

Management response

This is the management response of the independent evaluation of the Pacific Biosecurity Partnerships Program (PBPP) and Phase 3 of the Solomon Islands Biosecurity Development Program (SIBDP). Both programs are funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and implemented by the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

The PBPP is a regional program which partners with Pacific island biosecurity agencies and regional organisations to strengthen regional capacity to identify and manage biosecurity risks in line with international standards and improve understanding of safe trade and market access practices.

The SIBDP is a bilateral, capacity development program that provides technical, operational and institutional support to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Biosecurity Solomons Islands. The program is supported by a DAFF in-country official based in Honiara to facilitate program coordination and delivery as the In-Country Manager.

Both programs directly support DFAT and DAFF priorities, including under the Australia–Pacific Regional Development Partnership Plan 2025–2029, and the DAFF Biosecurity 2030 Roadmap and the Pacific Biosecurity Strategy 2022 to 2027. They also reflect Australia’s whole-of-government approach to engagement with the Pacific and support partner government priorities by strengthening biosecurity systems, trade and regional resilience.

DAFF and DFAT welcome the findings of the mid-term independent evaluation, including its recognition that the programs are strengthening relationships and biosecurity systems across the region. The findings have already informed implementation planning for 2026–27 and will guide any future design or programming decisions.

DAFF and DFAT recognise that the operating environment in the Pacific, and Solomon Islands in particular, has changed since the start of both programs. Any future design will need to respond to this evolving context, clearly articulate the scope and objectives of Australia’s support, and how they can best complement related programs in the agriculture and trade sectors.

Recommendation		Response	Actions - PBPP	Actions - SIBDP	Responsibility
1	Continue to engage with PIC governments, SPC, New Zealand and other donors/programs about regional strategies for biosecurity and best uses of available resources for collective impact.	Agree	Collaboration continues to be a focus of the PBPP. To inform the 2026-27 workplan, DAFF engaged with Pacific Island Countries (PICs), the Pacific Community (SPC), PACER Plus and New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) to identify and design program activities, avoid duplication and improve outcomes. If the program is extended, the PBPP will have a dedicated design process to enable adequate consultation and collaboration with regional partners, as well as other relevant programs in the trade and agriculture space.	Collaboration continues to be a focus of the SIBDP. The In-Country Manager regularly engages with relevant organisations to design and implement activities. If the program is extended, a dedicated design process will enable adequate consultation between DFAT and DAFF for better alignment of objectives and expectations, and with partners, as well as other relevant programs in the export and agriculture space.	DAFF & DFAT
2	Monitoring could include introducing a biosecurity agency 'maturity model' or similar, appropriate to the	Partially agree	DFAT and DAFF agree that more transparent monitoring of institutional capacity and	The SIBDP Phase 3 was developed based on an assessment of Biosecurity	DAFF & DFAT

	Pacific, to more transparently and objectively identify local or regional needs and assess the extent of change over time. A maturity model could help with intervention planning, training needs assessments and assessments of rapid response systems.		change over time is important. However, given PBPP's regional scope and current resourcing, a formal country-level maturity model has not been considered as part of the current program. If the program is extended, the PBPP will have a dedicated design process to enable adequate consultation and collaboration, including a more in-depth consideration of how to tailor regional activities to be effective for participating PICs.	Solomon Islands, undertaken in collaboration with DAFF at the end of Phase 2. The program design for the 2026-27 financial year was developed closely with staff from Biosecurity Solomon Islands, to ensure activities meet organisational needs. If the program is extended, the SIBDP will have a dedicated design process to enable adequate consultation and collaboration with BSI staff to ensure activities meet their organisational needs.	
3	If resourcing stays similar to current levels, PBPP (and potentially SIBDP) should be clearer that it is only able to offer a narrow portfolio of projects, what those projects are, and what Australia's interest is in them.	Agree	DFAT and DAFF have revised the PBPP theory of change for the 2026-27 financial year, to articulate outcomes and scope.	If the program is extended, the SIBDP will have a dedicated design process, including a clear articulation of scope and outcomes, with appropriate resources allocated, as	DAFF & DFAT

			If the program is extended, the PBPP will have a dedicated design process, including a clear articulation of scope and outcomes, with appropriate resources allocated, as required by DFATs Design and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Standards.	required by DFATs Design and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Standards.	
4	Contingent on resources, continue to uphold relationship-building as a core priority for the Programs, but with more specificity about the role of South-to-South partnerships, technical exchanges, joint assessments and Australia's role in those partnerships.	Agree	Relationship building remains a core priority for the PBPP. One of three program outcomes is 'collaborative partnerships with Pacific Island Governments, regional organisations and stakeholders are enhanced, as demonstrated by co-design, co-delivery, and coordinated implementation of program priorities.' Early in 2025-26 DFAT provided DAFF two years of funding certainty, providing more time for considered	Relationship building remains a core priority for the SIBDP. The In-Country Manager position has been continued for the 2026-27 financial year. If the program is extended, activities to further develop relationships, and develop sustained outcomes, will be explored.	DAFF & DFAT

			planning and implementation. If the program is extended, future design and planning will give more explicit consideration to where South-to-South partnerships, technical exchanges and joint assessments can add value, and how Australia can best support these partnerships.		
5	Establish a clear and proportionate monitoring and evaluation plan for future Pacific biosecurity partnering or participation that applies the DFAT Design and MEL Standards and the GEDSI Analysis Good Practice Note. EOPOs should also be better expressed in the form of 'end states' than the current set.	Partially agree	DFAT and DAFF have revised the PBPP theory of change to include clear outcomes and indicators aligned with DFAT Design and MEL Standards, following receipt of the initial evaluation findings. DAFF has incorporated these changes into planned activities for the 2026-27 work plan. Activities primarily focus on technical capacity building and capability development for biosecurity personnel,	Activities primarily focus on technical capacity building and capability development for BSI personnel, including female officers. However, DAFF acknowledges that gender equality remains an important consideration when coordinating and delivering activities in Solomon Islands. If the program is extended, the SIBDP will have a	DAFF & DFAT

			including female officers, across the Pacific region. However, DAFF acknowledges that gender equality remains an important consideration when coordinating and delivering PBPP activities in the region. If the program is extended, the PBPP will have a dedicated design process in line with relevant DFAT policies and standards, including DFAT Design and MEL Standards and GEDSI Analysis Good Practice Note.	dedicated design process in line with relevant DFAT policies and standards, including consideration of DFAT Design and MEL Standards and GEDSI Analysis Good Practice Note.	
6	Before investing further in regional electronic systems-related work (e.g. ePhyto or Pest List Database), review whether complementary 'soft' activities (people- and process- focussed) are required to realise timely benefits.	Agree	DAFF and DFAT recognise the importance of people and process and the need for focused activities to compliment systems work. The planned updates to the Pacific Pest List Database in 2026-27 will be accompanied by demonstrations and active encouragement to use the	DAFF and DFAT recognise the importance of people and process focused activities to compliment systems work. If the program is extended, the SIBDP will have a dedicated design process where the sustainability and	DAFF & DFAT

			database to compliment field surveillance activities. If the program is extended, the PBPP will have a dedicated design process where the sustainability and relevance of activities will be considered.	relevance of activities will be considered.	
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