



**Australian Pork
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Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Senate Standing Committee
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

**Re: Biosecurity Amendment (Advanced Compliance Measures)
Bill 2023.**

Dear Senator Sterle,

Australian Pork Ltd (APL) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Biosecurity Amendment (Advanced Compliance Measures) Bill 2023 [Provisions] (the Bill).

Australian Pork Ltd

APL is the peak national representative body for Australian pork producers. It is a producer-owned company combining marketing, export development, research and innovation and strategic policy development to assist in securing a profitable and sustainable future for the Australian pork industry.

The existing regulatory and supply chain oversight of Australian pork businesses is a complex space. APL can assist you to navigate the pork industry as we hold a number of important roles and maintain a range of partnerships that could inform your processes. APL is:

- The peak body leading the pork industry's Sustainability Framework implementation,
- The pork Research, Development and Extension organisation leading climate research and extension in partnership with the Australian government and the research community,

- Part of the sector-wide collaborative effort to develop Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework, coordinated by the National Farmers' Federation on behalf of the Federal Department of Agriculture, and
- The industry signatory to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Deed (EADRA).

The pork industry is a significant contributor to the economic, environment and social prosperity of Australia.

The domestic pork industry is a vital part of Australia's food supply chain, with pork the second most consumed meat in Australia and all fresh pork consumed in Australia domestically sourced.

The Australian pork industry contributes around \$5.5 billion in gross domestic product to the economy and supports a diverse range of careers across the food supply chain. The industry is domestically focused with around 90% of our production supporting food security for Australians. Of the 10% that is exported, the total value is around \$173 million.

More than 31,000 jobs are supported nationally, predominantly in regional Australia, supporting the economic and social prosperity of communities and the wellbeing of individuals. The Australian pork industry's workforce is skilled, specialised and generally engaged on a permanent basis. Like many rural industries the pork industry is currently being impacted by staff shortages with the industry willing and able to support more than 36,000 jobs nationwide and opportunity for growth up to 38,000 as Australian pork replaces imported pork in the domestic production of smallgoods.

The largest volume of production is sourced from Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, respectively. The domestic pork industry is a vital part of Australia's food supply chain, with pork the second most consumed meat in Australia and all fresh pork consumed in Australia domestically sourced.

Response to the Biosecurity Amendment (Advanced Compliance Measures) Bill.

Increasing civil penalties to reflect the biosecurity risk and incentivise greater compliance.

APL supports increased civil penalties for individuals and entities that fail to comply with biosecurity laws. As pork industry signatory to EADRA, APL is well aware of the increasing risks to Australia's biosecurity status and the costs both personal and economic that would be imposed, on Governments and the agricultural industries, should contravention of our biosecurity laws lead to a disease outbreak.

Penalty options should reflect the significant long term economic, social and agricultural industry impact of contravention of Australia's biosecurity rules.

APL would suggest that in addition to civil penalties, consideration should be given to allowing the imposition of additional deterrent mechanisms such as broadening the scope of Visa cancellation options or the imposition of movement restrictions.

Increased information gathering powers to support the detection of non-compliance.

APL supports mechanisms which ensure officials have access to accurate and comprehensive information about travellers and goods, as a means to enhance our capacity to most accurately assess and manage risks and their import pathways.

APL believes an effective information gathering system will allow for the most efficient allocation of resources and biosecurity controls. Where appropriate, information regarding import risk pathways and biosecurity breaches, should be shared with Animal Health Australia and its members to allow broader industry consideration and analysis of risk mitigation needs.

Other considerations relating to the proposed measures.

To ensure the ongoing effectiveness of new compliance measures proposed in the Bill, it is crucial to establish appropriate mechanisms for the sharing of information and analysis of risks. There is an opportunity for greater collaboration between biosecurity compliance activities and the formal and informal agricultural biosecurity and emergency animal and pest management frameworks. Better collaboration would support the identification of any potential gaps or weaknesses and allow industry and government to work together to make necessary adjustments to improve the efficacy of our biosecurity system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission.

Yours sincerely,

Margo Andrae
Chief Executive Officer