Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Cargo Consultative Committee

DCCC Meeting 103 – Minutes

30 April 2026 – 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Agriculture House, Canberra

Agenda item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

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

The Chair noted the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes and reminded members of the confidential nature of committee discussions.

The following additional papers were tabled with the group prior to meeting 103:

- Cargo Operations Update
- Compliance Activity Snapshot
- Compliance Audit Report
- Approved Arrangements Update
- Finance Update

Agenda item 2 – Minutes and Actions – DCCC Meeting 102

The minutes of DCCC Meeting 102 were noted as finalised and published.

The Secretariat provided an update on the DCCC Meeting 102 action register. Two actions were noted as closed, with five remaining actions continuing to be progressed.

Agenda item 3 – Inspector-General of Biosecurity: Technology and Documentation Reviews

The Inspector-General of Biosecurity, Dr Melissa McEwen, outlined the scope and intent of the first two reviews being undertaken by the Inspector-General:

- documentation requirements for the biosecurity risk assessment of imported goods
- use of technology for biosecurity risk management

The Inspector-General emphasised a system-wide focus on effectiveness and efficiency, including how documentation requirements, technology and assessment practices interact across the biosecurity system.

Discussion

Industry members asked how the documentation review will consider practicality for industry and frontline assessors, including whether documentation requirements could be reduced or streamlined where they no longer add value.

Dr McEwen advised that the review is examining whether documentation being requested is proportionate, fit for purpose and actively used in decision-making. The review will consider whether requirements have accrued over time without clear justification and identify opportunities for simplification where appropriate.

Industry members welcomed the opportunity to contribute insights and practical examples.

Action item

- The Inspector-General of Biosecurity to provide industry the *Have Your Say* survey: *Reviewing documentation requirements for imported goods*. (Consultation open 1 May 2026, closing 22 May 2026).

Agenda item 4 – DAFF's Strategic Biosecurity Priorities 2026

The Deputy Secretary, Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group, Justine Saunders APM, addressed the Committee on DAFF's strategic biosecurity priorities for 2026.

The Deputy Secretary emphasised biosecurity as a national resilience priority and outlined a strong focus on:

- national biosecurity reform
- regulatory uplift and modernisation
- strengthening border capability through intelligence-led and digital approaches

The Deputy Secretary highlighted the need for an agile and resilient biosecurity system considering changing trade pathways, geopolitical instability and pressures on global supply chains.

Discussion

Industry members asked how global disruption, including the Middle East conflict, may influence biosecurity risk settings and preparedness.

The Deputy Secretary advised that global instability could create downstream biosecurity risks through altered sourcing and trade routes. The department remains focused on flexibility, intelligence-led decision-making and preparedness to respond to emerging risks as conditions evolve.

Members also raised the importance of productivity alongside biosecurity assurance.

The Deputy Secretary noted that productivity is a key lens for reform, particularly through digital uplift and streamlined processes, while maintaining strong biosecurity outcomes.

Agenda item 5 – DCCC Forward Workplan and Priorities 2026

Jason Preece, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division took on the role of Acting Chair. The Acting Chair introduced the proposed forward workplan and priorities for DCCC in 2026, noting the intent to increasingly position the Committee as a strategic forum rather than an operational reporting forum.

Discussion

Members discussed priority themes for future DCCC engagement, including:

- risk-based policy settings
- digital enablement and systems modernisation
- documentation and data sharing
- compliance settings
- preparedness for emerging biosecurity risks

DAFF advised that the National Biosecurity Reform – Strategic and Operational Priorities Discussion Paper was being released and that consultation was already underway. Members were encouraged to provide feedback through the established consultation process.

Industry members sought clarity on timing for the postcode review and land-bridging policy and whether communications could occur earlier than currently indicated.

Response

DAFF advised that work on postcode review and land-bridging policy is underway and that timing remains subject to broader priorities, including current global conditions. DAFF will consider whether communication could occur earlier than Q1 2026–27 if feasible.

Action item

- DAFF (Goods & Conveyances Policy) to clarify the indicative timeline for postcode review and land-bridging policy, including whether communication may occur earlier than Q1 2026–27.
- DAFF to send an out of session paper on update on Service Standard Review.

Agenda item 6 – STEPS Update (ICCP implementation)

Martin Coates, Assistant Secretary, Digital Solutions and Enablement Branch, provided an update on the Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing Systems (STEPS) program, including implementation of the Integrated Cargo and Container Platform (ICCP).

The update covered recent delivery outcomes, upcoming functionality and the longer-term intent to better align container and commodity decision-making.

Discussion

Industry members asked how ICCP will improve visibility for industry and how future systems will differ from current legacy arrangements.

DAFF advised that early ICCP releases focus on internal integration and decision alignment, with progressive capability planned over time. The intent is to support improved risk targeting and enable better alignment between container and commodity assessment outcomes.

Action items

- The STEPS Program to provide a future visual presentation to DCCC on ICCP, including how container and commodity decisions will align over time and a comparison between legacy and future systems.

Agenda item 7 – Other Business / Closing Remarks

Members raised the importance of ensuring consultation emails are reaching all DCCC members and organisations. DAFF concurred.

Members also raised several matters relating to cargo operations, compliance and service delivery:

- Industry raised concerns regarding the impact of increasing fees and charges, particularly in the context of current cost-of-living pressures, rising fuel and freight costs, and the limited ability for businesses to pass these costs on. Industry noted strong opposition to recent and proposed increases, including indexation, and requested that Government consider these cumulative impacts when setting future fees and charges, particularly where industry is not the primary risk creator.

  DAFF acknowledged industry concerns regarding fee and charge increases and the cumulative cost pressures experienced across the supply chain. DAFF advised that fees and charges are set in accordance with the Australian Government Cost Recovery Framework and legislative requirements, including established indexation arrangements. DAFF noted that cost recovery settings reflect the need to sustainably fund biosecurity activities and system capability and advised that impacts on industry are considered through consultation processes, including 'Have Your Say' submissions, with ongoing consideration given to impacts on industry as part of future policy, budget and reform processes.

- Industry queried whether importers are sufficiently informed and educated about applicable fees and charges.

  DAFF advised that information on fees and charges is publicly available and communicated through existing guidance material and engagement activities and noted the importance of continued education and awareness to support importer understanding.

- Industry noted that import and export processes at the border would benefit from further streamlining.

  DAFF advised that work is underway across a range of initiatives aimed at improving efficiency and streamlining processes, including through digital modernisation and process improvements, and acknowledged the importance of continued engagement with industry to inform this work.

- Industry members sought clarification on cargo clearance performance and service standards, noting recent improvements while querying consistency across locations.

DAFF advised that service performance has continued to improve and remains a key operational priority, supported by workforce stabilisation, digital uplift and improved reporting.

- Questions were raised regarding approved arrangements and compliance activity, including the visibility of certain arrangement classes and the application of fit and proper person assessments.

  DAFF confirmed that approved arrangements continue to be monitored closely, with compliance activity undertaken on a risk-based approach and noted an updated Approved Arrangements paper including Class 3 data imports processing.

- Members also requested an update on the cargo scheduling policy review and the implementation timeframes.

  DAFF advised that communications to industry were expected shortly and that any pathway-specific issues would be followed up directly with affected stakeholders out of session.

Action item

- DAFF to confirm whether all members have received the *Cargo Scheduling Policy - Have Your Say* consultation email.
- DAFF (Approved Arrangements) to provide an updated Approved Arrangements paper including Class 3 data.

The Chair thanked members for their constructive engagement.

Agenda item 8 – Fortnightly Middle East Discussion – Not minuted

As noted in the agenda, this item was to replace the fortnightly discussion scheduled for this afternoon. This item was not minuted.

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Action Register – DCCC Meeting 103 action items

ID no	Action Item	Action Officer	Status
008	Circulate the *Have Your Say* survey – Reviewing documentation requirements for imported goods	Inspector-General of Biosecurity	New/Open
009	Provide a copy of the relevant discussion paper on Service Standard Review/ update out of session	Julie Lowe, Assistant Secretary	New/Open
010	Clarify timeline for postcode review and land-bridging policy, including whether communication may occur earlier than Q1 2026–27	Jo Laduzko, Assistant Secretary	New/Open
011	Provide a future visual presentation to DCCC on ICCP, including legacy vs future systems	STEPS Program, Martin Coates	New/Open
012	Provide an updated Approved Arrangements paper including Class 3 data	Caroline Gibson, Director	New/Open
013	Confirm whether members have received the *Have Your Say* consultation email Cargo Scheduling Policy	Sonya Errington, Assistant Secretary	New/Open

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Attendees:

DAFF

Chair – Monica Collins, First Assistant Secretary	Biosecurity Operations Division (BOD)
Jason Preece, A/g First Assistant Secretary	Biosecurity Strategy & Reform Division (BSRD)
Graeme Grosse, First Assistant Secretary	Compliance & Enforcement Division (CED)
Josephine Laduzko, Assistant Secretary	Goods & Conveyances Policy / BOD
Holly Buckle, Assistant Secretary	Cargo Operations South & Detector Dogs / BOD
Jim Simpson, Assistant Secretary	Cargo Operations West & Maritime / BOD
Sonya Errington, Assistant Secretary	Cargo Operations North & Response / BOD
Caroline Gibson, Director	Approved Arrangements / CED
Julie Lowe, A/g Assistant Secretary	Operational Strategy & Reform / BOD

Guests

Justine Saunders APM, Deputy Secretary	Biosecurity Operations and Compliance Group
Dr. Melissa McEwen	Inspector General of Biosecurity
Martin Coates, Assistant Secretary	Digital Solutions and Enablement

Industry

Dianne Tipping	Export Council of Australia
Carolyn Macgill	Food and Beverage Importers Association
Craig Birchall	Qantas Airways Ltd
Bradley Leonard	International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia
Sal Milici	Freight and Trade Alliance
Peter Van Duyn	International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
Paul Bagnall	Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
Krithika Arun (Tanya Thornton Proxy)	Australia Post

Observer

Lucy Robinson	Freight and Trade Alliance
David McDonald	International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia

Apologies

Tanya Thornton	Australia Post
Melwyn Noronha	Shipping Australia Limited
Martin Moseley, Assistant Secretary	Audit & Assurance / CED

Secretariat

Terese Clear	Sea Cargo Policy & Strategic Engagement / BOD
Aliva Evana	Sea Cargo Policy & Strategic Engagement / BOD
Tania Jario	Sea Cargo Policy & Strategic Engagement / BOD
Heidi Young	Planning & Risk Strategy / BOD
Michael Paragreen	Planning & Risk Strategy / BOD