



**STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS
FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
(1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024)**

On 17 August 2022, the former Minister for Agriculture, Hon Gayle Tierney, issued a Statement of Expectations (SOE) to Agriculture Victoria for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024. The SOE outlines the Minister's expectations for improved regulatory efficiency and effectiveness. In response, Agriculture Victoria developed and implemented strategies to enhance its regulatory performance.

Under the Department of Treasury and Finance SOE Framework for Regulators, Agriculture Victoria is required to report on its performance against the SOE targets for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024.

Agriculture Victoria made significant progress in achieving the Minister's expectations outlined in the SOE. Through risk-based strategies, improved regulatory delivery, and proactive stakeholder engagement, Agriculture Victoria continues to enhance its regulatory efficiency and effectiveness. The key achievements are summarised below.

Further details on specific achievements are provided in the table that follows.

Summary of key achievements

Risk-Based Strategies

Through the implementation of risk-based compliance strategies, Agriculture Victoria achieved several key objectives:

- Developed Compliance Strategies: Agriculture Victoria developed risk-based compliance strategies tailored to support effective risks management across all its regulatory programs.
- Annual Operational Plans: These risk-based compliance strategies were translated into annual operational plans, ensuring that regulatory objectives were pursued throughout the year.
- Implemented Environmental Scanning: Successful implementation of environmental scanning ensured Agriculture Victoria remained aware of external factors that could impact its operations.

Overall, these efforts demonstrate Agriculture Victoria's proactive approach to regulatory oversight, managing regulatory risks efficiently, aligning operational plans with strategic goals, and remaining responsive to external changes affecting its regulatory environment.

Regulatory Approach and Regulatory Framework

Publication of the Agriculture Victoria Regulatory Approach and Regulatory Framework has improved transparency of Agriculture Victoria's regulatory approach and operational framework with its regulated entities and the broader community. Transparency will foster greater trust and understanding of Agriculture Victoria's regulatory approach to support collaborative effort to achieve compliance and shared responsibility. The Regulatory Approach articulates guiding principles for regulated entities and the community, and operationalises these principles through officer training and regulatory activities.

Compliance strategies

All regulatory programs have developed compliance strategies in accordance with the Compliance Management Policy. These strategies are customised to prioritise and mitigate risks and inform the development of annual operational plans that enable more effective monitoring and management of risks.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Agriculture Victoria completed essential planning, training, and preparation for effective compliance during emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreaks. Key efforts included:

- Training Programs: Comprehensive training for prosecuting potential breaches of mandatory orders and other legislative requirements.
- Guidance and Coordination: The development of guidance materials, establishing information-sharing arrangements, and coordinating enforcement activities with agencies like Victoria Police.
- Risk Management Strategies: Implementing strategies for high-risk scenarios, such as breaches of control or restricted area orders.
- Legislative Improvements: The *Biosecurity Legislation Amendment (Incident Response) Act 2024* (BLAIR Act) received Royal Assent on 13 February 2024. The BLAIR Act amends the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*, *Livestock Management Act 2010* and *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010* to manage biosecurity incidents, including preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an EAD, or plant pest or disease, detection or outbreak.

Improved Delivery

Key initiatives Agriculture Victoria successfully implemented to ensure the efficient delivery of its regulatory functions included:

- Centralisation and Development of Compliance Processes: Maintenance and development of centralised compliance processes and data management.
- Implementation of Regulatory Business System Products: Leading the implementation of regulatory business system products, including chemical use authorities. The successful launch of Agriculture Victoria Connect (AV Connect), our external-facing constituent portal, marks a significant milestone in digital transformation. The initial deployment of chemical use authorities functionality has streamlined processes, reducing application costs significantly, and saving businesses and the community substantial administrative costs.

- Maintenance of Existing Online Services: This provided for the continued support of legacy online services, such as Livestock Tags, Property Identification Codes, Bee Registration, Plant Health Certification, and the Pet Exchange Register.
- Extension and Improvement of the Pet Exchange Register: This involved engaging the service provider for two more years, enhancing the user experience, and reviewing the database for capability.

