



National Biosecurity Committee

Annual Report 2025

The National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) provides strategic leadership, coordination and oversight of Australia's national biosecurity system.

The NBC brings together representatives from all states and territories, the Commonwealth and Biosecurity New Zealand, with Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia participating as observers and technical experts. The NBC provides advice to the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee and Agriculture Ministers on national biosecurity priorities and implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB).

In 2025, the NBC worked collaboratively with governments, industry and system partners to strengthen preparedness, governance and resilience across plant, animal, environmental and aquatic biosecurity.

Reforming national biosecurity governance – Through 2025 the NBC undertook a comprehensive reform program to uplift NBC strategic national oversight of the biosecurity system, including:

- Identifying system-wide risks, challenges and opportunities, finalising a rolling [three-year NBC workplan](#), updated [NBC Terms of Reference](#) and a new communications plan – which were endorsed by the Commonwealth, State, and Territory Agriculture Ministers.

Implementing the IGAB Review - NBC endorsed the findings and recommendations of the [2024 IGAB Review](#) and oversaw the joint Ministers' response, the [IGAB Review Implementation Plan](#), and commencement of reforms in response.

Enhancing H5 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza preparedness – NBC led the development and operationalisation of the H5 National Management Agreement – a nation-leading framework to enable national response to manage incursions of H5 HPAI in wildlife. Additionally, NBC:

- Oversaw the Australia Government's investment of over \$100 million to prepare for H5 bird flu, including strengthening surveillance, and boosting biosecurity capacity and capability, accelerating preparedness planning, and boosting pandemic influenza vaccine stores.
- Conducted a tailored cross-agency exercise to test national readiness for a wildlife response, and established monthly oversight meetings to drive further preparedness at all levels.

Delivering the National Biosecurity Strategy - Maintained oversight of implementation of the National Biosecurity Strategy (NBS), refined NBS governance and monitoring arrangements and guided development of the first NBS Annual Report.

Strengthening emergency biosecurity response arrangements - Worked with governments and industry to review policy issues associated with emergency response cost-sharing arrangements and aligned this work with scheduled five-yearly reviews of national response deeds and the NBC sectoral sub-committee reviews currently in progress.

Engaging stakeholders, strengthening partnership and supporting innovation – The NBC brought together key stakeholders across the biosecurity system, including:

- Hosting the National Biosecurity Forum, bringing together stakeholders from government, industry, research, education and trade.
- Recognised excellence through the Australian Biosecurity Awards and launched the Biosecurity Business Pledge Australia.
- Engaged with emerging research and technology, including climate risk forecasting and public perceptions research.

Advancing national traceability - Convened an NBC traceability workshop to consider biosecurity-focused traceability priorities, taking a holistic approach to plant, animal and environmental traceability across Australia's biosecurity system.

Science and technology - the NBC sectoral committees and expert groups advanced policy, technical and scientific advice on matters affecting their sector, covering all pests and disease risks to the terrestrial and aquatic (inland water and marine) animals and plants, and the environment.

Looking ahead to 2026 - Looking ahead to 2026, the NBC will continue to focus on reforms to ensure the strength and stability of Australia's biosecurity system, strengthening emergency response arrangements, and enhancing engagement with industry and the community to protect Australia's economy, environment and way of life from biosecurity threats.

The National Biosecurity Committee is responsible for managing a national, strategic approach to biosecurity threats relating to plant and animal pests and diseases, marine and aquatic pests, and the impact of these on agricultural production, the environment, community wellbeing and social amenity. The Committee provides advice to the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee and the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting on national biosecurity issues, and on progress in implementing the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity.

For more information, visit the [National Biosecurity Committee's website](#), hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
