



Changes to cost recovery legislation in the 2026-27 financial year

The department has identified several amendments to legislation that are necessary to introduce new fees and charges, remove fees and charges that are no longer applied and revise those fees and charges that do not reflect the costs of service delivery.

The need for these amendments was identified through the:

- outcome of the annual review of cost recovery fees and charges
- review of the Biosecurity Regulation 2016, to inform the remake of that Regulation, due to sunset on 1 October 2026
- recent approval and release of import conditions facilitating the importation of live garden snails.

To support the efficient application of cost recovery fees and charges and allow the department to recover the cost of the regulatory activity it delivers, subject to approval of the legislation, amendments to the Biosecurity Charges Imposition (Customs) Regulation 2016, the Biosecurity Charges Imposition (General) Regulation 2016 and the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 have been identified and are proposed to commence on **1 July 2026**.

New cost recovery charges for live snail consignments housed at the post entry quarantine facility

The proposed cost recovery charges have been developed based on the expected effort and costs associated with the management of a consignment of live snails housed at a post entry quarantine (PEQ) facility. The level of effort reflects the risk management activities required when live snails are imported as described in [Importation of live garden snails \(Cornu aspersum\) for heliciculture - DAFF](#).

These costs will apply if an importer chooses to house a consignment of live snails at the PEQ facility. The proposed new fees and charges are described in Table 1.

Table 1 - Fees and charges for live snails

Category	Description	Unit	Rate (\$)
Fee	Husbandry activities in relation to a consignment of live snails which would include activities such as: Monitoring snail health during stay at PEQ Removal of dead or diseased snails Transport of snails Feeding and watering snails Cleaning and maintenance of the snail enclosure throughout the duration of the stay at the PEQ facility.	Per calendar month or part thereof, for each consignment	2,470
Charge	Reservation of a place in a post-entry quarantine facility for a consignment of live snails, and administration and management of biosecurity activities in relation to the consignment.	Per consignment	892
Charge	Confirmation of a reservation of a place in a post-entry quarantine facility for a consignment of live snails, and administration and management of biosecurity activities in relation to the consignment.	Per consignment	3,571

Removing redundant provisions in legislation

The department is proposing to remove 3 provisions relating to the application of cost recovery fees that are no longer applied. Table 2 describes the provisions we are proposing to remove.

Table 2 - Redundant provisions in legislation

Category	Application	Rationale for removal
Fee	Husbandry activities in relation to a horse in a post-entry quarantine facility, for each day after the initial 14 day period during which the horse stayed at the post-entry quarantine facility	The department does not provide husbandry services for horses during their stay in the post entry quarantine facility.
Fee	Assessment of a permit application provided on a weekday outside ordinary hours of duty	This activity rarely occurs outside ordinary hours on a weekday; in the event it does an existing provision allows the department to charge for the activity.
	Assessment of a permit application provided on a Saturday, Sunday or a departmental holiday	This activity rarely occurs on a weekend or departmental holiday, in the event it does an existing provision allows the department to charge for the activity.

Clarity on cost recovery charges for avian imports

The recent reviews of cost recovery legislation identified amendments needed to legislative provisions to ensure charging for avian imports better reflects the costs of the services delivered and provides clarity on the application of cost recovery charges.

Cost recovery charges for avian imports include a reservation charge, a confirmation of reservation charge and a daily husbandry fee.

Existing provisions in biosecurity charging legislation set the application of cost recovery charges for husbandry services and avian biosecurity activities on a per consignment basis. The proposed amendments would instead charge for those activities per biocontainment unit.

- A single consignment may occupy one or multiple biocontainment units at the post entry quarantine facility.
- The cost to the department varies depending on how many biocontainment units are needed to house a consignment.
- Existing avian importers nominate the number of biocontainment units needed to house a consignment.

To ensure the cost recovery charges better reflect the costs of the services delivered, the charges for avian consignments need to be applied based on the number of biocontainment units occupied.

This change provides clarity on the application of fees and charges for avian imports.