Regulatory Staff Training and Development

Agriculture Victoria made notable strides in enhancing regulatory skills and knowledge among Authorised Officers (AOs). The AO Induction Program was comprehensively reviewed, ensuring alignment with current regulatory requirements. Achievements included:

- Completion and Approval of AO Certificate IV Program: The Certificate IV in Government Investigations program was successfully planned and approved.
- Induction Programs: Ongoing induction programs provided foundational knowledge to new recruits.
- Upskilling AOs: Agriculture Victoria increased the capability of its staff in understanding of relevant legislative requirements and risk-based compliance and enforcement approaches.
- eLearning Modules: the development of eLearning modules to improve accessibility to regulatory knowledge.

The Compliance Management Forum, which convened monthly, fostered collaboration and knowledge exchange among compliance program managers. Agriculture Victoria's involvement in the Whole of Victorian Government regulatory reform agenda underscores its commitment to improving regulatory practices.

Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Agriculture Victoria effectively informed and educated stakeholders to foster support for improved compliance through various initiatives, including:

- Transparency in Animal Use Reporting: Annual reports on animals used for scientific purposes were published online. The 2020 Animal Use Statistics Report was released in August 2022. The 2021 Animal Use Statistics Report was released in February 2024. The 2022 report is due to be released in the second half of 2024.
- Collaboration with Community Pest Management Groups (CPMGs): This included the successful collaboration with four state-wide CPMGs, offering project management support and annual operational funding.
- Support for Animal Ethics Committees and Licence Holders: The e-Learning module was developed in August 2022 and was completed by over 480 individuals.

- Partnerships Against Pests Grants: This included the successful delivery of Round 2 of the Partnerships Against Pests grant in May 2024, promoting community-led stakeholder engagement.

Additionally, collaboration across the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, and with Crime Stoppers Victoria, continued to disrupt illegal exotic pest animal trade, while quarterly meetings with RSPCA Victoria and engagement with Aboriginal communities further emphasised Agriculture Victoria's commitment to comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

