

ONSHORE BIOSECURITY LEVY

Question one: Rationale for why the Government has changed the name of the levy?

- On 11 December 2019 the former Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, announced that the government would be proceeding with a revised biosecurity levy to be developed in consultation with the importing industry and applied onshore to importers who use the biosecurity system.
- The name of the levy was changed to the Onshore Biosecurity Levy to reflect the focus of this levy – to be applied onshore to importers who use the biosecurity system.

Question two: The process taken to establish the latest Biosecurity Levy Working Group

- The former Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, announced on 11 December 2019 that the revised levy would be developed in consultation with the importing industry.
- The department sought advice from the Department of Agriculture Cargo Consultative Committee (DCCC), to invite members to form an Industry Working Group to co-design the levy.
- The DCCC is an existing stakeholder consultation group that is accustomed to working with government, understands the import pathway and covers a broad cross-section of industry. In addition we also sought advice from the DCCC on other organisations to engage with.
- The Onshore Biosecurity Levy Industry Working Group (IWG) was established on 17 December 2019.
- Membership of the IWG is published on the department's website. It consists of:
 - Australian Federation of International Forwarders
 - Board of Airline Representatives
 - Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers
 - Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia
 - Export Council of Australia
 - Food and Beverage Importers Association
 - Freight and Trade Alliance
 - International Cargo Handling Coordination Association
 - Manufacturing Australia

- Pet Food Industry Association of Australia
- Shipping Australia
- The Australian Industry Group

Question three: Does the working group represent all industries that will be impacted by the proposed levy?

- The IWG represents stakeholders potentially impacted by the levy, including importers, manufacturers, logistics providers, and exporters.
- The department intends to broaden its consultation in coming weeks once it has a broad levy design, to ensure relevant industries and interested parties have the opportunity to have their say.

Question four: Do Terms of Reference exist which the new Working Group will work towards?

- The IWG agreed to working arrangements which outline the task of the group:

Working arrangements:

- *An Onshore Biosecurity Levy Industry Working Group was formed on 17 December 2019 to:*
 - *codesign the onshore biosecurity levy*
 - *ensure industry's views are considered*
 - *provide advice on the implementation of the levy.*
- *The key output to be produced by the working group is an options paper that sets out:*
 - *principles used to design and assess levy options*
 - *options for imposing and collecting the levy including the following for each option:*
 - *an assessment of the option against the design principles*
 - *an overview of who would be impacted by the change and the extent of the impact*
 - *key implementation risks or issues that would need to be managed*
 - *industry's preferred option.*
- *If industry members have different views on the preferred option, this will be noted in the paper.*

Question five: Will the new Onshore Biosecurity Levy consider all imported products?

- We are working with the IWG on the scope of the levy. The intention of the levy is that it will be applied onshore to importers who use the biosecurity system.

- The starting point for the design is to assume that all commodities are levied. The final design is yet to be settled.

Question six: Will the new Onshore Biosecurity Levy cover empty vessels seeking to export products from Australia?

- The intent of the levy is to be applied onshore. Given this, vessel operators are not being actively considered.

Question seven: What is the expected revenue the Government expects to raise from the new Onshore Biosecurity Levy?

- The revenue to be raised is connected to the final levy design and is a matter for government.

Question eight: Will Agricultural producers be captured by the new Onshore Biosecurity Levy?

- The levy will be applied to imported products, which will likely include goods imported for agricultural production purposes.

Question nine: Will the Government announce the new Levy in the 2020 May Budget?

- Timing of an announcement is a matter for government.