



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry**

# **Biosecurity cost recovery implementation statement 2025–26**



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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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# Introduction

Charging for regulatory activity involves government entities charging individuals or organisations in the non-government sector some or all of the minimum efficient costs of a specific government activity. The Australian Government Cost Recovery Policy along with the Australian Government Charging Framework sets out the policy under which government entities design, implement and review charging for regulatory activities. The cost recovery implementation statement ensures transparency and accountability for the level of charging by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and demonstrates the purpose for charging, as decided by government, is being achieved.

## Purpose

This cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) provides information on how the department implements cost recovery charging for biosecurity and imported food regulatory activities. It reports actual financial and non-financial performance information for these regulatory activities and contains financial and demand forecasts for 2025–26 and financial forecasts for 3 forward years.

# 1 The regulatory environment

## 1.1 Description of regulatory activity

The key policy objective for our cost-recovered regulatory activity is 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 (DAFF 2025).

The department undertakes cost recovery for biosecurity and imported food regulatory activities to support key government objectives:

- manage biosecurity risks arising from people, goods and conveyances (vessels and aircraft) entering Australia
- assess compliance of imported food with relevant food standards and public health and safety requirements.

The department’s regulatory activities occur onshore, offshore and at the border. These activities are associated with measures and controls to manage and minimise the risk of pests, weeds and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading within Australia. This in turn facilitates trade and the movement of plants, animals, people and products. Imported food regulatory activities are associated with protecting public health and safety.

The Australian Government continues to affirm full cost recovery as the appropriate level of cost recovery from regulated entities through the portfolio budget statements and budget processes each year.

## 1.2 Industry and regulatory groups

Cost recovery charges are imposed on 4 key groups as the key creators of biosecurity risks the department is tasked with managing – importers, conveyance operators, biosecurity industry participants and, to a limited extent, international travellers in relation to their baggage.

We charge regulated entities to provide key activities:

- **Importers** – inspection, assessment and management of the risks associated with imported goods and packaging, including air and sea cargo, containers, food, live animals and plants. This includes husbandry activities undertaken by the department, associated with the quarantine of live animals and plants prior to release into Australia, such as dogs, cats, hatching eggs, birds, ruminants, horses, bees, nursery stock and viable seeds.
- **Conveyance operators** – vessels and aircraft entering Australia. This includes assessments and inspections to manage the risks posed by the vessel itself, contaminants on the vessel, human biosecurity risks, ballast water and biofouling on vessels, and aircraft disinsection (where non-compliant on arrival) and assessment of conveyances for release from biosecurity control.

- **Biosecurity industry participants** – managing the administration as well as policy processes and conditions setting for regulatory arrangements approved by the department, including biosecurity approved arrangements and imported food compliance agreements.
- **International travellers** – management of biosecurity risks associated with traveller baggage arriving from overseas, including storage of the goods under biosecurity control prior to a risk management action being taken.

Regulated entities may pay a combination of charges depending on how they participate in the biosecurity system and level of interaction with the department.

## 1.3 Biosecurity system

Our biosecurity system is critical in protecting Australia’s economy, environment and way of life. An effective biosecurity system reduces the impact of pests and diseases on Australia’s agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries supporting sustainability, profitability and competitiveness, which helps drive a stronger Australian economy.

### 1.3.1 A changing biosecurity system

Our biosecurity environment is impacted by changes in the Australian and global economies, changing risk profiles, biosecurity threats (e.g. high pathogenicity avian influenza, foot and mouth disease), increased complexity of imports, changing industry practices and growing cargo volumes. These events present ongoing challenges, impact the department’s operations and increase the cost of maintaining and continually improving our biosecurity system.

The department’s strategic vision for the future to manage changing and emerging biosecurity risks can be found in the [DAFF Biosecurity 2030 Roadmap](#) and the [National Biosecurity Strategy](#).

## 2 Policy and statutory authority to cost recover

### 2.1 Government policy approval for this regulatory activity

Under various government decisions, the department has been required to recover the costs for most of its activities from users, beginning with 50% cost recovery from 1979, 60% from 1 July 1988 moving to 100% cost recovery for recoverable programs from 1 January 1991. The government requirement for full cost recovery was underpinned by a 1994 memorandum of understanding with the Department of Finance and a cost recovery policy framework.

The department actively monitors the performance of the Biosecurity Cost Recovery Arrangement by reviewing revenue and expenditure against the budget each month and conducting a formal annual review of all regulatory charges. Through this ongoing monitoring and evaluation, the department identifies necessary adjustments in resourcing and charges, ensuring that charges reflect the efficient costs of delivering the activity and meet the government’s cost recovery targets.

Each Commonwealth budget cycle has confirmed, and sometimes expanded, the department’s continuing authority for cost recovery from industry participants who create biosecurity risk. This is further recognised through the inclusion of cost recovered revenue in the Commonwealth budget process.

#### 2.1.1 Government approvals for cost recovery of biosecurity and imported food activities

Table 1 describes key government approvals for the department’s continued and expanded cost recovery since 2017.

**Table 1 Summary of government approvals for cost recovery of biosecurity and imported food activities**

Approval date	Cost recovery activities
May 2023	Cost recovery for low-value goods
May 2021	Better manage the risk of hitchhiker pests and diseases
November 2019	Expansion of cost recovered regulatory activities
October 2018	Charging for approved arrangements
May 2017	Vessel arrival charge

#### May 2023 – Cost recovery for low-value goods

As part of its election commitment to sustainably fund the Commonwealth biosecurity system, the government announced in the 2023–24 Federal Budget that it will extend the biosecurity industry cost recovery arrangement to include low value goods imported into Australian territory.

On 1 October 2024, the Self-Assessed Clearance declaration charge of 36 cents for each declaration commenced.

## **May 2021 – Better manage the risk of hitchhiker pests and diseases**

Government committed \$96.9 million over 4 years to better manage the risk of hitchhiker pests and diseases that can cause considerable cost and disruption to agricultural production, the environment and the way of life of all Australians.

The program addresses the risk of major hitchhiker pests – for example, khapra beetle and brown marmorated stink bug, which can be carried in and on containers and their contents (around \$2.5 million containers arrive each year).

Commencing 16 January 2023, the Full Import Declaration charge for sea cargo increased from \$49 to \$58.

## **November 2019 – Expansion of cost recovered regulatory activities**

The government decided to expand cost recovered regulatory activities to include \$23 million per year of biosecurity activities. These directly relate to our regulatory framework.

