Biosecurity Reference Group: meeting summary

# Meeting 1, TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2024

The renewed and expanded Biosecurity Reference Group (BRG) met on Tuesday 25 June 2024 in person at Agriculture Victoria’s Attwood Centre.

The Chair, Dr Jule Simons, acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the members attended the meeting and paid respect to their Elders, past and present.

The Hon. Ros Spence welcomed BRG members and thanked them for their interest and commitment to strengthening Victoria’s biosecurity system. She noted the growing biosecurity threats to Victoria and the Government’s recent investment in preparedness and response to biosecurity emergencies. She also announced new grant funding for Victoria’s Community Pest Management Groups.

Members were provided with an overview of current biosecurity risks and challenges in Victoria.

## Biosecurity Strategy development

The BRG discussed the governance structure in place for Biosecurity Strategy implementation and the role of the BRG in: guiding where to focus effort; reviewing and monitoring implementation; developing partnerships; encouraging collective action and investment; and influencing stakeholders. It was raised that the key role of the group in coming months will be to help develop an implementation plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Strategy.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the Biosecurity Reference Group will be held in September 2024. A date is to be advised.