

Developing a new Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria

Biosecurity Strategy Workshop Series Summary

February – March 2023

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



Biosecurity Strategy Workshop Series

Over 370 stakeholders from biosecurity system participated in regional workshops and influenced the development of the new Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

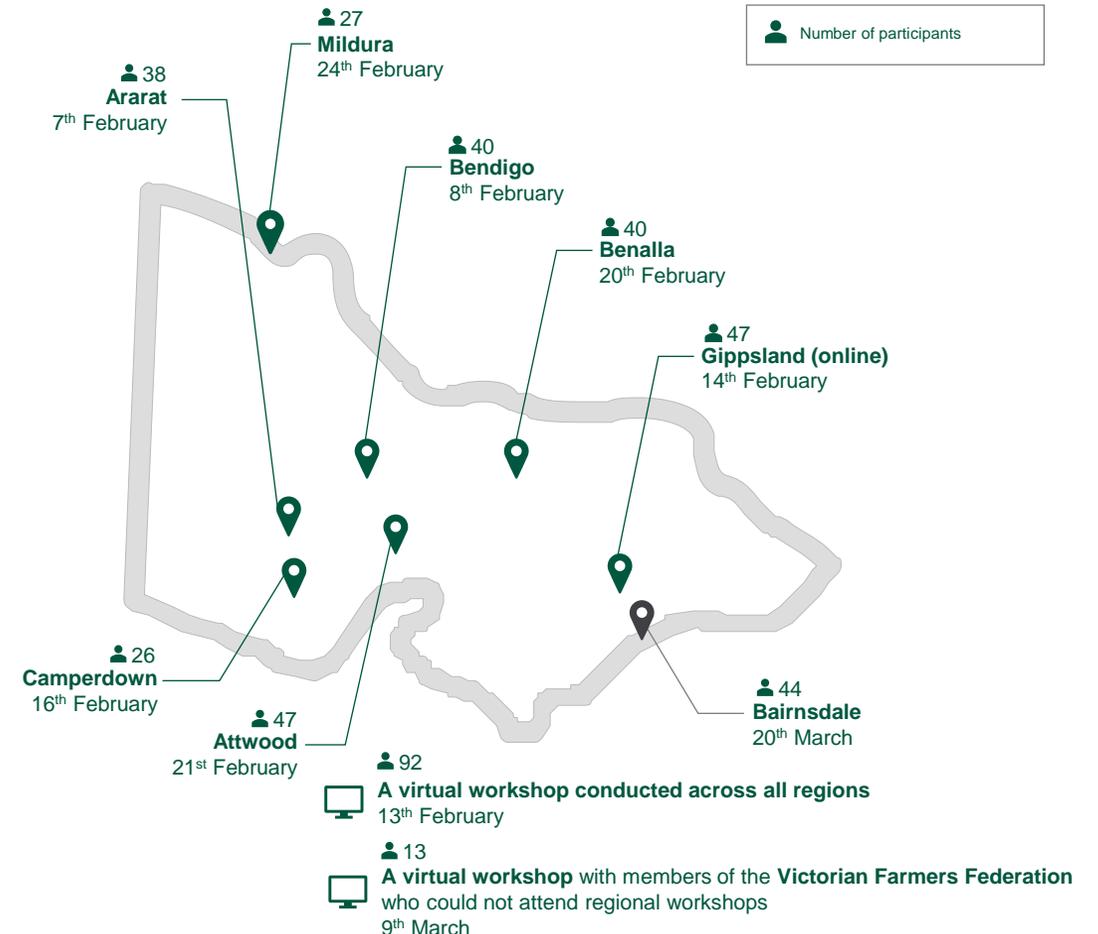
TO HELP SHAPE THE BIOSECURITY STRATEGY FOR VICTORIA BY:

- 1 Understanding different perspectives on how well biosecurity risks are currently managed
- 2 Testing the levels of support for Biosecurity Statement as the foundation for reform and improvement in biosecurity
- 3 Identifying specific, tangible ways to deliver a better biosecurity system

STAKEHOLDERS REPRESENTED

Business and Supply Chain	Community Groups	Education Providers	Emergency Responders	Environment NGOs	Farmers and Land Managers
Industry Peak Bodies	Local and Regional Agencies	R&D Bodies	State and Federal Government	Traditional Owners	Water Authorities