From 1 January 2020 regulatory activities included in regulatory charges were expanded to include:

- Assurance and verification activities to provide confidence in compliance controls and support enforcement of regulation, contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness of the biosecurity system that facilitates importers to bring goods safely into Australia. This activity included:
  - applying best practice regulatory procedures and monitoring their implementation to verify ongoing effectiveness of regulatory activity
  - implementing and maintaining a decision-making tool that allows us to calculate benefits and risks of change in regulatory activity
  - investigations of importer compliance with biosecurity regulation to maintain the integrity of the system, including provision and monitoring of corrective actions.
- Increased analytics and intelligence activities, including the use of data to identify trends to inform intervention and compliance activities. This was intended to minimise the risk of incursions and prevent harm to Australia’s agricultural production and environment. These activities included the application, maintenance and refinement of algorithms and work processes that analyse biosecurity data and inform coordination of biosecurity risk management measures and compliance controls.
- The intelligence helps us identify which imports are most likely to expose Australia to exotic pests and/or diseases. this allows for more targeted risk management activities that streamline the border experience for importers and reduces intervention with importers with minimal risk.
- The provision of technical and scientific advice to maintain up to date biosecurity risk management information within our Biosecurity Import Condition (BICON) system. Through BICON, we provide a single source of truth for biosecurity officers and importers to identify goods quickly and easily, relevant import conditions and further biosecurity risk management options for the safe import of goods.
- Import pest and disease risk mitigation planning, which ensures that we have the capability to mitigate the impact of pest and disease incursions that result from the import of goods. The activities include the development and maintenance of risk mitigation processes and plans,

including the maintenance of the capability required to implement actions in those plans, which facilitates the import of goods. Importers will be able to either choose to rely on publicly available plans or choose to develop their own plans subject to the department granting a permit

The effect of this decision to expand cost recovery for biosecurity activities was an increase in 4 charges:

- Full Import Declaration charge—air was \$33, to \$38.
- Full Import Declaration charge—sea was \$42 to \$49.
- Vessels greater than or equal to 25 metres—arrival charge was \$920, to \$1054.
- Vessels less than 25 metres—arrival charge was \$100, to \$120.

### **October 2018 – Charging for approved arrangements**

Government approved a change to regulatory charging for biosecurity-approved arrangements. As part of this change, a new throughput charge was introduced, together with remissions for the annual charges payable by some industry participants.

The new throughput charge applies to each entry made under the Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities (AEPCOMM). A rate of \$18 is charged for each entry by a person covered by an approved arrangement, for goods to be brought or imported into Australian territory.

The annual charge for biosecurity-approved arrangements was set at \$2,900 per year. As part of the introduction of the throughput charge, the annual charges payable for some industry participants were able to be reduced by remission.

Biosecurity approved arrangements operated at a single site – \$2,500 Biosecurity approved arrangements operated as an AEP Broker only – \$500. These operators also pay a throughput charge of \$18 for each AEP entry they process.

### **May 2017 – Vessel arrival charge**

As part of the 2017–18 Budget measures the government directed us to increase the international vessel arrival charge to address the volume forecast and cost recover the expenses of the expanded ballast water biosecurity activities.

From April 2018 the international vessel arrival charge for vessels over 25 metres in length increased from \$720 to \$920.

## **2.2 Statutory authority to charge**

The [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) is the primary biosecurity legislation in Australia. The [Imported Food Control Act 1992](#) is the primary food importation legislation in Australia. Fees and charges for biosecurity and imported food regulatory activities are recovered under separate charging legislation and provide the authority to cost recover for regulatory activities.

Authority to charge regulated entities comes from:

- Section 592 of the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#), which provides that regulations may prescribe fees that may be charged in relation to activities carried out by or on behalf of the Commonwealth in performing functions and exercising powers under the Biosecurity Act
- Section 36 of the [Imported Food Control Act 1992](#), which provides that a person for whom a ‘chargeable service’ is provided is liable to pay to the Commonwealth the amount for the provision of that service as is prescribed.

### 2.2.1 Fees

Fees are prescribed in specific biosecurity and imported food regulations

- For this purpose, section 106 of the [Biosecurity Regulation 2016](#) prescribes fees that may be charged in relation to specified fee-bearing activities
- For this purpose, part 4 of the [Imported Food Control Regulations 2019](#) prescribe the payable amount for the provision of specified chargeable services.

### 2.2.2 Charges (levies)

Charges or levies are imposed through specific biosecurity and imported food charging acts and delegated legislation, which provide powers to impose and collect charges for biosecurity and imported food regulatory matters.

#### Charging Acts

- [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(Customs\) Act 2015](#)
- [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(Excise\) Act 2015](#)
- [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(General\) Act 2015](#)
- [Imported Food Charges \(Imposition—Customs\) Act 2015](#)
- [Imported Food Charges \(Imposition—Excise\) Act 2015](#)
- [Imported Food Charges \(Imposition—General\) Act 2015](#)
- [Imported Food Charges \(Collection\) Act 2015](#)

#### Regulations

Specific biosecurity charges are prescribed in the:

- [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(Customs\) Regulation 2016](#)
- [Biosecurity Charges Imposition \(General\) Regulation 2016](#).

Specific imported food charges are prescribed in the:

- [Imported Food Charges \(Imposition—Customs\) Regulation 2015](#)
- [Imported Food Charges \(Imposition—General\) Regulation 2015](#).

## 3 Regulatory (cost recovery) charging model

### 3.1 Outputs and business processes of cost recovery

The department's cost recovery modelling and processes are complex and varied due to the breadth of regulated entities and risks that we manage. Accordingly, our cost recovery model is determined considering the complexity, materiality and sensitivity of the environment in which we operate and the regulation we provide.

The department's regulatory activities and outputs are grouped into 4 categories:

- 1) **Program management and administration** – administrative activities that support us to deliver our biosecurity and imported foods regulatory activities.
- 2) **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.
- 3) **Incident management** – activities that respond to incidents concerning alleged breaches of Australian regulation or import conditions.
- 4) **Intervention** – inspection and assessment activities provided directly to a regulated entity, to meet import requirements.

Details of the activities and outputs used in our cost recovery model are described in [Appendix B](#).

Our activities and outputs are also grouped based on whether they relate to a fee-for-service activity or to a general charge for a biosecurity or imported food matter:

- Fees are used to recover the costs of direct intervention and certification activities undertaken for regulated entities.
- Charges are imposed when activities are provided to a group of regulated entities and used to recover costs associated with funding the overall biosecurity cost recovery arrangement.

#### 3.1.1 Fees

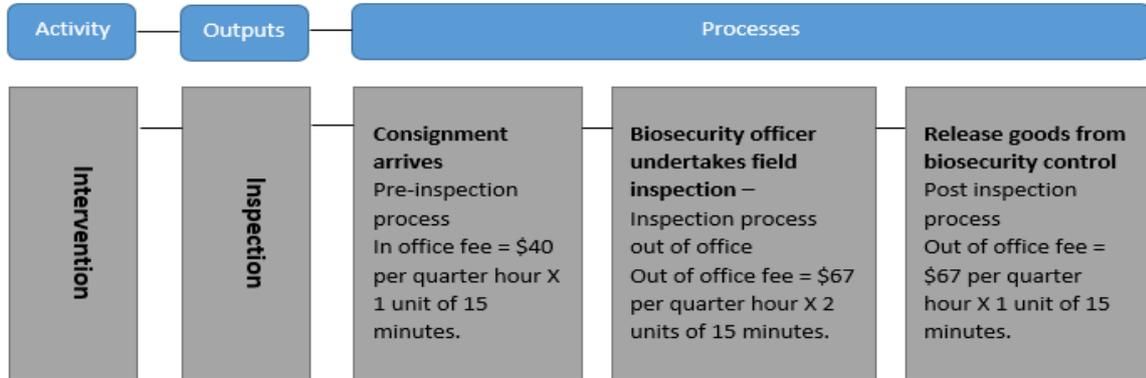
A fee is a charge for goods, services or regulation provided by the department to a specific person or organisation. The price of a fee reflects the efficient unit cost of a specific good or service where the revenue collected equals the expense incurred by the department.

Examples include fee-for-service cargo clearance activities provided directly to a specific regulated entity or husbandry services for specific plants or animals housed at the post entry quarantine (PEQ) facility.

