Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (Panel) minutes

Meeting no. 08/2026

Date: 12 March 2026

Time: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Location: Virtual (MS Teams)

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Action item	Action officer	Status
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	Complete
2. Department to advise members on further opportunities to contribute to relevant national biosecurity reform priorities.	Department	Complete
Action items from 12 March 2026 meeting		
1. Department to provide members with an update at the next Panel meeting on the implementation of the Inspector-General of Biosecurity recommendations to improve the Australian biosecurity system.	Department	In progress
2. Department to organise a meeting in the first half of 2026 to discuss the national reform agenda and provide Panel members with an opportunity to provide input.	Department	In progress

MEETING SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES REACHED

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
Item 1	**Welcome and acknowledgement of Country, apologies and housekeeping** The Chair opened the meeting at 11:00 am and welcomed attendees. Quorum was confirmed. See Appendix A for attendees and apologies. The Chair noted that the Panel's Terms of Reference have been updated to include the increased quorum of 11, approved by members at the last meeting. This change reflects Panel membership increasing from 19 to 21, with the addition of the National Farmers' Federation and National Farmers' Federation Horticulture Council. Members: 1. **ENDORSED** the previous meeting minutes.
Item 2	**Secretary's address** Secretary Victoria Anderson addressed the Panel on key Government and department priorities and her interest in reform opportunities to drive productivity. Panel members had an opportunity to make general comments and ask questions. Members **NOTED** the Secretary's address. Members' comments included: 1. Welcoming the Secretary and appreciating the Government and department updates provided. 2. Appreciating the department's prioritisation of regulatory maturity and acknowledging opportunities for cost recovery and regulatory efficiencies. 3. Acknowledging the work of the outgoing Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IGB) and seeking confirmation that responding to his recommendations to improve the Australian biosecurity system remains a departmental priority. 4. Suggesting that Government could more clearly communicate the successes of the national biosecurity system. 5. Seeking assurance that environmental biosecurity is appropriately considered in the department's priorities and reform. The department: 1. Confirmed that responding to the IGB's recommendations to improve the Australian biosecurity system remains a department priority, and offered to provide members with an update on the implementation of outstanding recommendations at the next Panel meeting. 2. Confirmed environmental biosecurity is a key priority for the department. **Department update** The department provided a paper prior to the meeting with updates on the: 1. Australian Government's natural disaster support. 2. New wine code of conduct. 3. Horticulture code of conduct review. 4. Current national emergency biosecurity responses. 5. Status of H5 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) (bird flu) on Heard Island and McDonald Islands. 6. Status of H5 HPAI preparedness activities. 7. 2025 biosecurity enforcement activity highlights. Members **NOTED** the updates.

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
Item 3	**Update on cost recovery for export services** The department provided an overview of proposed changes to cost recovery for export services and arrangements and shared an update on the ongoing consultation to support these changes. The department: 1. Advised that the Government has decided to move to full cost recovery across seven export arrangements by 2029-30, in a phased manner. 2. Noted that consultation on the draft export Cost Recovery Implementation Statements is underway, inviting feedback on price structure of fees and levies, rationale for charging, and impacts on market behaviour. Members **NOTED** the update. Members' comments included: 1. Appreciating the update and the opportunity to participate in the consultation process. 2. Noting that a reduction in market diversification in some sectors may be an unintended consequence of the proposed changes.
Item 4	**Presentation: Financial update including review of 2025-26 departmental biosecurity funding and expenditure to date and forward outlook** The department delivered a presentation about its year-to-date performance and forward outlook in relation to biosecurity budget and expenditure. Members **NOTED** the presentation. Members' comments included: 1. Seeking further information about underspend of administered programs. 2. Seeking clarification about next steps for terminating administered programs such as those for environmental biosecurity. 3. Seeking to understand the proportion of cost recovery vs appropriation funding across the forward years. The department: 1. Advised that funding for administered programs is expected to be used in 2025-26, or could be 'rolled over'. 2. Advised that continuation of terminating administered program funding is a matter for Government consideration. 3. Confirmed that the mix of biosecurity funding sources will vary across the forward years, subject to outcomes of Federal Budgets.

