



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT CARGO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

FINAL MINUTES

89th DCCC Meeting

9 August 2021

Microsoft Teams 10:00am-12:00pm

Attendees

Present

Col Hunter (Chair)	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Lee Cale	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Leanne Herrick	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Peter Timson	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (in part)
Rachel Short	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Kathleen Quan	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (guest)
Kathy Belka	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (guest, in part)
Paul Douglas	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (guest)
Vikki Fischer	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (guest)
Andrew Patterson	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (guest)
Matt Koval	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (guest, in part)
Sal Milici	Freight and Trade Alliance
Dianne Tipping	Export Council of Australia
Tony McDonald	Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries
Craig Birchall	Board of Airline Representatives Australia
Carolyn Macgill	Food and Beverage Importers Association
Melwyn Noronha	Shipping Australia Limited
Peter Van Duyn	International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
Paul Bagnall	Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
Gregory Carroll	Australia Post
Zoran Kostadinovski	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia (proxy)

Observers

Michael Gallacher	Ports Australia
Lisa Milin	Australian Border Force (in part)

External Guests

Christie Sawzuck	Simplified Trade System Implementation Taskforce (in part)
------------------	--

Secretariat

Amy Mason	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
-----------	--

Apologies

Barb Cooper	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Peta Lane	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Paul Damkjaer	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia

Agenda item 1

Chair's introduction and welcome

Col Hunter, First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Operations Division welcomed all members, observers and guests to the Committee's 89th meeting as the new chair of the forum and called for any declarations of conflicts of interest.

Mr Milici raised a potential conflict of interest with Freight and Trade Alliance working on a business case with the department in terms of digitizing the cargo transport unit (CTU) code. The 12-month project may ultimately provide additional data to the department generated at the time of container packing. Mr Hunter confirmed this would not have any bearing on the discussions at the meeting. No other conflicts of interests were raised.

On items under other business, Mr Hunter indicated he would be tabling a statement of the department's performance against service standards. No other items of business were raised.

Minutes and actions

Mr Hunter acknowledged the delay in circulation of the previous meeting minutes and advised the department would ensure draft minutes were distributed two weeks following the meeting. With no feedback from members the minutes from the 88th meeting were taken as read and accepted.

Members noted that action items from previous meetings are either in progress, complete or closed. With no comments from members, the action items were taken as read.

Agenda item 2

Items for discussion and decision

DCCC administration review – proposed refresh of the objectives and operating arrangements

Members noted that the national biosecurity system was facing multiple threats on multiple fronts. In recognition of this, the Australian Government agreed to invest a further \$400 million over the next four years to boost efforts to future proof the system. This investment is largely due to industry support which thanks were passed on to members who provided information to support the case for additional funding.

Mr Hunter advised that while most of this investment would be directed to modernising IT systems, new screening and analytical capabilities, there was also an expectation that the department would explore different ways of doing business.

To achieve this, DAWE is using the [Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030](#) as a strategic roadmap with nine strategic actions.

Mr Hunter proposed that members be provided with an update on work against these nine actions at the next meeting.

Action: Secretariat to circulate the link to the Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 strategic roadmap to members.

Action: Secretariat to include a progress update on work to deliver the nine strategic actions under the [Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030](#) roadmap on the agenda at the next meeting.

Ms Herrick advised different ways of doing business included having stronger partnerships with industry, and that this provided an opportune time to revisit the committee's operating arrangements to maximise its effectiveness.

DAWE is proposing a refresh of the DCCC Administrative Guidelines to streamline and improve the governance arrangements, ensure a more strategic focus, and allow for appropriate representation across relevant trade and the import logistics sectors.

Ms Herrick added the refresh had started with progress updates being circulated in advance of the meeting and for discussion on the day by exception. The department would also be introducing a communique summarising the discussions and outcomes of the meeting for broader consumption. The department will also look to publish information of a general nature that is usually provided to members on its website, thereby making it publicly available. A forward looking workplan would also be developed in collaboration with members to ensure a forward plan for the committee to progress actions/initiatives between meetings and to foreshadow proposals that will come to the committee for discussion at a future date.

Members were supportive of the refresh of the DCCC operating arrangements and the development of a workplan.

Members noted the secretariat would invite members to provide items for inclusion on the future meeting agendas.

Action: Secretariat to progress a review of the DCCC Administration Guidelines, including Terms of Reference and membership, and circulate to members out of session for comment.

Action: Secretariat to develop a workplan in consultation with DCCC members out of session.