Fee-for-service activities are charged in 15-minute units (or part thereof) in most instances, which represents the most efficient way to record the time taken to perform regulatory activities. Some out-of-hours activities may attract an initial 30-minute charge in line with pay conditions set for departmental staff.

**Error! Reference source not found.** Figure 1 shows the connection between the activity of intervention and output of inspection for an imported good and the fees that would apply through this process.

**Figure 1 Example of how a regulated entity would be charged for an intervention activity**



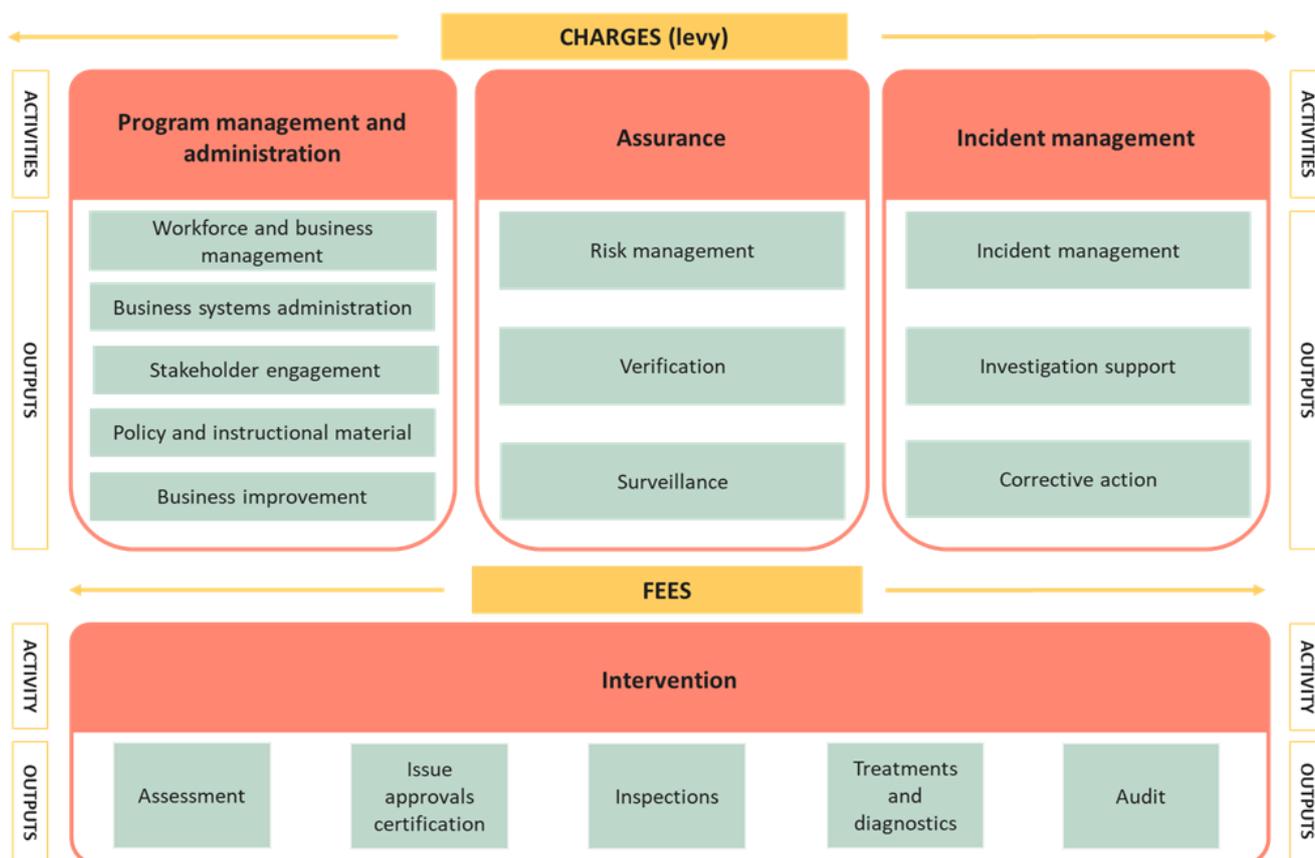
### 3.1.2 Charges

A cost recovery charge or levy is a charge imposed when goods, services or regulations are provided to a group of regulated entities rather than to a specific regulated entity. A cost recovery levy is a tax and is imposed via a separate taxation Act. It differs from general taxation as it is earmarked to fund activities provided to the group that pays the charge.

The on-arrival vessel charge is an example of a charge (levy) set to fund regulatory activity, including risk profiling, surveillance and monitoring compliance associated with all vessels entering Australian territory. This charge does not fund direct intervention such as inspection, but it funds the costs of the overall regulation specific to vessels, such as policy development, risk assessments and costs to maintain the Maritime and Aircraft Reporting System.

Figure 2 shows how we attribute cost recovered activities to either charges (levies) or fees.

**Figure 2 Charge and fee related activities and associated outputs**



## 3.2 Cost of the regulatory activity

The [Australian Government Charging Framework](#) sets the rules and requirements on how a regulator determines costs, sets charges and how it will charge for regulatory activities. The department applies these rules and requirements within the context of the arrangement to determine the costs of its regulatory activities.

### 3.2.1 Direct and indirect costs

The department’s expenses are categorised as either direct or indirect costs:

- Indirect costs support the effective and necessary provision of our direct expense activity. They include corporate employee salaries, overheads such as information technology, finance, human resources, legal services, property and maintenance and depreciation expenses.
- Direct costs can be directly attributed to the provision of an activity, for example, inspections and assessments. They comprise staff salaries, training, leave and superannuation and supplier costs such as office supplies, couriers, printing and small items of equipment.

Table 2 **Biosecurity cost recovery arrangement cost breakdown, 2025–26** provides a cost breakdown for each output contribution to recover direct and indirect costs for 2025–26.

**Table 2 Biosecurity cost recovery arrangement cost breakdown, 2025–26**

Cost recovery activities	Direct (\$)	Indirect (\$)	Total (\$)
<b>Charges</b>	<b>248,045,470</b>	<b>120,125,593</b>	<b>368,171,063</b>
Full import declaration charges	168,648,429	77,579,957	246,228,386
Self-assessed clearance charges	42,198,851	23,984,276	66,183,127
Approved arrangements	5,842,208	2,687,474	8,529,682
Vessel arrival charges	17,766,862	8,172,934	25,939,796
Permit Application	1,335,429	614,311	1,949,740
Importation charges (PEQ)	12,253,691	7,086,641	19,340,332
<b>Fees</b>	<b>62,201,471</b>	<b>29,105,025</b>	<b>91,306,496</b>
Assessment	18,339,754	8,436,470	26,776,224
Issue Approval Certification	3,503,729	1,611,750	5,115,479
Inspection	34,432,167	15,839,236	50,271,403
Treatment	479,554	220,600	700,154
Audit	1,291,055	593,898	1,884,953
Husbandry	4,155,212	2,403,071	6,558,283
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>310,246,941</b>	<b>149,230,618</b>	<b>459,477,559</b>
Less government appropriation for anti-smuggling measures	–	–	(1,618,084)
Less diagnostic consumables recovered at cost	–	–	(81,406)
Less costs paid on behalf of and recovered from companion animal importers	–	–	(800,000)
<b>Net costs to be recovered</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>456,978,069</b>

### 3.3 Cost drivers

The department uses an activity-based costing (ABC) system to determine the cost of regulatory activities. Our ABC allocation methodology reflects effort incurred in delivering activities to regulated entities. This provides an accountable and transparent allocation of costs that is also efficient and effective for the department to administer.

