



Communique

Meeting 102– 27 November 2025

The DAFF Cargo Consultative Committee (DCCC) Meeting 102 convened at Agriculture House, 70 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra, and virtually.

The Chair, Monica Collins, First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Operations Division (BOD) opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed in person and virtual attendees.

The minutes from DCCC meeting 101 were accepted. There were no outstanding action items. All items were addressed through the papers shared or as inclusion on the agenda for DCCC 102 as a topic of discussion.

The Chair updated DCCC members on the biosecurity business pledge, a national initiative inviting businesses to take proactive steps to integrate practical biosecurity practices into their operations. The pledge was launched at the National Biosecurity Forum on 5-7 November. The Chair spoke about how the biosecurity business pledge will raise awareness of biosecurity in supply chains and provide entities an opportunity to reduce biosecurity risk. The Chair thanked Carolyn McGill for raising the topic and commented that, by doing so, is supporting use of this forum to drive strategic outcomes.

The Chair provided an update on the Government's economic reform work through the Treasurer's Economic Forum. Key initiatives include enhancing productivity by streamlining business processes, improving ICT capability and digitising cargo systems to improve passenger and cargo clearance. The update also emphasised regulatory reform that aims to update rules to be "fit for purpose" by balancing biosecurity risk mitigation with efficiency and growth objectives, together with effort to enhance regulatory capabilities.

The Chair confirmed the approval out-of-session of the updated DCCC Terms of Reference (ToR). The DCCC ToR has incorporated member feedback from the DCCC 101, prior meetings and the subsequent out-of-session review (October/November 2025). All feedback received was supported with no further changes required.

During the meeting, the department provided updates and discussed the following agenda items:

- The current review of national postcode classifications for imported sea containers and addressing risks from land-bridged containers. Current classifications are outdated and don't reflect urban growth or modern threats like hitchhiker pests. Industry consultation is planned for the first quarter of 2026.
- The progress made on SAC Reform Program to improve risk management. There are several substantial reform pieces that will be delivered in the remainder of the 2025-26 financial year. DAFF is committed to continuing stakeholder engagement with industry and ABF regarding reform on the SAC pathway with additional deep dive meetings planned.
- The Highly Compliant Importer Scheme (HCI) program designed to reduce biosecurity inspections up to 50% for compliant importers. Industry members have raised concerns that the scheme may be undermined by practical issues where compliant goods can still require mandatory or

broad inspections. The department will continue to consider any improvements that can be made to the scheme.

- Compliance Division is using a risk-based approach to audit approved arrangements, which leverages compliance performance and other information to reduce intervention for low risk and compliant entities. The unannounced audits program has proven to be effective in generating behavioral change and addressing non-compliance. Intelligence-led, proactive and targeted operations will maintain fairness and tackle high-risk non-compliance. Use of enforcement tools, including Enforceable Undertakings, will be used to drive enduring compliance.
- The Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System (STEPS) program has implemented enhancements to tools such as COLS and ProviderHub for faster clearance and reduced administrative burden. The team provided an update on the progress of the Biosecurity Activity Reporting Tool (BART) and the Integrated Cargo and Container Platform (ICCP) and both projects are on track for incremental release across 2025–26.

Reports tabled prior to the meeting:

- Cargo Operations Update
- Compliance Activity Snapshot
- Compliance Audit Report
- Approved Arrangements Update
- Summary of operational issues and outcomes raised with DCCC.
- Updates from the Copenhagen Symposium and Sea Container Focus Group (FGSC) annual in-person meeting.

In closing, the Chair thanked members for their high level of engagement and noted the next DCCC meeting is DCCC 103, date and venue yet to be confirmed.

DCCC Industry representative attendees:

- Dianne Tipping, Export Council of Australia
- Carolyn Macgill, Food Importers Group
- Bradley Leonard, International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia
- David McDonald, International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia (Observer)
- Craig Birchall, Qantas Airways Ltd
- Paul Bagnall, Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
- Sal Milici, Freight and Trade Alliance
- Peter Van Duyn, International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
- Melwyn Noronha, Shipping Australia Ltd
- Krithika Arun, Australia Post (proxy for Tanya Thornton)