



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT CARGO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

86th DCCC Meeting

Tuesday 21 July 2020

Teleconference 10am-12pm

Attendees

Present

Barb Cooper	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Acting Chair)
Emily Canning	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Peter Creaser	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Richard Chadwick	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Linda Jennings	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Lee Cale	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Rick Hawe	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Brian Schumacher	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Anita Tapper	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Chris Dulgerov	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Carl Ng	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Sarah Bruce	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Cathryn Geiger	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Ineke Redmond	Australian Border Force, Department of Home Affairs
Paul Damkjaer	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia
Zoran Kostadinovski	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia
Stuart McFarlane	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia
Paul Zalai	Freight and Trade Alliance
Sal Milici	Freight and Trade Alliance
Dianne Tipping	Export Council of Australia
Tony McDonald	Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries
Paul Bagnall	Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
Craig Birchall	Board of Airline Representatives Australia
Carolyn Macgill	Food and Beverage Importers Association
Rod Nairn	Shipping Australia Limited
Peter Van Duyn	International Cargo Handling Coordination Association

Secretariat

Dale Jeffery	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Kim Cameron	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Apologies

Peta Lane	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Peter Cook	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Jagtej Singh	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment



Agenda item 1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The chair welcomed members and observers to the 86th DCCC meeting. Members noted two new appointments to the Committee - Tony McDonald from the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (member) and Ineke Redmond from Australian Border Force (observer) and extended their welcome.

The chair advised that papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

Agenda item 2. Biosecurity Cost Recovery Update

2.1 Biosecurity Cost Recovery Review

Ms Tapper advised members that the planned consultation on biosecurity charges has been delayed due to COVID 19. The review will be paused while the department seeks government direction in light of changed global conditions.

2.2 Biosecurity – 3rd qtr financial report

Members noted the results reported in agenda paper *March year-to-date (YTD) 2019-20 for the Biosecurity Arrangement*.

Mr Nairn enquired whether the increased FID and arrival charges implemented on 1 January 2020, are included in the expense lines in the report. Ms Tapper confirmed they are included.

Ms Tapper advised that the 20-21 external budget process has been delayed until October 2020. This has meant that the department's budget has not been finalised. The department will be working on different scenarios in relation to estimating revenue and expenses and is seeking insight and input from industry on anticipated activity levels. Ms Tapper invited industry members to provide details to the DCCC secretariat.

2.3 Biosecurity – 3rd qtr debt report

Members noted the results reported in the *Debt Report* agenda paper.

Mr Dulgerov invited industry customers to reach out to the Accounts Receivable and Debt Management Team if they have been affected by natural disasters or COVID-19 and are experiencing difficulties in paying their accounts. The department can help resolve payment and billing issues for customers facing financial hardship.

Agenda item 3. Biosecurity Operations Update

3.1 Service standards

Ms Cale reported the following:

- The Assessment and Client Contact (ACC) Group has successfully transitioned a large of part of the bookings and call centre staff from office to home working arrangements.
- Inspections Group has been able to deploy staff from the airport environment into ACCC, realising benefits of cross-training across the operations workforce.
- Assessments, calls, bookings and inspections service standards are optimal.



- Priority clearance processes have been established with Home Affairs to allow release of urgent COVID supplies.
- Stage 2 of automation went live on 20 July. ACC is still working on MinDocs automation and planning to implement Stage 1 at the end of August and Stage 2 at the end of September/October 2020.

Ms Tipping remarked on the great level of service being received from the department that has allowed volumes of cargo to be processed.

Mr McFarlane commended the department on its positive transition to remote operations.

3.2 Commercial import trade forecast

Mr Hawe reported that the department's data analytics are showing inspection and fee for service revenue is trending upwards, but Full Import Declarations (FIDs) are down. As the cost recovery framework relies on FID and fee for service revenue, modelling future activity and resourcing is expected to be challenging.

Mr Hawe asked members for their views on trade projections.