The term ‘program’ is used to refer to the related activities provided to a regulated industry grouping. There are 3 programs under the arrangement and 3 sub-programs under the PEQ program:

- 1) Import clearance – cargo clearance and management activities for importers
- 2) Seaports – clearance activities for vessel operators
- 3) PEQ users, including
  - a) horse importers
  - b) importers of other animals – cats, dogs, bees, ruminants, live birds and hatching eggs
  - c) plant importers.

### 3.3.1 Description of the cost allocation process

The cost allocation process apportions identified indirect and direct costs to the processes and activities defined in [Appendix B](#). Indirect costs are included in the cost base to reflect the staff, systems and supporting areas that assist with administration and benefit the whole arrangement.

The ABC system allocates costs in a 3-staged approach to programs. The steps are:

- 1) Indirect costs are allocated to direct cost centres using a cost driver that estimates the relative use of each activity.
  - a) Cost drivers are reviewed on an annual basis or as required. Changes to cost drivers are substantiated through effort or other data appropriate to the costs incurred.
- 2) Direct cost centre costs, which now include the indirect costs allocated in step 1, are allocated to a cost recovered program and to the activity that best reflects the work undertaken.
- 3) The combination of activity/program costs from step 2 are allocated to charge points that identify the cost associated with that charge. The costs allocated to a charge point, when divided by the estimated volume of that activity, determine the price for that activity.

## 3.4 Output volume assumptions

Our forecast volumes for each output, represented through charge points, are derived by:

- analysing prior year volumes
- considering any matters that may have impacted volumes during the year
- analysing monthly trends
- determining global, economic or any other matters that may impact forward estimates
- verifying forecasts with operational areas.

There is a direct correlation between the volume of cargo imports and volume of fee-bearing activity. Changes in the supply chain, such as increased demand for specific goods, can result in higher cargo volumes which leads to an increase in the demand for regulatory activity, such as inspection, assessment and verification, necessary to manage risk and achieve policy objectives.

There is some sensitivity to changes in the market, although this can take many months to come through. For example, reductions in Australia’s cash interest rate may allow families to purchase more items imported into Australia, increasing demand, however, this may not be their immediate priority.

There is some sensitivity in import charges with changes in the global and domestic economy driving consumer spending habits and the demand for imports. Generally, there is a lag between changes in the economy and import volumes and the impact only becomes evident over time rather than as immediate changes to regulatory activity.

### **3.5 Design of regulatory charges**

As described earlier, the department’s cost recovery model is developed around allocating indirect and the direct costs to programs and activities. Within each activity there are outputs, which are represented as charge points.

We monitor costs monthly for variances between forecast and actual expense and regularly review and improve our workforce models, systems and processes. Monitoring informs our annual review of regulatory charges and we implement adjustments to regulatory charges within the parameters the department is governed by.

The amounts payable shown in Table 3 reflect the volumes and estimated costs associated with biosecurity and imported food regulatory activities in 2025–26. Actual recovery of costs through an individual charge is dependent upon the costs incurred to provide that activity and the volume of transactions, imports or activities performed. Fees and charges are modelled to recover no more than the efficient costs of providing each activity, hence the estimated cost and estimated revenue are equal where a forecast volume can be reliably estimated.

For some animal imports at the PEQ, we do not have any forecast import volumes, however, there are fixed costs that cannot be avoided. These costs are not cross subsidised by other imports but are managed through other funding sources, typically government appropriation. A price is determined to recover some of those fixed costs along with the variable costs, should an import occur.

**Table 3 Fees and charges – estimated costs, volumes and revenue for biosecurity cost recovery arrangement, 2025–26**

Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)	Estimated volume (units)	Estimated total revenue (\$)
Charges	111,674,338	Full import declaration charge – air	Per import declaration	46	2,427,703	111,674,338
	134,554,048	Full import declaration charge – sea	Per import declaration	68	1,978,736	134,554,048
	66,183,127	Self-assessed clearance charge	Per import declaration	0.37	178,873,317	66,183,127
	1,949,740	Permit application charge	Per application	130	14,998	1,949,740
	754,560	Reservation charge – horses	Per animal	1,048	720	754,560
	3,018,960	Confirmation of reservation charge – horses	Per animal	4,193	720	3,018,960
	–	Reservation charge – ruminants	Per animal	1,071	–	–
	–	Confirmation of reservation charge – ruminants	Per animal	4,284	–	–
	2,379,036	Reservation charge – animals not covered by another item of this table (includes cats or dogs)	Per animal	269	8,844	2,379,036
	8,722,098	Confirmation of reservation charge – animals not covered by another item of this table (includes cats or dogs)	Per animal	1,078	8,091	8,722,098
	–	Reservation charge – bees	Per bee consignment	892	–	–
	–	Confirmation of reservation charge – bees	Per bee consignment	3,571	–	–
	–	Reservation charge – avian (live birds)	Per live bird consignment	5,018	–	–
	–	Confirmation of reservation charge – avian (live birds)	Per live bird consignment	20,069	–	–
	41,922	Reservation charge – avian (fertile eggs)	Per hatching egg consignment	13,974	3	41,922
	167,682	Confirmation of reservation charge – avian (fertile eggs)	Per hatching egg consignment	55,894	3	167,682
	1,837,990	Importation charge – plants	Per m <sup>2</sup> per month	310	5,929	1,837,990
	33,327	Approved arrangement/compliance agreement application charge	Per application	207	161	33,327
	1,449,092	Approved arrangement – multiple – including food import compliance agreements – full year	Per item	3,316	437	1,449,092

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Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)	Estimated volume (units)	Estimated total revenue (\$)
	1,658	Approved arrangement – multiple – including food import compliance agreements – part year	Per item	1,658	1	1,658
	223,261	Approved arrangement – class 19 – full year	Per item	571	391	223,261
	571	Approved arrangement – class 19 – part year	Per item	285.50	2	571
	3,485,540	Approved arrangement – single– including food import compliance agreements – full year	Per item	2,857	1,220	3,485,540
	64,283	Approved arrangement – single – including food import compliance agreements – part year	Per item	1,428.50	45	64,283
	3,271,950	Approved arrangement – AEPCOMM entry	Per item	22	148,725	3,271,950
	79,200	Non-commercial vessel arrival charge	Per vessel	165	480	79,200
	25,860,596	Vessel, other than a non-commercial vessel arrival charge	Per vessel	1,444	17,909	25,860,596
Fee for service – inspection (including virtual inspections), examination, document assessment, analysis, diagnostic activity, clearance of cargo, treatment, audit, supervision and training.	28,867,430	In-office fee during ordinary hours of duty	Per 15 minutes	40	721,691	28,867,640
	127,252	In-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekday for continuous activity provided immediately before or after ordinary hours	Per 15 minutes	58	2,194	127,252
	746,228	In-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekday for non-continuous activity provided before or after ordinary hours only	Per 30 minutes	116	6,433	746,228
	665,028	In-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekend or departmental holiday	Per 30 minutes	126	5,278	665,028
	631,449	In office fee outside ordinary hours, after the first 30 minutes – weekend or departmental holiday	Per 15 minutes	63	10,023	631,449
	169,771	Assessment Category 1 Permit application	Per application	79	2,149	169,771
	909,922	Assessment Category 2 Permit application	Per application	158	5,759	909,922
	35,910	Assessment Category 3 Permit application	Per application	315	114	35,910
	3,731,970	Assessment Category 4 Permit application	Per application	473	7,890	3,731,970
180,466	Assessment Category 5 Permit application	Per application	631	286	180,466	

