



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Freight and Trade Alliance - Border Compliance Program - NSW

Import clearance reforms and initiatives

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Biosecurity Import Clearance Reforms

STEPS - Simplified Targeting & Enhanced Processing System

STEPS PROGRAM ON A PAGE

Outdated DAFF Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems and inefficient process negatively impact staff and industry. Urgent modernisation is needed to keep up with the WoG agenda, improve staff and industry user experience and promote Australia's effective biosecurity

STEPS is an investment in the department's ICT systems to **enhance Australia's biosecurity risk management by creating a faster, simpler, more integrated cargo clearance system**

STEPS is a \$145 million government initiative from 2023 to 2026 (Tranche 1), envisioned as an overall 9-year program of work pending the iterative success from Tranche 1

STEPS will work with DAFF staff and industry over the coming months and years to co-design simplified and modern systems

5 STEPS Program goals:

1

Faster and Easier Assessments

2

Streamlined Inspection and Management Activities

3

Improved Industry Arrangements & Support

4

Modernised data capture, use and visibility

5

Contemporary digital products and services

Each overseen by a dedicated delivery stream, supported by:

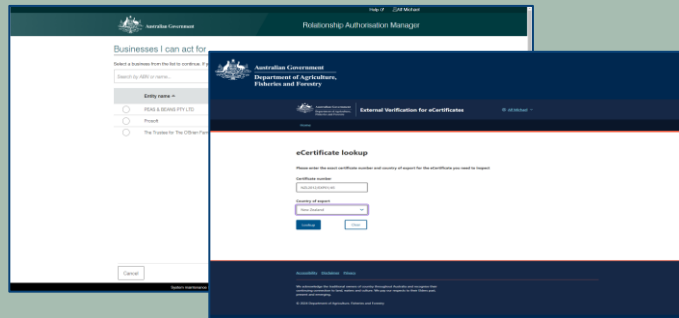
Enabling services

We expect tangible benefits:

1. Reduced cost of regulation
2. Reduced cost of running import business
3. Reduced holding cost
4. Improved user experience
5. Trade facilitation
6. DAFF workforce shift to high value biosecurity activities
7. Reduced biosecurity incursion risk

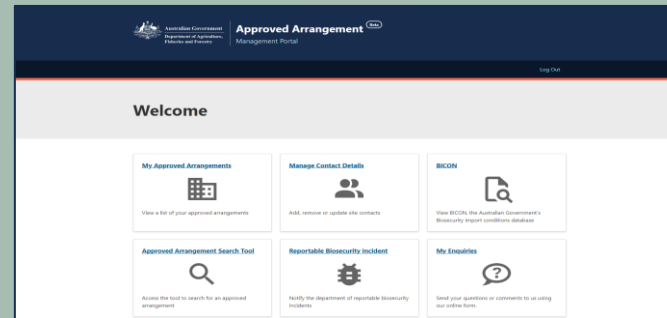
STEPS scope:
cargo valued at *over \$1000* requiring a full import declaration (FID) to the Australian Government.

What's coming out of STEPS now?



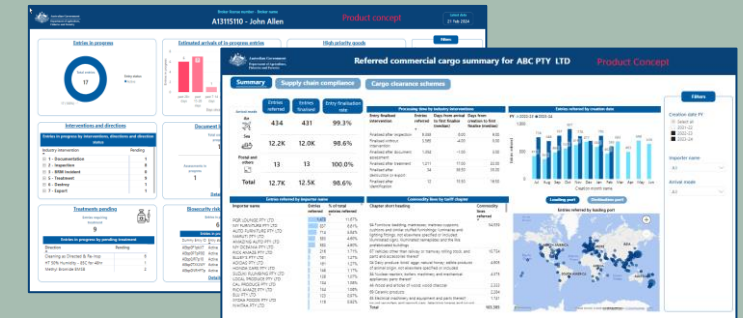
eCert

- **For release by end of June** a first step in self-service access to digital certificates
- Allows accredited brokers to view a secure eCert (phytosanitary certificate) to assess commodities under an approved arrangement
- Paves the way to receive digital certificates from countries as they come online



Approved Arrangement Management Product (AAMP)

