



Meeting 9, 12 August 2026

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel

Chair's Note

Key updates

On 12 August 2026, I chaired the ninth meeting of the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (the Panel).

The Panel discussed key departmental developments since its eighth meeting in March 2026. Topics included Government support for the national response to H5 bird flu, efforts to continue securing fuel and fertiliser for Australia, and the implementation of the review recommendations of the Inspector-General of Biosecurity.

The department updated the Panel on its departmental biosecurity expenditure for 2025-26 and the biosecurity funding budget outlook. The department also shared the findings of the July 2026 Australian National Audit Office report on [Cost Recovery for Biosecurity in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#) and work underway to address the findings. Members appreciated the update and requested further information about the specific regulatory activities that are captured by cost-recovery fees and charges.

The Panel considered a draft of the 2025-26 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report. The department provided an overview of key changes for this year's report, including further detail on expenditure type by pathway (e.g. travellers) and control stage (e.g. pre-border), and on national biosecurity emergency response funding. Panel members supported the increased transparency proposed for this year's report.

The department shared an overview of the funding that underpins national biosecurity response arrangements, including the Commonwealth's role and funding contribution. The department answered members' questions, including about deed review participation and year-on-year differences in funding for response programs.

The department provided an update on the national biosecurity reform agenda, including outcomes of consultation on the proposed reforms and National Biosecurity Strategy implementation arrangements. Panel members discussed emerging priorities from the consultation (including strengthening preparedness and response arrangements, ensuring sustainable funding, and building a skilled biosecurity workforce) and suggested feedback on the proposed approach for the development of the national biosecurity reform roadmap. The department committed to provide more information on outcomes from the consultation process, and next steps and timeframes.

Attendees

The following Panel members attended the meeting:

- Animal Health Australia Industry Forum
- Australian Dairy Farmers
- Australian Forest Products Association
- Australian Fresh Produce Alliance
- Australian Grape and Wine
- Australian Pork Limited
- Cattle Australia
- Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
- Cotton Australia
- Freight and Trade Alliance
- Grain Producers Australia
- GrainGrowers
- International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
- Invasive Species Council
- National Farmers' Federation
- Plant Health Australia Industry Forum
- Sheep Producers Australia
- Wool Producers 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 2026**.

Justine Saunders

Deputy Secretary Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry