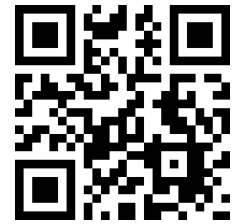




## Agriculture 2030 2021–22 Budget

The Australian Government will provide over \$850 million to continue backing the Australian agriculture industry to reach its goal of \$100 billion by 2030. Our Agriculture 2030 2021–22 Budget package reaffirms our commitment with significant additional investment to deliver the tools and foundations required for producers to achieve their goals.



### What's in this year's Budget

The 2021–22 Budget delivers substantial new investment to drive the competitiveness, growth and resilience of the Australian agriculture industry. Australian agriculture has been a shining light in the Australian economy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and the investments announced in this Budget continue to set the foundations for the industry to take advantage of opportunities and tackle challenges going forward. The Australian Government's focus remains on delivering targeted measures for Australia's farmers, fishers and foresters under the 7 Ag2030 themes to support industry reach its goal.

### Supporting Trade

We will continue our commitment to grow agricultural exports by delivering **\$96.7 million** to:

- step up Australia's leadership in international agriculture and food policy discussions shaping the global agricultural trade environment. This includes a new international agriculture envoy, dedicated to protecting and promoting Australia's international interests
- support expanded access to agricultural and veterinary chemicals – increased access to these tools will boost farm productivity, strengthen farmers' response to pests and diseases, and ensure competitive supply chains
- help Australian agribusinesses expand their export markets as part of the Agri-Business Expansion Initiative (ABEI), with one-on-one exporter support services and greater access to market intelligence, as announced December 2020.

### Biosecurity

A robust, effective biosecurity system is essential to keeping Australia safe from exotic pests and diseases, while allowing the rapid flow of people and goods across our border. We will provide over **\$400 million** in new funding to expand our investment in safeguarding Australia from exotic pests and diseases. Funding in the 2021–22 Budget delivers a range of measures to:

- invest in frontline measures to better manage the risk of pests and diseases entering Australia – including more on-the-ground resources to target known and emerging threats, like African swine fever, and applying modern technology to better detect and respond to these threats
- build a modern, effective biosecurity system underpinned by the right technology, information systems and analytical capabilities
- strengthen partnerships to improve our ability to detect and manage threats offshore, while increasing our capacity to respond to incursions.

## Soils and Stewardship

Australia's agriculture industry depends on a biodiverse and well-managed resource base. We are recognising the critical role farmers play in looking after our resource base, ensuring the health and prosperity of our environment, regional communities and the broader economy. The 2021–22 Budget includes **\$228.9 million** in new funding to:

- conduct scientifically robust on-ground trials on around 140 farms through the Enhancing Remnant Vegetation Pilot, with the aim of testing methods to reward farmers for improving their native vegetation
- implement the Australian Farm Biodiversity Certification Scheme to provide a credible, independent assessment of how farmers are protecting biodiversity, helping to meet demand for improved environmental credentials for Australian products and deliver a premium price
- provide funding to develop a Biodiversity Trading Platform, which will enable farmers to connect with buyers of biodiversity outcomes and kick-start private sector biodiversity markets
- implement the National Soil Strategy and associated Commonwealth Interim Action Plan, setting out how we can value, manage and improve our soil resource base over the next 20 years
- pilot the National Soil Monitoring and Incentives Pilot program over 2 years, to help improve our understanding of Australia's soil condition and how to better manage it, assess the impact of land management practices on soil, assist farmers to improve their productivity and profitability, and better support farmers to participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund
- establish a National Soil Science Challenge grants program to help address fundamental gaps in soil knowledge
- work with Soil Science Australia and the Cooperative Research Centre for High Performance Soils to develop and trial a new education accreditation in soil science to provide further education and training for agronomists, extension officers and other trusted advisors to enhance soil science expertise and their ability to provide practical advice to farmers
- establish the Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund, to divert organic waste from landfill to agricultural use.