- **Available online by end of June** for all Biosecurity Industry Participants (BIPs) to update their AA details
- Limited production for 8 users since October 2023 but will expand to all BIPs for 85 AA classes
- **BIP AAMP AA Record** includes:
 - AA Details (Entity Details)
 - Contact Details
 - Classes
 - Notices
 - Arrangement Documents



Biosecurity Cargo Tracker

- **Available by the end of June** to accredited customs brokers and department staff for up-to-date visibility of cargo being managed by DAFF
- **Brokers** will have access to views of:
 - their importer client's consignment
 - what their brokerage has with DAFF
 - tools that help answer an importer's enquiries
 - reports that help prioritise activity
 - data to improve their brokerage's business

STEPS - Simplified Targeting & Enhanced Processing System



STEPS enhancing Australia's biosecurity risk management by creating a faster, simpler, integrated cargo clearance system

For more information or enquiries about STEPS email: STEPS@aff.gov.au





Risk and Compliance-Based Recalibration

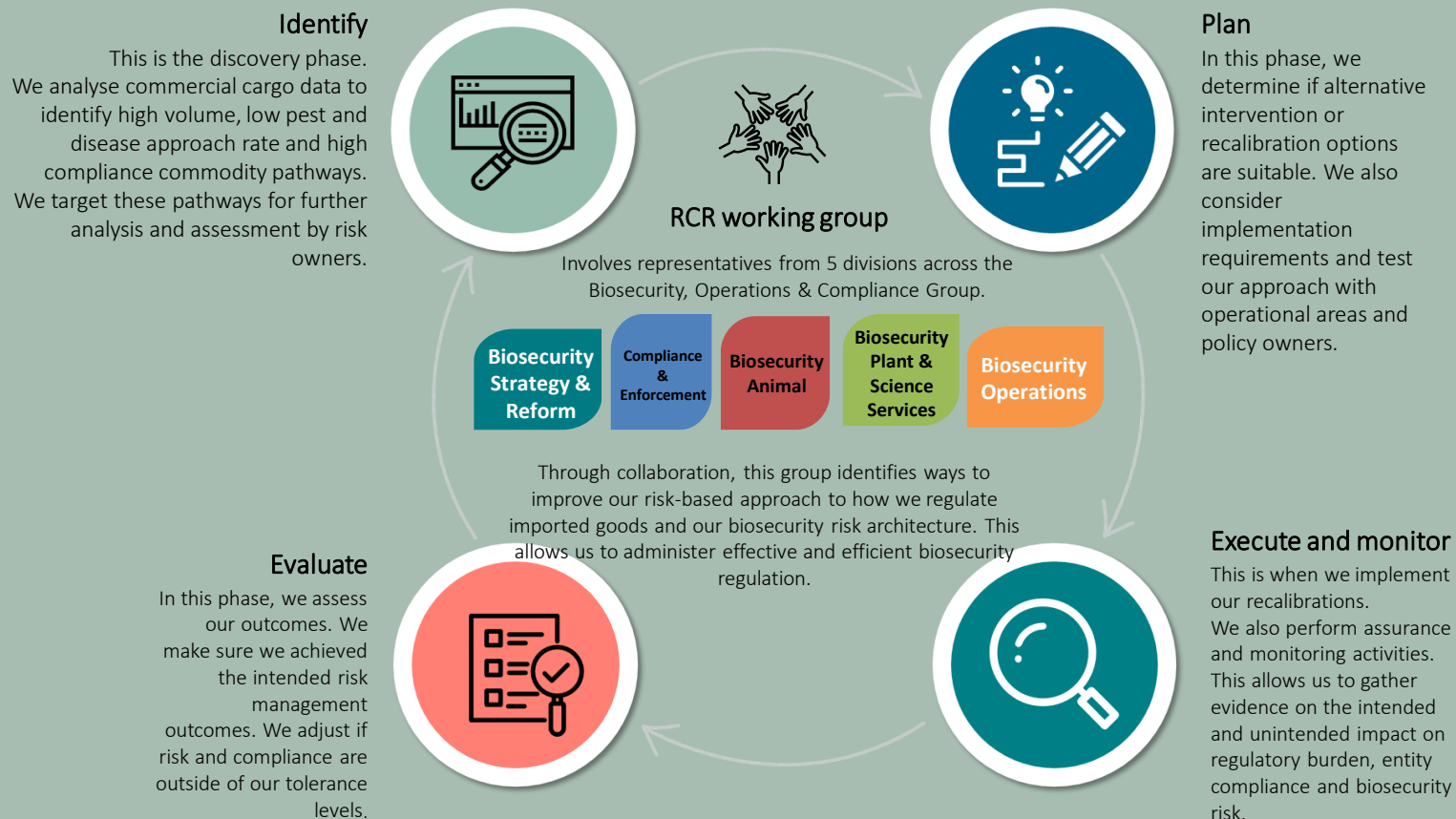
How you can help us

We highly value your feedback and we are here to listen, learn and understand from you.

