



The Hon. Ros Spence MP

Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Carers and Volunteers

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John Bradley  
Secretary  
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action  
8 Nicholson Street  
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Dear Secretary

### **STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS (from 1 July 2024)**

I write to outline my Statement of Expectations (SOE) for Agriculture Victoria's regulatory functions for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027. During this period, I may amend or add to this SOE as new priorities emerge.

Consistent with the whole of government approach in the *SOE Framework for Regulators* by the Department of Treasury and Finance, the purpose of this SOE is to convey 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:

- *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 promote better practices in regulation and enhance improvements in regulatory efficiency and effectiveness. Specifically, I expect Agriculture Victoria to focus on the following priority areas:

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

The initiatives and actions described below, outline how I expect Agriculture Victoria to address these priority areas.

### ***Risk-based Strategies***

I expect Agriculture Victoria to concentrate its regulatory activity and resources on areas where the risks of harm to the community and industry are greatest. Additionally, I expect Agriculture Victoria to continually develop its capacity as a risk-based regulator.

Specifically, I expect Agriculture Victoria to:

- prioritise the continuous improvement of regulatory practices by regularly reviewing the effectiveness of managing regulatory risks, including biosecurity incidents such as avian influenza;
- enhance compliance planning and the development of risk-based compliance strategies;
- strengthen preparedness and emergency response capabilities for biosecurity threats; and
- effectively communicate Agriculture Victoria's regulatory approach and framework.

### ***Improved Delivery***

To ensure the efficient delivery of regulatory functions I expect Agriculture Victoria to:

- implement operational improvements in the delivery of regulatory services;
- ensure all Agriculture Victoria regulatory staff are well trained and knowledgeable about their authorising legislation and related regulatory frameworks and procedures; and
- enhance business processes and technology systems that support the efficient and effective delivery of regulatory services, recognising external dependencies.

### ***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 compliance activities to promote a culture of shared responsibility;
- actively engage with external stakeholders to effectively manage risk and support compliance; and
- foster enhanced collaboration with other relevant agencies and regulatory bodies.

I acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners cultural, spiritual, and economic connections and their inherent rights to Country. Agriculture Victoria will engage with and be informed by Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities in the delivery of Agriculture Victoria's regulatory functions.

Within three months of receiving this SOE, I expect Agriculture Victoria to develop an implementation plan detailing specific measures and timeframes on how it will acquit the outlined expectations. I also expect annual progress updates, with a final report of achievements to be published on Agriculture Victoria's website at the conclusion of this SOE period.

I further request that Agriculture Victoria review the expectations outlined in this letter as part of its annual reporting obligations and advise me of any recommended refinements.

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

Yours sincerely



**The Hon. Ros Spence MP**  
Minister for Agriculture

12/9/2024