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Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)	Estimated volume (units)	Estimated total revenue (\$)
	87,440	Assessment of a permit application not completed within the initial assessment period for the application in ordinary hours	Per 15 minutes	40	2,186	87,440
	–	Assessment of a permit application Category 1-5 provided on a weekday outside ordinary hours of duty	Per 30 minutes	38	–	–
	–	Assessment of a permit application Category 1-5 provided on a weekday outside ordinary hours of duty	Per 15 minutes	19	–	–
	–	Assessment of a permit application Category 1-5 provided on a Saturday, Sunday or a Departmental holiday	Per 30 minutes	50	–	–
	–	Assessment of a permit application Category 1-5 provided on a Saturday, Sunday or a Departmental holiday	Per 15 minutes	25	–	–
	46,736,252	Out-of-office fee during ordinary hours of duty	Per 15 minutes	67	697,556	46,736,252
	662,718	Out-of-office fee during ordinary hours of duty	Daily	1,302	509	662,718
	7,395	Out-of-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekday for continuous activity provided immediately before or after ordinary hours only	Per 15 minutes	85	87	7,395
	401,030	Out-of-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekday for non-continuous activity provided before or after ordinary hours only	Per 30 minutes	170	2,359	401,030
	53,460	Out-of-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekend or departmental holiday	Per 30 minutes	180	297	53,460
	571,680	Out-of-office fee outside ordinary hours – weekend or departmental holiday after the first 30 minutes	Per 15 minutes	90	6,352	571,680
	81,406	Provision of consumable materials used in performing a diagnostic activity	A fee equivalent to the cost of the consumable materials	At cost	6,321	81,406
Fee for service – husbandry	–	Husbandry fee – horses that overstay the initial 14-day period	Per animal per day over 14 days	47	–	–
	–	Husbandry fee – ruminants	Per animal per day	108	–	–

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Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)	Estimated volume (units)	Estimated total revenue (\$)
	6,184,729	Husbandry fee – cats or dogs or animals not covered by another item of this table	Per animal per day	53	116,693	6,184,729
	–	Husbandry fee – avian (consignment of birds)	Per live bird consignment per day	60	–	–
	–	Husbandry fee – bees	Per bee consignment per month (or part thereof)	500	–	–
	21,384	Husbandry fee – avian (bird eggs for hatching)	Per egg consignment per day	81	264	21,384
	352,170	Husbandry fee – plants	Per m <sup>2</sup> per month (or part thereof)	63	5,590	352,170
<b>Totals</b>	<b>456,978,069</b>	–	–	–	–	<b>456,978,279</b>

**Table 4 Fee for service on demand prices, 2025–26**

Type of charge	Estimated total cost (\$)	Charge point	Unit	Price (\$)
Fee for service – temporary storage in relation to international travellers and their baggage	n/a	Temporary storage at premises owned or managed by the Commonwealth for baggage brought into Australian territory	Per 30 days per item of baggage	48
Fee for service – special processing areas, agreed fee for international travellers and their baggage	Any period up to 3 hours during which one or more fee bearing activities are carried out	First 3 hours for each person carrying out those activities	Per first 3 hours	At least 550, but not more than 1,100
	Immediately following the first 3 hours during which those activities are carried out	Per 15 minutes immediately following first 3 hours for each person carrying out those activities	Per each 15 minutes after the first 3 hours	At least 46, but not more than 92

Note: These fee-for-service activities will only apply when the activity is requested by industry.

Table 5 provides a breakdown of the modelled costs of the arrangement by charge type, activity and output. For a detailed description of activities and outputs, see [Appendix B](#).

**Table 5 Cost type breakdown by activity and output**

Charge type	Activity	Output	Expense (\$)	
Charges	Program management and administration	Workforce and business administration	185,571,184	
		Business system administration	25,868,127	
		Stakeholder engagement	25,901,828	
		Policy and instructional material	39,344,953	
		Business improvement	19,775,677	
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>296,461,769</b>	
	Assurance		Risk management	22,761,802
			Verification	18,464,003
			Surveillance	19,980,888
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>61,206,693</b>
	Incident management		Incident management	4,024,964
			Investigative support	1,803,489
			Corrective action	4,674,148
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,502,601</b>
		<b>Total charges</b>	<b>368,171,063</b>	
Fees	Intervention	Assessment	26,776,224	
		Issue approvals/certification	5,115,479	
		Inspection	50,271,403	
		Treatment	700,154	
		Audit	1,884,953	
		Husbandry	6,558,283	

Charge type	Activity	Output	Expense (\$)
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>91,306,496</b>
		<b>Total fee for service</b>	<b>91,306,496</b>
<b>Sub total</b>		–	– <b>459,477,559</b>
Less government appropriation for anti-smuggling measures		–	– <b>(1,618,084)</b>
Less diagnostic consumables recovered at cost		–	– (81,406)
Less costs paid on behalf of and recovered from companion animal importers		–	– (800,000)
<b>Net costs to be recovered</b>		–	– <b>456,978,069</b>

### 3.6 Changes to regulatory charging in 2025–26

This section provides information to regulated entities on the agreed charges for the upcoming financial year and on any other matters relating to these charges that have changed from the 2024–2025 CRIS.

In 2023–24 the department embedded the annual review cycle of the arrangement. The review included monitoring and analysis of the impact of changes introduced on 1 July 2023. Recognising that our costs do not remain static and to avoid large increases in the future, legislation was amended in 2023 to introduce indexation of prices annually, based on the all-groups CPI published by the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#).

In 2024–25 prices for all regulatory charges increased by 4.1%, aligning with the CPI. In 2025–26 prices have been indexed by a further 2.4%. Prices are published on our [biosecurity cost recovery implementation statements](#) webpage and listed in Table 3. The methodology used to determine the indexation factor and price calculation is set out in [Appendix C](#).

#### 3.6.1 Upgraded charges for approved arrangements

A one-off upgrade charge will be applied to approved arrangement and compliance agreement holders when their status changes from holding a single arrangement or agreement to holding multiple arrangements or agreements in the same financial year.

Billing for the annual charge is prospective with each holder of an approved arrangement or agreement invoiced at the beginning of the financial year. If an industry participant is approved to hold more than one approved arrangement or agreement within the same financial year, they have had the benefit of holding multiple arrangements or agreements while only having paid the annual charge for a single arrangement or agreement.

The upgrade charge covers the additional effort undertaken by the department to assess and upgrade the status of a holder from single to multiple arrangements or agreements.

Table 6 supplements Table 3 and provides additional information on the upgrade charge and how the charge will be applied.

