



Harmonised regulation for plant exports and interstate trade

The department wants to streamline regulatory activities across the domestic and export plant agriculture sector.

We are working with states and territories to find opportunities to standardise, harmonise and recognise – to better ‘line up’ our regulations.

Areas for improvement

We know there's a lot of overlap in plant health regulations across the states, territories and the Commonwealth. All the jurisdictions are achieving similar outcomes using similar activities.

So, we're looking for opportunities for mutual recognition and data sharing with state and territory governments.

Some opportunities to harmonise, standardise or recognise requirements are:

- developing national treatment standards
- a treatment regulation framework
- automated area freedom certificates
- mutual recognition of inspection and/or audit
- shared use of IT systems for inspection results and audit management.

Priorities for reform

In August 2021, we consulted with state and territory representatives in the plant sector to:

- identify areas where regulations overlap
- decide which areas to start working on first.

We agreed on 2 aspects of plant regulation that could be harmonised across exports and domestic trade. These are:

- automating state-issued area freedom certificates for exports
- standardising treatment regulation.

Progress so far

We are now partnering with 2 state governments to develop a proof of concept for these project ideas:

- with Tasmania on the automation of area freedom certification
- with Victoria on standardising treatments.

If a project is successful in one state, we can scale it up to other jurisdictions.

We'll update the horticulture industry through industry associations and our consultative committees.



Potential benefits

These projects could benefit businesses that export and move plant products interstate. Standardised controls will make it easier for them to understand and meet requirements.

It will also reduce administrative processes.

Contact us

If you have questions about the project email us at congestionbustingplant@agriculture.gov.au

Reforms in agricultural export trade

We are transforming Australia's agricultural trade export services, making more services available online, streamlining processes for producers to export and safeguarding Australia's reputation as a reliable, high-quality exporter.

More than half a billion dollars is being invested in trade reform initiatives. This includes \$328.4 million for the Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters package to grow and strengthen the agricultural export sector.

When fully implemented the reforms will reduce costs and the compliance burden on exporters.

The reforms will also ensure Australian products are of the highest standard and meet our trading partners' requirements.

Visit our website to learn more: awe.gov.au/transforming-export-services