

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000033

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD)

**Topic:** Import Permits

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Canavan asked:**

1. The approved standard words on Australia's FMD response, state that the Government was introducing new measures, including "a review of import permits for products from Indonesia that may carry Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and a suspension of those of concern". What are the relevant 'products' that were reviewed under this measure?
2. Have any import permits been suspended, and if so, what are these?

**Answer:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's response to the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in Indonesia has leveraged off and extended earlier measures undertaken in response to the Indonesian lumpy skin disease (LSD) outbreak in February 2022.

As part of this work, the department has review biosecurity import permits for:

**Food items**, including dairy and dairy-containing products, protein powders and supplements, unretorted meat and collagen and casings for human consumption:

- Response to LSD: 1,256 permits were varied and 16 permits were suspended following the removal of Indonesia from the *list of LSD-free countries* in February 2022. All 16 suspended permits were for dairy products.
- Response to FMD: 2,228 permits were varied and two permits were suspended following the removal of Indonesia from the *list of FMD-free countries* in May 2022. The two suspended permits were for cheese and butter.
- The production of cheese and butter involves processes which have been assessed as mitigating the biosecurity risk of LSD, but not FMD.
- All other food products that contain animal material from LSD- and FMD-susceptible species were found to have undergone processing that have been assessed as effectively mitigating the biosecurity risks of these pathogens.

**Laboratory goods**, including environmental samples and animal fluids and tissues:

- Response to LSD: 82 permits were varied following the removal of Indonesia from the *list of countries approved for bovine fluids and tissues* in February 2022.
- Response to FMD: two permits were varied following the removal of Indonesia from the *list of FMD-free countries* in May 2022.
- One varied permit relates to environmental samples (i.e., soil and water) which are not known to be a major risk pathway for LSD, but is recognised as a risk for FMD. The other permit is held by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) which allows for the import of animal fluids and tissues derived from a number of FMD-susceptible species from FMD-free countries

**Compost additives:**

- Response to FMD: 17 permits were varied to include a requirement for additional onshore treatments (e.g., irradiation or thermal treatments) to manage the biosecurity risk of FMD, following the removal of Indonesia from the *list of FMD-free countries* in May 2022.

**Peat:**

- Response to FMD: 74 permits were varied following the removal of Indonesia from the *list of FMD-free countries* in May 2022.

**Stockfeeds and fertilisers:**

- Response to LSD and FMD: the department considered permits for stockfeeds and fertilisers as part of its review. As these goods are highly processed and/or undergo thermal treatment, it was concluded that the biosecurity risk of these goods were sufficiently low to meet Australia's appropriate level of protection without a variation.

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### Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000034

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** National Animal Disease Preparedness Coordinator

**Topic:** The government's FMD Funding Announcements

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

#### Senator Canavan asked:

1. On what basis was the amount of \$14 million derived from, prior to 11 July, when the Minister's office requested the Department to provide the broad details of the funding? Can the Department break this funding down, and clarify what initiatives are included?
2. According to the Government, \$5 million will be used to provide technical expertise and support to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea. Can you please detail what this support entails, and is it currently being delivered to Indonesia?
3. The \$10 million biosecurity cooperation package announced on 9 August 2022 will supply additional vaccinations, as well as technical and advisory support to strengthen Indonesia's biosecurity measures and deliver personal protective equipment and disinfectants, train staff on the ground, and provide biosecurity expertise. What is the timeframe/breakdown of when this support is expected to be delivered?

#### Answer:

1. The \$14 million was derived by experts within the department based on the need for urgent and immediate funding to manage the increased risk of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD) due to the outbreaks in Indonesia.

This funding provides \$5 million support for Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea and \$9 million for domestic preparedness activities to ensure Australia is adequately protected from and prepared for an outbreak of FMD or LSD. The domestic preparedness component includes 18 additional frontline biosecurity officers, detector dogs deployed to Cairns and Darwin airports and targeted diagnostic and surveillance activities.

2. The \$5 million support package includes:
  - technical expertise to provide engagement and support to Indonesia to manage and contain the outbreaks of FMD and LSD as well as providing pre-emptive support for Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea
  - Strengthening laboratory capacity and capability, diagnostic testing and quality assurance to aid detection of FMD and LSD for Indonesia, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea.

The Australian Government is actively engaging with the governments of Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea on delivery of individual elements under the package. Support will be delivered to meet the evolving needs of each country's disease control and preparedness programs and will be provided over the course of the 2022-23 financial year.

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has contracted an expert to directly advise the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture in-country on vaccine development options (expert arrived in Indonesia August 2022).
  - The government has engaged CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness to strengthen laboratory diagnostic capacity through Indonesia's national laboratory network, including delivering reagents to support testing.
3. The government is actively engaging with the Indonesian Government on delivery of individual elements under the package. Support will be delivered to meet the evolving needs of Indonesia's disease control program and will be provided over the course of the 2022-23 financial year.