You can help us by being engaged and open on the risk management approaches used.

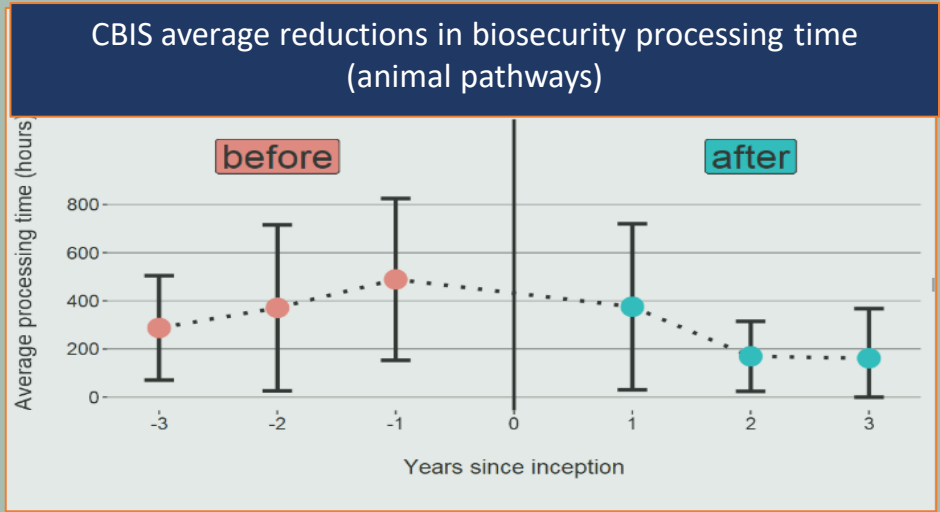
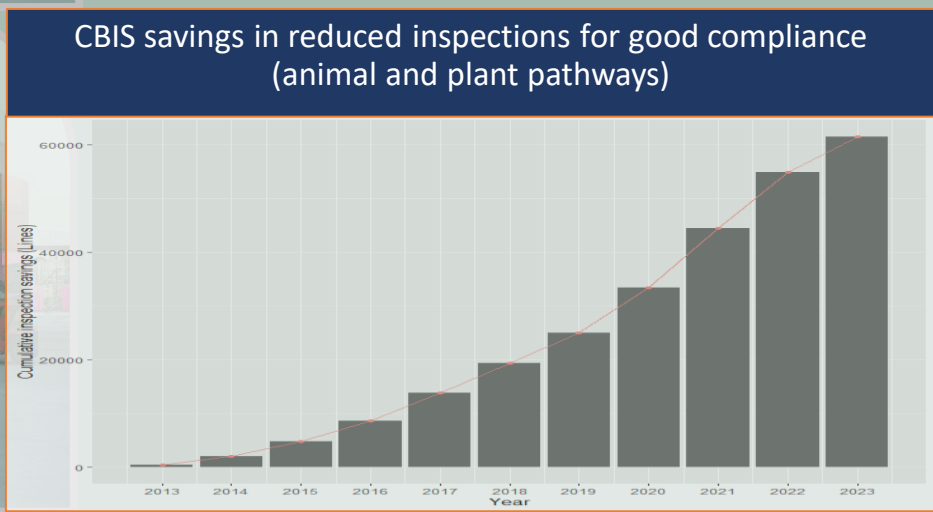
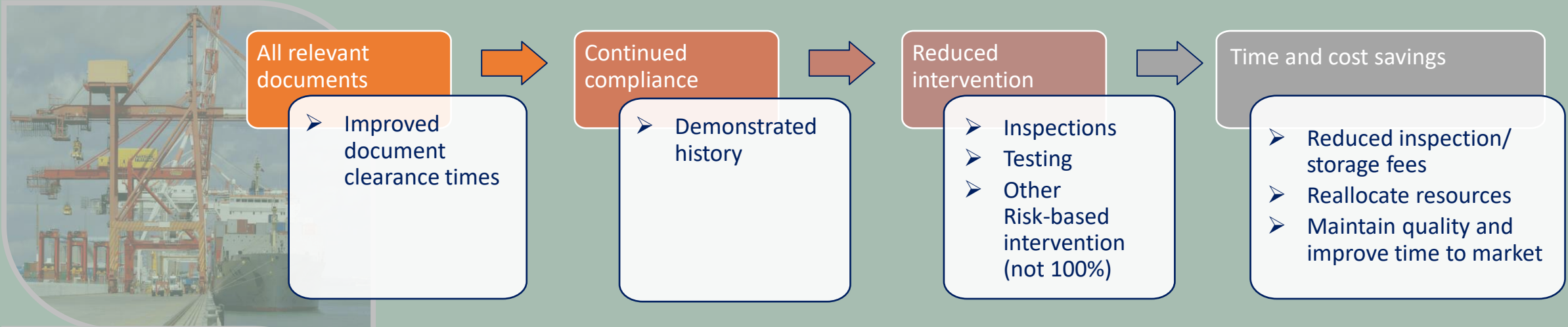
This includes the unintended impacts of intervention changes.

The Risk and Compliance-based Recalibration (RCR) uses a system wide approach to *identify, plan, execute, monitor and evaluate* changes to risk controls and the outcomes achieved by making those changes.



CBIS - Compliance Based Intervention Scheme

CBIS improving biosecurity clearance process at the border



CBIS - Compliance Based Intervention Scheme



CBIS improving biosecurity clearance process at the border

CBIS applies on:

- 72 plant pathways for 69 tariffs
- 9 animal product pathways for 26 tariffs.

A list of CBIS eligible products can be found at:

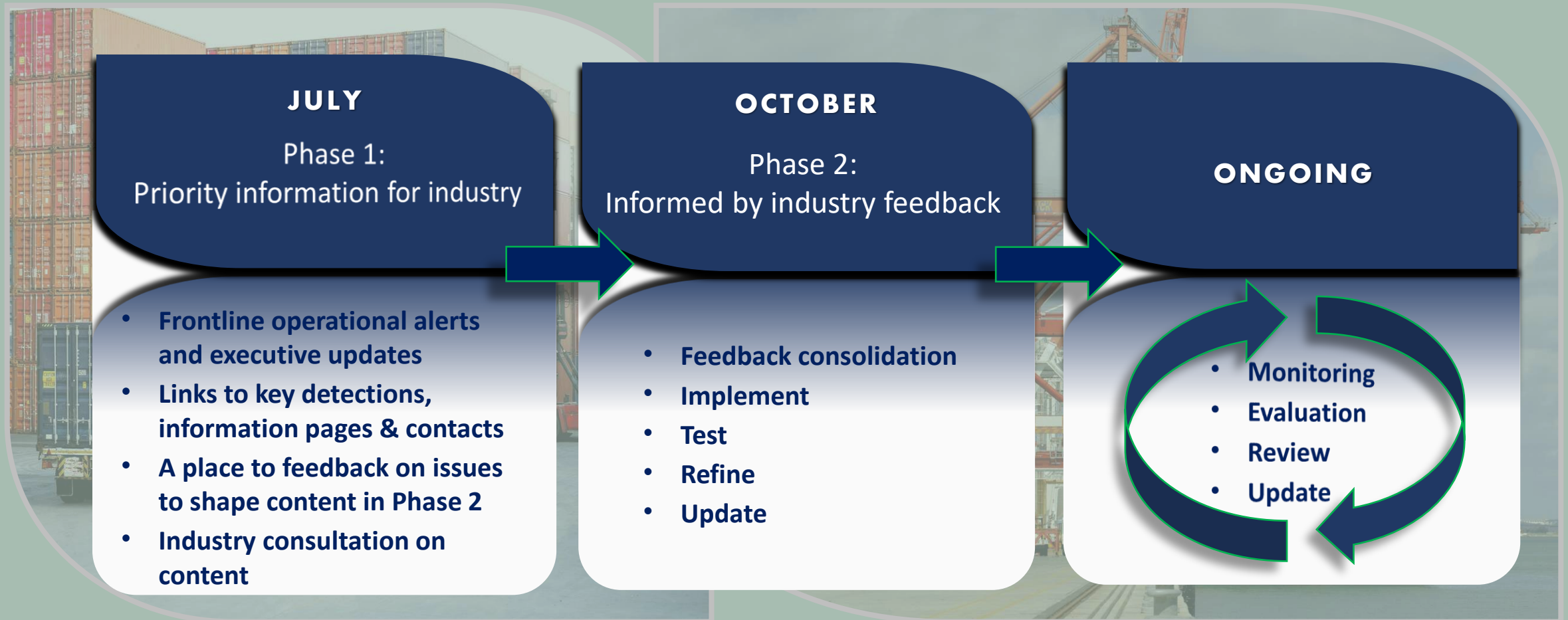
<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/plant-products>.