Progress Report

Thematic priority element 1: Risk-based strategies		
<i>Agriculture Victoria to continue to focus its regulatory activity and resources to where the risks of harm to community and industry are greatest and continuously develop and improve its capacity as a risk-based regulator.</i>		
Expectation	Outputs/Deliverables	Achievements as of 30 June 2024
Continue with compliance planning, and the development of risk-based compliance strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory programs to develop compliance program strategies and annual operational plans under the Compliance Management Policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Scanning and Compliance Strategy Development: All regulatory programs across Agriculture Victoria have successfully conducted thorough environmental scanning. With this insight, each program developed comprehensive compliance program strategies tailored to their specific needs. • Annual Operational Plans: Each program prepared and finalised their annual operational plans, ensuring a structured approach to achieving their regulatory objectives.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory programs to continue to conduct annual reviews/health checks of existing compliance program strategies or plans and adjust as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and Updating Compliance Program Strategies: All regulatory programs across Agriculture Victoria have either completed or are actively progressing monitoring of their compliance program strategies. Updates are being made as needed to ensure these strategies remain current and effective.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a revised operational approach for Food Safety to meet new requirements for Horticulture. • Approval by Government of new regulatory model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of New Food Safety Standards: In August 2022, new national primary production and processing standards for berries, leafy vegetables, and melons were agreed by the Food Ministers' Meeting. These new requirements in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code will come into effect on 12 February 2025.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop regulations to support new model. • Regulatory Impact Statement development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Regulatory Model: Legislative amendments to the <i>Food Act 1984</i> to facilitate the development of regulations to implement the standards effectively were passed by the Victorian Parliament in February 2024. Agriculture Victoria has been engaging peak bodies on a proposed regulatory model ahead of formal consultation on regulations later in 2024. • Annual Registration and Compliance: Agriculture Victoria will annually register, approve food safety arrangements, and charge regulatory fees for 500 to 750 horticulture businesses that are not currently subject to specific food safety obligations. To reduce the burden on businesses, existing industry certification schemes will be recognised, eliminating the need for duplicative audits.
<p>Clearly articulate Agriculture Victoria’s regulatory approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise Agriculture Victoria Regulatory Framework and communicate across Agriculture Victoria stakeholders. • Publish a Regulatory Approach consistent with the Better Regulation Victoria Better Practice Guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing Risk-Based Regulatory Capability: Agriculture Victoria continuously improved its capabilities as a risk-based regulator. A significant milestone was the publication of its Regulatory Approach on the Agriculture Victoria website. • Providing Transparency and Understanding: The Regulatory Approach offers transparency about Agriculture Victoria’s regulatory remit and compliance activities. It helps industry stakeholders and the community understand how regulatory decisions are made and the principles guiding these actions. • Establishing a Regulatory Framework: Agriculture Victoria published its new Regulatory Framework on its website. This framework outlines how Agriculture Victoria will fulfill the commitments and principles detailed in the Regulatory Approach. It is being integrated into AO training and other operational regulatory activities.
<p>Enhance preparedness and response to biosecurity incursions of pests and diseases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the Victorian Government’s preparedness to respond to a major EAD outbreak such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease. • Continue to deliver the necessary planning, training and preparation activities to undertake effective and efficient compliance activities during an EAD response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of State EAD Response Plan: In response to the heightened risk of EADs such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease, Agriculture Victoria developed and published the Victorian Government State EAD Response Plan in October 2022. The Plan was reviewed in 2024 with a revised plan approved and launched in May 2024. • Whole of Government EAD Preparedness Program: Agriculture Victoria focused on preparing for compliance and enforcement activities as part of its Whole of Government EAD Preparedness Program. Key developments included:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build capability of potential workforce available to respond to an EAD outbreak. • Actively engage with external stakeholders to effectively manage risk and support compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training Programs: The development of training to ensure potential breaches of mandatory orders and other legislative requirements can be effectively prosecuted. ▪ Guidance and Coordination: The development of guidance material, establishment of information sharing arrangements, and coordinated enforcement activities across participating agencies, including Victoria Police. ▪ Risk Management Strategies: Implemented risk management strategies for high-risk circumstances, such as enforcing breaches of control or restricted area orders. ▪ Legislative Improvements: The BLAIR Act 2024 bolstered Agriculture Victoria’s ability to manage biosecurity incidents, including preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an EAD, or plant pest or disease, detection, or outbreak. • Communications and Industry Engagement: In 2023/24, Agriculture Victoria continued to deliver communications and industry engagement activities to raise awareness and build biosecurity capability in the community. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 269 community and industry awareness-raising webinars and events, engaging 15,249 producers and stakeholders. ▪ 143 farm biosecurity planning workshops, with over 1,345 farm biosecurity plans developed with farmers, encouraging greater ownership and action by producers to manage their biosecurity risks – targeted EAD awareness campaigns (e.g. ‘Backyard Biosecurity’), have been rolled out including new videos and a landing page for small-scale landholders which averages 40 visitors per day, with a total of over 7,300 visitors since June 2023. ▪ four eLearning modules with over 2,500 enrolments by external stakeholders and industry participants.
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Thematic priority element 2: Improved Delivery
Efficient delivery of regulatory functions.