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED ACROSS VICTORIA



Key quantitative results from regional workshops

	ARARAT	BENDIGO	ALL REGIONS (ONLINE)	GIPPSLAND (ONLINE)	CAMPERDOWN	BENALLA	ATTWOOD	MILDURA	VFF	BAIRNSDALE
Current management of biosecurity system	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.6**
Support for the key shift	3.8	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.5	2.9	N/A*	3.8**
Top 3 Priorities	More community education targeted at non-producers	Harmonise biosecurity policy across national, state, and local boundaries	Enhance community awareness of biosecurity risks and shared responsibilities at a grass-roots level	Enhance community awareness of biosecurity risks and shared responsibilities at a grass-roots level	Develop a series of case studies about what we've done and could do better regarding biosecurity	Education - share information to raise awareness on the high value of biosecurity	Develop a more sustainable funding model at the state level	Introduce accountability and measurability into the actions that come out of the strategy, and ensure it is publicly clear	Develop a more sustainable funding model/secure resources for the full scope of programs	Focus on cross-tenure problem solving and priority setting approaches to biosecurity that better coordinate relevant stakeholders
	More region-specific, tailored strategies that take into account local contexts	Empower (resource) industry groups to be the messenger and/or be the champion for good biosecurity	Proper resources to gain an accurate picture of costs and resource the full scope of programs	Secure resources for the full scope of programs	Introduce more incentives/disincentives to leverage change through the supply chain	#nextgenbiosecurity plan - target younger generations (content, channels) to improve awareness of biosecurity	Ensure that there is a whole of government and whole of environment approach to tackling biosecurity, with AV acting as a system steward	Use a regional lens to manage biosecurity risks for more harmonisation across borders	More region-specific, tailored strategies (that take into account local contexts) for high priority areas	Enable flexible/local level plans (with appropriate boundaries) that help local organisations respond to local issues
	Strengthen enforcement and penalties	Focusing on communication so that we have effective and viable acceptance at a grassroots level, that is consistent and timely	Harmonise biosecurity policy across national, state, and local boundaries	Harmonise biosecurity policy across national, state, and local boundaries	Improve engagement with the wider community concerning biosecurity through different channels and languages	Build a culture of ongoing learning and improvement (e.g. constant and consistent investment in education and communication)	Enhance Traditional Custodian involvement in the biosecurity system	Industry, government, community to agree on standards to increase uptake of biosecurity measures	Enhance community awareness of biosecurity risks and shared responsibilities at a grass-roots level	Use formal agreements (accords) to manage biosecurity risks (e.g. a specified list of pests) in a particular region

*The key shift was not scored due to the shorter workshop length

** The voting in this workshop was done 'offline' - methodology slightly differs

Top 15 priorities - ARARAT



“[We need] education about the importance of biosecurity across everything, including the natural environment.”

“ [We need] a regional, as opposed to state strategy. [Conduct] analysis of risks and consequences, then tailor it to local strategies.”

“Improve enforcement so that people take biosecurity seriously.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?

N=27, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities - BENDIGO



“Reduce duplication for industry.”

“We need to increase awareness of how biosecurity affects everybody.”

“Biosecurity is an umbrella. It needs to be broken down into endemic, exotic, etc. [for different stakeholders to understand it]”

“A significant cultural change needed within AV to make this strategy a reality.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible, and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?

N=25, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities – ALL REGIONS (online)



“Compiling and publishing case studies of successful past interventions would help with media and education across the range of impacted stakeholders.”

“Prevention is smart, but if assets are already being hammered, there is no point ignoring existing threats to target a new one.”

“There needs to be increased collaboration and communication between the levels of government to ensure they know what the others are doing.”

“We need to look beyond the [agriculture] industry.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?

N=48, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities – GIPPSLAND (ONLINE)



“ [We need] more conversations about biosecurity risks.”

“[We need to] strike the right balance between industry and environment. A mechanism to triage it is to allocate limited resources better (e.g. using environmental economics).”

“[We need to] have resources to respond adequately in a timely manner.”

“We need a ‘One biosecurity’ approach – more coordinated communication and effort.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?

N=27, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities – CAMPERDOWN



“Using storytelling, share lessons learned for other farmers (including from other markets). [It is a type of] peer-to-peer engagement.”

“The introduction of traceability in livestock did not get traction because incentives were missing.”

“Understand the ‘why’ for individuals to make communication relevant.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?

N=21, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities – BENALLA



“We need to provide information to the community on the high value of biosecurity and our messaging needs to be consistent.”

“There needs to be better education for the younger generation. They are going to drive the change.”

“We need to focus on building extension back into the community. Face-to-face relationships are important.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible, and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?

N=26, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities – ATTWOOD



“The funding model is a real issue. There isn't enough money.”

“A lot of this [the key shift] is happening now but needs more coordination.”

“Aboriginal people should play a larger role in biosecurity, if they are willing.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible, and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?
N=30, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities – MILDURA



“[We need] clarity around the accountability and measurability for the actions that come out of the strategy.”

