



## Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (Panel) minutes

Meeting no. 01/2024

Date: 30 April 2024

Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Face-to-face - Agriculture House, Canberra

### SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Date of meeting	Action items	Action officer	Deadline	Status
30 April 2024	1. Confidentiality Deed to be reviewed by department to allow panel members to communicate non-sensitive information to organisation members and stakeholders.	DAFF/Secretariat	May 2024	In progress
30 April 2024	2. Organise out of session meeting to discuss Terms of Reference, confidentiality arrangements and Workplan.	Secretariat	May 2024	In progress
30 April 2024	3. Chair to provide draft Chair's Note to panel members for consideration in lieu of formal meeting communique, in advance of publication on the department's website.	Ms Saunders (Chair)	ASAP	Completed

### MEETING SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES REACHED

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
Item 1	<p><b>Welcome and acknowledgement of Country, apologies and housekeeping</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting at 2.00pm and welcomed attendees.</p> <p>See <a href="#">Appendix A</a> for meeting attendees and apologies.</p>
Item 2	<p><b>Introductory remarks</b></p> <p>The Chair:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasised the department's secure long-term funding under the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding package, as announced in the <b>2023-24 Budget</b>, enabling strategic investments to be made in the future.</li> <li>Highlighted the panel's role in providing practical and strategic advice for the department's/Commonwealth's prioritisation and investment of Commonwealth biosecurity funding.</li> <li>Noted the department is committed to being collaborative, open and transparent and providing insights that can inform members advice and guidance.</li> </ol>

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
	<p>4. Encouraged members to capitalise on this unique opportunity to shape the future direction of the department's biosecurity priority setting and in so doing shape the direction of the Commonwealth biosecurity effort.</p> <p>5. Clarified that while the panel advises on funding priorities, administrative decisions remain with the Secretary and designated officials under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>.</p> <p><b>Action items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. 1: Confidentiality Deed to be reframed by department to allow panel members to communicate non-sensitive information to organisation members and stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 3</b>	<p><b>Secretary Fennessy Address to Panel</b></p> <p>The Secretary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressed his commitment to engaging with the panel and emphasised the importance of industry input to the biosecurity system</li> <li>Acknowledged industry concerns about recent policy decision impacts and highlighted the significance of sustainable biosecurity funding, and emphasised the panel's role in improving department-stakeholder relationships.</li> </ol>
<b>Item 4</b>	<p><b>Presentation: Governance of Public Funding</b></p> <p>A presentation was delivered by the Department about Governance of Public Funding.</p> <p>No queries were raised by panel members.</p>
<b>Item 5</b>	<p><b>Minister Murray Watt Address to Panel</b></p> <p>The Minister:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasised the panel's pivotal role in influencing biosecurity policy and funding decisions.</li> <li>Stressed the need for increased industry involvement in decision-making, with the panel facilitating better communication and financial transparency between stakeholders and government.</li> <li>Encouraged the panel to address broader biosecurity issues beyond the Biosecurity Protection Levy (BPL), and provide input on industry priorities for the sustainable biosecurity funding package.</li> <li>Confirmed the panel will continue regardless of the future of the proposed Biosecurity Protection Levy (BPL).</li> </ol>
<b>Item 6</b>	<p><b>Presentation: Overview of Biosecurity Funding; Appropriation, Cost Recovery and Emergency Response</b></p> <p>A presentation was delivered by the Department's Chief Finance Officer (CFO) about Biosecurity Funding including appropriation and cost recovered revenue.</p> <p>The CFO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressed industry concerns regarding the revenue from the BPL, including options for tracking and recording of expenditure such as a special account.</li> </ol>

Agenda item	Meeting summary and outcomes reached
	<p>2. Discussed upcoming transparency measures for the <b>2024-25</b> financial year, and requested the panel’s input on relevant information desired by industry and stakeholders in new public annual biosecurity reporting.</p>
<p><b>Item 7</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Terms of Reference, proposed panel workplan and DAFF priorities for 2024- 25 financial year</b></p> <p>The Chair requested feedback from members as to how to proceed with discussion of the Terms of Reference given there was inadequate time to resolve at this meeting</p> <p><b><u>Outcome reached</u></b></p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>AGREED</b> that an out-of-session meeting should be held in the coming weeks to continue discussions.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Action items</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No.2: Organise out of session meeting to discuss Terms of Reference, updated confidentiality arrangements and Workplan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 8</b></p>	<p><b>Communique</b></p> <p>The Chair discussed with members if they would be comfortable with a communique or if changing the communique to a Chair’s note would be preferred.</p> <p><b><u>Outcome reached</u></b></p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>AGREED</b> that a Chair’s note would be appropriate.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Action items</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. 3: Chair to provide draft Chair’s Note to panel members for consideration in lieu of formal meeting communique, in advance of publication on department’s website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 9</b></p>	<p><b>Timing of next meeting/Other business</b></p> <p>Members requested that panel sessions be extended beyond two hours for upcoming sessions in <b>2024</b>.</p>

The meeting closed at 4:00pm.

## APPENDIX A – Meeting attendees

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	
Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	
Dr Mary Wu	Animal Health Australia Industry Forum
Stephen Sheridan	Australian Dairy Farmers
Paco Tovar	Australian Forest Products Association
Lee McLean	Australian Grape and Wine
Dr Chris Parker	Cattle Australia
Prof. Andrew Robinson	Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis
Colin Bettles	Grain Producers Australia
Shona Gawel	GrainGrowers
Brad Leonard	International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
Andrew Cox	Invasive Species Council
Nathan Hancock	Plant Health Australia Industry Forum
Bonnie Skinner	Sheep Producers Australia
Jo Hall	WoolProducers Australia
Secretary Adam Fennessy PSM	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
Deputy Secretary Justine Saunders APM - Chair	DAFF
Bronwen Jagers, A/g First Assistant Secretary	DAFF
<b>PRESENTERS</b>	
Lucy Vincent, Assistant Secretary ( <i>Item 4</i> )	DAFF
Matthew Geysen, CFO ( <i>Item 6</i> )	DAFF
<b>PROXIES</b>	
Claire McClelland (for Cameron Brown)	Australian Fresh Produce Alliance
Damien Howse (for Margo Andrae)	Australian Pork Limited
Dr Dean Paini (for Prof. Brett Sutton)	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Bianca Flint (for Paul Zalai)	Freight and Trade Alliance
Julie Petty (for Veronica Papacosta)	Seafood Industry Australia
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
Margo Andrae	Australian Pork Limited
Cameron Brown	Australian Fresh Produce Alliance
Professor Brett Sutton	CSIRO
Adam Kay	Cotton Australia
Doug McCollum (for Adam Kay)	Cotton Australia
Paul Zalai	Freight and Trade Alliance
Veronica Papacosta	Seafood Industry Australia
<b>SECRETARIAT</b>	
Jessica Mitchell, Assistant Secretary	DAFF
Michelle Brotohusodo, Director	DAFF
Cathy Trinh, A/g Assistant Director	DAFF
Tristan Hawkins, Policy Officer	DAFF
Caitlin Clark, Senior Policy/Program Officer	DAFF