



Meeting 6, 21 August 2025

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel

Chair's Note

Key updates

Last week, I was pleased to host the sixth meeting of the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (the Panel).

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the department's biosecurity operations at Melbourne Airport and the Mickleham Post-Entry Quarantine Facility. This provided several members with greater visibility of, and immersion in, some of the department's complex biosecurity activities, including risk management.

At the meeting, the department provided an update on key biosecurity developments since the Panel last met in May 2025. The Panel discussed its governance, including the first review of its membership and Terms of Reference. Panel members confirmed their willingness to continue their involvement in the Panel and discussed options to refine membership. The Panel also discussed the value of continuing to review and consider current and future funding arrangements for Commonwealth biosecurity activities. In support of this conversation and at the Panel's request, the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis provided an overview of an early concept they have been developing in relation to a biosecurity insurance model to price biosecurity risk.

The department provided an update on its current financial position in relation to biosecurity, including the 2024-25 financial year results. The department also presented a preliminary draft of the 2024-25 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report (BFER). The BFER provides transparency and accountability about how funding is spent in delivering biosecurity priorities, and members acknowledged their appreciation for the increased transparency. The Panel provided suggestions to enhance the preliminary draft BFER and for future versions of the report. For example, estimating the costs avoided by preventing a biosecurity incursion.

The meeting concluded with Panel discussion on future funding needs for national biosecurity. The department confirmed that sustainable investment is a priority area, and the Panel was asked to consider their possible engagement in five sustainable investment activities being led by the department under the National Biosecurity Strategy Action Plan.

Attendees

The following Panel members attended the meeting:

- Australian Forest Products Association
- Australian Grape and Wine
- Cattle Australia

- Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
- Freight and Trade Alliance
- GrainGrowers
- International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
- Invasive Species Council
- Seafood Industry Australia
- Sheep Producers Australia
- WoolProducers Australia.

I thank Panel members for their participation in this meeting and for their ongoing collaborative engagement and partnership in ensuring strengthened biosecurity outcomes for Australia.

Next meeting

The next Panel meeting will be held in **December 2025**.

Justine Saunders APM

Deputy Secretary Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry