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28 November 2022

## **Input to biosecurity funding survey**

Vegan Australia is pleased to have the opportunity to provide input to the "Making national biosecurity funding sustainable" survey by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Vegan Australia is a national organisation that informs the public about animal rights and veganism and also presents a strong voice for veganism to government, institutions, corporations and the media. Vegan Australia envisions a world where all animals live free from human use and ownership. The foundation of Vegan Australia is justice and compassion, for animals as well as for people and the planet. The first step each of us should take to put this compassion into action is to become vegan and to encourage others to do the same. Veganism is a rejection of the exploitation involved in commodifying and using sentient beings.

### **Submission**

Biosecurity is important to Australia to protect agriculture, the natural environment, Australia's unique biodiversity and people's health. Vegan Australia would like to comment on the Australian Government's biosecurity funding proposal.

Vegan Australia is an animal rights organisation which raises awareness of the negative impact of the animal agriculture industry on the farmed animals themselves and on the environment. We advocate for the phasing out of animal agriculture over the next 10 years. This will end the suffering of the over half a billion farmed animals bred, raised and killed in Australia each year.

Vegan Australia believes that the Australian Government should put resources into helping make this transition to a plant-only food system. This transition would:

- help address climate change and extreme weather events, as animal agriculture is major source of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly over a 20 year time period
- stop the degradation of land through grazing, allowing more land to be rewilded which would strengthen natural biosecurity and assist

Australia's biodiversity; over 50% of the Australian landmass is used for animal agriculture

- help reverse the ongoing species extinction of Australia's wildlife
- reduce the risk of outbreaks of novel zoonotic diseases particularly caused through high-density livestock production
- reduce the risk of consequent effects on the human population through future pandemics
- help reverse the looming crisis of antibiotic resistance; over 75% of all antibiotics are used in agriculture
- lower the impact on Australia of increasing animal diseases in nearby countries, such as foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease in Indonesia
- eliminate the need for biosecurity measures to prevent farmed animal diseases

Vegan Australia urges the Australian Government to seriously consider the biosecurity risks of animal agriculture.

Greg McFarlane  
Director  
Vegan Australia

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