

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Inquiry: Agriculture (Biosecurity Protection) Levies Bill 2024
Question No: IQ24-000040
Hearing Date: 23 April 2024
Division/Agency: Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division (BSRD) G3
Topic: Deer Slaughter Levy
Hansard Page: 39
Question Date: 23 April 2024
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Canavan asked:

Mrs Jagers: If I can correct my previous evidence, deer are subject to a levy—a deer slaughter levy.

Senator CANAVAN: Okay. Great. How much is that levy at the moment?

Mrs Jagers: I don't know if we have that data with us, but we can provide it.

Senator CANAVAN: How many transactions are under that levy? How many times is it levied in one year?

Mrs Jagers: We don't have that information with us.

Answer:

- Current deer slaughter levy rates:

Deer slaughter levy rates			
	National Residue Survey	R&D (AgriFutures Australia)	TOTAL
Deer slaughter – hot dressed	6 cents per kilogram	2 cents per kilogram	8 cents per kilogram
Deer slaughter – cold dressed	6 cents per kilogram	2.06 cents per kilogram	8.06 cents per kilogram
Deer slaughter – weight not determined	\$2.40 per head	\$1.20 per head	\$3.60 per head

- This data is published on the department's website at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/levies/rates/deer-slaughter>.
- In 2022-23, there were 1,160 deer that were slaughtered at an abattoir for human consumption and subject to the deer slaughter levy.
- The deer slaughter levy payments are submitted on a monthly basis to the department.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Inquiry: Agriculture (Biosecurity Protection) Levies Bill 2024
Question No: IQ24-000041
Hearing Date: 23 April 2024
Division/Agency: Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division (BSRD) G3
Topic: Terms of reference
Hansard Page: 42
Question Date: 23 April 2024
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Canavan asked:

Senator CANAVAN: But there has been no cost-benefit study on whether it's worthwhile charging the deer industry \$265, along with a lot of other industries—paltry amounts of money. There has been none.

Ms Saunders: There has been an assessment on the levy as a concept.

Senator CANAVAN: As a concept—okay. There's a lot of angst we've heard today from people about this advisory panel. There's no terms of reference. Is there a proposal to provide them with the terms of reference ahead of what will apparently be the meeting next week?

Ms Saunders: Yes, we did, and we're committed to providing a detailed agenda and papers seven days ahead of that meeting. If they haven't gone out already, they will this afternoon, in accordance with our—

Senator CANAVAN: On notice, could we get a copy of those after they go out? Thanks.

Ms Saunders: Yes

Answer:

The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel are attached. The draft ToR were circulated to advisory panel members on 23 April 2024. The ToR will be finalised following consideration by panel members at the inaugural meeting.

Attachment A: Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel Terms of References v1.0 April 2024

SUSTAINABLE BIOSECURITY FUNDING ADVISORY PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Version 1.0 | April 2024

PURPOSE

The Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (advisory panel) will provide a mechanism for biosecurity stakeholders to advise, guide and support the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) as the Director of Biosecurity on biosecurity priorities, and for DAFF to inform panel members how Commonwealth biosecurity funding is being used. It will enable members to provide genuine input into Australia's biosecurity system.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair / Facilitator

The Chair of the advisory panel will be the Deputy Secretary, Biosecurity and Compliance Group, DAFF. The Chair can delegate the role to others as needed.

Members

Members of the advisory panel comprise representatives from the following organisations:

- Animal Health Australia Industry Forum
- Australian Dairy Farmers
- Australian Forest Products Association
- Australian Fresh Produce Alliance
- Australian Grape and Wine
- Australian Pork Limited
- CaneGrowers (awaiting confirmation)
- 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 Limited
- International Forwarders and Customs Brokers Association
- Invasive Species Council
- Plant Health Australia Industry Forum
- Seafood Industry Australia
- Sheep Producers Australia
- WoolProducers Australia

OFFICIAL

Advisory panel members may have one representative who is authorised to contribute on behalf of their organisation, including agreeing to any recommendations or resolutions of the advisory panel.

Proxies

Advisory panel members may nominate proxies to attend meetings in their absence. The purpose of the proxy is to enable progression of meeting objectives. Members must nominate proxies to the advisory panel secretariat in writing in advance of the meeting taking place.

Proxies hold the same delegations as panel members at the attended meeting, including any decision making. Proxies are expected to debrief the advisory panel member they are representing as soon as practicable following the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum of the advisory panel will comprise of the Chair and 11 members.

Observers

The Chair, members, or DAFF may request that representatives from their organisation attend a full meeting or specific agenda items as an observer. Requests are to be made in writing to the Secretariat and to be approved by the Chair.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Advisory panel

The advisory panel will:

- Provide advice to the Secretary of DAFF, as the Director of Biosecurity, to inform the department's biosecurity priority setting.
- Support the Commonwealth Government to progress biosecurity priorities.

Note:

- The panel's advice will generally not be sought on, or considered in relation to, individual administrative decisions under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
- The panel is not a decision-making body.