Expectation	Outputs	Achievements as of 30 June 2024
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<p>Operational improvements in the delivery of regulatory services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities and implement learnings for improved processes. • Implement recommendations arising from the 2022 livestock welfare outcomes and welfare complaints data project. • Implement recommendations from the Livestock Traceability Health Check report by Better Regulation Victoria. • Use recommendations from the Future Directions Report to shape regulatory programs to support community-led action. • Perform a review of existing Rodeo Welfare reporting and assessment procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock Traceability Improvements: The Livestock Traceability team participated in the Better Regulation Victoria Regulator Improvement Program health check. The final report identified key findings and recommendations for operational improvements, which are being actively implemented, including updates to templates and remedial notices with new documents under development. • Community-Led Management of Established Pests: Recommendations from the October 2021 Future Directions Report on the Review of Community Led Management of Established Pests have guided regulatory programs to support community-led actions. This has led to the development of the new Victorian Invasive Pests Advisory Board (VIPA Board) and the initiation of a community grants program. • Implementation of Future Directions Report: Agriculture Victoria is actively implementing recommendations from the Future Directions Report, progressing the establishment of the VIPA Board and the grants program. • Review of 2022 Livestock Welfare Outcomes: A comprehensive review of 2022 livestock welfare outcomes was completed. The implementation of recommendations arising from this review, as well as from the 2022 livestock welfare outcomes and welfare complaints data project, is ongoing. The recommendations from 2019 have been fully implemented, and efforts are underway to address the recommendations from the 2022 report. • Rodeo Welfare Procedures: The review of existing rodeo welfare reporting, and assessment procedures remains ongoing.
<p>All Agriculture Victoria regulatory staff are well trained and understand their authorising legislation as well as any parallel or complementary regulatory frameworks and procedures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide appropriate generic and program-specific training for AOs. A priority will be to enhance regulatory skills regarding investigative processes and understanding of legislation and evidentiary procedure. • Deliver training programs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Induction Program for AOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Update of AO Induction Program: The AO Induction Program was reviewed and updated with assistance from subject matter experts across Agriculture Victoria. • Completion and Approval of AO Certificate IV in Government Investigations Program: The plan for the AO Certificate IV in Government Investigations program was completed and approved. Training through the National Registered Training Organisation was developed, resulting in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Induction programs for AOs being on track. ▪ Progress in upskilling AOs through the Certificate IV in Government Investigations, with programs for staff completed in April 2024. ▪ Development and delivery of training and information on Agriculture Victoria's regulatory programs for AOs in 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upskill AO qualifications through the Certificate IV in Government Investigations. - Agriculture Victoria's regulatory programs to provide training for AOs regarding all relevant legislation. - E-learning module on the Regulatory Approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of eLearning modules for completion in 2024.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain currency of all regulatory Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), work instructions and manuals. • Regular review of SOPs to maintain SOPs/Work Instructions for Agriculture Regulatory Programs and ensure that the processes are implemented effectively. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call-in SOP - Occupational Health & Safety Job Safety Plan: Field Operations - SOP Issuing and serving Official Warning and Infringements. - SOP Ministerial Seizure and Disposal of Livestock Section 24E/24F. - SOP Traceability Audits. - SOP- Accreditation, Suspension, Amendment and Cancellation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currency of Documents Maintained: Agriculture Victoria's regulatory program areas have consistently met expectations by performing regular reviews and updates to SOPs to ensure the effective implementation of processes. • SOPs Reviewed: During this 2022-2024 period, several significant SOPs have been thoroughly reviewed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SOP - Notice to Comply – Section 24ZP of the <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986</i> ▪ SOP - Prohibitive Pig Feeding Investigations ▪ SOP - Infested Land Inspections and Notice Use ▪ SOP - Using Inspection Powers Under the Plant Biosecurity Act ▪ SOP - The Animal Use Returns Data Check ▪ SOP - Animal Ethics Committee Member Mandatory Training • New SOPs Developed: Significant milestones achieved include the completion of the SOP for issuing and serving Official Warnings and Infringements, and the SOP for Traceability Audits. Furthermore, the SOP for seizures is currently being developed, demonstrating continuous improvement in bolstering regulatory procedures.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOP - Restricted area movements, permits and directions. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new manuals and procedures as required. • Develop Investigations Manual for Animal Health and Welfare. • Development of Instrument of Appointment Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on Investigations Manual: Although the development of the Investigations Manual experienced delays due to other priorities. • Development of Instrument of Appointment Guidelines: The Agriculture Victoria Authorised Officer Appointment Guidelines were endorsed and completed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forums and communities of practice for knowledge sharing. • Monthly Compliance Management Forums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance Management Forum: Monthly meetings with compliance program managers were held as part of the Compliance Management Forum. Key regulators, including representatives from the Wage Inspectorate and the Environmental Protection Authority in New South Wales, were invited to present. These meetings enhanced knowledge and practice in compliance and regulatory activities. • Forums: Agriculture Victoria led a significant number of forums, including the Biosecurity Reference Group, Agriculture Industry Reference Group, Livestock Industry Group, and the Victorian Food Regulators Forum. • Meetings with RSPCA Victoria: Agriculture Victoria held quarterly operational meetings with RSPCA Victoria. • Special Events: A special event was held with the Chief Conservation Regulator, further contributing to the enhancement of compliance and regulatory practices. • Regulatory Community of Practice Pilot: The Regulatory Community of Practice Pilot was conducted monthly over six months as part of the Strengthening Victoria's Biosecurity System program. • Participation in Regulatory Policy Working Groups: Agriculture Victoria actively participated in the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Regulatory Policy Working Group, providing valuable input into policy discussions. • Contributing to Regulatory Reform: Agriculture Victoria contributed to the Whole of Victorian Government regulatory reform agenda by participating in the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) Regulatory Reform Steering

