# **AGRICULTURE VICTORIA**

# **BIOSECURITY ROUNDTABLE**

What was said report

November 2023

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*Biosecurity is a collective effort to prevent and manage the harms caused by pests and diseases, and the impact they have on what we value most*.

# **Introduction**

## Overview

Victoria's Biosecurity Roundtable 2023 was the culmination of engagement with over 450 people in 2022-23, and more than 1,000 Victorians over the past four years, on how to strengthen biosecurity.

Over the two-day online event, participants dived into Victoria’s new Biosecurity Strategy to learn about the five strategic goals and 20 priority actions and kick off conversations on how to drive collective action and implementation.

Participants represented national, state and territory governments, the plant and animal industries, food supply chains businesses, Traditional Owner groups, environmental organisations, and community groups.

## Purpose

The two-day online Roundtable was held on 29-30 November 2023. It was designed to inform participants of the strategic goals and priority actions of the Biosecurity Strategy, provide opportunities to discuss and explore partnerships, preparedness and management as part of the next steps in improving Victoria’s biosecurity system and enable participants to contribute to Strategy implementation.

*Only by working together, can we achieve a stronger and more resilient biosecurity system for Victoria.*

## About this report

The purpose of this What was said report is to present responses gathered directly from participants from the two-day Roundtable.

## Fun Facts

Individuals registered for the event = 201

Average attendance across all sessions = 79

Number of GroupMap ideas = 506 *(GroupMap was the online platform used in sessions to capture participants ideas, comments and questions)*

Number of speakers = 18

Number of collective hours online = 1,986

Number of catering sandwiches = 0 *(as the event was online!)*

## Bio who? Participant background

To gain a sense of who was attending the Roundtable, participants were asked to respond to a series of questions in GroupMap as follows:

***Which Biosecurity Roundtable have you attended?***

68 out of 107 participants answered this question.

47% selected 2022 (32 participants)

37% selected Long time listener, first time caller (25 participants)

13% selected 2021 (9 participants)

10% selected All of them – seasoned biosecurity campaigner (7 participants)

1% selected 2019 (1 participant)

***The industry/sector I’m (primarily) representing today is….***

71 out of 107 participants answered this question.

56% selected Government – Local, State, Federal (40 participants)

17% selected Industry Group/Peak Body (12 participants)

8% selected Other (6 participants)

7% selected Community Group (5 participants)

7% selected Grower/Producer (5 participants)

4% selected Land owner/manager (3 participants)

0% selected Education (0 participants)

***How long have you need in the Biosecurity sector?***

70 out of 107 participants answered this question.

37% selected 11 years or more (26 participants)

24% selected 6-10 years (17 participants)

23% selected 1-5 years (16 participants)

16% selected Less than 12months (11 participants)

# **Day 1 – 29 November 2023 - Agenda**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Opening plenary**​ | 9.00am​ | * Welcome to Country​ * Introductions, agenda and getting settled​ |
| **Session 1: Strategy overview**​ | 9.30am​ | Launch of the Biosecurity Strategy by Minister for Agriculture Hon. Ros Spence.​  Learn about the five strategic goals and 20 priority actions and kick off conversations on how we can all drive collective action and what will be the key to success.​ |
| **MORNING TEA BREAK**​ | 10.45am​ |  |
| ​ | ​ | ​ |
| **Session 2: Prevention**​ | 11.05am​ | Discuss how we mobilise coordinated and sustained action and behavioural change across the system based on a much better understanding of the key biosecurity risks and responsibilities. ​ |
| **LUNCH BREAK**​ | 12.45pm​ |  |
| ​ | ​ | ​ |
| **Session 3: Response**​ | 1.30pm​ | Help build stronger partnerships ahead of emergencies, including with people and organisations that could be better engaged, for cohesive, coordinated action at the time of the emergency, when every minute counts.​​ |
| ​ | 3.30pm​ | Reflections from Day 1​. |
| **Close**​ | 4.00pm​ | ​ |

## **Day 1 - Outputs**

### **Session 1: Strategy overview | 102 participants**

After a welcome to and acknowledgement of country by Uncle Dave Wandin, Wurundjeri Elder, and connecting conversations to better understand who was attending the Roundtable, participants heard from Matt Lowe, Chief Executive of Agriculture Victoria and Jenny Treeby, member of the Biosecurity Reference Group and Industry Development Manager at Australian Table Grapes Association.

During these presentations, participants were invited to capture key insights and questions via the online tool, GroupMap, and a short Q&A session followed each presentation. Below is a short simple summary of insights shared by participants. The full set of insights is included in the appendix at the back of this document.

#### Key Insights

**Matt Lowe, Agriculture Victoria**

Matt took us through the Strategy, the process for developing it, and the five goals on which it’s structured.

Participants’ insights on Matt’s presentation included:

* **Collaboration and communication:** How can we improve collaboration and communication among different stakeholders, including government agencies, industry bodies, First Nations communities, and the broader community, to ensure a more effective and coordinated approach to biosecurity?
* **Root causes:** How can we better understand and address the root causes of biosecurity risks, rather than simply reacting to outbreaks?
* **Roles and responsibilities:** How can we ensure that everyone, from farmers to tourists, understands their role and responsibilities in biosecurity and takes the necessary steps to protect our environment?
* **Balance:** How can we balance the economic benefits of certain industries, such as agriculture and tourism, with the need to protect biodiversity and ecosystem health?
* **Funding and resources:** How can we secure the necessary funding and resources to implement effective biosecurity measures in the face of increasing threats and challenges?

**Jenny Treeby, Australian Table Grape Association**

Jenny gave us an insight into biosecurity at the local level – the importance of everyone in the Sunraysia horticulture region working together to protect local horticulture business, especially given how reliant the industry is on the export market.

Participants’ insights on Jenny’s presentation included:

* **Need for clear roles and responsibilities -** for biosecurity to ensure that everyone knows who is accountable for what and ensuring biosecurity issues are addressed effectively and efficiently.
* **Importance of partnerships and collaboration -** among different stakeholders, including government agencies, industry bodies, and regional communities which is essential for sharing information, resources, and expertise, and for developing and implementing coordinated biosecurity plans.
* **Increasing awareness and resourcing -** of biosecurity issues among all stakeholders, as well as the need for more resources to support biosecurity planning and management, including financial resources and human resources, such as trained biosecurity officers.
* **Expanding the Biosecurity Reference Group -** to include representatives from other industries and sectors that are not currently represented to help ensure the group has a diversity of perspectives and expertise.
* **Involving regional communities** **-** in the development and implementation of biosecurity strategies as they are often at the forefront of biosecurity threats and have valuable local knowledge and expertise.

*We need to improve communication and coordination among stakeholders.*

#### Session 1 Evaluation

At the end of the session, participants were asked to complete a short evaluation. A snapshot of feedback appears below with the full responses provided in the Appendix.

***How would you rate Session 1?***

22 participants responded to this question.

41% selected 4 star (9 participants)

32% selected 3 star (7 participants)

27% selected 5 star high (6 participants)

0% selected 1 star low (0 participants)

0% selected 2 star (0 participants)

***What did you like about the session:***

* Broad range of participants who all share the common concerns around land care, biosecurity awareness, preparedness and good responsiveness.
* Speakers were well prepared, knowledgeable. Set the scene for the rest of the roundtable!
* Opportunity to have short chats with others about our priorities and concerns. Also the GroupMap with the opportunity to ask questions of speakers.
* The overview provided by the speakers on work completed to boost biosecurity in Victoria.
* Uncle Dave's welcome to country was a highlight - so thoughtful and considered. Such a depth of knowledge and experience.

***Was there anything missing from this session?***

* The city-country divide is widening. City people don’t understand country issues in general (food comes from a supermarket, not a farm) let alone biosecurity. This evidenced by urban based contractors for powerline companies, water authorities etc that go straight past biosecurity signs without stopping.
* The session was very broad, which is great for an introductory session. However, more detail on the big picture would have been appreciated before diving into table grape specifics. Jenny provided an excellent talk, however, just wanted more background before diving into this specific industry.
* Is the investment, current policy and supporting work force adequate for the task or do we need to do more work here. What is everyone's role? How will govt be supporting others besides the grants?
* Some deeper philosophical discussions about the origins of biosecurity risks, such as colonial capitalist food and agriculture systems.

### **Session 2: Prevention | 76 participants**

This session focused on Strategic Goal 2 – Prevention - and its purpose was to:

* provide an understanding the importance of biosecurity, the risks and responsibilities (it'severyone's business!)
* socialise the six priority actions for Prevention in Strategy
* identify how to mobilise coordinated and sustained action that's easy to affect meaningful behaviour change.

To set the scene, participants heard from a combination of speakers and short videos from those circulating in the biosecurity system. During the presentations, participants were invited to capture high level insights and/or key takeaways from each into GroupMap.

Speakers were:

* Kirsty Richards – Veterinarian, SunPork Farms
* Pete Bergmark – Group Leader, WorkSafe Victoria
* Natalie Myring – Senior Project Officer, Agriculture Victoria.

#### Key Insights

Participants shared the following insights from this session:

**Kirsty Richards – SunPork Farms**

Kirsty spoke about the pork industry's supply chain approach to biosecurity and highlighted that effective mitigation of disease starts before and finishes beyond the farm gate. There are biosecurity responsibilities right across the supply chain, in particular in any part of the chain that moves something to or receives something from a farm that might introduce or spread disease.

Participants’ insights on Kirsty’s presentation included:

* **Prevention is better than cure:** Addressing the root causes of biosecurity threats is essential, rather than simply reacting to outbreaks.
* **Adopt a supply chain approach:** Biosecurity should be considered throughout the entire supply chain, from farm to fork. This includes implementing strict biosecurity measures at all stages of production, transportation, and processing.
* **Early detection is key:** Early detection of biosecurity threats is crucial for preventing their spread and minimising damage. This requires effective surveillance systems and rapid response protocols.
* **Human compliance is critical:** The success of biosecurity measures depends on the compliance of all stakeholders, including farmers, workers, and consumers. Education and training are essential to ensure that everyone understands and follows biosecurity protocols.
* **Collaboration is essential:** Addressing biosecurity threats requires collaboration among government agencies, industry bodies, and the broader community. This includes sharing information, resources, and expertise.

**Pete Bergmark - WorkSafe Victoria**

Pete spoke about making simple changes to WorkSafe staff procedures to make a big difference to biosecurity risk and put farmers’ minds at ease.

Participants’ insights on Pete’s presentation included:

* **Promote a culture of biosecurity on farms:** Encourage and normalise the practice of "clean on, clean off" procedures for all farm visitors to minimise the risk of spreading diseases and pests.
* **Collaborate across industries and organisations:** Engage various stakeholders, including industry bodies, government agencies, service providers, and contractors, to ensure consistent biosecurity practices across sectors.
* **Emphasise hygiene for people and vehicles:** Reinforce the importance of personal hygiene and vehicle sanitation to prevent the spread of weeds, pests, and diseases.
* **Leverage learning opportunities from past outbreaks:** Utilise experiences from previous biosecurity incidents, such as the FMD outbreak, to enhance awareness, improve protocols, and promote behavioural change.
* **Lead by example:** Set a positive example by demonstrating exemplary biosecurity practices within organisations and encouraging others to follow suit.

**Natalie Myring - Agriculture Victoria**

Natalie spoke about Agriculture Victoria’s recent citizen science initiative for biosecurity, highlighting the work done in the Great Biosecurity Quest to build the general community’s awareness of plant pests.

