



The Hon Gayle Tierney MP

Minister for Training and Skills
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Ref: BMIN-2-22-21751

Mr Simon Phemister
Secretary
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
121 Exhibition Street
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Dear Secretary

**STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS
(from 1 July 2022)**

I am writing to outline my Statement of Expectations (SOE) for Agriculture Victoria's regulatory functions for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024. During this period, I may amend or add to this SOE as new priorities emerge.

Consistent with the whole of government approach in the new *SOE Framework for Regulators* by the Department of Treasury and Finance, the purpose of this SOE is to communicate my priorities for Agriculture Victoria's regulatory functions and to establish a process for addressing these priorities.

I make this SOE in my capacity as the Minister for Agriculture, with primary or shared responsibility for administering the following legislation and associated regulations:

- *Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
- *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*
- *Food Act 1984*
- *Impounding of Livestock Act 1994*
- *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*
- *Livestock Management Act 2010*
- *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010*
- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*
- *Stock (Seller Liability and Declarations) Act 1993*

I expect Agriculture Victoria to foster better practice in regulation and achieve improvements in regulatory efficiency and effectiveness. In particular, I expect Agriculture Victoria to focus on the following three thematic priority elements:

- Risk based strategies;
- Improved delivery; and
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation.

The initiatives and actions outlined below describe how I expect Agriculture Victoria to address these priority elements.

Risk-based strategies

I expect Agriculture Victoria to continue to focus its regulatory activity and resources to where the risks of harm to community and industry are greatest. I expect Agriculture Victoria to continuously develop and improve its capacity as a risk-based regulator.

Specifically, I expect Agriculture Victoria to:

- enhance preparedness and response to biosecurity incursions of pests and diseases, including emergency animal diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease.
- continue with compliance planning, and the development of risk-based compliance strategies; and
- clearly articulate its regulatory approach.

Improved Delivery

To ensure efficient delivery of regulatory functions I expect:

- operational improvements in the delivery of regulatory services;
- that all Agriculture Victoria regulatory staff are well trained and understand their authorising legislation as well as any parallel or complementary regulatory frameworks and procedures; and
- business processes and technology systems support efficient and effective delivery of regulatory services.

Stakeholder consultation and engagement

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

Specifically, I expect Agriculture Victoria to:

- ensure stakeholders are informed of Agriculture Victoria’s strategic priorities and activities to promote compliance and shared responsibility;
- proactively engage with external stakeholders through workshops and education tools to manage risk and support stakeholders to comply with requirements; and
- ensure collaboration with other agencies and relevant regulatory bodies.

I acknowledge that traditional Aboriginal owners in Victoria have cultural, spiritual and economic connection to agriculture and Country. Accordingly, I expect Agriculture Victoria (where appropriate) to engage with, and be informed by, Aboriginal communities in the delivery of Agriculture Victoria’s regulatory functions.

I expect Agriculture Victoria, within two months of receipt of this SOE, to develop an implementation plan outlining how it intends to achieve the expectations set out in this SOE. This implementation plan should set out deliverables and timeframes for delivery. I expect annual reporting and progress updates as requested.

I further request that Agriculture Victoria undertake a light touch review of the expectations in this letter as part of their annual reporting obligations and to advise me if there are any refinements they would recommend.

I look forward to receiving the progress reports and updates on the performance improvements.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Training and Skills
Minister for Higher Education
17 August 2022