For CBIS enquiries email: imports@aff.gov.au 'CBIS'



Coming soon - Biosecurity Operations Landing page

'Centralising access to current biosecurity operational news, alerts, communications & contacts'





Biosecurity Initiatives

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



TIPS for:

- Accessing the Biosecurity Portal (Portal) via your myGovID (Digital Identity) for improved functionality
- Selecting 'Next Available' as the 'Preferred Inspection Period'
- Selecting the correct 'Inspection Type'
- Imported foods (IFIP) 'Inspection Duration'
- IFIP & CCV 'Inspection Location'
- Utilising the 'Inspection Request – Additional Information' field
- 'Multi-day Booking' and utilising the multi-day 'Additional Information' field

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Accessing the portal via your myGovID (Digital Identity) for improved functionality

- Request, modify and cancel an import inspection.
- View and print AIMS Directions.



For help signing up or using the biosecurity portal, please contact the biosecurity portal support team at: biosecurityportal@aff.gov.au

Feature	myGovID - Approved Arrangments - Customs brokers - Importers	Other users*
Online request for inspection (RFI) submission	✓	✓
Auto pre-population of RFI details	✓	
Viewing and printing of AIMS Direction information	✓	
View / manage inspection requests that I have lodged	✓	✓
View / manage inspection requests lodged by any authorised user representing my organisation	✓	
View / manage my upcoming inspection bookings	✓	✓ (cancel only)
View / manage upcoming bookings lodged by any authorised user representing my organisation	✓	
View my historical inspection bookings made via the Portal	✓	✓
View historical inspection bookings lodged by any authorised user representing my organisation	✓	
Receive automatic email notifications. e.g. confirmation of inspection request and confirmed inspection booking details	✓	✓
Manage individual profile	✓	✓
Manage organisational profile	✓	
Manage user access (who can represent my organisation)	✓	

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Select 'Next Available' as the Preferred Inspection Period.

- This will enable the next available inspector to be booked for your goods.
- If nominating 'AM' or 'PM', please be aware that the next available booking in the 'Preferred inspection period' nominated will be allocated to you.
 - This could, however, be a later date than if you had selected 'Next Available'.



Preferred inspection period *

Next Available (to be inspected during the Available for Service hours listed in your business profile) ▼

Next Available (to be inspected during the Available for Service hours listed in your business profile)

AM (by selecting AM, you agree to restricting inspection availability to an AM slot only)

PM (by selecting PM, you agree to restricting inspection availability to a PM slot only)

Overtime (outside departmental business hours – see charging guidelines on the departmental website)

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Select the correct inspection type

- **Automation** – Relies on accurate inspection types being selected.
- An '**Inspection Type**' guide can be found on our website at:
https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/QID108444_IR%20How%20do%20I%20select%20the%20correct%20Inspection%20type%20for%20my%20inspection%20V1.0_0.pdf
- We are improving the useability of the guide.



Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Imported Foods (IFIP) Inspection Duration

Issue: Incorrect 'inspection duration' entered when requesting imported foods inspection

- Ensure the **inspection duration** advised on your Imported Foods directions are adhered to and **entered accurately** into the 'Estimated inspection duration'
- Ensure the **time is entered in minutes.**
- **Under/Over** entering the duration can lead to delays.



