



Meeting1, 30 April 2024

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel

Chair's Note

I was pleased to host the inaugural meeting of the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (the Panel) today, 30 April 2024.

As announced by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator the Hon. Murray Watt in February 2024, the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel has been established to increase the transparency of biosecurity funding and to enable members to provide genuine input into priority setting for Australia's biosecurity system.

The Sustainable Biosecurity Funding package announced in the 2023-24 Federal Budget is critical to enable the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to deliver strong biosecurity policy, operational and technical functions that benefit the government, industry and the community more broadly. Sustainable funding gives DAFF the unique opportunity to invest for the long-term in its biosecurity infrastructure, whether that is through its surveillance work, its scientific capability, its workforce including its presence at the biosecurity frontline in northern Australia and at air and sea ports.

The Minister, Senator the Hon. Murray Watt attended the meeting to outline his expectations of the Panel and to engage with members, encouraging the Panel to provide the department and the Secretary with advice on priorities for biosecurity activities and investments. The meeting was also attended by DAFF Secretary and Director of Biosecurity Adam Fennessy PSM.

In an open and very constructive meeting, Panel members discussed the purpose and role of the Panel and expressed their views on aspects of sustainable biosecurity funding. The Panel agreed to continue discussions on its proposed Terms of Reference both out-of-session and in an additional meeting to be convened in the coming weeks.

To assist Panel members build their knowledge of the frameworks within which Commonwealth Government funding decisions are made and scrutinised, DAFF delivered a short presentation on public funding governance arrangements and an overview of biosecurity funding including appropriation, cost recovery and other sources of revenue. The Panel discussed and asked questions of the DAFF Chief Financial Officer regarding this presentation.

The following organisations are members of the Panel and attended the inaugural meeting:

- Animal Health Australia Industry Forum
- Australian Dairy Farmers
- Australian Forest Products Association
- Australian Fresh Produce Alliance

- Australian Grape and Wine
- Australian Pork Limited
- Cattle Australia
- Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
- Freight and Trade Alliance
- Grain Producers Australia
- GrainGrowers Limited
- International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
- Invasive Species Council
- Plant Health Australia Industry Forum
- Seafood Industry Australia
- Sheep Producers Australia
- WoolProducers Australia

The final member of the Panel is Cotton Australia, who were unable to attend the inaugural meeting.

The next meeting will be held in May 2024.

Justine Saunders APM

Deputy Secretary Biosecurity and Compliance Group

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry