



## EXECUTIVE MINUTE

on  
JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT  
REPORT No. 435  
*Review of Auditor-General's Reports Nos.33 (2011-12) to 1 (2012-13)*

### General comments

The recommendations below reflect business improvement priorities identified by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) in its risk-based approach to biosecurity management, as well as biosecurity reform initiatives in response to the review *One Biosecurity: a working partnership* (Beale et al, 2008) and related government decisions.

The Biosecurity Reform Implementation Plan is the administrative framework through which the department is delivering a range of capability enhancements matched to priorities identified for biosecurity reform. These initiatives include improvements to electronic systems specific to the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy aligned to the recommendations.

### Response to the recommendation(s)

#### Recommendation No. 8 paragraph 4.42

*That, using information currently available, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry calculate and maintain inspection and seizure rates of quarantine material for areas covered by the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy zone, and use this information to inform management decisions regarding border operations.*

Recommendation 8 is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) and has been addressed through the integration of existing data relating to inspection and seizure rates of quarantine material into the department's primary decision-making forums for the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy.

#### Recommendation No. 9 paragraph 4.46

*That the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry ensure that support for Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy activities is a high priority during the continuing development of the BioSIRT database in order to address the deficiencies identified by the Australian National Audit Office and in the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit's review.*

Recommendation 9 is broadly supported. The department is progressing a business case for system enhancements which will address recommendations in relation to the need for improvements in the collection, management and analysis of NAQS surveillance data. The business case has indicated that changes to existing surveillance data systems is a better solution than the use of the BioSIRT database.

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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

24 January 2013