Imported food inspection

Estimated inspection duration (minutes). *

Inspection time estimations for consignments subject to the Imported Food Inspection Scheme are located on the Food Control Certificate.

Please enter the estimated inspection duration value provided on your Food Control Certificate.

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



IFIP & CCV Inspection Locations

- **When requesting an IFIP or CCV inspection, a business name can assist officers.** Delays may occur without this information as officers have difficulty locating the correct inspection location.
- **If lodging requests for inspection at non-AAs**, please note the business name in the Inspection Request – additional comments field.



Request an inspection for Entry ID -

Location contacts

Consignment information

Appointment details

Summary

Confirm inspection location contact details

Please provide the name and phone number for at least one inspection location contact for each inspection request. This information will be used by biosecurity officers when attending the inspection.

Inspection request

Please enter any additional information about the inspection location in the box below.

(Maximum 100 characters)

Directions

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Utilise the ‘Inspection Request – Additional Information’ Field

ANY information relevant to your inspection request can also be noted in the ‘Inspection Request – Additional Information’ field.

This can include:

- Machine ID’s / VINS – if only certain machines are to be inspected.
- Location of wharf inspections – e.g. Specific Berths

Request an inspection for Entry ID -

Location contacts Consignment information Appointment details Summary

Confirm inspection location contact details

Please provide the name and phone number for at least one inspection location contact for each inspection request. This information will be used by biosecurity officers when attending the inspection.

Inspection request

Please enter any additional information about the inspection location in the box below.
(Maximum 100 characters)

Directions

Biosecurity Portal – Inspection bookings and how to get best results



Multi Day Requests

- If requesting a 'Multi-day booking', please insert any relevant information into the 'multi-day request – comments box'.

This can include:

- Specific dates preferred for inspection
- Number of containers on each day
- Hours required on each day



Multi-day booking

Is this request for a multi-day booking? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Provide information about your multi-day booking requirement in the text below (days and hours being requested). *

Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection

What is it?

Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection (RTG) authorises an approved Biosecurity Industry Participant (BIP) operating a Class 1.1 or Class 1.3 (with approved Class 4.3 wash bay facilities) to perform certain rural tailgate inspections

Expanded scope and eligibility

- Class 14.4 now covers up to 90 % of all RTG directions issued
- Out of scope - consignments requiring a physical inspection

Benefits for the department

- provides confidence that biosecurity risks to rural areas are appropriately managed
- Increases workforce capacity by redirecting frontline officers away from low-risk inspections
- reduces manual intervention for assessment staff



Benefits for Industry

- provides greater flexibility in how sites operate their business
- reduces administrative interactions with the department and associated fees and charges
- reduces clearance times resulting in lower storage and associated costs

Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection

How it works

- **85% of non-commodity related document assessments** are undertaken by accredited persons under AEPNCCC
- **Brokers enter one of the appropriate concern types** developed in ICS for accredited persons to apply under AEPNCCC

1

1. RUAA - AEP Rural Tailgate Inspection – Approved Arrangement

2

2. REAA - AEP Rural Tailgate External only Inspection – Approved Arrangement

- **When applied together, AEPNCCC and Class 14.4** enables effective, end to end industry managed clearance of eligible containers
- **Industry inspect, and if applicable, manage low level external contamination**
- **Where a container is determined to be free of biosecurity risk material,** the BIP releases the container from biosecurity control



No departmental release of documents under Class 14.4

- **The BIPs record of release replaces the traditional department clearance and release documents**

Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate inspections

Approved arrangement

14.4 – Rural tailgate inspection
Conditions

Version 1.0



More information:

- **Class 14.4 Approved arrangement - conditions:**
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/arrangements/requirements
- **General information on RTG inspections:**
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival
- **Awareness video**
[Awareness video - Class 14.4: Rural Tailgate Inspection](#)
- **Email enquiries:**
seacargopolicy@aff.gov.au

External Verification for eCertificates (EVE)



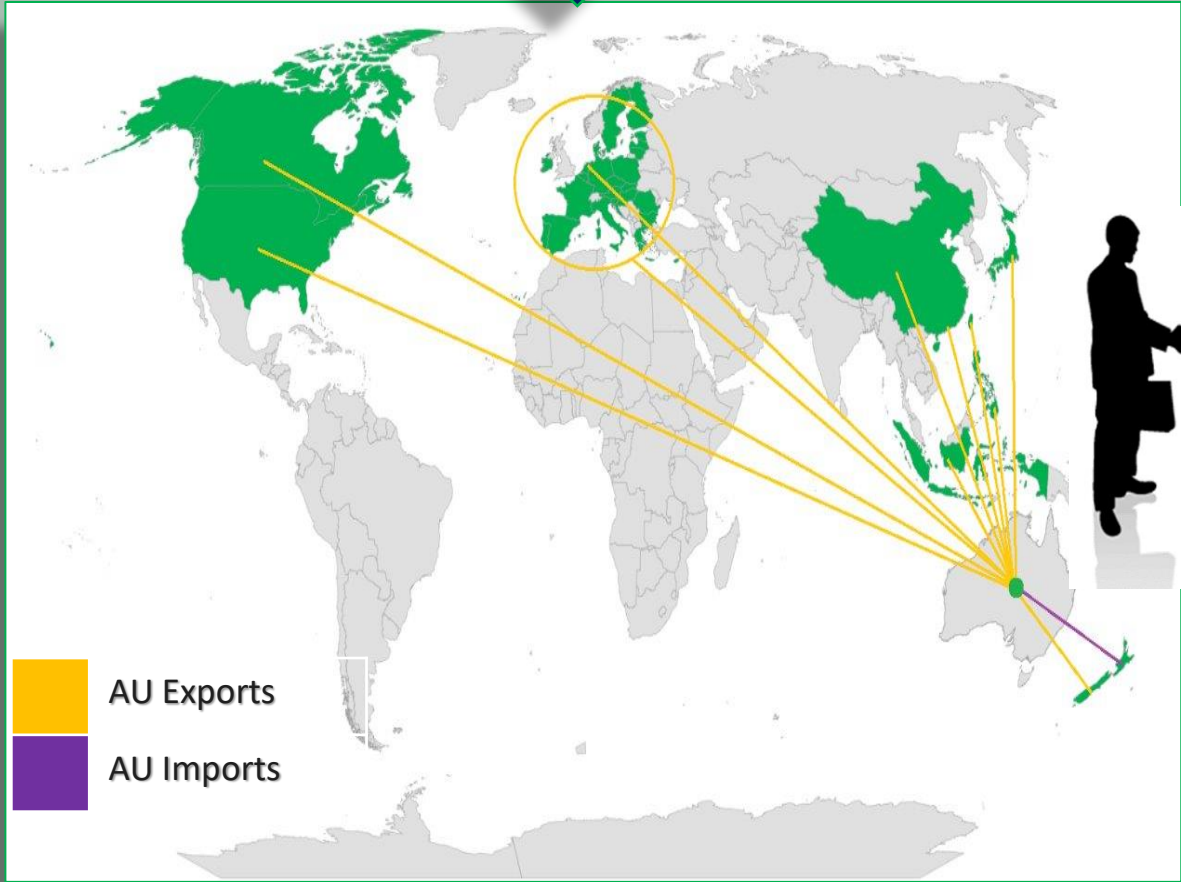
What is EVE?

