



Biosecurity

In the 2021-22 Budget, the Australian Government will provide **\$370.9 million** to expand our investment in safeguarding Australia from exotic pests and diseases. This package builds on previous investments to ensure Australia's biosecurity system continues to protect Australia's agriculture industry, supporting its goal of \$100 billion in farm gate value by 2030, and contributing to Australia's National Economic Recovery.

What's in this year's Budget

Investing in our critical frontline resources and people

We will invest **\$84 million** into frontline measures to better manage the risk of pests and diseases entering Australia. This includes more on the ground resources to target known and emerging threats, like African swine fever (ASF), and applying modern technology to better detect and respond to these threats. We will:

- continue our significant investment in managing the threat of ASF and other emerging exotic pests and diseases, with frontline resources, including detector dogs and enhanced screening technology, and ongoing efforts to support our producers and near-neighbour countries to respond to outbreaks of national significance
- expand our diagnostic capabilities to safely support faster biosecurity clearance of imported plant and animal-based products, benefitting a range of industries, particularly horticulture.

Modernising our ICT systems, technology and data analytics

We will invest **\$80.9 million** to build a modern, effective biosecurity system underpinned by the right technology, information systems and analytical capabilities. We will:

- modernise and strengthen Australia's biosecurity screening capability to provide faster and more efficient clearance of people and goods, including piloting offshore risk screening using 3D x-ray technology
- enhance and expand the current international arrivals system to streamline arrivals of vessels and aircraft, including further strengthening passenger and crew information to manage human health risks
- improve our digital capability to manage biosecurity risks in the international mail pathway
- develop a business case to deliver a simplified, integrated digital biosecurity import system.

Strengthening our partnerships with importers, companies, producers and the community

We will invest **\$205.9 million** to improve our ability to detect and manage threats offshore, while increasing our capacity to respond to incursions. We will:

- grow our intelligence and understanding of emerging global pest and disease threats, including to human health, while strengthening preparedness and capabilities across producers, veterinarians and domestic laboratories
- collaborate with countries across Asia and the Pacific to build greater capacity for early warning and offshore mitigation of threats
- strengthen our systems for managing risk on the container cargo pathway, including expanding offshore assurance arrangements around hitchhiker pest risks, stronger border interventions for shipping containers and increased information on global container and commodity movements
- make greater use of industry arrangements, with proof of concept trials of potential new measures, to deliver faster but safe clearance of low risk commodities
- strengthen our national preparedness, response and recovery capability to help us to meet the challenges of adverse biosecurity events and protect regional jobs and economies

- increase importers' and individuals' understanding of their role in the biosecurity system, including through a new biosecurity brand and targeted information, awareness and education campaigns.

Why is this important

This package will reinforce the Australian biosecurity system to help keep exotic pest and disease threats offshore as well as to respond when they arrive at Australia's borders. Protecting our biosecurity status protects on-farm returns, access to overseas markets and our biodiversity, generating real, significant benefits for Australia's agriculture industry, regional communities and our environment.

The package will support more proactive management of emerging biosecurity risks, and deliver robust, adaptable and forward-leaning biosecurity capabilities, consistent with independent reviews of the biosecurity system by the Inspector-General of Biosecurity and CSIRO.

Importers, travellers and the broader community will benefit from streamlined, modern entry and intervention arrangements that apply a risk based approach. These will protect against biosecurity threats while cutting red tape to ensure goods and people can enter Australia smoothly and efficiently, supporting the government's Simplified Trade System agenda and Australia's economic recovery.

How much will this cost

We will implement the full package over 4 years. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will work with industry to implement the reforms.

	2021-22 \$million	2022-23 \$million	2023-24 \$million	2024-25 \$million	TOTAL \$million
Better Targeting Risk by Enhancing our Ability to Rapidly Identify Key Pests and Diseases by using Modern Diagnostic Technologies	5.0	8.2	6.4	5.9	25.5
Ongoing Frontline Resourcing to Embed the Benefits of the Short-Term African Swine Fever Investment	14.8	14.4	14.8	14.6	58.6
Growing and Embedding a Modern Biosecurity Screening Capability to Speed and Ease the Movement of People and Goods Across our Border	13.7	5.8	0	0	19.5
Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing Systems (STEPS)	1.5	0	0	0	1.5
Digital Capability for Enhanced Biosecurity Intervention at International Mail Centres for Better Border Clearance and Risk Outcomes	6.9	19.2	3.4	1.7	31.2
Streamlining International Conveyance Arrivals for a Nationally Consistent Data Repository for all Vessels and Aircraft	6.1	11.0	10.0	1.7	28.7
Protecting Australia's Agriculture from Increasing Global Threats	9.0	9.9	8.1	7.7	34.6
A Stronger Biosecurity System to Protect Australia from Hitchhiker Pests	26.3	26.5	22.0	22.0	96.8
Investing in Trade, Agriculture and the Environment through Supporting Australia's Biosecurity Preparedness, Response and Recovery Capability	18.1	17.5	14.9	16.9	67.4
Driving Biosecurity System Strength and Resilience through improved Partnerships, Education and Engagement	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	3.9
Proof of concept trials	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2
Total: Biosecurity Package	105.7	113.5	80.3	71.3	370.9

