



## Regulatory Statement of Intent

This Regulatory Statement of Intent (SOI) responds to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Regulatory Statement of Expectations (SOE) issued on 30 January 2025, in relation to specific departmental regulatory functions under the *Regulator Performance Resource Management Guide 128* (RMG 128). This SOI outlines how the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) intends to meet these expectations and details how we will deliver on our regulatory objectives, perform our functions, and exercise our powers in line with the Minister's priorities.

### Introduction

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio has eight regulatory functions, of which three are delivered by statutory authorities. These statutory authorities, namely the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, and Wine Australia, each have their own SOIs.

This SOI applies to the remaining five regulatory functions delivered by DAFF:

- Assessing and managing biosecurity risks and risks relating to ballast water pursuant to the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and associated charging legislation.
- Regulating goods for export pursuant to the *Export Control Act 2020* and associated charging legislation.
- Prohibiting the importation of illegally logged timber and the processing of illegally logged domestic raw logs pursuant to the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* and associated Rules.
- Ensuring food imported into Australia complies with Australian food standards and public health and safety requirements pursuant to the *Imported Food Control Act 1992* and associated charging legislation.
- Administering primary industry levy and charge collection pursuant to the *Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act 2024* and associated imposition legislation.

### Overview

The Department's vision is for a more sustainable and prosperous Australia through biosecurity, production and trade. We regulate in the public interest in accordance with this vision. We do this by working with the agricultural sector, key stakeholders, engaging internationally and drawing on First Nations values and experience. We also work closely with Australian, state, territory and local governments, research and academic entities, private and philanthropic sectors, and communities.

### Regulatory stewardship

Effective regulatory stewardship involves strong governance, monitoring, reporting and care of our regulatory systems to ensure that all components of the system work well together to achieve its goals and remain fit for purpose over the long term. DAFF will maintain a strong focus on regulatory stewardship by:

- regularly reviewing and evaluating our regulatory systems to ensure they deliver effectively over time
- taking a planned approach to regulatory reform through encompassing policy development, regulatory design and implementation; and effective monitoring, review, and implementation.

We will continue to engage with other Australian, state and territory regulators to drive improvements in regulator performance and share best practices.

### **Principles of regulator best practice**

Our Regulatory Practice Statement (RPS) sets out our regulatory stewardship and practice principles and how we approach our regulatory responsibilities, informed by RMG 128. Consistent with the Minister's expectations and as demonstrated in our RPS, we will implement regulatory functions consistent with the three principles of regulator best practice outlined in RMG 128.

#### **1. *Continuous improvement and building trust***

We are committed to continuously improving our performance, capability and culture, to build trust and confidence in our regulatory settings. This will include fostering a culture of continuous improvement and learning from past successes and challenges to refine our regulatory systems and processes. We invest in the capability of our frontline regulatory workforce by delivering contemporary, fit-for-purpose training and development opportunities, including through dedicated platforms such as the Biosecurity Training Centre.

We will use both quantitative and qualitative analysis to assess and report on regulatory performance, ensuring transparency and accountability. Our delivery against performance measures will be reported in DAFF's Corporate Plan and Annual Report.

We will continue to monitor and, where necessary, adjust our operating environment to ensure that our regulatory approaches stay responsive to industry practices, international regulation and community expectations.

#### **2. *Risk-based and data-driven***

In designing and maintaining our regulatory systems we will continue to seek opportunities to improve our regulatory processes, where possible, to improve efficiency and productivity, while still maintaining essential safeguards. We use our Audit and Risk Committee and our Enterprise Risk Management Framework and Policy to assist with managing our risks while embracing opportunities to deliver on our regulatory requirements. We will responsibly use data and digital technology to manage risks effectively and proportionately.

We are committed to making regulatory compliance practicable and effective.

#### **3. *Collaboration and engagement***

Our stakeholders are diverse, spanning regulated entities, co-regulators, intermediaries, industry groups, trade unions, First Nations, as well as Australian, state and territory governments and the broader Australian community. Meaningful engagement with these stakeholders is essential in shaping and guiding our regulatory work, as well as identifying opportunities for collaboration and addressing emerging priorities. We will maintain an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, including through the administration, design, implementation and review of regulations.

We will continue to engage and consult with stakeholders, seeking diverse feedback and ensuring that decision-making and cost-recovery processes are transparent. We are committed to providing

up-to-date, clear and accessible guidance to regulated entities, helping them comply with relevant regulations and to meet Australian standards.

#### **Relationship with Minister and portfolio**

DAFF is committed to supporting and working closely with the Minister and the broader government to deliver our regulatory responsibilities effectively and efficiently. We will engage with the Minister to provide timely, evidence-based policy advice in line with government priorities.

As both a policy agency and a regulator, DAFF will be considerate of our role in both helping government set regulatory policy and then operationalising it, including offering guidance and support to other portfolio agencies with regulatory responsibilities.

Finally, DAFF will integrate the SOE and SOI into its Corporate Plan and Annual Report processes, and publish them on our website and [www.transparency.gov.au](http://www.transparency.gov.au), ensuring alignment with broader performance reporting.



Adam Fennessy PSM

Secretary

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

21 July 2025