



Meeting 7, 5 December 2025

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel

Chair's Note

Key updates

On 5 December, I was pleased to host the seventh meeting of the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (the Panel).

The Panel was provided with updates on key developments since it last met in August 2025, including the appointment of the department's new Secretary, Victoria Anderson, and the expansion of Panel membership to include the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and the NFF Horticulture Council.

The department updated the Panel on its current financial position in relation to biosecurity and provided more details about the 2024-25 underspend for biosecurity Administered Programs.

Panel members were thanked for their input to the 2024-25 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report, which was published in October.

The department updated the Panel on the recent National Biosecurity Forum (Forum) and thanked those Panel members that attended this event. The Forum was held from 5 to 7 November 2025 and brought together over 180 participants representing a broad range of sectors and industries. Workshops covered topics including biosecurity sustainable funding and investment, biosecurity research and innovation priorities, and national biosecurity emergency response arrangement reform. The department noted that discussions from the sustainable funding workshop at the Forum will be used to progress the sustainable investment initial actions in the National Biosecurity Strategy 2024 Action Plan.

The department updated the Panel on the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, which was held on 7 November 2025 and included a deep-dive discussion on national biosecurity system strategic risks and reform opportunities. The Panel expressed interest in the department's proposed next steps for national reform and were invited to contribute to this work through discussions at Panel meetings over the course of 2026. The department agreed to provide further advice to the Panel on how this will occur.

Attendees

The following Panel members attended the meeting:

- Animal Health Australia Industry Forum
- 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
- National Farmers' Federation
- Plant Health Australia Industry Forum
- Seafood Industry Australia
- Sheep Producers Australia
- WoolProducers Australia.

I thank Panel members for their participation in this meeting and for their ongoing collaborative engagement and partnership in ensuring strengthened biosecurity outcomes for Australia.

Next meeting

The next Panel meeting will be held in **March 2026**.

Christie Sawczuk
A/g Deputy Secretary Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry