

Are definitions from existing levies legislation appropriate (see levies related legislation) legislation?

yes

If your submission relates to a commodity that is not subject to existing agricultural levies, how would you define a producer for that commodity?

no

What should the levy rate look like for the commodities of interest to you?

You can refer to page 5 of the consultation paper for further details.

Australian producers are taxpayers and already funding Biosecurity through this. This levy would mean that they would have to, once again, pay twice for the privilege to feed and clothe Australia. Producers are also currently paying levies/rates for biosecurity in their state and this federal levy would duplicate the current levies.

Should any thresholds and/or exemptions should be considered?

all producers should be exempt.

How should Biosecurity Protection Levy collection arrangements and mechanisms be implemented for your commodity of interest?

The cost of collection will outweigh the benefit of the funds collected. This has been shown in a number of levy systems currently run by the government.

What information would be important to you to have confidence the levy is proportionate to biosecurity system benefits?

Our group has a widespread lack of confidence in the federal Biosecurity system of Australia as was seen by the debacle of the varroa mite control in New South Wales. The apathetic response to the devastating Foot and Mouth Disease when it was present in Indonesia and the current lack of support for live cattle exporters for lumpy skin disease. Additional funding will not fix the underlying issues that are due to having too many agencies trying to control biosecurity. This has led to 1. Lack of Coordination: Different agencies may have their own priorities and strategies, leading to a lack of coordination in addressing common biosecurity threats. 2. Overlap and Duplication: There might be overlapping responsibilities and duplication of efforts among agencies, which can be inefficient and costly. 3. Information Sharing Challenges: Information sharing is crucial in biosecurity management.

If agencies do not effectively share information, it can hinder the timely detection and response to biosecurity threats. 4. Inconsistencies in Regulations: Different agencies may have different regulations and standards, leading to inconsistencies in biosecurity measures across sectors. 5. Resource Allocation: Resources, including funding and manpower, might be spread thin across multiple agencies, impacting their ability to effectively implement biosecurity measures. To improve biosecurity control, it's essential for governments to consider the following strategies: 1. Centralized Coordination: Establish a centralized body or authority responsible for coordinating biosecurity efforts across different sectors. This can ensure better communication, collaboration, and consistency in approach. 2. Standardized Regulations: Develop and implement standardized biosecurity regulations and protocols that are applicable across various sectors. This can help in ensuring uniformity and compliance. 3. Integrated Risk Assessment: Implement integrated risk assessment approaches that consider the interconnectedness of different sectors. This holistic approach can help in identifying and addressing potential biosecurity risks more effectively. 4. Capacity Building: Invest in training and capacity-building programs for personnel involved in biosecurity management. Well-trained staff are better equipped to handle biosecurity challenges. 5. Public Awareness: Raise public awareness about biosecurity issues and involve communities in biosecurity efforts. Informed and engaged communities can play a significant role in the early detection and reporting of biosecurity threats. 6. International Collaboration: Collaborate with other countries and international organizations to share information, best practices, and technologies for effective biosecurity management, especially considering the global nature of many biosecurity threats. By addressing these challenges and implementing these strategies, it is possible to enhance biosecurity control and mitigate the risks associated with biological threats effectively.