

Biosecurity Reference Group: meeting summary

Meeting date: Wednesday 11 March 2025

Location: Online

The Biosecurity Reference Group (BRG) met for its seventh meeting to discuss current and emerging biosecurity risks in Victoria and to review progress on key initiatives. Members received updates from Agriculture Victoria on current biosecurity risks and challenges, and discussed the upcoming 2026 Biosecurity Roundtable.

Biosecurity Strategy development

- **Current Biosecurity Risks and Challenges:** Agriculture Victoria provided an overview of the current biosecurity risks and challenges facing Victoria.
- **Management of Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP):** Members discussed the impacts and management of TPP, specifically the regulatory and operational challenges various sectors face.
- **Lessons from the 2026 fires to inform biosecurity preparedness.** Members were briefed on the experience of the 2026 fires and the challenges of livestock carcass disposal. Key lessons included the need for information and guidance about land manager's responsibilities to be available and promoted in advance of events, and community groups maintaining close relationships with AgVic during the event to ensure community can be connected to information, advice and support.
- **Development of truck wash review:** Members were briefed on the progress of Agriculture Victoria's truck wash network review. The review comes after facility closures across Victoria have created service gaps in the livestock transport sector. The review is expected to be completed in the coming months.
- **Biosecurity Strategy Implementation:** An update was provided on the draft Implementation Plan that is open for public consultation via the [Engage Victoria](#) platform until 31 March 2026. Feedback to date has been consistent. The Implementation Plan will guide delivery, prioritisation and communication activities of Victoria's Biosecurity Strategy. The BRG will be briefed on the outcome of the consultation at its next meeting.
- **2026 Biosecurity Roundtable:** The BRG were briefed on planning for the annual Biosecurity Roundtable and the role of members during the event. This year's event is scheduled to be delivered in a hybrid format on 7 May 2026. The 2026 theme, "**How do we work together to maximise impact?**", reflects a strong focus on collective action and innovation across the biosecurity system.

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- **Reflecting on two years of Biosecurity Reference Group:** The term of the current Biosecurity Reference Group is ending in mid-2026. Members reflected on its operation and achievements over the last two and opportunities for going forward. A final meeting of the current BRG is proposed for mid-2026 with a refreshed BRG proposed for the first quarter of the 2026-27 financial year.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Biosecurity Reference Group will be held in mid-2026.