More information

For more information about our commitments to the Australian biosecurity system, visit awe.gov.au. More information on the 2021 Budget will be available after Budget night by visiting budget.gov.au





Biosecurity: Investing in our critical frontline resources and people

The Australian Government is delivering measures to safeguard Australia from exotic pests and diseases arriving on our shores while ensuring our national biosecurity system is better able to deal with those that do. A strong, efficient and well-resourced biosecurity system focussed on prevention, preparedness and response will protect Australia's agriculture industry, supporting its goal of \$100 billion in farm gate value by 2030, and contributing to Australia's National Economic Recovery.

What's in this year's Budget

The 2021-22 Budget delivers **\$370.9 million** to support reforms to ensure the Australian biosecurity system is able to respond to the growing global threat of exotic pests and diseases. We will invest **\$84 million** into frontline resources, including people and modern technology, to better manage the risk of pests and diseases entering Australia from overseas. This includes:

Ongoing Frontline Resourcing to Embed the Benefits of the Short-Term African Swine Fever Investment

We will continue our commitment to protecting Australia from the ongoing and evolving threat of African swine fever (ASF) and other key threats. ASF is already present in neighbouring countries, including Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Timor-Leste, with a newly emerging variant of the disease heightening the risk of spread. These measures will build on our earlier \$66.6 million ASF Response Package, which funded a range of measures such as increased frontline resources, including screening technology, testing and targeted compliance operations, and higher penalties for serious breaches. It also supported work with industry to raise producer preparedness for an incursion. These investments have successfully protected Australia against ASF, while also strengthening our ability to manage other pests and disease risks of national significance. The additional funding will provide ongoing support for these efforts. It will also expand initiatives to improve Australia's preparedness to respond to other emerging biosecurity threats by working with industry and producers, and providing continued support for near-neighbour countries in responding to outbreaks.

Activities under this measure complement and build on other commitments to strengthen the biosecurity system to protect Australia against exotic pests and diseases.

Better Targeting Risk by Enhancing our Ability to Rapidly Identify Key Pests and Diseases by using Modern Diagnostic Technologies

We will expand our diagnostic capabilities and capacity by building our technical expertise and resources, investing in new diagnostic tools and technology, along with trialling new and innovative techniques, to deliver

faster analysis of potential biosecurity risks from imported plant and animal-based goods. This will allow faster clearance of such goods, including new genetic material or animal feed for our producers or human vaccines, where safe to do so. In some cases, clearance times for new plant varieties may reduce from several years to several months. Our investment will also enhance our capacity to scale-up diagnostic efforts in response to emerging risks or significant pest or disease incursions.

Why is this important

These measures complement the significant reforms we are committing to across our biosecurity system to ensure it is modern, efficient and keeps Australia safe from any pests or diseases that would harm our agriculture industry and environment. Protecting our biosecurity status protects on-farm returns, access to overseas markets and our biodiversity, generating real, significant benefits for Australia's agriculture industry, regional communities and our environment.

These measures support more proactive management of emerging biosecurity risks, consistent with independent reviews of the biosecurity system by the Inspector-General of Biosecurity and CSIRO.

Australian farmers, producers, exporters and importers will all benefit from these measures. Managing the risk of ASF will protect the approximately 4.9 million pigs produced annually by Australian farmers. Improving clearance processes for plant and animal products will streamline entry to Australia for these products, improving producer productivity and supporting greater efficiency in supply chains, meaning reduced input costs for Australian industries.

These measures will continue to give our trading partners confidence that our exports meet their own biosecurity requirements, strengthening market access for Australian producers and exporters.