## Supply Chains

We are backing fair, strong and resilient supply chains, putting in place the frameworks so that everyone in the supply chain is treated fairly and pays their fair share. Through the 2021–22 Budget we have committed **\$5.4 million** to work with perishable agricultural goods supply chains to identify market transparency issues and co-design and co-fund the development of tools to improve price and market transparency.

## Water and Infrastructure

We are supporting Australian farmers and rural and regional communities with infrastructure, programs and reforms needed to secure a prosperous future. This includes extending the \$100.0 million On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme to 30 June 2022 and putting in place measures to respond to the ACCC Inquiry into the Murray–Darling Basin Water Market.

## Innovation

We are delivering targeted investments to drive improvements in collaboration, commercialisation and uptake to grow agricultural productivity and competitiveness. This Budget includes **\$34.8 million** in additional investment for:

- Agricultural Innovation Australia to develop investment strategies for four new National Agricultural Innovation Priorities on exports, climate resilience, biosecurity and digital agriculture
- supporting innovation in the forestry sector, including extending the existing nine Regional Forestry Hubs and creating two new Hubs, and undertaking a feasibility study into creating a super National Institute for Forest Products Innovation
- extending the Tuna Champions program, an education and stewardship program that aims to promote responsible recreational fishing for important tuna species
- fisheries deregulation through technological innovation to boost productivity and competitiveness.



## Human Capital

We are supporting industry to position agriculture as a modern industry with diverse career opportunities, to reflect the dynamic, innovative and resilient industry it is today. The 2021–22 Budget includes **\$29.8 million** of new funding to:

- establish AgATTRACT, to shift perceptions of modern agriculture and recognise its diverse career opportunities, including piloting ways to give young Australians a way to do a gap year in agriculture and providing more opportunities for upskilling and career progression with AgUP grants
- improve workforce management and planning through AgFAIR, to build the industry's attractiveness as a career path
- ensuring career advice and agriculture data reflects modern agriculture occupations.

We are also delivering Plantation Development Concessional Loans through existing Regional Investment Corporation loan funds to encourage new plantation developments and replanting bushfire-damaged plantations.

Across government, we are delivering measures to support rural communities recover from the challenges of 2020, including increasing funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service, extending the Drought Communities Small Business Pilot Program and waiving Business Income Reconciliation Debts accrued under the Farm Household Allowance.

## Why is this important

We have already taken significant action to help industry reach their ambitious target at the community, industry and national level. We have reformed policy settings and frameworks, directed substantial funding to new initiatives to better support industry, and listened to what industry has told us it needs.

The agriculture industry is a strong contributor to the Australian economy. Our combined farming, fishing and forestry sectors are expected to be valued at \$71.2 billion in 2020–21, made up of \$65.9 billion in farm gate value and \$5.3 billion from the fishery and forestry sectors. It is one of the only industries to grow in value despite the challenges of the past 18 months, including bushfires, drought, floods, COVID-19 and global trade disruptions.

The industry provides significant employment opportunities across regional and rural Australia, both directly and indirectly. Over 334,000 people are employed across Australian agriculture and a further 243,000 employed in the food and beverage manufacturing sector. The whole Australian agriculture supply chain employs 1.6 million people. All of these people will benefit directly from growth in the agriculture industry, as well as the broader Australian community and economy.

## How much will this cost

We will implement the full package over 4 years. The Australian Government will work with all stakeholders to implement the reforms

Agriculture 2030 Budget 2021–22 package		TOTAL \$million
<b>Supporting Trade</b>		
Supporting Trade – representation and promotion of Australia's interests in international fora and standard setting bodies		15.0
Supporting Trade – extend the Improved Access to Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals program		9.0
*Agri-Business Expansion Initiative (ABEI)		72.7
<b>Total: Supporting Trade</b>		<b>96.7</b>
<b>Biosecurity</b>		
Biosecurity – continue to protect Australia from the biosecurity risk posed by African swine fever		58.6
Biosecurity – for modern technologies and diagnostic tools to improve the speed and accuracy of pest and disease identification at the border		25.5
Biosecurity – trial pre border biosecurity screening technology on travellers and air cargo		19.5
Biosecurity – deliver digital capability for biosecurity screening of incoming international mail through new technology		31.2
Biosecurity – upgrade the Maritime Arrivals and Reporting System		28.7



