

Reference: 06702/10

Department of  
**Employment, Economic  
Development and Innovation**

28 JUL 2010

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe

### **Inquiry into Biosecurity and Quarantine Arrangements**

Thank you for your letter of 19 July 2010 regarding the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee inquiry into quarantine and biosecurity arrangements.

I can advise the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) supports the Beale review recommendations in large part and is working closely with its interstate and federal colleagues to put the recommendations into effect. This is largely occurring through the National Biosecurity Committee which reports ultimately to two Ministerial Councils. Progress has been good to date, with two significant agreements soon to be considered by the Council of Australian Governments.

I am aware that the Beale review made recommendations about significantly enhanced resourcing for biosecurity in Australia and that this has been on hold owing to the effects of the global financial crisis. While regrettable, it is understood that this was unavoidable. However it is hoped that a future government will address these recommendations, particularly funding for post-border biosecurity when the financial situation permits.

There is one aspect of funding for biosecurity that could be addressed in the shorter term. All states are in the situation of having constitutional limitations to the raising of levies for purposes such as biosecurity. There has been some preliminary discussion around a national biosecurity levy that could overcome this impediment to implementing joint industry-government programs at the state level. The Senate Inquiry may consider this as an issue to examine further.



If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Ron Glanville of DEEDI

Yours sincerely

~~Robert~~ Robert Setter  
**Associate Director-General**  
**Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation**