

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: New Biosecurity Advisory Group Created in Australia

Country: Australia

Post: Canberra

Report Category: Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

The Australian Minister for Agriculture has announced the establishment of a new “Biosecurity Futures” group to provide advice directly to the government on issues of relevance to the Australian biosecurity system including on current and emerging biosecurity risks, and challenges and opportunities for the system.

The Australian Minister for Agriculture has announced the establishment of a new “Biosecurity Futures” group to provide advice directly to the government on issues of relevance to the Australian biosecurity system including on current and emerging biosecurity risks, and challenges and opportunities for the system.

The establishment of this group was a key recommendation of the [Biosecurity Imports Levy Industry Steering Committee](#) which was established in February 2019 and delivered its recommendations in June 2019.

In making the announcement, the Minister said, “maintaining Australia’s strong biosecurity protections is everyone’s responsibility and something government and industry work together to achieve each and every day.”

“Our biosecurity system underpins our international reputation as an exporter of safe, quality and sustainable food and fiber. Our global customers seek Australian products because we don’t have the destructive pests and diseases found in other parts of the world that can have such an impact on yield and nutrition.

“While our farmers, fishers and foresters are major beneficiaries of our strong biosecurity system, our environment and the health and lifestyle of every Australian also relies on the system. Imports pose the risk, whether that’s large consignments arriving on cargo ships, parcels of online shopping, or mums and dads flying back to Australia after an overseas holiday.

“Close cooperation between government and industry is essential if we’re to stay a step ahead of global threats like African swine fever—a disease that could wipe out our pig industry and the 36,000 jobs the industry supports.

“It’s important that the actions of government and industry are complementary and that we learn from one another so we can leverage efficiencies and avoid unintended consequences of regulation.

The Biosecurity Futures group will be chaired by the Minister and meet twice a year, or as needed, to discuss biosecurity concerns, the impact of biosecurity measures on various industries—not just agriculture—and ways to improve the biosecurity system.

The eight initial members are:

- Freight and Trade Alliance
- Australian Pork Limited
- Fertilizer Australia
- Food and Beverage Importers Association
- Seafood Industry Australia
- Mineral Council of Australia
- National Farmers’ Federation
- Tourism and Transport Forum.

More information about Biosecurity Futures, including the terms of reference can be found on the department's [website](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.