



Department of  
Agriculture and Fisheries

Our ref: CTS 11761/23

**3 JUL 2023**

Mr Gerry McNally  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee  
rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr McNally

Thank you for your email of 23 June 2023 inviting submissions on the Biosecurity Amendment (Advanced Compliance Measures) Bill 2023.

While the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) appreciates the invitation to provide comment, the provision of a considered submission is not possible in the available timeframe.

DAF has, however, identified some operational efficiencies relative to border and near border biosecurity, and notes that any changes to legislation should allow for optimal operational effectiveness.

For example, the provision of Approved Arrangement (AA) sites in electronic real time format to jurisdictions to allow surveillance planning has been identified as important in preparedness. Similarly, prompt advice to jurisdictions about changed risk profiles would allow effective post border surveillance.

The Inspector-General of Biosecurity previously recommended enhanced auditing of AAs and better training for auditors and those carrying out treatments at AAs. In particular, DAF notes the need for AA conditions that require the use of treatments that are comprehensively effective against hitchhiker pests such as tramp ants. There may be an opportunity in the Bill to allow more efficient amendment to AA conditions to allow for this.

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DAF also notes the additional declaration paperwork for entry into Australia and recommends that a comprehensive education and awareness campaign in appropriate languages is undertaken so that people entering Australia are aware of their entry requirements.

Yours sincerely

**Justine Clark**  
**A/Director-General**  
**Department of Agriculture and Fisheries**