Ms Herrick also sought member feedback on proposed changes to consultation arrangements before Import Industry Advice Notices (IIANs) are published. IIANs are provided in advance to DCCC members to provide comment on content, except where these are urgent or routine in matter. Ms Herrick added that in most cases, no feedback was received and for this reason, the department was proposing draft notices only be provided for comment where the matter is sensitive or contentious in nature.

Members noted

- in some instances, feedback was not necessary as relevant members had been made aware of and engaged on the subject prior to the notice being drafted
- 90 percent of IIANs are of issues where feedback cannot be provided
- DAWE would know if content was contentious which the opportunity to provide feedback would be welcomed
- IIANs should be provided earlier, noting DAWE to decide whether changes are accepted.

Mr Hunter noted the importance of providing advance notice of the IIANs going out, particularly those that are sensitive or contentious in nature, or where there are policy changes. DAWE will make sure systems and processes continue to support this and will navigate in a sensible and methodical way, further noting DAWE looks forward to the contributions that members make before notices are published to ensure these are well thought through.

DAWE will make some minor changes to the process but keep members well and truly informed of advance notices, and where policy changes or sensitive or contentious matters, that robust consultation before publishing continues.

Members were invited to raise any concerns for discussion out of session.

Action – Secretariat to undertake a review on the change in consultation period for Import Industry Advice Notices to ensure this remains fit-for-purpose.

Members noted some of the work DAWE is doing to align industry engagement internally for both import and export functions to avoid duplicating engagement. DAWE is also working closely with the Department of Home Affairs, Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Simplified Trade System (STS) Implementation Taskforce to streamline regulation and deliver a simplified government-to-business interaction model for both import and export.

Agenda item 3 Presentations

3.1 Simplified Trade System Implementation Taskforce

Ms Sawzuck attended on behalf of Randall Brugeaud, Head of the STS Taskforce, to provide a presentation on the overview of the taskforce's objectives.

Members noted the STS was announced by the Australian Government in the second half of 2020 as a significant micro economic reform package, seeking to modernise and streamline legislation and regulation for cross border trade; harmonise systems; ensure better harnessing of data; use of new, emerging and better technology; and enhancing our economic resilience.

Members noted Prime Minister Scott Morrison requested the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment take a whole-of-government leadership of the STS agenda that is coordinated and integrated and ensures the best business outcomes. As a result, the STS Taskforce was stood up on 1 July 2021 with Minister Tehan appointing Mr Randall Brugeaud as the Head of Taskforce. The Taskforce sits independently within the trade portfolio to ensure a whole-of-government agenda.

Members noted key deliverables for the STS Taskforce for the 12 months, including:

- Providing government with some options to deliver and design a tell-us-once digital service for exporters and importers.
- Undertaking a comprehensive review of all cross-border trade regulations to look at opportunities to streamline and simplify, drawing on work already done in this space, noting DAWE has done a number of reviews that can be leveraged.
- Mapping the end-to-end trade journey process for imports and exporters.
- Looking at mapping all the IT systems that are involved in cross-border trade.

Members noted the STS Taskforce has established governance arrangements to ensure a whole-of-government reform program and collaboration, including:

- A joint ministerial taskforce for Simplified Trade agenda, chaired by Minister Tehan, and consisting of ministers that have a responsibility in border trade.
- An industry advisory council (IAC) which Minister Tehan has appointed members from key sectors such as agriculture, IT, wholesalers, importers, exporters, freight supply chains and logistics.
- Government agency Secretaries coming together to talk about STS and ensure whole-of-government collaboration.

The STS Taskforce is also looking at other countries like US, Canada, Korea, Japan and Singapore to leverage and build a future cross-border trading system that is fit-for-purpose for our arrangements.

Mr Noronha sought clarification on state government engagement, noting stevedores and seaports need to be involved. Ms Sawzuck confirmed the STS Taskforce is engaging with states and territories as a number are progressing reforms. The taskforce is also connecting with Ministers.

Mr Milici noted most members already use software that interact with ABF, asking whether current software/platforms could be used. Ms Sawzuck confirmed the STS Taskforce is engaging with other entities in the supply chain and looking at mapping government IT systems and how they currently interact.

Ms Tipping asked whether the STS Taskforce was considering interoperability to incorporate as many systems as possible. Ms Sawzuck responded that the Taskforce is focusing on modernising, with the ability for systems to exchange information fundamental to the Taskforce's work.

Mr Kostadinovski commented on the great initiative, noting single window data can be used by both DAWE and ABF as they have similar data, noting the need to ensure biosecurity is part of the single window (single entry and single data) for efficiency. Ms Sawzuck noted the importance of harmonising data which the Taskforce is looking to leverage digital global standards and opportunities to streamline.

