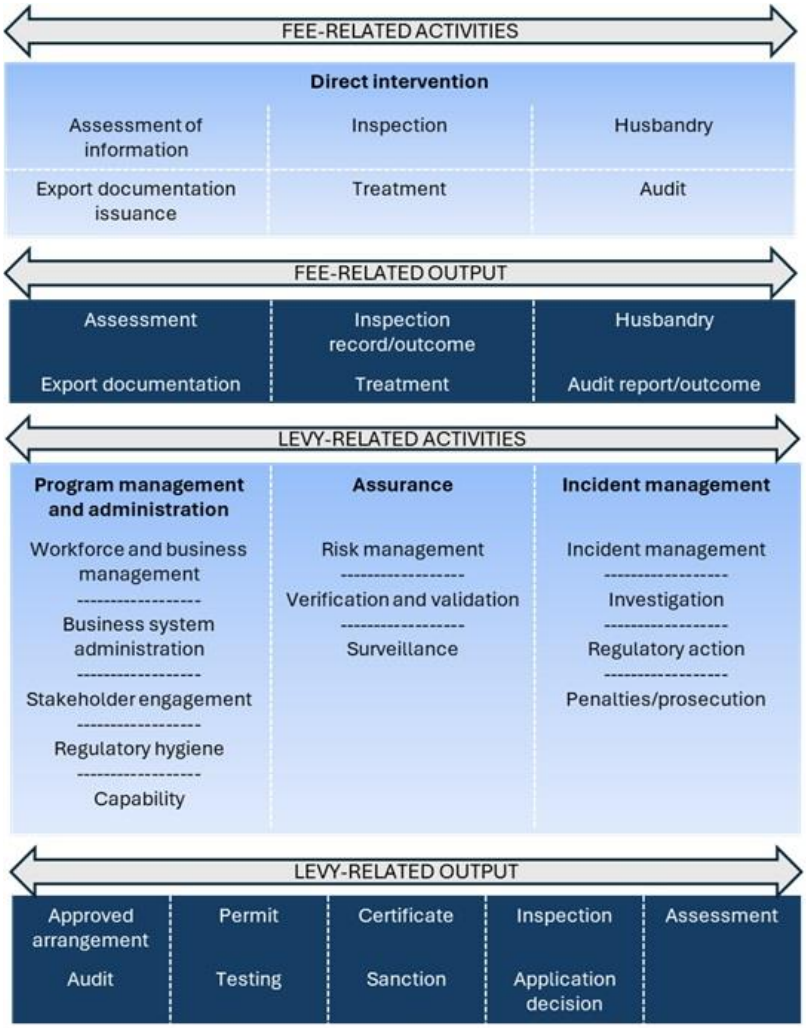
Direct cost centres (including the indirect costs allocated in Stage 1) are allocated to the activity and cost-recovered arrangements that best reflect the activity undertaken. For example, food safety auditors undertake audits across multiple arrangements. Time-recording systems allow the accurate allocation 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 and processes are operating in accordance with their intended design and associated documentation and 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 matter. 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**
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 made the decision to provide additional supplementation to defer the phased return to full cost recovery by 12 months, until 1 July 2027. The 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 raised queries about 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, divisional endorsement, 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 gave feedback that they would like better and more timely access to department services. Stakeholders gave feedback that they would like clearer pathways for export services, and more up-to-date market information.	A separate process to reform the non-prescribed goods (NPG) arrangement was referenced within the CRIS. As part of that reform the department has consulted with stakeholders through a Have Your Say on the proposed framework for NPGs. Further information about the NPG export assurance reform will periodically be updated at: agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/non-prescribed-goods/export-assurance-reform
Price structure	Stakeholders sought further details on the cost base.	Further information on pricing pools and charge points, the quarter hour charge and 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.
Impact of price increase	Stakeholders gave feedback that with significant cost increases, costs would be passed on to consumers and the supply chain. Feedback was received on the impacts on export competitiveness.	The Australian Government has made the decision to return to full cost recovery. That decision was compliant with the Budget Process Operational Rules, which includes several requirements related to the impacts of government decisions. Consultation was focused on implementation of that decision. 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 to ensure export services continue to be delivered. In developing the CRIS, the fees and levy-based charges for the non-prescribed goods 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 the relative under recovery in recent years. The department acknowledges there are broad industry concerns about rising costs.

Key theme	**Stakeholder feedback**	**Department response**
		The department notes that the changing export future will impact on cost model assumptions, and will continue to monitor this 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 biodiversity should be recognised through an offset in prices.	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. 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.