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
Item 5	**Proposed framework for the 2025-26 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report (BFER)** The department provided the proposed framework for the 2025-26 BFER including proposed improvements to the next report such as expanding content on emergency response arrangements and analysis of expenditure by control stage and pathway. Members **NOTED** the proposed framework for the 2025-26 BFER and **PROVIDED** views on the proposed BFER framework. Members' feedback included: 1. Appreciation of the department's continued efforts to provide greater transparency into biosecurity funding and expenditure. 2. Suggesting that reporting against qualitative as well as quantitative performance measures would help demonstrate to stakeholders the value of their investments in the national biosecurity system. For example, including information about avoided costs of incursions due to the biosecurity system. 3. The Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis offering to assist in ways to present financial information regarding emergency response arrangements. The department thanked members for their feedback and noted the BFER and the department's Annual Report should be read together to provide more case studies and qualitative examples of performance.
Item 6	**National biosecurity reform agenda and priorities for the 2026-27 financial year** The department provided a brief update on the national biosecurity reform agenda and priorities for the 2026-27 financial year. The department advised members on further opportunities to contribute to relevant national biosecurity reform priorities. The department advised that there would be a specific Panel meeting to discuss the reform agenda and next steps in the coming months. Members **NOTED** the update.
Item 7	**Other business and next meeting** The department noted that the next full Panel meeting will be held in August 2026. Members **NOTED** the update.
Item 8	**Meeting close** The department thanked members again for their participation and for ongoing collaborative engagement and partnership in ensuring strengthened biosecurity outcomes for Australia.

The meeting closed at 12:16 pm.

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel Secretariat

March 2026

APPENDIX A – Meeting attendees

ATTENDEES	
Stephen Sheridan	Australian Dairy Farmers
Paco Tovar	Australian Forest Products Association
Cameron Brown	Australian Fresh Produce Alliance
Dr Chris Parker	Cattle Australia
Prof. Andrew Robinson	Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
Prof. Brett Sutton	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Paul Zalai	Freight and Trade Alliance
Brad Leonard	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
Jack Gough	Invasive Species Council
Charlotte Wundersitz	National Farmers' Federation
Richard Shannon	National Farmers' Federation Horticulture Council
Jo Hall	WoolProducers Australia
Victoria Anderson, Secretary	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
Justine Saunders, Deputy Secretary	DAFF
Christie Sawczuk, First Assistant Secretary	DAFF
Julia Wells, Assistant Secretary	DAFF
PRESENTERS	
Paul Howe, a/g Chief Finance Officer	DAFF
Chris McDonald, Assistant Secretary	DAFF
PROXIES	
Dr Mary Wu	Animal Health Australia Industry Forum (ACMF)
Dr Sam Nelson	GrainGrowers
Julie Petty	Seafood Industry Australia
Adrienne Ryan	Sheep Producers Australia
APOLOGIES	
Tanya Pittard	Animal Health Australia Industry Forum (APL)
Lee McLean	Australian Grape and Wine
Margo Andrae	Australian Pork Limited
Adam Kay	Cotton Australia
Barry Large	Grain Producers Australia
Shona Gawel	GrainGrowers
Nathan Hancock	Plant Health Australia Industry Forum (Citrus Aus)
Dr John Ackerman	Seafood Industry Australia
Bonnie Skinner	Sheep Producers Australia
Matthew Geysen, Chief Finance Officer	DAFF
SECRETARIAT	
Dane Roberts, Director	DAFF
Kathryn Pagler, a/g Assistant Director	DAFF
Claire Nashar, Senior Policy Officer	DAFF
Leonardo Palu, Graduate	DAFF