



Communiqué

DAFF Cargo Consultative Committee (DCCC)

Meeting 104 — 02 September 2026

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Cargo Consultative Committee (DCCC) Meeting 104 was held on 2 September 2026 at Agriculture House, 70 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra, and virtually.

The meeting was chaired by Monica Collins, First Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity Operations Division.

Update on the SAC program

The department provided an update on the Self-Assessed Clearance (SAC) Reform Program. The update included information on volumes including non-compliance in the pathway, updates on DAFF resourcing servicing the pathway, verification efforts, risk setting changes, updates to system, data and detection capability across the pathway and associated industry engagement.

Members were briefed on the development of specific new ICT reforms in the pathway including:

- The Threat Management System will provide improved data maturity and profile visibility for the pathway.
- The Document Lodgement System, replacing SAC paperless, and providing direct system to system document lodgement capability enhancing both data exchange and security.
- The Biosecurity Activity Reporting Tool, which will provide a system for industry to directly report outcomes of activities they perform and allows the implementation of Class 14.3 Approved Arrangement.

The committee discussed verification on the pathway and ways of targeting non-compliance risk and the importance of working together to help reduce biosecurity non-compliance across the pathway.

Seasonal Pest update

Members were provided information on the 2026-27 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) season. It was noted that post-border interceptions of BMSB continue which has shaped the program for this season to remove gaps for pest leakage including the discontinuation of the Safeguarding Arrangement Scheme and Rolled Goods Policy.

Other updates included the approval of Ethyl formate fumigation for treatment of BMSB onshore, a minor update on verification inspections to improve data for the pathway, and discussion on compliance activity on treatment providers.

Update on postcode review

Members received an update on the postcode review and land bridging enhancements. The department has reviewed and reclassified postcodes using a cascading model based on general land use data and a range of biosecurity risk criteria. It has also reviewed its policy for movement of containers to and through rural locations. A draft Postcode Classification and Rural Movement Policy to be shared shortly for industry consultation. Following consideration of industry feedback, it is expected that the policy will be implemented in phases commencing with the reclassification of postcodes.

Members discussed issues around inconsistencies on the reporting of the destination in systems and the importance of working with all levels of government to understand when metropolitan areas are being expanded, and the pull factors that are provided to industry to move to potential rural or 'fringe' areas.

Digital Tools and Technology update incl. ICCP presentation

Martin Coates, Assistant Secretary Digital Solutions and Enablement, Digital Business Division, joined the meeting and provided members with an update on the Integrated Cargo and Container Platform (ICCP) and on the broader Simplified Targeting and Enhances Processing Systems (STEPS) program.

The update covered achievements since the previous meeting in May 2026, including the implementation of ICCP and subsequent enhancements, transition of lodgement of unaccompanied personal effects and military entries from email to the Cargo Online Lodgement System and implementation of the TradeClear portal.

Members were provided with context on the rationale for the ICCP, to remove the need for a consignment to pass through multiple nonintegrated systems to a centralised and unified system providing consistent experience for department and industry users.

The future roadmap for ICCP was provided showing the intent to expand the system to cover a wider range of entries and commodities.

Members discussed the future of the STEPS program and the use of artificial intelligence as a proof of concept in the development of code for ICT systems and the efficiencies they can provide.

Final report for pest risk analysis of khapra beetle – Part 1 (plant product pathways)

The committee was provided with an update on the department's final pest risk analysis report of khapra beetle, which was published on the department's website on 27 August 2026. The report recommends ongoing risk management measures and operational systems to reduce biosecurity risk to an appropriate level of protection. These measures largely mirror the current seven emergency measures with some amendments, including:

- Revising phytosanitary certificate requirements for treated consignments to ensure they have been inspected post treatment by the National Plant Protection Organisation in the country of treatment.
- Requiring offshore treatment providers to be registered under one of the Australian schemes such as the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) or AusTreat.
- An additional measure for imported plant products for research purposes.

The department is finalising an implementation plan for the updated measures intended to be implemented progressively into 2027. The current emergency measures will remain in place in the interim.

Lessons learnt from middle east response

The DCCC discussed lessons learnt from the response to the disruptions caused by the conflict in the Middle East including the measures implemented by the Australian Government to strengthen supply chains and the importance of industry and government working together.

Members discussed the benefits of industry being involved in discussions with government and being able to provide clarity to others based on their experience during the event. Members noted that lessons learnt from the response to COVID were leveraged for this response and that there was a more holistic view of supply chains now in government that helps in preparedness for responses to future issues.

Finance/budget update

Maria Loyman, Assistant Secretary, Funding and Revenue, Finance and Investment Division provided a budget update for the committee. The update included a circulated paper for the 2025-26 interim financial performance report on the Biosecurity cost recovery arrangement. This report showed totals for revenue, expenses and resulting surplus.

Other business

The committee discussed the Draft New Imported New Vehicle Policy. It was confirmed that there was a structured consultation process in place and that any issues raised are being considered and will be responded to by the department via that process.

Close

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The next meeting of the DAFF Cargo Consultative Committee (DCCC Meeting 105) is scheduled to be held on **12 November 2026**.

Reports tabled

The following reports were tabled prior to the meeting:

- Cargo Operations Update
- Compliance Audit Report
- Approved Arrangements Update

DCCC Industry representative attendees:

- Bradley Leonard, International Forwarders and Custom Brokers Association of Australia
- Carolyn Macgill, Food and Beverage Importers Association
- Craig Birchall, Qantas Airways Ltd
- Dianne Tipping, Export Council of Australia
- Mike Gallacher, Ports Australia Ltd

- Paul Bagnall, Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
- Krithika Arun, Australia Post (Observer)
- Lucy Robinson, Freight and Trade Alliance (Observer)