

Australia's Plant Health System and Environmental Biosecurity

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ACEBO Background

2017 Independent Biosecurity Review identified a need to further develop Australia's environmental biosecurity capabilities.

- Increased national level focus on environmental biosecurity
- Establishment of a senior Commonwealth position of the Australian Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer
- Formation of the Environment and Invasives Committee
- Drafting an exotic environmental pest, weeds, and diseases list





Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Environmental Biosecurity:

Environmental biosecurity is the management of risks to the natural environment, Indigenous cultural heritage, and to social amenity, from pests, weeds, and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading.







Recent studies show
Australia's biosecurity
system is worth

\$314 billion

over 50 years
(in present value)

PROTECTING SOME OF OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSETS AND INDUSTRIES

\$5.7 trillion

in environmental assets
(modelled over 50 years
in present value)

\$51 billion

in agricultural, forestry
and fisheries exports
(2020-21 forecast)

1.6 million

jobs across
the agricultural
supply chain

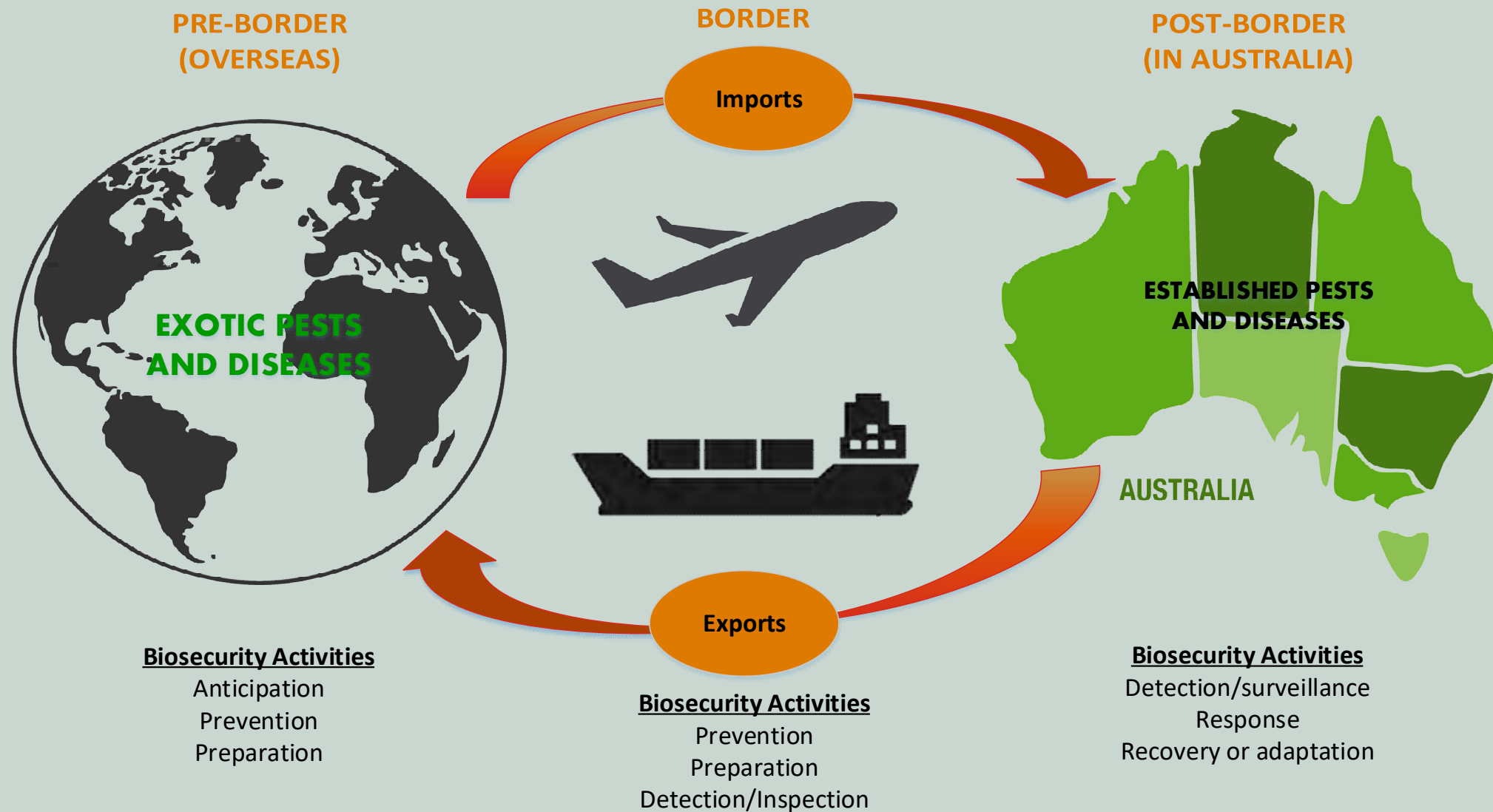
\$50 billion

direct tourism contribution
to Australia's GDP
(2019-20)

