

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

### Proposed Bio-Security Protection Levy

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

In 2022 [REDACTED] generated an estimated \$2.6 billion in gross regional product supporting a workforce of 12,000. On average each worker contributes \$150,000 annually, in comparison the average worker in the [REDACTED] generates \$160,000 annually, the same as the average Victorian worker.

Due to our agricultural base and comparatively low incomes, relatively small changes in government fees and charges can have a big cumulative effect bearing in mind water and energy costs increases largely driven by government policy which combined with interest rate rises are already seriously impacting on our productive sectors.

[REDACTED] while acknowledging the need for efficient and effective bio-security asks that the Department recognize that the agriculture sector which gives so many benefits to Australia is under stress and needs government charges to be reasonable and fair.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss this matter further, do not hesitate to contact me

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]