To date, funding from the package has secured 3 million doses of FMD vaccine which is expected to be delivered to Indonesia by the end of September 2022.

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**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000041

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** Australian Chief Veterinary Office

**Topic:** International Obligations

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Canavan asked:**

1. Does Australia have any international obligations, for example to the World Organisation for Animal Health? If so, what are they?

**Answer:**

Yes.

As a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Australia has international obligations related to trade and biosecurity. These include complying with the WTO's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

The SPS Agreement identifies the World Organisation for Animal Health, the International Plant Protection Convention, and Codex Alimentarius as the the relevant international standard setting bodies for animal health and zoonoses, plant health, and food safety respectively.

***World Organisation for Animal Health***

Australia has been a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) since 1925. This membership comes with rights and obligations and is maintained through the payment of an annual statutory contribution.

The Australian Chief Veterinary Officer is Australia's Delegate to WOAH.

WOAH Members who are WTO Members may comply with their obligations under the SPS Agreement either by basing their measures on relevant WOAH international standards, or by carrying out an appropriate scientific risk analysis.

The WOAH Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes provide international standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including through setting conditions for safe trade in animals and their products. These codes contain general provisions, for example defining certification obligations and compulsory reporting. They also contain disease-specific chapters with requirements for declaring freedom and safe trade, including for foot and mouth disease (Chapter 8.8), Varroa (Chapter 9.5) and lumpy skin disease (Chapter 11.9).

As a specific example, Australia is required to report our status for all WOAH listed disease every six months. We must also submit an immediate notification within 24 hours if there is a sudden or unexpected change in our disease situation. Such a notification was submitted when Varroa destructor was detected and is published publicly on WOAH's online World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

The WOAHA Manuals of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial and Aquatic Animals provide a standardised approach to the diagnosis of the diseases listed in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes. Their objective is to provide internationally agreed diagnostic laboratory methods and requirements for the production and control of vaccines and other biological products. Like the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, the WOAHA manuals contain general provisions and disease specific chapters.

### ***International Plant Protection Convention***

Similarly, Australia, as party to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) since 1952, has a number of rights and obligations under this intergovernmental treaty. The IPPC aims to protect the world's plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests, and promotes the safe trade of plants and plant products. The IPPC works to develop and encourage implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) as its main tool to achieve its goals.

The Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer is Australia's Official Contact Point to the IPPC.

There are 13 National Reporting Obligations (NROs) which help Contracting Parties achieve the objectives of the Convention. These include providing a description of the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO), the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, providing Points of Entry information and pest reporting. The occurrence, outbreak or spread of pests that may be of immediate or potential danger should be reported via the IPPC website once they happen. A pest report should contain important information that allows other countries to adjust as necessary their phytosanitary import requirements and to take actions taking into account any changes in pest risk. Australia routinely reports the occurrence of new plant pests through this portal and consideration of this obligation is a routine part of the deliberations of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) and all CCEPP members are consulted on the text used in the notification. Varroa mite, though dealt with under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) in Australia, is reported through the WOAHA requirements and the CCEPP secretariat and the Office of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer liaise closely on this.

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### **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000043

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division (BSRD)

**Topic:** National Biosecurity Strategy

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Canavan asked:**

1. Is the National Biosecurity Strategy released on 9 August 2022 a final version?

**Answer:**

1. Yes.

## **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References**

Answers to questions on notice

### **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000044

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division (BSRD)

**Topic:** National Biosecurity Committee

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Canavan asked:**

1. When is the next meeting of the National Biosecurity Committee?

**Answer:**

1. The National Biosecurity Committee met on 11 August and is next scheduled to meet on 28 September 2022.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References**  
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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000046

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division (BSRD)

**Topic:** IGB recommendations

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Canavan asked:**

1. What is the status of the 95 IGB recommendations and 8 ANAO recommendations that remain open as at March 2022? Can you please provide a list of these "open" recommendations and a description of what work is being done to achieve them and when they are likely to be met?

**Answer:**

1. Since March 2022, 13 of the 95 open Inspector-General Biosecurity (IGB) recommendations have now been closed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Of the eight open Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) recommendations, four are in final stages of closure, with remaining four being progressively implemented. (Refer Attachment A)
2. Recommendations can require significant change (in policy and/or operational arrangements) as well as consultation with other national and international agencies, industry and/or further decisions by government. This can mean an extended period of time to address fully agreed recommendations.
3. The department, as part of business as usual activities, has an ongoing program of work to address all agreed IGB and ANAO recommendations.