Mr Carroll noted the focus is on trade modernisation, seeking whether there will be a focus on e-commerce. Ms Sawzuck noted e-commerce is significant and captured under the STS and the reform in current terms, but also for the future, acknowledging Mr Carroll's offer to work together in mapping out.

Mr Gallacher noted it would be good to see cooperation between the states and federal government in relation to freight community system, with some having different views, and to be considered before projects commence. Mr Hunter noted DAWE has an internal STS taskforce with a lot of policy work being led out of the Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division, led by Peta Lane. Biosecurity Operations Division have a significant interface, led by Leanne Herrick and Kathleen Quan, to ensure DAWE's engagement in the journey and ensure our consultation processes are aligned.

Members noted the work of the STS Taskforce will be delivered in increments to consider the reforms already underway, what stakeholders they impact and to look at priorities of reforms and advice from businesses.

Action – Secretariat to circulate the presentation from the Simplified Trade System Implementation Taskforce to DCCC members.

3.2 Cargo Intervention Model

Ms Milin attended as an observer from the ABF to provide a presentation on their role in Simplified Trade.

Members noted ABF is looking at a series of incremental and sequenced reform initiatives to help create a deregulated and simplified framework. ABF will undertake a phased approach, prioritising and sequencing their reforms, to help businesses manage the transition while integrating with the STS Taskforce and DAWE to deliver on these reforms.

Members noted ABF's immediate focus is on a first tranche of the regulatory reform package, working with the STS Taskforce and digital verification platform for paperless trade for Australian exporters. The second tranche will look at regulatory reforms in collaboration with DAWE on a number of border modernisation proposals including streamlining the intervention model for sea and air cargo, combined border services, and new operating model for international mail.

Members noted ABF is undertaking comprehensive regulatory review and ICT scoping studies which will inform the design of the future regulatory framework and systems. ABF is also developing a regulatory sandbox within the *Customs Act 1901* that will enable some small-scale limited trials with industry to help build the evidence base to inform longer term during reforms.

Members noted ABF has commenced their engagement, particularly in the regulatory sandbox to see what trials might look like, and the likely benefits; how they might be able to look at things like information sharing between government and industry; also looking at opportunities to try and use existing information, taking into consideration ICT constraints and biosecurity enforcement issues.

Members noted ABF will be coming out to industry in the next week or two to talk about their streamline cargo intervention model for sea and air cargo to inspect a higher proportion of cargo faster and smarter, removing as many delays as possible for legitimate trade.

Mr Hunter noted Secretary Andrew Metcalf, also the Director of Biosecurity, met with the ABF Commissioner last week to discuss a whole range of interface issues, further noting the strengthening partnership between the agencies.

Mr Kostadinovski noted the importance of having a whole-of-government approach in relation to trade facilitation, asking how the department will resource for increased intervention for end-to-end clearance. Ms Milin noted ABF will be engaging with industry to come up with the best model for cargo screening. Both DAWE and ABF want to streamline where things are taken out of the supply chain, noting better decisions may be made with better technology.

Mr Hunter would like to see ABF continue to be included in DCCC meetings.

Action – Secretariat to circulate the presentation from ABF to DCCC members.

3. 3 Biosecurity Portal

Ms Belka attended to provide a presentation on the progress and use of the Biosecurity Portal.

Members noted DAWE is continuing work to progress the Biosecurity Portal for cost effectiveness across biosecurity. A limited release is planned from September 2021 to test the portal's capability with booking, viewing and cancelling inspections.

Members noted the current process is heavily manual to manage bookings, including the need to consider a whole range of factors including commodity, officer competency for a particular inspection, and vehicle booking. Changes in appointment times can also occur when goods have not arrived that requires an officer to manually change the booking. The portal will:

- enable inspections to be managed 24x7, including cancelling bookings at any time
- enable inspection officers to be matched quickly to inspection requests
- enable personal accounts to be linked to a business account for tracking bookings in an organisation
- provide a live status of a booking request (i.e., received, pending and confirmed)
- remove the need for attaching forms
- reduce errors when booking inspections.

Ms Belka noted access to portal set up would be through MyGov ID, which requires an ABN to authenticate. Privacy and information is protected.



Members noted DAWE is moving to final end-to-end testing of the portal's functionality before the limited release in September. DAWE will seek industry participation in the limited release testing for a period of two to three months.

Members noted future enhancements and/or next phases will include the ability to amend locations (this has been partially built), and automation of bookings. DAWE is working with a vendor and Microsoft to automate booking processes.

