

Biosecurity and Trade

Australia's economy relies on strong and open trade. Every day, Australia imports and exports agricultural products, which could carry pests and diseases.

Biosecurity is a series of measures to protect against the entry and spread of pests and diseases. Thanks to our strong biosecurity system, Australia is free from many serious pests and diseases. This helps our farmers remain competitive in international markets. It also has many economic, environmental and community benefits.

Our biosecurity system aims to keep the risk of imports to a very low level, but not zero. A zero-risk approach would mean Australia would have no tourists or favourites like coffee and chocolate that rely on imports.

Australia is a member of the World Trade Organization. The WTO's primary purpose is to ensure safe and open trade for the benefit of all its member countries. For this reason, we must consider import requests for agricultural products.

When we receive a request, our scientific experts determine whether the product can be safely imported into Australia. One way they do this is by conducting an import risk analysis. As part of this analysis, they recommend import conditions that must be met to import the product.

If countries can meet the conditions, they are published on our Biosecurity Import Conditions system, BICON. From here, imports may begin.

When a product arrives in Australia, we check that it meets our conditions and is free from serious pests. We work hard to keep pests out. But if a pest or disease enters Australia, we have an established system to manage them. Because biosecurity is a shared responsibility, we also rely on you.

If you see something unusual in your imported products, call the See, Secure, Report hotline on 1800 798 636.

If you want to learn more about our biosecurity system, stay tuned!