		<p>Committee and the DTF Regulator’s Forum. This involvement includes contributions to initiatives such as the Digitally Ready Regulators, the Regulator Capability Library, and other DTF working groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revival of Regulatory Community of Practice Meetings: Agriculture Victoria reinstated the Australian and New Zealand Animals in Research and Teaching Regulatory Community of Practice Meetings in late 2023. This initiative brought together jurisdictional regulators to exchange knowledge and identify opportunities for collaboration, enhancing regulatory practices and effectiveness.
<p>Business processes and technology systems support efficient and effective delivery of regulatory services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve Agriculture Victoria’s governance and strategic investment in digital technologies. • Continue implementation of the Technology Strategy. • Maintain governance and oversight of IT investments through Steering Committees and Project Control Boards. • Implementation of new intelligence team within Biosecurity Victoria to improve intelligence products and data capabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Technology Strategy: The implementation of the Technology Strategy is well progressed, featuring a new technology delivery model and the establishment of a new platform. • Strategic Investment in Digital Technologies: Agriculture Victoria made strategic investments in digital technologies to accelerate the digitisation of manual compliance processes. This included streamlining and automating agricultural chemical use licenses and permits. The development of the Agriculture Victoria services portal (AV Connect) is complete, with the first stage of chemical user authorities functionality now live and additional functionalities in progress. • Establishment of New Intelligence Team: A new intelligence team was established to enhance intelligence products and data capabilities. A three-year delivery program was also established, with key priorities identified and being actively delivered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to maintain, develop and centralise, compliance related processes and data management across business systems. • Lead implementation of regulatory business system products, including chemical user authorities, as prioritised by the Technology Steering Committee. • Maintain existing online services including Livestock Tags, Property Identification Codes, Chemical Permits, Bee Registration and Plant Health Certification and Pet Exchange Register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of AV Connect Development: The development of the Agriculture Victoria services portal (AV Connect) is complete, with the first stage of chemical user authorities functionality is now live with further functionalities in progress. • Maintenance of Legacy Online Services: All existing legacy online services, such as Livestock Tags, Property Identification Codes, Bee Registration, and Plant Health Certification, were maintained as part of the newly implemented Biosecurity and Agriculture Services Technology Operating Model. • Extension and Improvement of the Pet Exchange Register: The service provider for the Pet Exchange Register was engaged for another two years, until 28 February 2025. The Pet Exchange Register continues to be maintained as an online service, with system improvements made to enhance user experience. A review of the database commenced to assess and evaluate the capability of the register, with completion expected by the end of the financial year.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to maintain digital and online communication platforms. • Ensure Agriculture Victoria website content is regularly reviewed and updated. • Finalise the Agriculture Victoria Digital Channel Strategy to optimise and integrate digital channels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Review and Update of Website Content: Agriculture Victoria reviewed and updated website content and functionality throughout 2023-24, ensuring that information remains current and relevant. • Delivery of Digital Channel Strategy: The Agriculture Victoria Digital Channel Strategy was successfully delivered. The implementation phase is now in progress, marked by the development of a Change and Implementation Plan, along with the initiation of quick win and short-term actions outlined in the strategy.