### Status summary of Inspectors-General review recommendations

Inspector-General review title	IGB Signature date	Number of Recommendations	August 2022 in progress status
Robustness of biosecurity measures to prevent entry of khapra beetle into Australia	December 2021	13	13
Accountable implementation of Inspectors-General recommendations (2015–2021) and developing a framework for future implementation accountability	November 2021	10	10
Confidence testing for at-border delivery of critical human biosecurity functions – Ruby Princess cruise ship incident	April 2021	22	20
Adequacy of department’s operational model to effectively mitigate biosecurity risks in evolving risk and business environments	February 2021	19	19
Biosecurity risk management of international express airfreight pathway for non-commercial consignments	July 2020	14	8
Effectiveness of Approved Arrangements in managing biosecurity risks in Australia	August 2019	5	4
Pest and disease interceptions and incursions in Australia	May 2019	2	2
Military biosecurity risk management in Australia	July 2018	2	2
Hitchhiker pest and contaminant biosecurity risk management in Australia	July 2018	4	1
Uncooked prawn imports: effectiveness of biosecurity controls	December 2017	4	3
		<b>95</b>	<b>82</b>

  

ANAO audit title	ANAO publish date	Number of Recommendations	August 2022 in progress status
Responding to Non-Compliance with Biosecurity Requirements	June 2021	8	8

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### **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000062

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD)

**Topic:** National stockpile of disinfectant

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

#### **Senator Canavan asked:**

1. Have we got a national stockpile of disinfectant for a variety of disease risks?

#### **Answer:**

There is no national stockpile of disinfectants for emergency animal diseases. In 2018, Animal Health Australia engaged a consultant to review the supply of disinfectants and other materials in an emergency animal disease response. The report found that all jurisdictions had stores of disinfectants for use in an emergency animal disease response. Most of the other disinfectants listed in AUSVETPLAN manuals for emergency animal diseases are readily available commercially in various formulations within Australia.

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**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000066

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** Inspector-General for Biosecurity

**Topic:** IGB review

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Canavan asked:**

1. When is the next IGB review due?

**Answer:**

The new Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IGB), Dr Lloyd Klumpp, recently commenced in the role on 25 July 2022 following Mr Rob Delane's term as IGB.

Three reviews with a total of 30 recommendations have been recently finalised under Mr Delane's 2020/22 work program:

- Efficacy and adequacy of department's X-ray scanning and detector dog screening techniques to prevent entry of biosecurity risk material into Australia, 7 July 2022 (14 recommendations)
- Assurance review for arrangements to import live lumpy skin disease virus to CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness, 8 July 2022 (2 recommendations)
- Effectiveness of preventive biosecurity arrangements to mitigate the risk of entry into Australia of the serious plant pest *Xylella fastidiosa*, 14 June 2022 (14 recommendations).

The completed reviews are available on the IGB website at <https://www.igb.gov.au/current-and-completed-reviews>.

The new IGB, Dr Lloyd Klumpp, is currently meeting with the senior executive and biosecurity personnel of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to develop the forward work program (2022–2025) for the IGB. Once the work program is finalised, it will be also published on the IGB website.

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### Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

**Inquiry:** Adequacy of Australia's biosecurity measures and response preparedness

**Question No:** IQ22-000067

**Hearing Date:** 10 August 2022

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division (BSRD)

**Topic:** Biosecurity sustainable funding model

**Question Date:** 12 August 2022

**Question Type:** Written

#### Senator Canavan asked:

1. When is the biosecurity sustainable funding model being implemented?
2. Can the Department outline all ministerial approvals and noting's on the sustainable funding mechanism and cost recovery process by the former Minister for Agriculture from the 2021-22 MYEFO process?

#### Answer:

1. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is taking a structured approach to developing sustainable funding options for biosecurity, and will be consulting with key stakeholders, to support future discussions within government. Implementation of a sustainable funding model is a matter for government.
2. In March 2022, the then Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, the Hon David Littleproud MP:
  - agreed to the department commencing a public consultation process on sustainable funding and investment for biosecurity
  - noted an internal review of the biosecurity cost recovery arrangement was underway
  - approved the publication of the 2021-22 Biosecurity Cost Recovery Implementation Statement.

In April 2022, Minister Littleproud agreed to the commencement of cost recovery for the 2021-22 Budget hitchhiker pest measure from 1 January 2023 and noted that this would be implemented through a new 2022-23 Biosecurity Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (measure can be found in 2021-22 Budget Paper No. 2: pages 51 and 52).

In April 2022, Minister Littleproud noted an update on the development of the National Biosecurity Strategy, including the outcomes of public consultation and key issues raised in relation to strategy implementation and sustainable funding for biosecurity (including funding for the strategy's implementation).

- Minister Littleproud wrote to state and territory agriculture ministers seeking their views on implementing and funding actions outlined in the final strategy.