



Meeting 8, 12 March 2026

## ***Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel***

### **Chair's Note**

#### **Key updates**

On 12 March, I chaired the eighth meeting of the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (the Panel) and its first meeting for 2026.

We welcomed Victoria Anderson, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) who provided an overview of key Government and department priorities, and her prioritisation of regulatory reform opportunities to drive productivity. Panel members had an opportunity to make general comments and ask questions. A range of issues were discussed, including, opportunities for cost recovery and regulatory efficiencies, biosecurity regulatory maturity, the work of the Inspector-General of Biosecurity, and the importance of increasing stakeholder awareness about the strength and successes of Australia's biosecurity issues.

The department provided the Panel with an opportunity to ask questions about key developments since it last met in December 2025. The department provided an overview on proposed changes for cost recovery for export services and arrangements, and ongoing consultation to support these changes.

The department updated the Panel on its current financial position and forward outlook in relation to biosecurity, including a review of the 2025-26 departmental biosecurity funding and expenditure to date.

The department shared the proposed framework and improvements for the 2025-26 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report for their consideration, and thanked members for their feedback on past versions of this report.

Panel members were provided with a brief update on the national biosecurity reform agenda and departmental priorities for the 2026-27 financial year. The department confirmed that there would be a specific Panel meeting to discuss and provide input to the reform agenda.

#### **Attendees**

The following Panel members attended the meeting:

- Animal Health Australia Industry Forum
- Australian Dairy Farmers
- Australian Forest Products Association
- Australian Fresh Produce Alliance
- Australian Grape and Wine
- Cattle Australia
- Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis

- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Freight and Trade Alliance
- GrainGrowers
- International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
- Invasive Species Council
- National Farmers’ Federation
- National Farmers’ Federation Horticulture Council
- 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 Panel agreed that a dedicated national reform agenda meeting will be held in the **first half of 2026** and the next full Panel meeting will be held in **August 2026**.

**Justine Saunders**

**Deputy Secretary Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group**

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**