Participants’ insights on Natalie’s presentation included:

* **Engage the public early and often:** Biosecurity education should start early, and it's important to use engaging and accessible methods to reach a wide audience. This includes using mascots, videos, and interactive digital resources.
* **Partner with primary science education:** Collaborate with schools and science teachers to integrate biosecurity concepts into the curriculum. Encourage family involvement in biosecurity activities at home.
* **Emphasise the connection between human and animal health:** Biosecurity is not just about protecting agriculture; it's also about protecting human health and wildlife. Highlight the interconnectedness of all living things in our ecosystems.
* **Leverage citizen science:** Encourage public participation in biosecurity monitoring and surveillance. Citizen scientists can provide valuable data on the spread of invasive species and outbreaks of diseases.
* **Promote shared responsibility:** Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, from farmers to consumers. Educate the public on how they can take action to protect themselves, their animals, and the environment from biosecurity threats.

#### Activating priority actions

Participants divided across the six priority actions in the Prevention goal and discussed how to best activate that action. Below is a table outlining a one-paragraph summary of each group’s ideas.

*(The following is a short, simplified summary that does not cover the full range of ideas shared during sessions. Refer to the appendices for the full set of ideas on all priority actions.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Priority action | Participant ideas |
| PA4. Improve community engagement to increase awareness, drive behavioural change | Effective community engagement in biosecurity goes beyond raising awareness and empowers communities to take action. It requires active listening, tailored engagement strategies, leveraging existing networks, industry and community-led initiatives, clear and consistent messaging, practical actions, fostering a sense of collective action, and enabling communities with the necessary resources. |
| PA5. Strengthen the network of industry and community biosecurity champion | Best practice biosecurity engagement requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses targeted communication, fostering collaboration, continuous education, empowering local leadership, understanding regional contexts, and establishing robust networking structures. It is crucial to prioritise industry collaboration and adhere to the principle of inclusive engagement. |
| PA6. Improve the compliance and engagement tool kit to incentivise good biosecurity practices | Encouraging and incentivising good biosecurity practices can enhance brand reputation and social licence. Improving understanding of upstream risks associated with unsustainable production models is crucial. Clearly defining mutual responsibilities and roles among stakeholders is essential. Behavioural change can be achieved by incorporating triggers, touchpoints, and points of influence across all sectors, layers, and communities. Educating the community and key stakeholders on the compliance and engagement toolkit is crucial. Enhancing awareness of the potential consequences of current and future biosecurity risks, including impacts on biodiversity, industry, and food security, is essential. Utilising digestible language and messaging, along with communication materials like FAQs and social media platforms, can effectively reach the target audience. |
| PA.7 Support people to better manage biosecurity risks | High impact biosecurity measures require a combination of strategic planning, ongoing education, and practical behavioural change. Government policies and standards should align with sound biosecurity practices. Industry competency training and practical biosecurity plans can be implemented across various sectors, including events, construction, and agriculture. Using positive modeling and appealing to shared values can encourage behavioural change. Educational initiatives should target new rural landowners and incorporate primary school science models. Resource sharing among local councils, government agencies, and universities can foster broader adoption of effective biosecurity practices. Extending biosecurity principles to national parks and state forests, particularly regarding weed control and disinfection awareness, can protect our biodiversity. |
| PA.8 Support initiatives that enhance community and industry engagement in reporting | Harnessing user-friendly technology, engaging stakeholders, fostering collaboration, and promoting positive reporting practices are crucial for effective biosecurity reporting. |
| PA9. Improve the uptake of traceability systems across industries and maintain market access | Increasing awareness of the benefits of electronic tracing systems, such as electronic national vendor declarations (eNVDs), along with clear communication of legislative requirements and market demands, can foster adoption among industry members. Leveraging existing engagement networks, providing detailed information on what is being traced, and improving data ownership and accuracy can further enhance the effectiveness of traceability systems. Simultaneously addressing animal welfare and workplace health and safety concerns can enhance the overall value proposition. Collaboration with supply chain members to create market demand can drive widespread adoption and ensure the success of traceability initiatives. |

#### Getting industry into action

Building on ideas generated in the previous activity, participants were mixed into new groups, and each group designated to a different sector involved in the biosecurity system. Participants were asked to consider what their designated sector could be responsible for and share what’s getting in the way of playing a role in prevention.