**Table 6 Application of upgraded charges for approved arrangements**

Charge category	Scenario	Calculation	Price (\$)
<b>Full-year upgrade charge – class 19</b>	Entity is covered by a class 19 arrangement; they are then approved for at least one further approved arrangement of a different class or a compliance agreement before 1 January in the same financial year.	Difference between the multiple annual charge and the class 19 annual charge.	<b>2,744</b>
<b>Part-year upgrade charge – class 19</b>	Entity is covered by a class 19, they are then approved for at least one further approved arrangement of a different class or a compliance agreement after 1 January in the same financial year.	Difference between the multiple part-year charge and the class 19 annual charge.	<b>1,086</b>
	Entity is covered by a class 19 for the first time after 1 January, they are then approved to hold at least one further approved arrangement of a different class or a compliance agreement in the same financial year.	Difference between the multiple part-year charge and the class 19 part-year charge.	<b>1,372</b>
<b>Full-year upgrade charge</b>	Entity is covered by a single approved arrangement; they are then approved to hold at least one further approved arrangement or compliance agreement before 1 January in the same financial year.	Difference between the multiple annual charge and the single annual charge.	<b>459</b>
	Entity is approved to hold at least one further approved arrangement or compliance agreement after being approved for the first approved arrangement or compliance agreement before 1 January in same financial year.	Difference between the multiple annual charge and the single annual charge.	<b>459</b>
<b>Part-year upgrade charge</b>	Entity is covered by a single approved arrangement after January 1, they are then approved to hold at least one further approved arrangement or compliance agreement after 1 January in the same financial year.	Difference between the multiple part-year charge and the single part-year charge.	<b>229</b>

## 4 Risk assessment

### 4.1 Charging risk assessment and mitigation

A charging risk assessment (CRA) is required for any regulatory charging policy proposal, including for increases in the price for cost recovered activities. As described earlier, prices have increased by 2.4% in line with the annual movement in CPI for the December 2024 quarter. Australia is a growing economy, so there is also some growth built into the cost recovery model to reflect increased demand for the department's services.

The outcome of our assessment through the CRA process is an overall risk rating of medium. Prices have been set based on the minimum efficient costs for regulation, which includes the department's salary increase in March 2025 of 3.8% as per the Enterprise Agreement 2024 to 2027.

The department monitors arrangement's performance through monthly review of revenue and expenditure and a formalised annual review of all regulatory charges. This ongoing monitoring and evaluation identifies necessary adjustments and provides assurance that charges reflect only the ongoing efficient costs of delivering the activity. Where initial review indicates a misalignment, deeper investigation will be undertaken and prices reset in legislation.

Indexation was added to biosecurity and imported foods charging legislation in 2023 to support the department in maintaining sustainable funding for biosecurity regulatory activities and reduce the reliance on appropriation funding from government. The annual review process also supports this objective.

### 4.2 Management of accumulated balances and under or over recovery

Regulatory charging is set to only recover the department's efficient costs; however, several factors can affect the difference between revenue and expenses. These factors include volume variances and changes in expenses based on risk profiles. Demand for commodities, overseas economic factors, and climatic events can all impact regulatory effort, costs and volumes of activities.

Each charge has been determined by creating a cost pool of the direct and indirect costs associated with that activity. When divided by the estimated volume, the price is established for that activity alone and avoids cross subsidisation with other activities.

Under recoveries will result in the arrangement not recovering the costs of regulatory activities. This results in the arrangement operating at a loss and may adversely impact the accumulated balance for the arrangement at year's end. 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. Any cash impact resulting from under recovery is managed through the department's other funding sources and prior year losses are not recovered from regulated entities. Over recovery is also reviewed and considered when setting prices for the following year and may lead to some charges remaining at their existing price or even reducing.

The annual review process of the arrangement's costs, volumes and prices is the mechanism used to set new or retain existing prices for regulatory activities. As prices are set in legislation, any changes other than indexation to prices, requires additional work that means it is impractical to adjust prices any more than once per financial year.

A new CRIS is published prior to the commencement of a new financial year following consultation with industry and agreement from the minister. If it is apparent during a financial year that a price for an activity is recovering significantly more than the efficient costs, then the department may consider other options, such as remissions for part of the fee or charge to reduce the amount paid by industry and be more reflective of the department's effort.

## 5 Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement plays an important role in the development and management of regulatory charging arrangements. Our stakeholders have unique insights into how our regulatory activities affect their businesses and can help us design efficient regulatory charging frameworks for these activities.

### 5.1 Engagement summary for 2025–26

Stakeholders have been consulted on the proposed introduction of the one-off upgrade charge for approved arrangement holders, through a variety of communication channels. This commenced in November 2024 through industry consultative committees, advice notices and targeted communication to affected stakeholder groups.

Indexed prices for 2025–26 and detailed information on the upgrade charge were published on the department’s Have your Say consultation platform, which was open from 17 February until 21 March 2025.

Feedback from stakeholders indicated they are supportive of the indexation of prices but would like to see consistency in the application of charges and improvement in the level of service to align with a price increase, and suggested the department should charge based on usage. These matters are the subject of ongoing discussions between the department and industry through the various industry consultative committees, to find creative and efficient means of cargo clearance while managing the risks associated with importation.

Public awareness was further supported through a social media campaign and a series of advice notices, targeting all stakeholder groups.

The 2025–26 CRIS and pricing tables are published on the department’s website. The department provided further information and reminders of the commencement of new prices and changes to regulatory charges through advice notices and social media.

Overall, stakeholders have not raised significant concerns about the proposed changes or the 2.4% increase to prices. Indexed prices and proposed changes have been published well in advance of the 1 July 2025 commencement date, providing impacted stakeholders time to prepare for price increases and changes to current charging arrangements.

### 5.2 Industry engagement

The department has established [industry consultative committees](#) to represent industry views in relation to biosecurity and imported food. We consult with these committees on a number of different activities. The consultative committees include:

- Cargo Consultative Committee
- Biological Consultative Group
- Imported Food Consultative Committee

- Horse Industry Consultative Committee
- Post Entry Plant Consultative Committee.

We also engage with representatives for avian, cat and dog importers, and with other peak bodies, industry or individuals as necessary.

### **5.3 Ongoing engagement strategy**

We engage with our stakeholders through a variety of communication channels, including:

- engaging with industry consultative committees through agreed terms of reference
- reporting periodically on regulatory charging performance, including explanations for material variances between budgeted and actual positions
- communicating with industry consultative committees on changes to regulatory charging before any revisions or updates are made to regulatory charges
- annual public consultation on key changes that result in price adjustments.

Information about new prices or changes in charging arrangements is published on our website each year and we provide ongoing updates through a variety of communication channels.

For more information on changes to regulatory charges, email [BioCRIS@aff.gov.au](mailto:BioCRIS@aff.gov.au).

## 6 Financial estimates

### 6.1 Annual estimates

A summary of the forecast annual operating position for the arrangement is provided at Table 7.

We maintain an accumulated balance for each program of the arrangement to assist with managing the alignment of revenue and expenses and variations to forecast volumes. In total, the accumulated balance reflects the combined accumulated results of the arrangement since its inception and the department reports at this highest level of aggregation.

**Table 7 Financial estimates for biosecurity cost recovery arrangement, 2024–25 to 2027–28**

Finance element	2024–25 (\$)	2025–26 (\$)	2026–27 (\$)	2027–28 (\$)
Revenue = X	393,261,647	459,477,559	466,641,900	477,801,711
Expenses = Y	393,101,385	459,477,559	466,641,900	477,801,711
Balance = X – Y	<b>160,262</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Estimated opening cost recovery accumulated balance	<b>-6,881,033</b>	<b>-6,720,771</b>	<b>-6,720,771</b>	<b>-6,720,771</b>
Estimated closing cost recovery accumulated balance	<b>-6,720,771</b>	<b>-6,720,771</b>	<b>-6,720,771</b>	<b>-6,720,771</b>

#### 6.1.1 Expenses to be cost recovered

There are a number of inputs into our costs that make up the total value of the arrangement and the amounts to be recovered for each activity. Like most businesses, the department incurs costs for operating expenses such as:

- wages for APS staff
- contractors engaged to provide specialised or short-term expertise
- supplier costs, including compulsory use of whole-of-government arrangements for certain suppliers (e.g. travel, stationery, IT equipment)
- rent on office and domestic properties
- depreciation on IT systems, property, plant and equipment.