How much will this cost

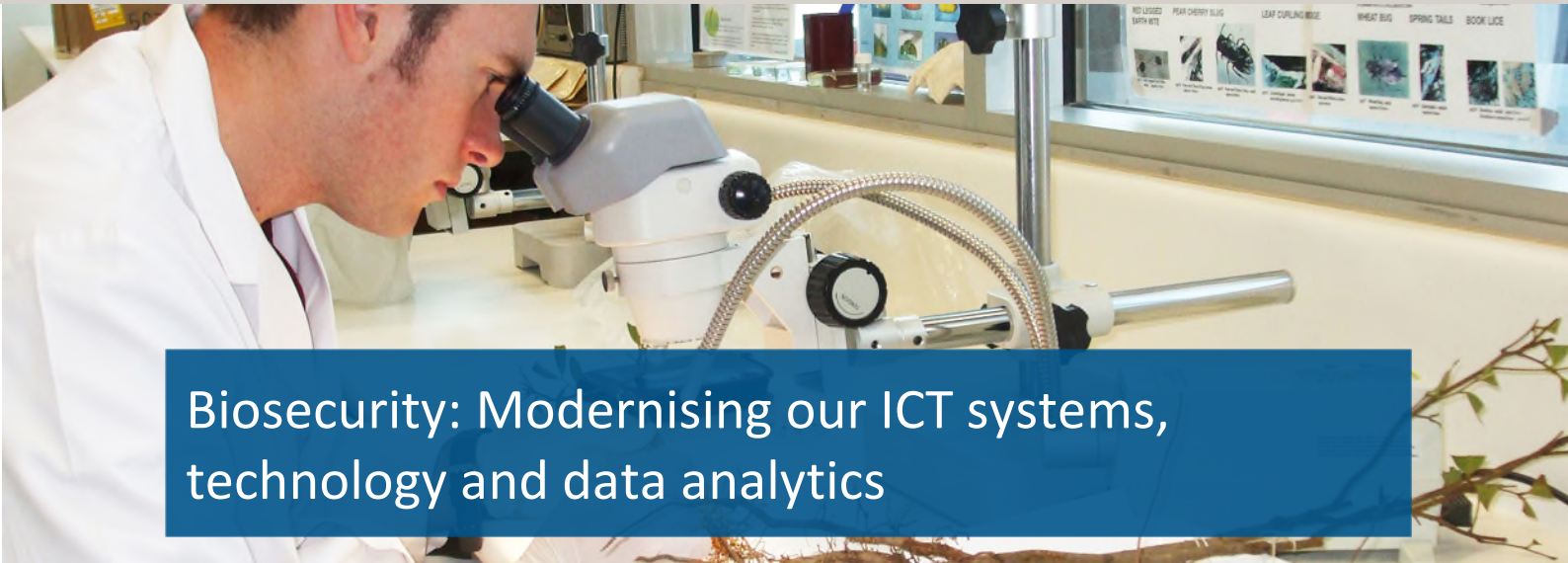
We will implement the full package over 4 years. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will work with industry and other key partners to implement these measures.

	2021-22 \$million	2022-23 \$million	2023-24 \$million	2024-25 \$million	TOTAL \$million
Better Targeting Risk by Enhancing our Ability to Rapidly Identify Key Pests and Diseases by using Modern Diagnostic Technologies	5.0	8.2	6.4	5.9	25.5
Ongoing Frontline Resourcing to Embed the Benefits of the Short-Term African Swine Fever Investment	14.8	14.4	14.8	14.6	58.6
Total: Investing in our critical frontline people and resources	19.8	22.6	21.2	20.5	84.0

More information

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Biosecurity: Modernising our ICT systems, technology and data analytics

The Australian Government is delivering measures to safeguard Australia from exotic pests and diseases arriving on our shores while ensuring our national biosecurity system is better able to deal with those that do. A strong, efficient and well-resourced biosecurity system focussed on prevention, preparedness and response will protect Australia's agriculture industry, supporting its goal of \$100 billion in farm gate value by 2030, and contributing to Australia's National Economic Recovery.

What's in this year's Budget

The 2021–22 Budget delivers **\$370.9 million** to support reforms to ensure the Australian biosecurity system is able to respond to the growing global threat of exotic pests and diseases. We will invest **\$80.9 million** to build a modern and effective biosecurity system underpinned by the right technology, information systems and analytical capabilities. This includes:

Growing and Embedding a Modern Biosecurity Screening Capability to Speed and Ease the Movement of People and Goods Across our Border

We will invest in technical solutions to keep biosecurity threats out of Australia, including trialling new screening technologies for people and goods at the border. We will fund a series of remote screening trials for biosecurity risks (in traveller luggage, air cargo and international mail) and continue investing in auto-detection algorithms for priority biosecurity risk material, following highly successful trials of 3D Real Time Tomography X-Ray. These machines are more than 3 times as effective in identifying biosecurity risks as 2D X-rays.