A thorough review will be undertaken before broader release, which will also define future enhancements, to ensure the delivery of a quality product.

Mr Hunter noted the importance of the portal, particularly ahead of the Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) season, which DAWE is informed by the pilots to test the capability.

Mr Hunter advised members of a large project underway in terms of workforce capability and how DAWE captures and provides information to the workforce to ensure officers are deployed in the most efficient and effective way. DAWE is also focusing on the end-to-end journey and how they are brought together. A presentation will be provided at the next meeting to provide an update.

Action - Secretariat to include a presentation on the agenda at the next DCCC meeting on workforce capability.

Agenda item 4 Updates for noting

Members noted the agenda papers for standard updates including cargo operational reforms, trial of virtual label/visual imported food inspections, measures to BMSB and khapra beetle responses, gateway clearances for sea cargo, non-compliance report, and biosecurity financial reports and cost recovery arrangement.

Mr Hunter noted, in relation to the finance report on cost recovery, DAWE has seen an increase in revenue for cargo arrivals. A recruitment process is well underway to bring in more resources for an additional 100 ASL. 1,600 applications were received for available jobs for biosecurity officers.

Mr Milici noted the different environment since the last DCCC meeting, extending best wishes to those on the front line, noting the industry cohorts are not raising any issues at the border.

Agenda Item 5 Next meeting and other business

Mr Hunter noted the Biosecurity Operations Division Performance Measures 2020-21 will be shared with members following the meeting, also to be published in the annual report.

Mr Hunter thanked industry and DAWE staff for their work through the latest issues with COVID-19 to keep people safe and to ensure business continuity.

Mr Kostadinovski noted the BMSB season was nearing, asking whether the recruitment activity can provide capability for the season ahead to meet service standards. Mr Hunter noted that BMSB is all about supply chain. DAWE is seeing a normal attrition rate of 4-5% for biosecurity officers. DAWE is continuing to increase and deploy capability for hitchhiker measures, noting these are working well including offshore fumigation where dead BMSB are arriving instead of live.

Mr Hunter proposed an offline discussion on hitchhiker measures with some industry members to ensure alignment. Mr Hunter will raise the possibility of a roundtable discussion with Chris Park, First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Plant Division.



Ms Cale noted work progressing with automation in the minimum document and self-assessment clearance (SAC) space. Automation with third party premises will come in the last quarter of the calendar year which is expected to take pressure off assessments.

Ms Cale also noted DAWE still need assistance from industry in lodging early and accurately with still a high level of COL lodgements (near 2,000 entries per day) one day before the vessel arrives. DAWE is looking at what lodgements are legitimately late compared to non-legitimately late.

Ms Macgill sought guidance on which agenda papers provided to members can be shared more broadly. Members noted the Secretariat will come back to members on what papers can be shared. The minutes and communique will be published on the website for sharing. DAWE is also looking to have information available on the website that can be shared more broadly.

Action – Secretariat to circulate the Biosecurity Operations Division Performance Measures 2020-21 to DCCC members

Action - Confirm possibility of a roundtable discussion on hitchhiker measures, and schedule for out-of-session discussion

Action – Secretariat to provide confirmation to DCCC members on what DCCC agenda papers can be shared more broadly and identify future agenda papers as confidential not for further distribution.

Mr Hunter thanked members for their participation in a useful and interactive meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12.05pm.



Summary of action items

Item no	Action	Responsible Owner
2	Circulate the link to the Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 strategic roadmap to members	Secretariat
2	Include a progress update on work to deliver the nine strategic actions under the Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 roadmap on the agenda at the next meeting	Secretariat
2	Progress a review of the DCCC Administration Guidelines, including Terms of Reference and membership, and circulate to members out of session for comment	Secretariat
2	Develop a workplan in consultation with DCCC members out of session	Secretariat
2	Undertake a review on the change in consultation period for Import Industry Advice Notices to ensure this remains fit-for-purpose.	Secretariat
3.1	Circulate the presentation from the Simplified Trade System Implementation Taskforce to DCCC members.	Secretariat
3.2	Circulate the presentation from the Australian Border Force for an update on the Simplified Trade System to DCCC members	Secretariat
3.3	Include a presentation on the agenda at the next DCCC meeting on workforce capability	Secretariat
5	Circulate the Biosecurity Operations Division Performance Measures 2020-21 to DCCC members	Secretariat
5	Confirm possibility of a roundtable discussion on hitchhiker measures, and schedule for out-of-session discussion	Col Hunter / Secretariat
5	Provide confirmation to DCCC members on what DCCC agenda papers can be shared more broadly, and identify future agenda papers as confidential not for further distribution	Secretariat