As described in [section 3.3.1](#), these expenses are allocated to the activity and cost recovered program that best reflects the activity undertaken. This forms a cost pool for that activity. Each cost pool is divided by the forecast volume for that activity to determine the fee or charge. The combined sum of all cost pools equals the cost to the department for undertaking regulatory activities under the arrangement. Prices are set in conjunction with the forecast volumes to recover these costs.

The Biosecurity, Imported Food and Export Certification Special Account was established to manage the expenses and cost-recovered revenue for the department’s provision of:

- biosecurity, inspection and certification services for passengers, cargo, mail, animals, plants, and animal or plant products arriving in Australia
- agricultural products and food exported from Australia.

### 6.1.2 Volume forecasts

There is a high correlation between forecast costs and the volume of regulatory effort to deliver activities such as inspections, audits, process animal imports and carry out associated husbandry.

Volumes are derived from a combination of historical trends, current work programs for audit and compliance activities, information that might affect future activity such as economic impacts on consumer spending and, where appropriate, confirmation with industry such as volumes of horse imports.

Volumes for 2025–26 reflect modest growth on prior years for most activities, using the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ rise in GDP for the period September 2023 to September 2024. We also take into consideration the current Australian and global economy, interest rate trends, and predictions and inflationary impacts on consumers (ABS 2024).

## 6.2 Financial performance

We consult with key industry stakeholders on financial performance indicators to assist in evaluating the performance of our regulatory charging arrangements. Table 8 includes financial performance of the arrangement since the 2020–21 financial year.

**Table 8 Financial performance of the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement, 2020–21 to 2023–24**

Finance element	2020–21 (\$)	2021–22 (\$)	2022–23 (\$)	2023–24 (\$)
Revenue = X	285,801,849	285,729,586	299,676,655	364,983,026
Expenses = Y	276,214,706	308,868,350	335,316,035	351,165,448
<b>Balance = X – Y</b>	<b>9,587,143</b>	<b>-20,138,764</b>	<b>-35,639,380</b>	<b>13,817,578</b>
<b>Accumulated results</b>	<b>35,079,533</b>	<b>14,940,769</b>	<b>-20,698,611</b>	<b>-6,881,033</b>

## 7 Non-financial performance

Our *Annual report 2023–24* provides comprehensive information on performance measures and performance results. It is not intended to duplicate the information in this document but rather to draw attention to the key objectives relevant to managing biosecurity risk.

Our biosecurity objective is to ‘strengthen our national biosecurity system to provide an appropriate level of protection to Australia’s people, our environment and economy from the biosecurity threats of today and tomorrow.’

Table 9 provides non-financial performance indicators for the biosecurity regulatory charging arrangement, consistent with the [Commonwealth Performance Framework](#). Additional detail on non-performance measures is included in the [Annual report](#) and [Corporate Plan](#).

**Table 9 Non-financial performance measures for biosecurity arrangement, 2023–24**

Performance measure	Measure description	2023–24 performance
BI-01-01	Reduced levels of non-compliance with regulations administered by the department	Achieved
BI-01-02	Reduced levels of non-compliance with regulations that apply to approved arrangements	Achieved
BI-01-03	Reduced levels of non-compliance with regulations that apply to international travellers.	Achieved
BI-02	Biosecurity service standards are met.	Partially achieved
BI-03	Risk assessments completed in the development of import policy and regulation of biosecurity risks on imported goods.	Achieved
BI-04	Number of consignments of imported goods with khapra beetle detections is reduced as a result of biosecurity measures implemented by the department.	Achieved
BI-05	Number and extent of biosecurity preparedness exercises completed.	Achieved
BI-06	Improve the management of biosecurity risk offshore by increasing assurance activities on pre-border biosecurity arrangements.	Achieved
BI-07	Reduction in risk of African swine fever because of biosecurity measures implemented by the department.	Achieved
BI-08	Undertake compliance and enforcement actions.	Achieved
BI-09	Targeted public communication and engagement activities.	Achieved
BI-10	The import permits service standard is met.	Not achieved

Note: For a complete analysis of our performance measures, see the [Annual report 2023–24](#) (pp. 13–14) and the [Corporate Plan 2023–24](#) (pp. 32–49).

## 8 Key dates and events

We undertake regular reviews of our financial performance and conduct stakeholder engagement activities throughout the annual review cycle. Key forward dates for review of the arrangement are documented in Table 10.

**Table 10 Key forward dates and events**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Next scheduled update</b>
Review of arrangement and indexation	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2025
Updated fees and charges implemented	1 July 2025
Consultation on 2026–27 CRIS	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2026
Portfolio charging review	2025
Portfolio charging review outcomes to be brought forward in Budget 2026–27	2026

## 9 CRIS approval and change register

The department publishes an updated CRIS annually as recommended by the Australian Government Charging Framework and in conjunction with the key dates and events in [section 7](#). The change register in Table 11 provides a record of updates to this CRIS.

**Table 11 Change register**

Date	Document	Change	Approver	Basis for change
May 2023	CRIS: Biosecurity 2023–24	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Increase to regulatory charges following a comprehensive review of the cost recovery arrangement, aligning actual costs, effort, risk and prices.
June 2023	CRIS: Biosecurity 2023–24	Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Medium risk rating for regulatory charging activities requiring portfolio minister approval only.
June 2024	CRIS: Biosecurity 2024–25	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Apply indexation to increase regulatory fees and charges for the cost recovery arrangement, to continue to align actual costs, effort, risk and prices.
		Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Medium risk rating for regulatory charging activities requiring portfolio minister approval only.
June 2025	CRIS: Biosecurity 2025–26	Certification of the CRIS	Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Apply indexation to increase regulatory fees and charges for the cost recovery arrangement, to continue to align actual costs, effort, risk and prices. Introduced new charges for approved arrangements and compliance agreements.
		Approval for the CRIS release	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Medium risk rating for regulatory charging activities requiring portfolio minister approval only.

# Appendix A: Summary of key regulatory activity volumes

During 2023–24, over 124 million cargo declarations were made. Of these, 4.4 million were full import declarations and 119.7 million were for low-value cargo under \$1,000 in value. Over 104,000 international voyages and flights arrived at international airports and seaports across Australia. Around 19,000 import permit applications were submitted and nearly 8,000 animals were processed at PEQ facilities.

The data provided in this section may differ to other reported figures due to updates associated with data reporting protocols.

## Error! Reference source not found. Table A1 Vessel and aircraft volumes

Year	Total number of international voyages	Number of voyage inspections	Total number of international aircraft arrivals
2023–24	19,824	11,089	104,530
2022–23	19,316	10,949	74,114
2021–22	18,256	15,166	27,464
2020–21	17,844	15,108	16,206

Note: For 2022–23 an update to 'Number of voyage inspections' data has been applied from previous years data within this report. Data is now calculated on the number of conveyances inspected after international arrival rather than the number of conveyance inspections that may have occurred.

## Table A2 Cargo volumes

Year	Total international cargo import declarations	Number of cargo imports assessed	Number of cargo import inspections	Total high-value cargo import declarations	Total low-value cargo import declarations
2023–24	124,043,244	624,512	275,133	4,353,716	119,689,528
2022–23	89,875,509	682,129	272,417	4,327,283	85,548,226
2021–22	88,955,196	782,208	335,195	4,385,366	84,569,830
2020–21	77,199,249	790,857	329,709	4,508,546	72,690,703

Note: Cargo import declarations are profiled for biosecurity and food safety risks. Declarations that match a profile are referred to the department for action.