Digital Capability for Enhanced Biosecurity Intervention at International Mail Centres for Better Border Clearance and Risk Outcomes

We will develop automated workflow system and risk assessment capability, and invest in 3 new 3D X-ray screening machines, to better manage biosecurity risks from the international mail pathway, while streamlining clearance arrangements. Global e-commerce and mail pathway volumes, together with underlying biosecurity risks, are increasing. New digital systems and screening technology will ensure we can cope with this trend, allowing efficient use of resources to target risks in the mail pathway without holding up international mail and parcels to recipients.

Streamlining International Conveyance Arrivals for all Vessels and Aircraft

We will expand our current commercial vessel arrival reporting system to include aircraft and non-commercial vessels to improve Australia's ability to manage the biosecurity risk posed by these craft. This will support the government's digital transformation and Simplified Trade System agendas, while building on work already underway to strengthen pre-arrival reporting systems to manage human health considerations. The new

system will provide a more efficient reporting pathway for these arrivals and allow more accurate and timely information to guide better-targeted inspection and compliance efforts. System enhancement will improve interoperability with other government agency and industry systems.

Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System Strategy (STEPS)

We will support the continued modernisation of Australia's biosecurity processing systems, starting with a business case for a simplified, integrated biosecurity import system to deliver efficient, fit for purpose biosecurity risk management, while supporting the government's digital transformation and Simplified Trade System agendas. This includes options to ensure these systems will be interoperable with other government and industry systems for streamlined processing and better-targeted interventions.

Why is this important

These measures complement the significant reforms we are committing to across our biosecurity system to ensure it is modern, efficient and keeps Australia safe from any pests or diseases that would harm our agriculture industry and environment. Protecting our biosecurity status protects on-farm returns, access to overseas markets and our biodiversity, generating real, significant benefits for Australia's agriculture industry, regional communities and our environment.

These measures are an important step towards ensuring robust, adaptable and forward-leaning biosecurity capabilities, as recommended in recent independent reviews of the biosecurity system by the Inspector-General of Biosecurity and CSIRO. Ongoing review and update of our technical capabilities and IT systems will ensure they support strong and effective responses.

Modernising biosecurity screening technologies and investment in integrated IT solutions will improve the safe flow of goods and people into Australia. It is an important step towards more efficient trade systems, reducing regulatory red tape at our borders and faster clearance for low risk imports, supporting the government's Simplified Trade System agenda.

How much will this cost

We will implement the full package over 4 years. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will work with industry and other government agencies to implement these measures.

	2021-22 \$million	2022-23 \$million	2023-24 \$million	2024-25 \$million	TOTAL \$million
Growing and Embedding a Modern Biosecurity Screening Capability to Speed and Ease the Movement of People and Goods Across our Border	13.7	5.8	0	0	19.5
Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing Systems (STEPS)	1.5	0	0	0	1.5
Digital Capability for Enhanced Biosecurity Intervention at International Mail Centres for Better Border Clearance and Risk Outcomes	6.9	19.2	3.4	1.7	31.2
Streamlining International Conveyance Arrivals for a Nationally Consistent Data Repository for all Vessels and Aircraft	6.1	11.0	10.0	1.7	28.7
Total: Modernising our ICT systems, technology and data analytics	28.1	36.0	13.4	3.4	80.9

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Biosecurity: Strengthening our partnerships with importers, companies, producers and the community

The Australian Government is delivering measures to safeguard Australia from exotic pests and diseases arriving on our shores while ensuring our national biosecurity system is better able to deal with those that do. A strong, efficient and well-resourced biosecurity system focussed on prevention, preparedness and response will protect Australia's agriculture industry, supporting its goal of \$100 billion in farm gate value by 2030, and contributing to Australia's National Economic Recovery.

What's in this year's Budget

The 2021–22 Budget delivers **\$370.9 million** to support reforms to ensure the Australian biosecurity system responds to the growing threat of exotic pests and diseases. We will invest **\$205.9 million** to improve our ability to detect and manage threats offshore as efficiently as possible, while increasing capacity to respond to incursions. We will also invest in proof of concept trials with industry partners to make sure our investments are right. This includes:

Protecting Australia's Agriculture from Increasing Global Threats

We are addressing increasing global threats by better anticipating and interpreting overseas risks before they reach Australia and enabling rapid detection of pest and disease threats as they present at the border. We will target pest and disease threats on our doorstep through research and collaboration with our neighbours across Asia and the Pacific, state and territory governments, private veterinarians, diagnostic laboratories, industry representative bodies and producers. This will build preparedness capacity for early warning and response efforts in the event of an outbreak. A key focus will be emerging animal disease risk to our north.

