



Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (Panel) minutes

Meeting no. 07/2025

Date: 5 December 2025

Time: 2pm to 3pm

Location: Hybrid - Virtual (MS Teams)

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Action item	Action officer	Status
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	Completed
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)	Completed
Action items from 5 December 2025 meeting		
1. Secretariat to update the Panel's Terms of Reference to reflect the new quorum of 11.	Secretariat	In progress
2. Department to advise members on further opportunities to contribute to relevant national biosecurity reform priorities.	Department	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 2pm and welcomed attendees. Quorum was confirmed. See Appendix A for attendees and apologies.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the National Farmers' Federation and National Farmers' Federation Horticulture Council accepted Minister Collins' invitation to join the Panel, bringing Panel membership from 19 to 21. She proposed quorum be increased to 11 accordingly.</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AGREED to increase the quorum to 11 and reflect this in the Terms of Reference. 2. ENDORSED the previous meeting minutes.
Item 2	<p>Department update</p> <p>The department provided a paper prior to the meeting with updates on the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appointment of a new Inspector-General of Biosecurity. 2. Agriculture productivity roundtable. 3. 2025 National Biosecurity Forum. 4. Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report 2024-25. 5. Panel membership review. 6. Current national emergency biosecurity responses. 7. H5 avian influenza (bird flu) in elephant seals at sub-Antarctic Heard Island. 8. Khapra beetle detection in nappy pants. <p>The Chair also noted the appointment of the department's new Secretary and sought members' feedback on topics to include in future department updates.</p> <p>Members NOTED the updates.</p> <p>Members' comments included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seeking clarity on the funding arrangements of the khapra beetle response. 2. Expressing appreciation of the department's communication to industry during that response. <p>The department noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The khapra beetle response did not progress to a post-border incursion and was managed within the department's existing funding for its activities.
Item 3	<p>Presentation: Financial update including Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report 2024-25</p> <p>The department delivered a presentation about its year-to-date performance and forward outlook. It addressed Panel queries about the 2024-25 underspend of administered program funding.</p>

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
	<p>Members NOTED the presentation.</p> <p>Members' comments included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appreciation of the department's efforts in providing greater transparency of biosecurity funding and expenditure. 2. Seeking clarity about the impact that the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's (CSIRO) funding and capability changes may have on Commonwealth biosecurity research. <p>The department noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appreciation for the Panel's feedback on the Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report 2024-25, published on 28 October 2025. 2. The CSIRO's key research areas related to biosecurity (animal, human, and plant) remain a high priority (as advised by CSIRO). The department will provide information about any impact changes to CSIRO research funding may have on the department's research program once the CSIRO has completed its consultation.
Item 4	<p>Debrief from the National Biosecurity Forum and Agriculture Ministers' Meeting biosecurity deep dive, and next steps for reform</p> <p>The department provided an overview on the National Biosecurity Forum (Forum) and key outcomes from the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM) – both held in November. The department thanked those members who attended the Forum for their participation and for their feedback on the Forum provided at the Panel meeting.</p> <p>The department noted that the discussions from the sustainable investment workshop will be used to progress the sustainable investment actions in the National Biosecurity Strategy 2024 Action Plan (NBSAP).</p> <p>The department confirmed that the Forum was a starting point to inform broader discussions on a national biosecurity reform agenda that better addresses strategic risks.</p> <p>Members NOTED the update and AGREED to support relevant parts of the proposed national reform agenda.</p> <p>Members' feedback included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggesting cross-sector collaboration in the reform planning process. 2. Seeking assurance that there will be opportunities for industry contribution to reform priorities, beyond the Forum. 3. Seeking advice about what information industry can provide to assist with setting the reform agenda. 4. Welcoming the policy reform process as an opportunity for medium- and long-term thinking about risk mitigation. <p>The department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledged feedback and thanked members. 2. Confirmed that Forum sustainable investment workshop outcomes will be used to progress the sustainable investment initial actions in the NBSAP.

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
	3. Confirmed that members will be invited to contribute to relevant areas of reform planning through discussions at Panel meetings over the course of 2026.
Item 5	<p>2026 Panel work plan</p> <p>The department provided a draft 2026 Panel work plan for the Panel’s consideration prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The department noted that the draft work plan would vary subject to the setting of the national reform agenda and with opportunities for the Panel to be involved. The department suggested having a meeting in March 2026 (rather than the proposed May meeting).</p> <p>Members NOTED the draft.</p>
Item 6	<p>Other business and next meeting</p> <p>The Chair suggested that the Panel’s next meeting be held in March 2026 to facilitate input into reform planning.</p> <p>Members AGREED to the suggestion.</p>
Item 7	<p>Meeting close</p> <p>The department thanked members again for attending and for their valuable contributions throughout the meeting.</p>

The meeting closed at 3:01pm.

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel Secretariat
December 2025

APPENDIX A – Meeting attendees

ATTENDEES	
Tanya Pittard	Animal Health Australia Industry Forum
Stephen Sheridan	Australian Dairy Farmers
Paco Tovar	Australian Forest Products Association
Cameron Brown	Australian Fresh Produce Alliance
Lee McLean	Australian Grape and Wine
Margo Andrae	Australian Pork Limited
Prof. Andrew Robinson	Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
Prof. Brett Sutton	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Matthew Madden	Grain Producers Australia
Brad Leonard	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
Jack Gough	Invasive Species Council
Charlotte Wundersitz	National Farmers' Federation
Nathan Hancock	Plant Health Australia Industry Forum (Citrus Aus)
Veronica Papacosta	Seafood Industry Australia
Bonnie Skinner	Sheep Producers Australia
Jo Hall	WoolProducers Australia
Christie Sawczuk, A/g Deputy Secretary	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
Julia Wells, A/g First Assistant Secretary	DAFF
PRESENTERS	
Matthew Geysen, Chief Finance Officer	DAFF
PROXIES	
Sal Milici (as proxy for Paul Zalai)	Freight and Trade Alliance
Sam Nelson (as proxy for Shona Gawel)	GrainGrowers
APOLOGIES	
Dr Chris Parker	Cattle Australia
Adam Kay	Cotton Australia
Paul Zalai	Freight and Trade Alliance
Shona Gawel	GrainGrowers
Richard Shannon	National Farmers' Federation Horticulture Council
SECRETARIAT	
Michelle Brotohusodo, Director	DAFF
Cathy Trinh, Assistant Director	DAFF
Claire Nashar, Senior Policy Officer	DAFF