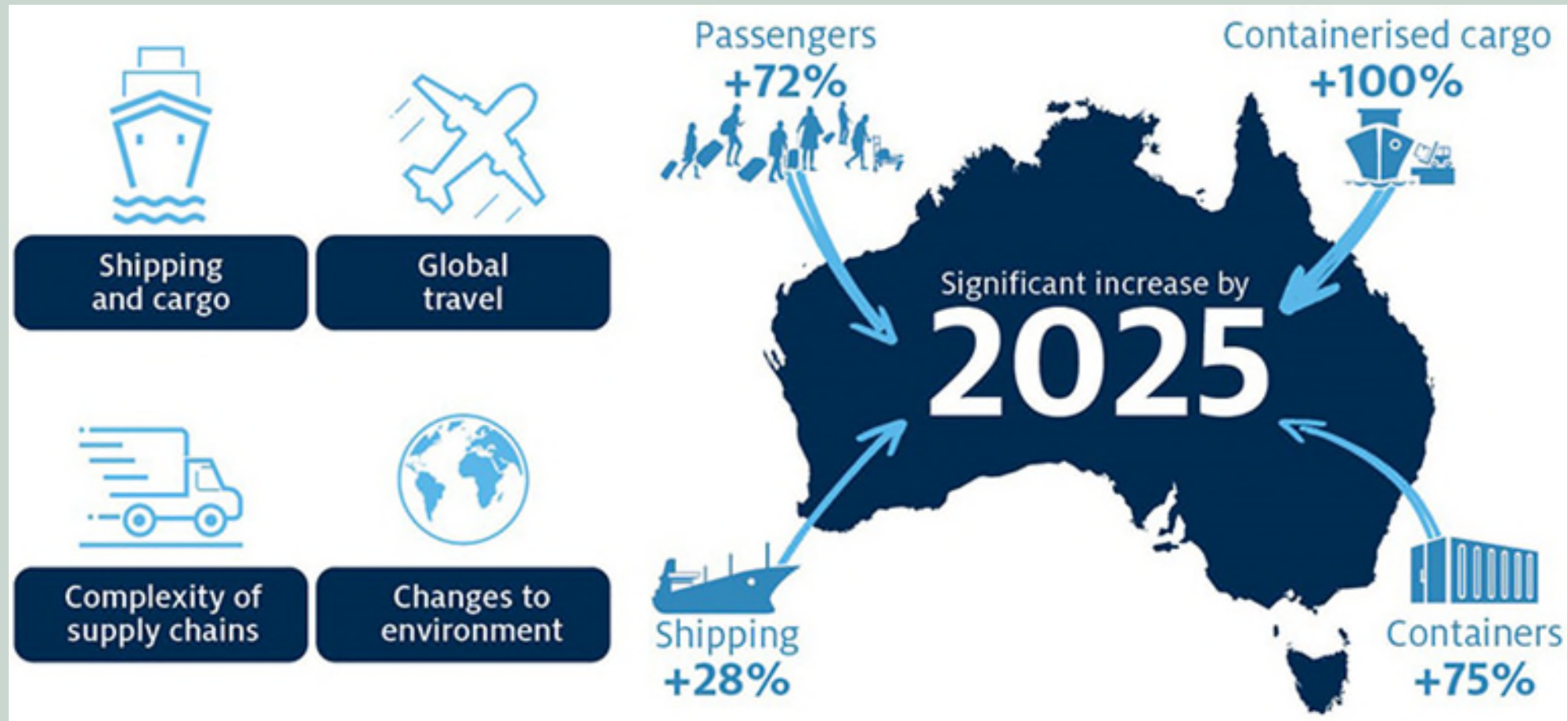
\$71 billion

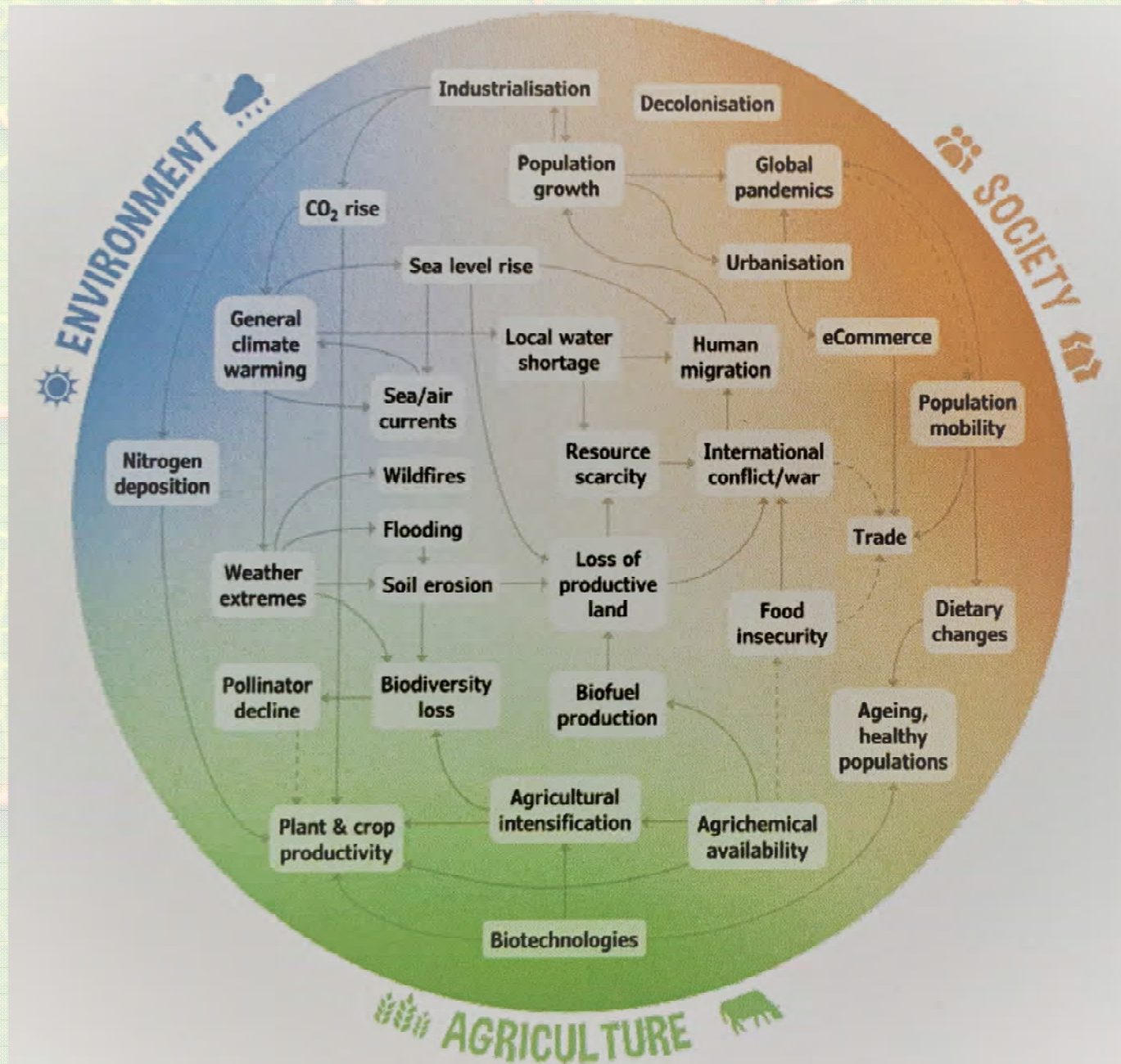
in gross value agricultural,
forestry and fisheries
production (2020-21 forecast)

Australia's Biosecurity Context



Busier world = more risk





Global changes are creating more complexity, greater uncertainty and risk.

- Climate change – expanding geographical range of invasive species
- Shift in trade and travel patterns
- Extreme weather events
- Loss of biodiversity
- Weakening resilience of our ecosystems

Image credit: New Zealand B3 team

Broad set of exotic pest species using diverse entry pathways



The Exotic Environmental Pest List (EEPL)

- List of pests, weeds and diseases assessed as highest biosecurity risk to environment
- 168 entries and 42 identified as higher-risk species
- Comprised of 8 biological groupings – very broad range of taxa:
 - Viruses, bacteria, fungi
 - Molluscs, insects, arachnids
 - Weeds, algae
 - Fish, birds, reptiles, mammals



Stopping pests at every opportunity

Offshore



Where possible, we push the risk off-shore

Pre-Border



Strong neighbours = strong biosecurity for Australia

On the Way



Increased offshore intelligence, research and data analytics

At-Border



An agile and smart system to cope with the (un)expected.

Immediately
Post-Border



Strong government, community and business engagement.

Post-Border



Rapid detection, response and recovery capability

Biosecurity issues in Australia since 2000

- Red imported fire ant
- Smooth newt
- Asian black spined toad
- Argentine ant (Norfolk Island)
- Asian honey bee
- Jack Dempsey cichlid
- Emerald furrow bee
- Mexican feathergrass
- Myrtle rust
- Pigeon paramyxovirus
- Red-eared slider turtle
- Yellow crazy ant



Established Pest Animals



➤ **Wild dogs**
Canis familiaris



➤ **European foxes**
Vulpes vulpes



➤ **European carp**
Cyprinus carpio



➤ **Feral pigs**
Sus scrofa



➤ **Feral cats**
Felis catus



➤ **Feral deer**
Cervidae spp.

Who are we working with?

- States and territories
- DCCEEW – Threatened Species
- Indigenous groups
- NGOs
- Research organisations
- Industry
- Community sectors



Thank you!

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