Thematic priority element 3: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

Agriculture Victoria to engage with peak bodies, industry, and community to foster support for improved compliance.

Expectation	Outputs	Achievements as of 30 June 2024
<p>Ensure stakeholders are informed of Agriculture Victoria’s strategic priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and educate relevant stakeholders through media releases and communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and education: Agriculture Victoria Media releases, including education and guidance material on compliance activities, are available at

<p>and activities to promote compliance and shared responsibility.</p>	<p>material on Agriculture Victoria's compliance priorities and key biosecurity and animal welfare risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and guidance material and media releases to be made available on website. 	<p>https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/about/mediacentre/media-releases. This work remains ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance material: Scientific and Pest Animals Licensing developed communication material to improve compliance with the legislation. • On-Property Biosecurity Practices: Agriculture Victoria – in collaboration with Animal Health Australia, Plant Health Australia and the New South Wales and Queensland governments – commissioned research to better understand the barriers that livestock owners and horticulture growers face in implementing biosecurity practices and reporting incidents, particularly in the event of disease outbreaks. Finalised in February 2024, findings will inform future stakeholder engagement activities to promote biosecurity compliance and shared responsibility.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain transparency by publishing results of compliance efforts on the Agriculture Victoria website. • Relevant reports to be made available on website, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal Use Statistics Reports. - Relevant extracts on compliance monitoring and outcomes from the Biosecurity and Agriculture Services Summary Outcomes Report 2022-2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency in Animal Use Reporting: The 2021 Animal Welfare Victoria Statistics of animal use in research and teaching, Victoria report was released in February 2024, highlighting ongoing commitment to transparency. Plans are in place to publish the 2022 report in the second half of 2024, with verification of 2023 animal use returns currently underway.
<p>Proactively engage with external stakeholders through workshops and education tools to manage risk and support stakeholders to comply with requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake targeted stakeholder engagement activities to improve compliance approaches. • Provide input into the Council Quarterly Bulletin related to domestic animals. • Prepare project scoping for targeted enforcement project in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with CPMGs: Agriculture Victoria continued its successful collaboration with four state-wide Community Pest Management Groups, including the Victorian Rabbit Action Network, Victorian Gorse Taskforce, Victorian Blackberry Taskforce, and Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party. By providing project management support and annual operational funding, Agriculture Victoria promotes compliance and shared responsibility among stakeholders through education and guidance material. • Dissemination of Future Directions Report: The October 2021 Future Directions Report on the Review of Community Led Management of Established