Biosecurity – business case to improve systems that support the management of container cargo risk	1.5
Biosecurity – better understand how pests and diseases could enter Australia, to improve field tools and diagnostic capabilities	34.6
Biosecurity – to manage the biosecurity risk posed by hitchhiker pests arriving in imported cargo	96.8
Biosecurity – to ensure Australia continues to have a robust biosecurity preparedness and response capability in the event of a pest and disease outbreak	67.4
Biosecurity – to increase community and business biosecurity awareness	3.9
Biosecurity – for reduction & prevention activities to reduce the economic and environmental burden of established feral animals, pests & weeds	29.1
Commonwealth's Deregulation Agenda – proof of concept trials for new third party arrangements for imported cargo	3.2
*Strengthen biosecurity measures at the border – Khapra beetle threat	14.5
<b>Total: Biosecurity Package</b>	<b>414.5</b>
<b>Soil and Stewardship</b>	
Soil and Stewardship – pilot stewardship program	22.3
Soil and Stewardship – implement an Australian farm biodiversity certification scheme	5.4
Soil and Stewardship – develop a biodiversity trading platform	4.4
Soil and Stewardship – implement and coordinate programs in support of the National Soils Strategy	5.9
*Soil and Stewardship – National Soil Monitoring and Incentives Pilot Program	120.0
Soil and Stewardship – implement a National Soils Science Challenge	20.9
Soil and Stewardship – develop and roll out an accreditation standard to enhance soil education and expertise	1.1
Soil and Stewardship – deliver grants in partnership with states and territories through a Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund	67.0
<b>Total: Soil and Stewardship</b>	<b>246.9</b>
<b>Supply Chains</b>	
Supporting Trade – fund projects in collaboration with the perishable agriculture goods industry that improve market transparency in the sector	5.4
<b>Total: Supply Chains</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Innovation</b>	
Innovation – the development of strategies for forward investment into four National Agricultural Innovation Priorities	1.5
Forestry and Fisheries – establish new, Regional Forestry Hubs	10.6
Forestry and Fisheries – feasibility study to expand the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation	1.3
Forestry and Fisheries – extend and broaden the Tuna Champions program	0.9
Commonwealth's Deregulation Agenda – technological innovation to deliver fisheries deregulation – E-fish and expand Commonwealth electronic fishing vessel monitoring	20.1
<b>Total: Innovation</b>	<b>34.8</b>
<b>Human Capital</b>	
Improving employment opportunities – pilot AgCAREERSTART program	5.3
Improving employment opportunities – pilot AgUP program	10.1
Improving employment opportunities – research and development corporation to undertake research on the attraction and retention of agriculture sector workers	1.3
Improving employment opportunities – improve the collection, analysis and forecasting of agricultural labour force data	8.5
Improving employment opportunities – develop resources for agricultural employers to implement modern workforce management and planning practices	1.0
Improving employment opportunities – extend the Fair Farms program	3.6
Regional Investment Corporation – plantation development concessional loans	0.8
*Regional Investment Corporation – existing loan funding for plantation development concessional loans	37.5
<b>Total: Human Capital</b>	<b>68.1</b>
<b>Total: Agriculture 2030 Budget 2021–22</b>	<b>866.8</b>

*\* Costs for these measures have previously been provided by government (including in 2020–21) or will be partially met from existing funding.*

## More information

For more information about the Agriculture 2030 2021–22 Budget package, visit [awe.gov.au/budget](http://awe.gov.au/budget). For more information about the 2021–22 Budget visit [budget.gov.au](http://budget.gov.au). More detailed information on the government's plan to support industry reach its Ag2030 goal will be made available at [www.awe.gov.au/Ag2030](http://www.awe.gov.au/Ag2030).