The below table provides a one-paragraph summary of each group’s ideas on how best to support prevention in each sector.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sector / group** | **Prevention ideas** |
| Community group | Leveraging community groups to foster knowledge sharing, collaboration, and continuous engagement is crucial for effective biosecurity prevention. Landcare groups, with their diverse membership and local knowledge, can play a pivotal role in promoting biosecurity awareness and practices. Using community events, schools, and local markets as platforms for biosecurity education can engage a wider audience. Ensuring continuity of funding for community coordinators and Landcare facilitators is essential for maintaining consistent messaging and support. Building relationships and trust between community groups, government agencies, and industry bodies is paramount for effective communication and collaboration. Encouraging broad participation across industries and addressing animal welfare concerns can enhance community support and buy-in. A community-based approach, coupled with compliance from landowners and government entities, is vital for breaking the cycle of biosecurity threats. |
| Education providers | Education can best aid prevention by first enhancing wildlife health surveillance programs and maximising their expertise and existing efforts. Biosecurity awareness should also be integrated into the school curriculum. The demand for invasive plants can be reduced by educating gardeners and related industries about the risks associated with invasive garden plants and encouraging the use of native alternatives. Existing programs such as Waterwatch and Backyard Bird Count should be used to promote the Biosecurity Quest app and encourage its use during field trips. The silo mentality could be addressed by encouraging collaboration among organisations and programs by emphasising the benefits of cross-disciplinary communication. |
| Government - local/ state/ federal/ statutory authority | Effective biosecurity prevention requires a holistic approach that with collaboration, resourcing, education, and infrastructure development. Fostering partnerships and relationships across organisations, industries, and communities is crucial for building trust and influencing change. Implementing biosecurity infrastructure standards, such as effluent dumps and truck washes, can mitigate risks associated with freight transportation. Providing funding and skilled field staff can bridge the gap between strategy and implementation. Subsidising whole-farm planning days for new landholders can promote sustainable land management practices. Engaging with industry experts and incorporating their perspectives can refine policy and procedures. Implementing protocols for biosecurity practices on local government land, equipment, and staff can minimize the spread of pests and diseases. Leveraging LGAs' emergency response capabilities and connections with communities can enhance preparedness and response to biosecurity emergencies. Promoting environmental hygiene procedures among government jurisdictions can reduce the spread of weeds and pathogens. |
| Grower/producer/farmer | Suitable biosecurity prevention methods involve a comprehensive framework that includes farm-level practices, risk management, and industry-wide collaboration. It should include standardised biosecurity plans across all farms, emphasising sustainable and biodiverse farming systems as a preventative measure. Furthermore, prioritisation should be given by government and industry stakeholders to identifying and managing high-risk threats. Data analysis can be used to inform biosecurity strategies and streamline redundant quality assurance programs. The creation of biosecurity plans for all livestock industries needs to be facilitated, as well resources provided to empower farmers in completing these plans. It is important to recognise the diverse motivations of farmers and tailor biosecurity measures accordingly. |
| Industry group/peak body | The main prevention strategies include gaining co-operation among industries with overlapping biosecurity risks and establishing a standardised, one-page biosecurity checklist tailored to specific sectors like poultry farms and vineyards. There is also a need to highlight the shared values of maintaining supply chains and ensuring food security to build public trust in industry's commitment to biosecurity. A further strategy involves compiling detailed data on biosecurity issues faced by farms across the state to inform targeted interventions and support. The topic of implementing traceability systems that track products from farm to consumer was also discussed as well as the possibility of roadshows and the distribution of resources to improve biosecurity knowledge and practices among farmers and stakeholders. |
| Land owners and land managers | Prevention strategies include aligning biosecurity actions with landowners' motivations and interests to improve engagement and adoption. In addition, to Use trusted sources, such as peak bodies and advisors, to communicate biosecurity messages and leverage existing networks and connections. Also, the gap in biosecurity education and risk awareness among landowners was addressed in this discussion. There is a need to advocate for minimum biosecurity standards and compliance for all land managers, as well as to recognise the challenges of managing priorities and resource constraints in engaging with the private sector. |

#### Session 2 Evaluation

At the end of the session, participants were asked to complete a short evaluation. A snapshot of feedback appears below with the full responses provided in the Appendix.

