Biosecurity Reference Group: meeting summary

# Meeting 4, WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022

The Biosecurity Reference Group (BRG) met on Wednesday 16 November 2022 face to face at the Nous Group office in Melbourne.

The Chair, Dr Katherine Clift, acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the

members attended the meeting and paid respect to their Elders, past and present.

## Biosecurity Strategy development

The BRG heard a presentation from DELWP’s Chief Biodiversity Officer on environmental biosecurity. The presentation highlighted some of the challenges of managing biosecurity threats in natural landscapes, namely due to the size and complexity of natural ecosystems, and the difficulty in detecting pests and diseases. The BRG noted the need for clearer governance around decision making to assist in preparedness for incursions in the natural environment.

Consultants Nous Group led discussions with the BRG on the next phase of development of the Biosecurity Strategy. The BRG were asked to consider and provide feedback on key parts of the initial strategy draft and had a robust discussion on key points including consultation, cultural aspects, recognising environmental and economic factors, collection of data and sharing information, and embedding the narrative and theme of ‘shared responsibility’.

The BRG noted that Agriculture Victoria and the Nous Group will be commencing consultation sessions in regional Victoria in early 2023 as part of the next phase of developing the Biosecurity Strategy.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the Biosecurity Reference Group will be held in March 2023. Date to be advised.