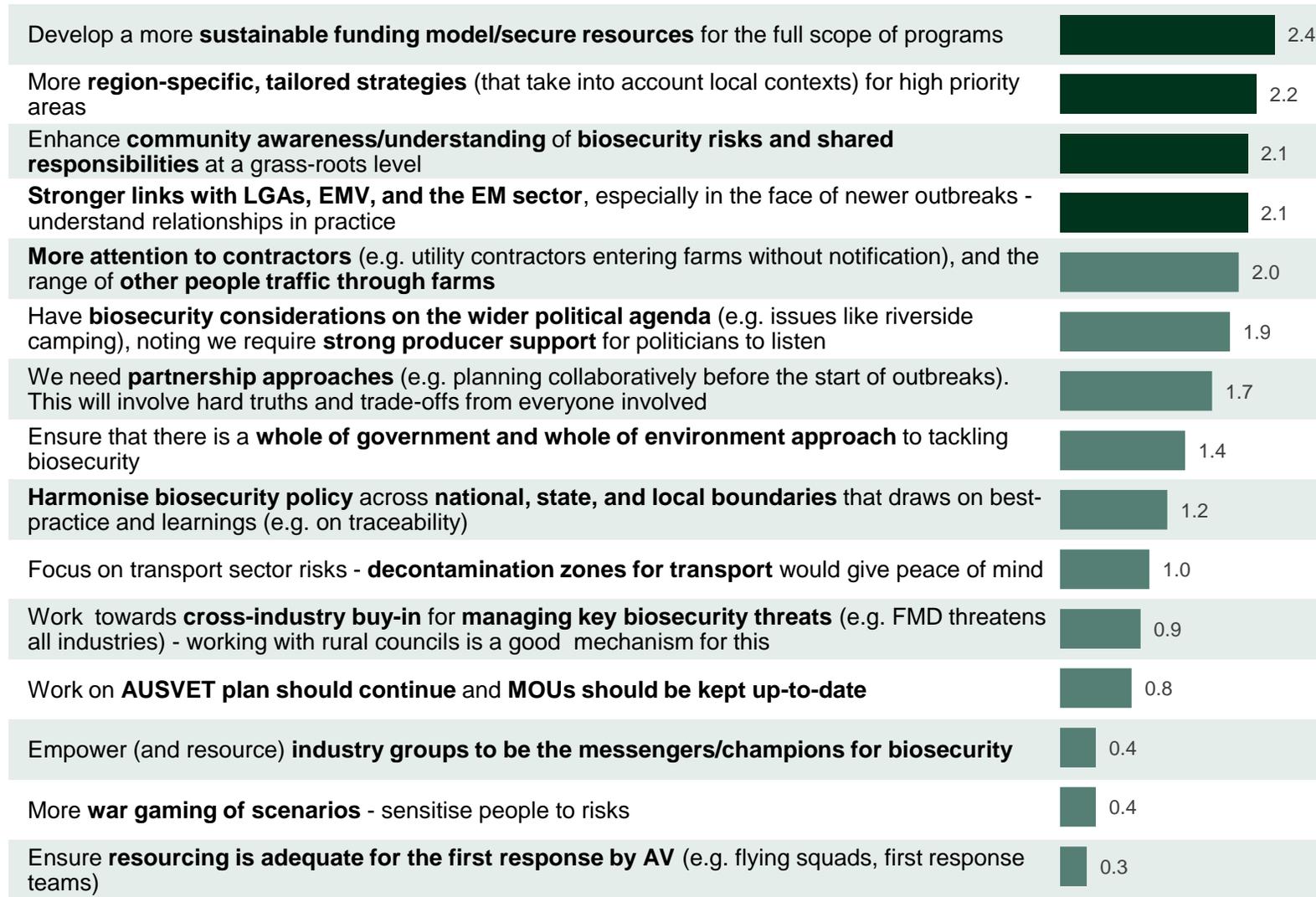
“There needs to be more tri-state discussions between Victoria, SA and NSW [on biosecurity risks].”

“[We need to] develop standards in consultation with industry if we want this to work.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible, and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?

N=21, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities – VFF



“Tick box approach comes because of funding [limitations].”

“[There is a] big need for education with utility managers.”

“The thing that is missing so far is the reference to partnership between government, industry and community.”

“Biosecurity has to be a key objective of crown land management.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible, and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?
N=10, weighted ranking

Top 15 priorities – BAIRNSDALE



“We need to adequately resource local organisations to ensure that they have the tools to respond locally.”

“There needs to be a mechanism to deal with these parties [that disregard infestations or refuse assistance] on both public and private land.”

“Classification [of new and emerging threats] is too slow. We need to prioritise it, before it gets too big, with a cross-tenure framework.”

“[Community coordinators] are more than just extension support, they would deliver localised place-based biosecurity plans connecting industry and community.”

Q. What are the most important, tangible, and specific things we can do to mobilise coordinated and sustained action to deliver a better biosecurity system? How would you rank these suggestions?
N=44, rankings were determined by frequency of votes