***How would you rate Session 1?***

16 participants responded to this question.

50% selected 4 star (8 participants)

25% selected 3 star (4 participants)

25% selected 5 star high (4 participants)

0% selected 1 star low (0 participants)

0% selected 2 star (0 participants)

***What did you like about the session:***

* Discussions around what other government agencies are doing.
* The Great Biosecurity Quest! What a great initiative and way to get kids involved. Also love the idea of taking it to the Melbourne Show to reach a huge cross section of people.
* Highlighted the area's in particular communication which could be enhanced.
* Opportunity to meet and talk with different people from different parts of Australia and sectors.
* The activity to discuss and then work through what each sector/individual could do. Also good framing topics from the speakers.

***Was there anything missing from this session?***

* More industry people.
* Awareness of the compliance and engagement tool kit.
* Not much information on how prevention / risk mitigation is being managed in emergency management arrangements - seems to be a bit of a disconnect.
* The breakout rooms had big questions and very difficult to add into the maps while also being on zoom. Possible needs to be an easier system there.
* Time to reflect.
* We had a lot of ideas, but not enough time to flesh them out with the details. Tricky thing to balance.
* Lots of groups need to work together better, less silos, One Health? Including all ecosystems?

### **Session 3: Response | 68 participants**

This session focused on Strategic Goal 3 – Response - and its purpose was to:

* understand what happens in response to outbreak at Federal level
* explore how to better partner with community and industry to prepare for outbreak
* socialise the three priority actions and discuss how to bring these to life.

To understand how various levels of government and industry respond to outbreaks, participants heard presentations from:

* Dr Chris Locke - Deputy Secretary of Biosecurity and Compliance​, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forest
* Dr Julie Simons – Director, Biosecurity Strategy
* Bianca Giggins - Varroa Coordinator​ & Australian Honey Bee Industry Council​
* A short video outlining a recent plant industry liaison exercise.

After each presentation, participants joined small group conversations to capture high level insights and/or key takeaways from each into GroupMap.

#### Key Insights

Participants shared the following insights from this session:

*(Please note the full set of insights is included in the appendix at the back of this document, the following is a short, simple summary and it does not imply that it gives a full sense of the insights).*

**Dr Chris Locke – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Chris spoke about many different activities happening around Australia on biosecurity and the challenges at this scale.

Participants’ insights on Chris’ presentation included:

* **Biosecurity is a complex and intricate system that requires collaboration at all levels:** The sheer number of contributors and pathways for pest and disease entry highlights the need for a unified approach.
* **Engaging the public:** Fostering public understanding through strong communication and engagement, and drawing on existing mechanisms like citizen science is essential to achieving a strong system.
* **Border control:** Surveillance at border control and emergency preparedness are paramount. The vastness of Australia's borders and the challenges of responding to biosecurity emergencies underscore the importance of robust surveillance systems, stringent border controls, and effective emergency response plans.
* **Funding:** A strong biosecurity system requires sustainable funding models. Funding mechanisms that balance contributions from taxpayer with those from risk creators and beneficiaries of a strong biosecurity system will enhance our ability to detect, monitor and respond to biosecurity threats..
* **Managing risks:** The volumes of travellers and goods entering Australia through our and import pathways requires a risk-based approach – for example, balancing the risks of new weeds arriving in the international mail with the impracticality of checking every package. Developing, implementing and refining risk assessment frameworks and targeted inspection strategies helps optimise resource allocation and minimise the risk of pest and disease introduction.

**Dr Julie Simons – Agriculture Victoria**

Julie discussed the Victorian Government’s work to improve our preparedness for an emergency animal disease outbreak.