- Expecting 10% drop in trade volumes, however, the nature of the products being imported are requiring inspection.
- Projections will vary state to state i.e. Trade volumes in South Australia have been consistently higher than last year. Queensland and Western Australia are performing better than other states.
- Cargo usually imported on international passenger flights is being flown to Singapore and then shipped to Australia.
- Ecommerce is booming and expected to keep growing at a steady rate. Industry would like the ecommerce sector to be in the scope of the next Biosecurity cost-recovery review.

The department would welcome ongoing feedback from industry members on import and export trends. This can be sent to the DCCC Secretariat.

3.3 Biosecurity officer inspection workforce

Mr Hawe provided an overview of the key points and recommendations as presented in the agenda paper and sought feedback from members. Mr Zalai advised that the FTA has concerns with the changes being proposed and would like further opportunity to discuss them with the department.

Action: DCCC Secretariat to organise a teleconference to discuss the biosecurity officer inspection workforce proposal.

3.4 BMSB wrap-up

The committee acknowledged the fortnightly teleconferences that were held for members throughout the 2019-20 BMSB season. Ms Cooper informed members that the department will provide a written wrap-up of the 2019-20 BMSB season. This will be circulated to members out-of-session.

The department is now focusing on preparing for the 2020-21 BSMB season, currently 6 weeks away. At this stage there are no significant changes to the season's policy. There will be 3 new risk



countries, however they import minimal cargo from BMSB risk categories. The policy relating to sulfuryl fluoride treatment has also been amended, based on feedback.

Mr Zalai asked for an update on the re-registration of treatment providers onto the offshore treatment provider scheme for the 2020-21 season. Mr Ng undertook to provide members with an update out-of-session.

3.5 African swine fever (ASF) update

Ms Cooper provided an overview of the key points contained in the agenda paper. Members noted that mail screening at Sydney gateway facility has increased significantly. India and PNG have been added to the ASF country list.

3.6 COVID-19 update

Members noted the impact COVID-19 has had on the department's assessment, bookings and inspectorate workforce. Ms Cooper thanked members for their continued support of measures being implemented by the department to transition the workforce to new working arrangements.

3.7 Khapra beetle update

Ms Bruce talked to the emerging khapra beetle risk and the department's proposed management strategy and sought feedback from members.

- Emergency measures will be implemented for risk commodities and containers.
- Measures applying to containers will be phased.
- Packing declaration requirements are being reviewed. An import industry advice notice is planned to seek feedback on the proposed measures.

Mr Zalai asked about the timeframe for implementing changes to packing declarations and treatment requirements for containers. The department will need to consider the impact on industry if the measures are similar to the ones implemented for BMSB.

Mr Kostadinovski advised that the changes will be a big deal for industry and 6 weeks may not be enough time to implement.

Mr Nairn raised the difficulty that will exist in certifying that the under floor of containers are free of khapra beetle.

Members agreed to meet out-of-session for a more detailed discussion on the measures.

Action: DCCC Secretariat to organise a teleconference to discuss the khapra beetle measures.

Agenda item 4. Compliance updates

4.1 IMS update

Mr Schumacher delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Biosecurity Integrated Information System (BIIS). Members heard about the progress of the BIIS products – what has been released so far and planned next steps. A copy of the presentation will be circulated to members out-of-session.



4.2 Enforcement/fit and proper persons

Dr Chadwick talked about fraudulent documents and asked industry members to contact the department if they come across documents that raise suspicion. Members noted that the Courts are taking document breaches seriously.

No update on fit and proper persons.

5. Other business

- An information paper providing an update on the work of the Biosecurity 2025 and Beyond initiative was circulated to members for consideration. Feedback on the progress of the initiatives was sought by 28 July 2020.
- DCCC Secretariat will circulate date and time options for the next DCCC meeting later this year.
- Mr Kostadinovski requested that brokers must be the first point of contact for the department in relation to ACC matters.
- Members were asked to provide comments and/or changes to DCCC meeting 85 minutes by 28 July 2020. Minutes will be taken as accepted after this date.

Meeting concluded at 12.00pm.