Chair

The Chair (or their delegate) will:

- Chair meetings and undertake other chairing duties as required, including making decisions about managing conflicts of interest.
- Provide the advisory panel with information about biosecurity funding and how that money is invested in the biosecurity system.
- Provide the Secretary and their executive with information about the biosecurity priorities identified by the advisory panel.
- Provide briefings to the Secretary, Executive Board and Minister on the progress and outcomes of advisory panel meetings as appropriate.

Members

Members (or their proxies) will:

- Engage with the secretariat in advance of meetings to put forward items for the agenda.
- Prepare and submit papers to the secretariat in advance of meetings as required.
- Have authority to represent their organisation at meetings and attend meetings as required.
- Provide comment on/endorsement of papers as required.
- Provide advice on their organisation's views about biosecurity priorities.
- Disclose and manage actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

OFFICIAL

Secretary of DAFF

The Secretary will:

- Give due consideration to panel advice regarding biosecurity priorities, in conjunction with any other relevant considerations, such as Commonwealth legislation and frameworks.

Note:

- It is a matter for the Secretary, as Director of Biosecurity (or other decision-makers as relevant) as to whether to have regard to the panel's advice when making decisions under the Act, or for the administration of the Act and whether to follow or not follow that advice.

Secretariat

DAFF will provide secretariat services for the advisory panel. The secretariat can be contacted via SecretariatBSF@aff.gov.au; meeting invitations and materials will be sent from this address.

The secretariat will:

- Operate in consultation with the advisory panel Chair and members as appropriate
- Maintain a current list of members, observers, and alternative representatives.
- Coordinate and manage advisory panel business including:
 - collating, quality checking, circulating and maintaining documentation as required, including templates and papers
 - arranging meetings and taking minutes at each meeting
 - coordinating advisory panel meeting agendas and preparing meeting records
 - undertaking and maintaining electronic filing of key documents
 - maintaining action registers and following up with advisory panel members on outstanding issues.

The secretariat will circulate minutes of each advisory panel meeting to members for endorsement as part of the papers for the following meeting. Minutes will summarise discussions and record any decisions taken or recommendations made by the advisory panel and shall not purport to be a transcript of discussion.

WORK PLAN

The advisory panel will have an annual work plan that guides its meetings per year. The work plan can also be updated outside this period if the need arises.

OFFICIAL

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Meetings

The advisory panel will meet preferably face-to-face three times a year, but virtual attendance may be accommodated if required. Virtual meetings may be convened at other times if requested and agreed to by the Chair.

The secretariat will circulate the draft minutes and draft action list to members for comment within three (3) weeks of the conclusion of each meeting. The secretariat and any members with actions assigned are to progress actions arising from the meeting as required.

Record-keeping

The secretariat is responsible for maintaining electronic records of the advisory panel. The secretariat and advisory panel members must be aware that all papers of the advisory panel, including agenda, meeting papers, discussion points, emails, and attachments may be subject to a Freedom of Information request. This includes draft and final versions of paper and electronic records. Documents will be marked with the appropriate security classification.

Review of Terms of Reference

The advisory panel Terms of Reference will be reviewed after 12 months from the date of initial endorsement or as required/requested by the Chair.

Financial expenditure

It is the responsibility of members to ensure they can represent their organisations appropriately and to attend meetings. Membership roles are unpaid and on a voluntary basis. Each advisory panel member will be responsible for their own costs associated with attending meetings.

REPORTING

DAFF will provide an annual report of biosecurity funding and expenditure to the advisory panel in August-September of each year.

The advisory panel will provide advice to the Director of Biosecurity about biosecurity priorities and use of funding for the following financial year (as per the workplan), as well as the operation of the advisory panel after 12 months.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Advisory panel members must maintain the highest possible standards of integrity in relation to their advisory panel membership. In working to protect Australia's biosecurity interests, members have a responsibility to be aware of their obligations to avoid conflicts of interest where possible, and actively manage those potential conflicts of interest that cannot be avoided.

If an advisory panel member becomes aware of an actual or perceived conflict of interest, the member must notify the secretariat, or the Chair immediately and fully disclose relevant

information relating to the conflict. The Chair, in consultation with the member, will determine what steps are reasonably required to resolve or otherwise deal with the conflict.

If the Chair becomes aware of an actual or perceived conflict of interest arising in exercising their function, the Chair must notify the advisory panel members immediately and fully disclose relevant information relating to the conflict. The Secretary (DAFF), in consultation with the Chair, will determine what steps are reasonably required to resolve or otherwise deal with the conflict.

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

Advisory panel members, their proxies, and observers are required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement with DAFF. All meeting papers and documents are not to be shared unless permission is given by the Chair.

BACKGROUND

On 28 February 2024 the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Minister Watt, announced a new Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Panel (advisory panel). As announced, the role of the advisory panel is to provide transparency of biosecurity expenditure and give biosecurity stakeholders, including producers and importers input into biosecurity priority setting.

Membership of the advisory panel is to be drawn from major agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, importers and research organisations. Minister Watt invited 22 agricultural industry, import industry, and research organisations to be members of the advisory panel. Those that have accepted to date are listed under membership.