



Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (Panel) minutes

Meeting no. 06/2025

Date: 21 August 2025

Time: 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Location: Hybrid - Virtual (MS Teams) and Face-to-face (Post-Entry Quarantine Facility, Melbourne)

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Action item	Action officer	Status
Action items from 1 May 2025 meeting		
1. Department to explore biosecurity operations tour options, including the possibility of combining a tour with a future Panel meeting.	Secretariat	Completed
2. Department to provide further details on Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System (STEPS) funding.	Mr Geysen (Chief Finance Officer)	Completed
3. Department to provide further information on corporate overhead allocation methodology.	Mr Geysen (Chief Finance Officer)	Completed
4. Panel to be provided with more information or presentation on the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Modelling (CEBRA) biosecurity insurance concept.	Secretariat	Completed
5. Department to provide members with a draft 2024-25 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report.	Secretariat	Completed
Action items from 21 August 2025 meeting		
1. Panel members to provide any additional feedback on the draft 2024-25 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report (BFER).	Panel members	In progress
2. Department to provide information at the next meeting to address Panel queries about the 2024-25 underspend of administered program funding.	Mr Geysen (Chief Finance Officer)	In progress

MEETING SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES REACHED

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
Item 1	<p>Welcome and acknowledgement of Country, apologies and housekeeping</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting at 2.30pm and welcomed attendees. Quorum was confirmed. See Appendix A for attendees and apologies.</p> <p>Members ENDORSED the previous meeting minutes.</p>
Item 2	<p>Department update</p> <p>The Chair provided a paper prior to the meeting with updates on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Australian Government's economic reform agenda. 2. the final report for fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from the United States of America and Canada. 3. H7 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) eradication. 4. H5 HPAI preparedness activities. 5. current national emergency biosecurity response arrangements and funding. 6. activities to strengthen the Australia-Indonesia agricultural relationship. 7. changes to biosecurity and imported food fees and charges. <p>The department noted that the Government's (post-election) position on the Commonwealth's sustainable biosecurity funding has not changed. The Government will continue working with key stakeholders on options to ensure future Commonwealth funding for biosecurity activities, as needed (and for consideration at the right time, but not immediately). The role of the Panel in considering these options has not changed.</p> <p>Members NOTED the updates.</p>
Item 3	<p>Panel governance</p> <p>The Panel discussed its membership, Terms of Reference review processes and 2025 workplan.</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NOMINATED additional organisations to join the Panel. 2. AGREED to the suggested changes to the Panel's Terms of Reference. 3. RE-CONFIRMED the 2025 Panel workplan. <p>The department noted that member nominations would be provided to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for consideration.</p>
Item 4	<p>Review of 2024-25 end of financial year results for biosecurity</p> <p>The department delivered a presentation on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. its 2024-25 end of financial year results for biosecurity. 2. its corporate overheads allocation methodology. 3. the Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing Systems (STEPS) program funding. <p>Members NOTED the presentation.</p>

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
	<p>Members' feedback included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. seeking further information on the department's corporate overheads average rate across the department. 2. seeking further information regarding underspends within particular administered programs. 3. highlighting the positive outcomes delivered to date by the STEPS program and the need to continue the program. 4. seeking further information on the collection of the Self-Assessed Clearance (SAC) charge. <p>The department noted that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. corporate overheads vary across programs depending on the amount of corporate support required. 2. the SAC charge collected was more than budgeted due to increased volumes, and the department is delivering a SAC reform program to deliver fit for purpose biosecurity activities to ensure risks are being effectively and efficiently managed.
Item 5	<p>Draft 2024-25 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report</p> <p>The department shared the preliminary working draft 2024-25 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report (BFER) and invited feedback from members.</p> <p>Members' feedback included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. appreciation for the depth of information included in the report. 2. requesting further granular information on different funding sources by programs. 3. suggesting that the report could be strengthened by providing further analysis of likely future trends such as cargo volumes. 4. suggesting that the report could be strengthened by adding information on the estimated "avoided costs" of incursions due to the biosecurity system. <p>The department noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. this next report will have the most detailed information and data possible, and is representative of future iterations, noting data constraints and the need to minimise duplication with other reporting. 2. it would endeavour to consider the Panel's feedback in finalising the preliminary draft BFER, recognising that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. some proposed content could be considered in future iterations of the report. b. there is an opportunity to brief the Panel on topics of interest at future meetings to augment the report's content. <p>Members NOTED the preliminary draft of the BFER and AGREED to provide any further comments to the secretariat.</p>

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
Item 6	<p>Future funding needs for national biosecurity</p> <p>The Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA) provided information on an early and untested biosecurity insurance concept, where insurance would be purchased to manage the cost of associated biosecurity risks, and noted that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the cost of insurance would be based on the risk not the outcome. 2. this concept would not be applicable across all pathways as some are difficult to regulate. <p>Members NOTED the information.</p> <p>Members' feedback included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. seeking further information on roles and how premiums would be determined. 2. noting there are existing levies and charges in place which would need to be considered. <p>The department briefly provided an overview on the proposed approach for implementing the National Biosecurity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) deliverables for sustainable investment.</p> <p>The department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. noted that there remains a need to consider future funding for biosecurity. 2. expressed the importance of continuing work with the Panel to consider funding sources in preparation for when the options need to be brought forward. 3. noted the concentrated effort on the NBSAP sustainable investment deliverables within the next 12 months. <p>Members NOTED the update and the opportunity to provide further feedback on the department's proposed implementation of the NBSAP deliverables for sustainable investment out of session. This included opportunities for their involvement.</p>
Item 7	<p>Other business and next meeting</p> <p>The Chair proposed that the next meeting be organised for December 2025.</p>

The meeting closed at 4:30pm.

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel Secretariat
August 2025

APPENDIX A – Meeting attendees

ATTENDEES	
Paco Tovar	Australian Forest Products Association
Cameron Brown	Australian Fresh Produce Alliance
Lee McLean	Australian Grape and Wine
Mike Darby (proxy for Dr Chris Parker)	Cattle Australia
Prof. Andrew Robinson	Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
Paul Zalai	Freight and Trade Alliance
Dr Sam Nelson (proxy for Shona Gawel)	GrainGrowers
Brad Leonard	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association of Australia
Jack Gough	Invasive Species Council
Veronica Papacosta	Seafood Industry Australia
Adrienne Ryan (proxy for Bonnie Skinner)	Sheep Producers Australia
Jo Hall	WoolProducers Australia
Justine Saunders, APM, Deputy Secretary and Chair	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
Christie Sawczuk, First Assistant Secretary	DAFF
Julia Wells, Assistant Secretary	DAFF
PRESENTERS	
Matthew Geysen, Chief Finance Officer	DAFF
APOLOGIES	
Dr Mary Wu	Animal Health Australia Industry Forum (ACMF)
Stephen Sheridan	Australian Dairy Farmers
Margo Andrae	Australian Pork Limited
Dr Chris Parker	Cattle Australia
Prof. Brett Sutton	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Adam Kay	Cotton Australia
Colin Bettles	Grain Producers Australia
Shona Gawel	GrainGrowers
Nathan Hancock	Plant Health Australia Industry Forum (Citrus Aus)
SECRETARIAT	
Michelle Brotohusodo, Director	DAFF
Cathy Trinh, Assistant Director	DAFF
Kathryn Pagler, Senior Policy Officer	DAFF