	<p>traceability with industry engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Partnerships Against Pests grants program to facilitate community led stakeholder engagement activities to improve voluntary compliance. 	<p>Pests was shared with the four CPMGs, facilitating informed discussions and feedback on the report recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into Council Quarterly Bulletin: Agriculture Victoria contributed input into a Council Quarterly Bulletin regarding domestic animals as deemed appropriate, enhancing communication and collaboration with relevant stakeholders. • Support for Animal Ethics Committees (AECs) and Licence Holders: Agriculture Victoria supported the ethical use of animals by working closely with registered AECs and over 225 current Victorian scientific licence holders. In August 2022, Agriculture Victoria developed a self-paced e-learning module to support AEC members and licence holders in decision-making, with over 480 individuals completing the training. • Delivery of Partnerships Against Pests Grants: Agriculture Victoria successfully delivered Round 2 of the Partnerships Against Pests grant in May 2024, facilitating community-led stakeholder engagement activities to improve voluntary compliance. Planning for Round 3 is underway, with delivery expected in Q2 2024-25, further enhancing collaboration and compliance efforts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with stakeholders in community of practice and forums. • Biosecurity Reference Group • Engagement with local government, RSPCA Victoria, and relevant stakeholder groups. • Establishment and administration of the Victorian Invasive Pests Advisory Board (VIPA) and engagement with Community Pest Management Groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victorian Blackberry Taskforce. - Victorian Gorse Taskforce. - Victorian Rabbit Action Network. - Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party. • Engagement with RSPCA Victoria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration: Agriculture Victoria maintained ongoing engagement with relevant stakeholders, actively participating in quarterly meetings with the Domestic Animals Working Group and RSPCA Victoria. Additionally, meetings with dog and cat organisations were conducted to provide support and ensure stakeholders comply with requirements, fostering a culture of collaboration and shared responsibility. • Support for CPMGs: Agriculture Victoria continued its support for the four CPMGs by assisting in the delivery of their state-wide strategic plans. Through the provision of project management and annual operational funding, Agriculture Victoria strengthened the capacity of these groups to address pest management challenges. • Establishment of Victorian Invasive Pests Advisory Board: The Victorian Invasive Pests Advisory Board was successfully established, with all members selected and onboarded in October 2023. The board held its inaugural meeting in November 2023, followed by a second meeting in March 2024. This initiative facilitated strategic planning and coordination efforts to address invasive pest threats effectively. • Establishment of the Biosecurity Reference Group (BRG): The community-industry BRG was established in 2022 and renewed in 2024. The group was

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Aboriginal communities, where appropriate. Demonstrate alignment with the Agriculture Victoria Self-Determination Action Plan. 	<p>pivotal in guiding the development of Victoria's Biosecurity Strategy, ensuring priority actions and goals reflect the perspectives of a breadth of people and organisations across the system and shifting biosecurity policy towards a much more collective, whole-of-system approach. The renewed BRG will guide implementation of the Biosecurity Strategy. BRG met 6 times and a summary of the meetings can be obtained on the Agriculture Victoria website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with Aboriginal communities: Agriculture Victoria staff took part in the Dumawul Cultural Competency Program training on Djaara Country. Sixteen regionally based staff explored the Dhelkunya Dja 'Healing Country' Plan which reaffirms Djaara's goals and obligations to care for Country and learnt about the historic Recognition and Settlement Agreement, Treaty, cultural safety and appropriateness. Alignment with the Agriculture Victoria Self-Determination Action Plan: Work and collaboration to ensure alignment with the Agriculture Victoria Self-Determination Action Plan remains an ongoing priority.
<p>Ensure collaboration with other agencies and relevant regulatory bodies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement and review existing Memoranda of Understanding and/or other appropriate agreements with relevant regulatory entities. Continue to deliver under the professional services agreement with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, and Crime Stoppers Victoria on exotic pest animals. Quarterly meetings with RSPCA Victoria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration to Disrupt Illegal Trade of Exotic Pest Animals: Longstanding collaboration with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (formerly the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) (including through Agriculture Victoria) and Crime Stoppers Victoria (CSV) to disrupt the illegal trade of exotic pest animals in Victoria continued. CSV's support includes specialised crime intelligence generation activities through public engagement, notably the 'Your Pet, Our Pest' campaign, as well as crime intelligence management and dissemination. This partnership enhanced efforts to safeguard Victoria's ecosystems and agriculture from the threats posed by exotic pests. Collaboration with RSPCA Victoria on animal welfare and domestic animal regulatory services: Agriculture Victoria maintained its commitment to collaboration by organising and attending quarterly meetings with RSPCA Victoria as part of its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement. Efforts are underway to develop a new MoU and funding agreement, ensuring continued cooperation and alignment of objectives between Agriculture Victoria and RSPCA Victoria.