



Australian Government

Inspector-General of Biosecurity

**SUPPLEMENTARY
BUDGET ESTIMATES
WITNESS
POSITION**

**OCTOBER 2023
DR LLOYD KLUMPP
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF
BIOSECURITY**

Opening statement

- Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you again and for the ability to do so online.
- The role of the Inspector-General of Biosecurity is to conduct independent reviews of how the department performs its functions under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- It is not my role to review the performance of an operational or compliance decision or of the actions of an individual officer.
- It is also not my role to advise or comment on policy.
- The scope of the Inspector General's official role is limited to the pre-border and border activities undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. It has no role post-border or in the broader national biosecurity system.
- The Act only provides powers for the conduct of reviews.
- It is my view that it is time to review the scope and functions of the Inspector-General and the associated legislation. There are lessons to be learned from the models of operation of other Inspectors General. In my opinion, the Inspector-General of Biosecurity role could add greater value to the biosecurity system.
- I would like to update the committee on my review program.
- I published an initial review program in November 2022. I have since revised that program after gaining a deeper understanding of the department and the issues around the operation of the biosecurity regulator over the last year.
- My revised review program 2022-25 has been published on the Inspector-General's website (<https://www.igb.gov.au/review-program>).

- I am currently finalising the report for the review of the “Strategic management of the department’s biosecurity science resource”. This will include the statutory requirement for final consultation with the department.
- I have commenced the review, “Maturity of the department’s biosecurity regulatory system” and I am in the process of consultation for the scoping of the review, “Environmental biosecurity – management and policy implementation”.
- As new or emerging issues arise, I reserve the right to further amend my review program in future.
- As required by the legislation, that will only happen after consultation with the Director of Biosecurity and the Minister for Agriculture.
- I welcome any questions.