A Stronger Biosecurity System to Protect Australia from Hitchhiker Pests

We are investing in better management of hitchhiker pest risks before they reach Australia by expanding offshore treatment and supply chain assurance arrangements, and strengthening our border interventions in relation to cargo arriving in shipping containers. We will increase port surveillance and make greater use of innovative detection technologies and information on global container and commodity movements. This measure includes recovery of costs from industry for delivering more effective and efficient regulatory services.

Investing in Trade, Agriculture and the Environment through Supporting Australia's Biosecurity Preparedness, Response and Recovery Capability

We are strengthening Australia's preparedness, response and recovery capability to better meet the challenges of adverse biosecurity events and protect regional jobs and economies. We will stress-test our readiness to deal with a significant national pest or disease incursion by exercising Australia's national biosecurity emergency systems and arrangements, work toward a national animal and plant disease surveillance information system, and add to the contingency funding available to meet our national emergency response cost-share commitments. We will also explore the feasibility of a national system for preserving valuable livestock genetics, and continue investment in preparedness for the significant threat foot-and-mouth disease presents to our livestock industry by replenishing our overseas vaccine bank.

Driving Biosecurity System Strength and Resilience through improved Partnerships, Education and Engagement

Building community and industry awareness of our biosecurity system is essential to the effectiveness of the system. We will work to increase importers and individuals' understanding of their role in the system, including with a new biosecurity brand and targeted information, awareness and education campaigns.

Proof of Concept Trials

We are building and trialling new industry arrangements to reduce red tape and biosecurity regulatory costs for importers and agricultural businesses where it is safe to do so. We will make an immediate start by delivering up to 3 pilots, co-designed with industry, to test end-to-end management of biosecurity risks across importer supply chains. The pilots will inform broader work underway across border agencies towards an improved cargo intervention model and the government's Simplified Trade System agenda. Streamlined biosecurity clearances will also improve Australian businesses' access to goods manufactured overseas.

Why is this important

These measures complement the significant reforms we are committing to across our biosecurity system to ensure it is modern, efficient and keeps Australia safe from any pests or diseases that would harm our agriculture industry and environment. Protecting our biosecurity status protects on-farm returns, access to overseas markets and our biodiversity, generating real, significant benefits for Australia's agriculture industry, regional communities and our environment.

These measures support more proactive management of emerging biosecurity risks, consistent with independent reviews of the biosecurity system by the Inspector-General of Biosecurity and CSIRO.

The spread of pests and diseases is increasing globally, including to our near neighbours. Australia benefits from our island status, which helps keep many of these threats out. Managing risks offshore lowers the risk of incursions, reducing border intervention costs and delays and avoiding the significant costs of pest and disease outbreaks. These measures reinforce our ability to keep threats offshore and deliver more cost-effective risk management at our borders, while building capacity to respond in the event that an incursion occurs. This includes increasing community and industry awareness. These actions benefit all Australians, and all Australians have a part to play in protecting Australia.

Millions of shipping containers arrive in Australia each year from all around the world. These measures will improve our ability to ensure the smooth flow of goods into Australia, while better managing emerging biosecurity risks. Faster clearance of imported cargo benefits the agricultural and import supply chain; our farm businesses, processors, wholesalers and exporters, as well as brokers, freight forwarders and shippers.



How much will this cost

We will implement the full package over 4 years. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will work with industry, state and territory governments and community to implement these measures.

	2021-22 \$million	2022-23 \$million	2023-24 \$million	2024-25 \$million	TOTAL \$million
Protecting Australia's Agriculture from Increasing Global Threats	9.0	9.9	8.1	7.7	34.6
A Stronger Biosecurity System to Protect Australia from Hitchhiker Pests	26.3	26.5	22.0	22.0	96.8
Investing in Trade, Agriculture and the Environment through Supporting Australia's Biosecurity Preparedness, Response and Recovery Capability	18.1	17.5	14.9	16.9	67.4
Driving Biosecurity System Strength and Resilience through improved Partnerships, Education and Engagement	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	3.9
Proof of concept trials	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2
Total: Protecting Australia's Agriculture from Increasing Global Threats	57.8	54.9	45.8	47.5	205.9

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