



Media statement

20 May 2020

Onshore Biosecurity Levy

Following broad industry consultation and further consideration of the impacts on industry, the Australian Government has made the decision not to proceed with the Onshore Biosecurity Levy.

The department undertook a co-design process with industry to develop a levy model that was practical for industry and the government.

This process highlighted that a levy could not be implemented without significant regulatory impacts on industry and proposed levy payers.

This decision has also been made in consideration of the ongoing impacts of drought, bushfires and COVID-19 on the Australian economy and the rapidly changing global trade environment.

The department would like to thank the Industry Working Group and other stakeholders who provided valuable input and feedback on the proposed levy design.

A levy will not be progressed and this decision will not impact on the overall biosecurity budget.

Australia's biosecurity system will continue to be funded through existing arrangements.

Since 2012-13, budget for biosecurity programs has increased by more than 40 per cent, or almost \$250 million, with approximately \$850 million available in 2019-20.

Biosecurity is vital for Australia. It delivers important benefits to the community, the environment, our farmers, importers and exporters.

Australia's biosecurity system also underpins \$60 billion in agricultural production, \$49 billion in agricultural exports and \$42 billion in inbound tourism.

The department will continue to work with industry and the government to ensure Australia's biosecurity system manages the risks of pests and diseases now and into the future.