



DCCC Meeting 91 Communique

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Cargo Consultative Committee (DCCC) met via virtual platform on 7 March 2022.

The DCCC welcomed Zoran Kostadinovski as an official member representing International Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of Australia, following Paul Damkjaer's decision to step down as member.

Members discussed the consultation draft of the National Biosecurity Strategy which opened for public comment on 21 February 2022 and closes 18 March 2022. The strategy sets out six priority areas of focus based on initial consultation in late 2021. The six areas for a shared biosecurity culture; stronger partnerships; building a more highly skilled workforce; more coordinated preparedness and response; sustainable investment into the biosecurity system; and driving an integrated trade system. The final strategy is expected to be released in the second quarter 2022.

Members discussed key metrics and data types for inclusion in a non-compliance behaviour report to ensure it can be used as an education piece to assist the department and industry in addressing these behaviours. Industry members were also encouraged to provide observations and data on emerging trade issues at future meetings.

Members noted the lessening impact of COVID-19 on departmental resources with significant improvement from January 2022 on assessment and inspection services. The removal of the requirement to notify the department of all COVID-19 cases at Third Party Premises (TPP) was welcomed.

Members were advised that the impact of the floods across NSW on biosecurity inspection activities had been minimal, except for some rural areas. The impact was more significant in Queensland, particularly around Brisbane, resulting in cancellations of inspections mainly from industry. Delays may be expected as the floods recede.

Members observed presentations on an overview of the Compliance System; the Biosecurity Operations Division's regulatory uplift program and establishment of a Biosecurity Training Centre; and automation of document assessment.

The Committee noted:

- progress on the proof-of-concept trial to test whether importer commercial assurance controls could be used to manage biosecurity risk across their supply chains. Trial results to date are informing the design of a new 'green lane' style arrangement for imported cargo
- progress to deliver the first annual action plan to guide delivery against the Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 strategy
- ongoing cargo reform work within the department including a rural tailgate inspections trial with industry, improvements to AEPComm, and several innovation and technological initiatives currently underway
- progress of the Biosecurity Portal which will allow industry to request and manage biosecurity inspection bookings online
- a summary of 2021-22 mid-year economic and fiscal outlook (MYEFO) budget measures under the Australian Government's Simplified Trade System (STS) reform agenda



- BMSB 2020-21 season outcomes and requirements for the upcoming season, noting that the 120-hour post treatment window is under review
- further actions to address the risk of khapra beetle
- an overview of some of the department's international engagement and collaboration
- non-compliance statistics; and
- an update on the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement revenue, expenses and cost recovery reserve streams.

The Committee will meet again in July 2022.

Industry Attendees

- Greg Carroll, Australia Post
- Paul Bagnall, Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
- Dianne Tipping, Export Council of Australia
- Tony McDonald, Federal Chambers of Automotive Industries
- Carolyn McGill, Food and Beverage Importers Association
- Sal Milici, Freight and Trade Alliance
- Peter Van Duyn, International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
- Zoran Kostadinovski, International Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of Australia
- Mike Gallacher, Ports Australia
- Melwyn Noronha, Shipping Australia Limited