



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

A horizontal banner with a green background, featuring a collage of small images: an orange slice, a fish, a wooden fence, a wheat stalk, a kiwi, a green leaf, a tree trunk, a kiwi, a blue fish, and a yellow flower.

# The Beale Review

## A New Framework for Australian Biosecurity

**Rob Delane**  
Deputy Secretary (Biosecurity Services Group)



# Overview of Beale Report - Key recommendations

## Four main themes:

- Strengthened **working partnership** approach along the biosecurity continuum
- Transparent, comprehensive **governance** arrangements
- Changed **operational** focus
- Increased **resources**



# Beale recommendations: A **working partnership** approach along continuum

- Shared responsibility with industry and business
- Greater Commonwealth responsibility
- Improved Commonwealth and state and territory partnerships



# Beale recommendations: New **governance** arrangements

## Four components to new arrangements:

- Commonwealth government (minister)
- Commission of independent experts to make scientific decisions
- Statutory authority to carry out day to day operations
- Ensuring system integrity—Inspector General of Biosecurity



# Beale recommendations: Changed **operational** focus

- 'Risk/return' to replace mandated intervention targets
- Continuum approach to replace border focus
- More consistent and greater communication effort
- Increased resources with appropriate, simplified cost-recovery



# Beale on Environmental Issues

- **A more significant effort in environmental areas is needed to reflect the nature of the incursion risks involved.**
- **Some examples of environmental issues addressed in the recommendations of the report include:**
  - **Improved engagement/consultation on environmental issues – Recs 13; 23; 26; 37c; and 56**
  - **Pre- and Post-border Biosecurity Activities – Recs 27c; and 42.**
  - **Ballast water – Recs 4; and 53e.**
  - **Biofouling – Rec 5.**



# Government's preliminary response

- **Government has issued a preliminary response – agreeing in principle to all recommendations**
- **The government's response to the Beale review recommendations will take some time**
- **Government is continuing to examine the funding requirements for a better biosecurity system**
- **In the meantime, a range of interim measures are being implemented**



# Biosecurity Reforms: Progress so far

## Biosecurity Services Group (BSG)

- **Consolidation of AQIS, Biosecurity Australia, elements of Product Integrity Animal and Plant Health Division & QBPU**
  - To deliver pre-border, border and post-border biosecurity services
- **Interim step towards creation of the national biosecurity authority**





# Biosecurity Reforms:

## Progress so far

### Interim Inspector General of Biosecurity

- Established the office of the interim Inspector General of Biosecurity
- Dr Kevin Dunn will transition to this new role

### Eminent Scientists Group

- The Eminent Scientist Group has co-opted an eminent economist to the group
- Mr Roger Rose, former ABARE Chief Economist



# Biosecurity Reforms: Progress so far

## Biosecurity Advisory Council (BAC)

- **Beale review recommended a BAC be established**
  - non-representative and replace QEAC
  - broader remit along the biosecurity continuum.
- **Nominations have been widely sought**



# Biosecurity Reforms:

## Other activities

### Legislation

- **New Biosecurity Act to modernise the current system**
- **Wide scope covering primary production, human health and the environment**
- **Exposure draft expected by the end of 2009**
- **Bill proposed to go to Parliament in 2010**



# Biosecurity Reforms:

## Other activities

### National Agreement on Biosecurity

- Working group established
- High-level agreement targeted by end of 2009
- Schedules covering key policy issues to support main agreement
- Incorporate or reference existing agreements and deeds
- Endorsement of new inter-governmental agreement covering non-production pests.



# Next Steps

- **Continued consideration of practical options for some recommendations**
  - Including examining opportunities to rationalise live animal and plant import risk assessments
- **Ongoing practical reforms to Australia's biosecurity system to come**