**Who benefits
from EVE?**

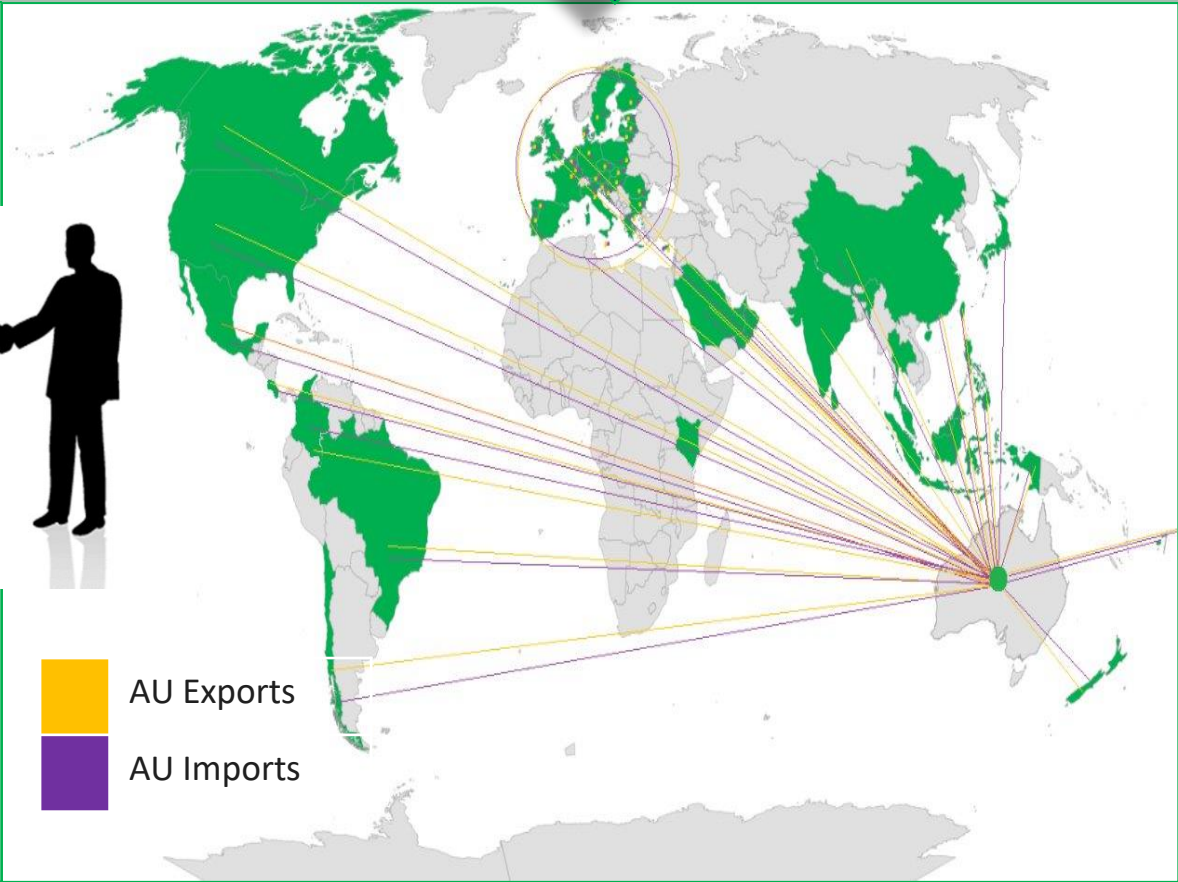
**Who are our
current
eCertificate
import trading
partners?**

Current exchanges and exchanges on the Horizon

Current exchange



On the Horizon





Approved arrangement Class 19 - Impacts

Current impact:

- internally we have good information
- engaging with industry to better understand industry impact

Based on consultation: costs associated with lodging documentation in COLS for assessment can include:

- person hours required to lodge documentation
- additional depot fees when a consignment is held longer than expected
- relocation costs to move goods
- costs associated with delayed return of containers

Costs can often be avoided if using the approved arrangement class 19



Approved arrangement class 19 – opportunities for improvement

- **Usage and uptake** of the approved arrangement is increasing
- **Commodity groups with low utilisation rates** include:
 - ☐ highly refined organic chemicals and substances
 - ☐ milling products
- **When used to its fullest potential,** the approved arrangement can provide savings to industry



Approved arrangement class 19 - expansion

November 2023 expansion:

- beef products from NZ
- LCL tyres
- tariffs associated with goods listed on the BICON table of bamboo and wooden products

Upcoming expansion planned for mid 2024:

- new and used clothes, bags, rags
- LCL consignments of NZ dairy
- additional tariffs associated with goods listed on the BICON table of wooden products



Other initiatives

Highly compliant importer (HCI) scheme:

- a reduced inspection intervention scheme
- currently includes green coffee beans
- further commodities to be added in the next 12 months

Minimum documentary and import declaration requirements policy:

- a review of the policy is currently progressing
- industry focus group sessions have been held
- Internal consultations are commencing



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

QUESTIONS

Ben Rowntree, Director

Sea Cargo Policy, Industry Partnerships and Strategic Engagement
Cargo and Conveyances Policy and Detection Capability
Biosecurity Operations Division

Mark Sobey, Director

Assessment Policy
Cargo and Conveyances Policy and Detection Capability
Biosecurity Operations Division