Meeting 5, 1 May 2025

Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel

# Chair’s Note

**Key updates**

Today I was pleased to host the fifth meeting of the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (the Panel).

This extended meeting gave Panel members the opportunity to hear from and engage with departmental executives within the Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group about their areas of responsibility and their priorities. This included discussion of current priorities and challenges across plant, animal and environmental biosecurity, and across biosecurity strategy, operations and compliance. This provided the opportunity for Panel members to ask questions to gain a deeper understanding of the department’s biosecurity work to support the Panel’s ongoing advice to the department on biosecurity priorities. Departmental executives also presented proposed priorities for the 2025-26 financial year and sought Panel input.

The department provided an update on its current financial position in relation to biosecurity, including outlining the complexity of biosecurity funding in the department. The department also presented a framework for the 2024-25 Biosecurity Funding and Expenditure Report (BFER), which would be published in late 2025, to the Panel for their input. The BFER provides transparency and accountability for how funding is spent in delivering biosecurity priorities, and members acknowledged their appreciation for the increased transparency.

The Panel was provided with an update on biosecurity sustainable funding, with the department to provide further information on potential future biosecurity funding sources for Panel discussion following the outcome of the 2025 Federal election.

 **Attendees**

The following Panel members attended the meeting:

* Animal Health Australia Industry Forum
* Australian Dairy Farmers
* Australian Forest Products Association
* Australian Pork Limited
* Cattle Australia
* Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
* Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
* Freight and Trade Alliance
* Grain Producers Australia
* GrainGrowers
* International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
* Invasive Species Council
* Plant Health Australia Industry Forum
* 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 **August 2025**.

**Justine Saunders APM**
**Deputy Secretary Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group**
**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**