## Table A3 Import permit applications and animals processed at PEQ

Year	Total volume of permit applications submitted and paid to the department	Number of animals (cats, dogs & horses) processed at the PEQ
2023–24	19,157	7,995
2022–23	18,992	6,784
2021–22	17,515	6,484
2020–21	15,140	4,936

# Appendix B: Cost-model activities

This section details the cost-model activities included under our regulatory charging arrangements.

## **Program management and administration activities (charge)**

### **Workforce and business management**

- Workforce management – staff supervision, allocating workforce resources, managing employee performance, leave, training and other conditions, managing work, health and safety requirements, recruitment, and termination.
- 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.
- Financial management – billing and accounting, budgeting, charges and payments, collections and receivables, debt management, financial accounts, reporting and policy development.
- Information management – data management, information and records management, and information sharing and collaboration.

### **Business systems administration**

This activity includes developing, acquiring, testing, implementing, and supporting applications and business systems. It encompasses technical support and maintenance of all business systems, including information and communication technology.

### **Stakeholder engagement**

This activity involves proactive engagement with any person, business, or organisation, including any associated travel. It includes engaging with peak industry bodies, secretariat support and attendance at industry consultative committee meetings, consultation on new standards and requirements, publishing website content and other information.

### **Policy and instructional material**

This activity includes developing, maintaining, and communicating our policy and instructional material, such as operational and corporate policies, scientific advice, guidelines and work instructions, and associated training development and delivery. Examples include developing or revising policy, processes and developing new instructional material.

### **Business improvement**

This activity includes assessment, monitoring and development of initiatives to improve performance. Examples include adjustments to improve program and service delivery, business performance reports against key performance indicators and similar activities.

## **Assurance activities (charge)**

### **Risk management**

Assessing and managing the risks posed to Australia's biosecurity and imported food systems. This includes communicating strategic intelligence advice to the department's decision makers, results of

risk analysis, modelling and forecasting to operational areas and the collection, receipt and use of data, information and intelligence to meet our compliance objectives. This work also includes any associated travel and client assistance work, such as assessment of threats and risks associated with cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material.

### **Verification**

Activities that provide our executive and stakeholders with confidence that our systems and processes are operating in accordance with their intended design and associated documentation and managing the identified risk. For example, internal quality assurance systems and verification activities to ensure officers are following procedures, processes or instructional material and are making appropriate decisions.

### **Surveillance**

Formal and informal monitoring to detect changes in Australia’s pest or disease status, or the presence of food safety concerns which may affect imports and onshore production. Surveillance differs from an inspection as it is not conducted for a specific client.

It includes all pre and post work, travel and client assistance in relation to surveillance. Examples include deploying detector dogs, wharf surveillance, vector monitoring at proclaimed ports, new car surveillance, break bulk surveillance, monitoring the entry of exotic pests, weeds and disease across passenger and cargo pathways, monitoring of animal welfare issues and monitoring for microbiological or chemical hazards in food.

## **Incident management activities (charge)**

### **Incident management**

Coordination and management of any incident, including post-border detections and biosecurity and imported food incidents. This includes all associated pre and post work, travel and client assistance in relation to an incident. It excludes cost-sharing for emergency responses under the formal national disease and pest response arrangements.

### **Investigation support**

Support for enforcement activities relating to an alleged breach of portfolio legislation, including any related client assistance and travel. It does not include the work of the enforcement officers. Examples of investigation support include data extraction and analysis to support an investigation.

### **Corrective action**

Actions taken in response to non-compliance with or contravention of legislation or procedures that are managed without a formal investigation by an Enforcement officer. Corrective action activities include advice and support to operational staff and clients on the management of non-compliance and the development of options to effectively manage the risk.

## **Intervention activities (fee)**

### **Assessment**

Assessing information to determine if it meets the department’s requirements. This includes the assessment of import-related documentation for cargo, conveyances, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material, including administration of applications.

### **Issue approvals and certification**

Issuing of a decision in relation to an assessment for cargo, conveyances, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material. This includes the work from the end of the assessment period to the completion of the decision-notification process.

### **Inspection**

Physical examination and supervision of a physical examination, of cargo, conveyances, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material, to determine compliance with biosecurity and food safety requirements. Inspections also include activities related to post-quarantine detections of biosecurity-risk goods.

### **Treatments**

Physical treatment of cargo, vessels, plants, animals, food, biological and genetic material, other conveyances or premises, to prevent an adverse biosecurity outcome from occurring.

### **Husbandry**

Activities relating to the care of plants and animals that we are responsible for, including transport of plants and animals, housing, daily monitoring, feeding, cleaning of facilities, administering of medication, bookings and client assistance.

### **Audit**

Systematic and functionally independent examination of industry systems and processes to determine whether activities and related results comply with legislative or documented requirements. This includes desktop audits, remote audits, site audits (including travel), reviews of standard operating procedures for new and existing approved arrangement sites, overseas manufacturing facilities and pre-export quarantine facilities and their procedures.

# Appendix C: Indexation

This section provides details of the application of indexation and sets out how it is applied to calculate new prices for regulatory charges.

## Legislation

New prices for regulatory charges have been calculated using methodology prescribed in legislation:

- Biosecurity Regulation 2016 – Chapter 9, Part 2, Division 1, Section 107A ‘Indexation of fees’.
- Biosecurity Charges Imposition (Customs) Regulation 2016, and Biosecurity Charges Imposition (General) Regulation 2016 – Part 2, Section 9A ‘Indexation of charges’.
- Imported Food Control Regulations 2019 – Part 4, Section 30A ‘Indexation of charges’.
- Imported Food Charges (Imposition – Customs) Regulation 2015 and the Imported Food Charges (Imposition – General) Regulation 2015 – Part 2, Section 6A ‘Indexation of charges’.

## Price calculation methodology

Indexation provisions in biosecurity and imported food legislation provide the methodology for determining if indexation will increase the prices (fees and charges) for cost recovered regulatory activities. This is a 2-step process where the indexation factor is calculated and, if greater than 1, is used to calculate new indexed fee or charge.

### Step 1 Calculate the ‘indexation factor’ for 1 July 2025

The indexation factor for 1 July 2025 is calculated using the [All-Groups Consumer Price Index \(CPI\) number](#) for the 2024 December quarter and the CPI for the 2023 December quarter.

The formula is:

$$\text{CPI for the 2024 December quarter (reference quarter)} \div \text{CPI for the 2023 December quarter (base quarter)} = \text{Indexation factor} (139.4 \div 136.1 = 1.024)$$

Based on this formula, the indexation factor for July 2025 is 1.024.

### Step 2 Calculate the ‘indexed amount’ for the fee or charge in question

Because the indexation factor for 1 July 2025 is greater than 1, fees and charges covered by an indexation provision will be indexed using:

$$\text{the dollar amount of the relevant fee or charge immediately before 1 July 2025} \times \text{the indexation factor for 1 July 2025 (1.024)}.$$

The indexed amount of the fee or charge is to the nearest dollar.

# References

DAFF, 2025 [Portfolio Budget Statements 2025-26](#), Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra, March 2025, accessed 26 March 2025.

ABS, 2024 [Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product](#), Australian Bureau of Statistics, accessed 26 March 2025