



**Abalone Council
Australia Ltd**

Attention:

Biosecurity Sustainable Funding Implementation Branch
[Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#)

[REDACTED]

October 13, 2023

To whom it may concern,

RE: National Biosecurity Protection Levy

Abalone Council Australia Ltd (ACA) is a peak abalone related representative body in Australia and represents the interests of abalone producers and exporters across the five abalone producing states of Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

Please go to www.abalonecouncil.com.au for further information.

Australian abalone exporters are also represented by the *Abalone Association of Australasia Inc* (AAAI). AAAI is an organisation of licensed abalone processors/exporters that are active in both the Australian and New Zealand abalone industry. I recommend that DAFF contacts the AAAI via the current Chair, Brad Adams. Brad may be contacted [REDACTED]

Businesses involved in the abalone sector are small in size and spread out around the southern coastline of Australia. Most of these businesses are family owned and managed and are regulated under state-based Fisheries, Work Place Health and Safety, and Biosecurity legislation.

Some abalone business operate solely in the harvest sector, some operate solely in the processing/export sector and some operate across both harvest and processing/export sectors.

The majority of Australian abalone products are exported to the following countries: China (including Hong Kong), Singapore, Taiwan and Japan. A minority of Australian abalone products are consumed domestically (in Australia) with small quantities exported to Malaysia, Vietnam and the EU and US markets. Please refer to ABARES export statistics for further information.

ACA is a member of Seafood Industry Australia and is aware that SIA is making a submission related to the Biosecurity Protection Levy with regard to the broader Australia seafood sector.

The potential imposition of any national levy on the Australian abalone industry is a serious matter that will require substantive and direct consultation with affected abalone industry stakeholders at all levels of industry.

As you would be aware, the abalone industry is not currently subject to a Statutory Agribusiness Levy. You may be aware that ACA attempted (unsuccessfully) to establish a national abalone marketing levy via the DAFF Statutory levy system in 2019.

I note that DAFF Biosecurity Protection Levy documentation has declared that producers that are not subject to statutory levies will be consulted and that arrangements will be negotiated on a commodity specific basis.

[REDACTED]

ACA is keen to ensure that DAFF conducts this consultation in a comprehensive, consultative and transparent manner. In particular, issues around collection methodology will need to be carefully considered along with discussions around the quantum of the levy and full disclosure by DAFF around how any levy will be administered and deployed with particular reference to the biosecurity outcomes that will flow to, or impact upon, the Australian abalone industry.

Where reasonable and appropriate, ACA is happy to assist DAFF in the consultation process.

I am writing today to request direct contact from a senior DAFF representative to commence discussions regarding this matter.

[REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Dean Lisson CEO

Abalone Council Australia Ltd

[REDACTED]