



Export assurance reform for non-prescribed goods

January 2026

The Australian Government is committing \$21 million to implement reforms to establish appropriate export regulatory and cost recovery arrangements for non-prescribed goods (NPGs), which are worth an estimated \$11 billion in exports per year. NPGs include products such as honey, wool, skins and hides.

This funding will enable:

- the delivery of a General Products Rule to bring commodities currently classified as non-prescribed into the framework of the *Export Control Act 2020*
- enhanced digital systems, including NEXDOC permit setup and licensing forms
- engagement with industry to build understanding and capability to engage with new regulatory systems
- supplementation of the gap between revenue and costs while new cost recovery arrangements are implemented.

We will phase commodities into the reform over the next 3 years. The reform aims to ensure that Australia's export system can continue to provide the levels and types of ongoing assurance required by importing countries.

The need for reform

To accommodate the growing success of our export industries, new products and changing risks, Australia needs export assurance systems and processes that are efficient, fit for purpose and flexible. Three main factors are driving the need for reform:

- 1. Importing countries require more assurances** – Australian exporters operate within a landscape of ever-changing importing country requirements that are increasing in number and complexity. For certain NPGs, importing countries now expect a higher level of government oversight than our export legislation requires. This trend is expected to continue.
- 2. Cost recovery is not appropriately attributed to where the costs originate** – Under the current legislative framework, an export certificate is the single charge point. This does not reflect the time and cost to the department of undertaking administrative activities and providing services to assure trading partners. This single charge point also imposes the full cost of the assurance system onto the applicant for a certificate, rather than charging at points throughout the supply chain for services provided.
- 3. Unsustainable administrative processes** – The process used for exporting NPGs has become complicated and unsustainable alongside the growth of NPG industries. Reform is needed to put a new system in place that can handle the size of NPG industries and the importing country requirements.

The regulatory powers that will enable the required reforms of the NPG export sector are available to the department under the Export Control Act. If we prescribe the export of goods currently described as NPGs, we gain access to those regulatory powers and tools and can continue meeting importing country requirements in a modern and flexible way.

Benefits for exporters

Australian agricultural exporters will benefit from the reform through:

- improved and simplified processes for exporters
- increased visibility and control (where necessary) of which goods are being exported to which destinations and by which exporters
- appropriate cost recovery for the services we provide, allocating costs equitably to exporters who receive services
- a clear approach to making decisions and providing assurance for our exports
- a flexible system that can adapt to changes in importing country requirements
- appropriate, consistent and transparent management of export risks
- continued trust in Australia's export system, the department as an export regulator, and our status as a world-leading trading partner.

We are laying the foundations to implement these reforms. This includes development of a new General Products Rule under the Export Control Act that will prescribe products within scope and set the legal framework for these systems.

We will keep industries updated as this work progresses in 2026, with the aim to commence a phased implementation from early 2027.

More information

Learn more about [Export Assurance Reform for non-prescribed goods](#).

Web agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/non-prescribed-goods/export-assurance-reform

Email NPGReform@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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