



Draft cost recovery implementation statements 2026–27: ongoing regulatory efficiency function

January 2026

Overview

An ongoing regulatory efficiency function will become part of the sustainable funding model for the department's export cost recovery arrangements from 2026–27.

This function will provide an ongoing capability and capacity to reform and improve regulatory policies and systems, which will improve effectiveness, simplify processes and reduce regulatory burden on establishments and exporters.

An ongoing regulatory efficiency function provides stability for the department to deliver improvements that support industry, rather than the limited scope of projects undertaken to date through short-term funding.

The activities will be guided by industry consultation and by departmental priorities.

This function could include activities such as:

- more effectively using data and analytics to streamline how we monitor whether exporting businesses are meeting compliance requirements
- recognising alternative verification technologies developed by business and industries
- increasing opportunities to recognise third parties as authorised officers and in export trusted positions.

Rationale for ongoing function

As part of our business-as-usual responsibilities, we are committed to increasing efficiencies in the delivery of regulatory services and corporate functions and we are required to deliver those activities at the minimum efficient cost.

The department is not sustainably funded to implement changes to the way regulatory services are delivered, and has only received episodic funding from government for this work.

Examples of episodic measures include initiatives funded in the 2020–21 Budget to implement data and technology-based regulation for the seafood industry, and streamlining some horticulture regulatory processes.

Regulatory efficiencies to date

We have delivered a range of regulatory efficiencies, including:

- reducing fees incurred by exporters for sending, collecting, printing and maintaining bilingual paper certificates, realising more than \$20 million of trade benefits across government and industry in 2022–23
- phasing out the use of manual processing for non-Genetically Modified Organism plant export certification to 37 countries, saving industry at least \$700,000 per year in reduced fees
- partnering with industry under the Busting Congestion for Plant Exports Program, to assess and recognise the commercial controls industry has in place to manage phytosanitary risk – leading to efficiencies for operators of accredited properties, horticulture packhouses and registered establishments

- finalising a new scheme for the grains industry to allow industry to deliver face-to-face training, reduce departmental presence at registered establishments and allow industry to take more responsibility for meeting export outcomes
- supporting horticulture registered establishments and accredited properties to maintain certification against a Global Food Safety Initiative approved scheme, to streamline audits – saving time during and in preparing for the audit
- recognising commercial arrangements between horticulture packhouses and their grower suppliers through the Packhouse Grower Supplier Model – ongoing compliance with export requirements is verified by packhouse representatives, reducing the frequency of departmental audits
- developing paperless certification for exports of meat, seafood and dairy to the European Union, bringing 532 paper certificates down to 33 for paperless exchange
- creating an export facilitator service for the dairy, egg and seafood industries, which provides tailored assistance to industry looking to become export registered and will
 - significantly reduce the time it takes for new entrants to achieve export registration
 - enable companies to export their products much quicker than previously experienced
 - realise an estimated benefit of \$5.8 million
- developing and implementing a new audit approach for low-risk export establishments, which will streamline audits and use information to assess compliance with export and importing country requirements and result in benefits such as
 - reduced regulatory burden and greater efficiency through removal of onsite auditing
 - increased industry time savings through less burdensome regulatory requirements
 - a regulatory system for trading partners that is risk-based and maintains the robust food safety assurances by using technology, information and data.

More information

Learn more about [export cost recovery reform](#).

Web agriculture.gov.au/about/fees/export-cost-recovery-reform-sust-trade-funding

Email ExportsFunding@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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