Participants’ insights on Julie’s presentation included:

* **Engaging industry and community in biosecurity partnerships:** The need for comprehensive stakeholder engagement, including industry and community groups, is crucial for effective biosecurity preparedness and response. Understanding the needs and perspectives of these stakeholders is essential for tailoring biosecurity measures and fostering a sense of shared responsibility.
* **Supporting communities during emergency crises:** The importance of providing adequate support to families and communities during biosecurity emergencies is highlighted. This includes providing financial assistance, emotional support, and access to essential services. Strengthening community resilience and developing effective communication strategies are also critical.
* **Ensuring workforce surge capacity across government:** There is a need for a coordinated approach to workforce surge capacity across all government agencies. This includes identifying potential surge capacity providers, developing training programs, and establishing clear activation protocols.
* **Accountability of processors in biosecurity practices:** The suggestion to mandate that processors only purchase livestock from accredited producers under Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) raises an important question about the role of industry in upholding biosecurity standards. Enhancing accountability and transparency in the supply chain can strengthen biosecurity practices.
* **Addressing the role of police officers in biosecurity emergencies:** The potential role of police officers in enforcing biosecurity measures during an outbreak requires careful consideration. Clear training and guidelines are essential to ensure that police officers have the necessary knowledge and expertise to effectively support biosecurity efforts.

**Bianca Giggins - Australian Honey Bee Industry Council**

Bianca shared her experience as beekeeper and surveillance team leader during the NSW varroa response.

Participants’ insights on Bianca’s presentation included:

* **Importance of industry collaboration in biosecurity emergencies:** The strong collaboration between the beekeeping industry and biosecurity emergency responders highlights the critical role of industry involvement in effective responses.
* **Treating honey bee colonies to maintain viability during a biosecurity response:** The importance of treatment options for honey bee colonies during a biosecurity emergency is highlighted. Developing effective treatments and ensuring their availability can help protect bee populations and reduce the impact of biosecurity threats.
* **Documenting and applying learnings from biosecurity incidents:** The need for thorough documentation and analysis of biosecurity incidents to inform future preparedness and response strategies is crucial. Capturing lessons learned and incorporating them into updated plans can help prevent similar incidents and improve overall biosecurity resilience.
* **Considerations for transitioning from eradication to containment/management strategies:** When transitioning from eradication to containment/management of a biosecurity threat, careful consideration should be given to engagement and communication strategies for both the affected industry and the broader community. Clear messaging and ongoing dialogue are essential for maintaining public trust and support.
* **Monitoring and managing private bee hives:** Encouraging effective monitoring and management of bee hives by the beekeeping community. Extension of best practice beekeeping techniques fosters confidence in a biosecurity management context.

#### Get ready to be ready

In small groups, participants discussed what would happen in the event of an outbreak. Prompts for this discussion included questions such as - What parties need to be involved in the conversation? What systems do you need to get into place? What's the first **action** you need to do to start?

Some key points shared by participants through the online tool were:

*(The following is a short, simplified summary that does not cover the full range of ideas shared during sessions. Refer to the appendices for the full set of ideas.)*

* **Review and update biosecurity plans:** Regularly revisit and update biosecurity plans to ensure they are comprehensive, current, and tailored to the specific risks faced by an organisation or property.
* **Establish clear communication channels:** Develop robust communication plans that clearly outline roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders, including authorities, industry bodies, local communities, and neighbours. Utilise multiple channels to distribute information, such as websites, social media, media outlets, and trusted sources like peak bodies.
* **Promote awareness and understanding:** Educate stakeholders about biosecurity risks, pathways, and necessary actions. Provide clear and concise information that is tailored to the specific needs of different audiences. Use signage to reinforce key messages.
* **Implement good biosecurity practices:** Maintain good hygiene practices, keep equipment clean, and regularly survey your property for potential threats. Establish processes for reporting outbreaks and accessing current information.
* **Prepare for a coordinated response:** Develop plans for complying with control or lockdown requirements, reporting people on and off your property, and providing support resources for Class 2 Controllers. Ensure effective communication channels with government agencies, industry bodies, and other stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels.

#### Session 3 - Evaluation

At the end of the session, participants were asked to complete a short evaluation. A snapshot of feedback appears below with the full responses provided in the Appendix.

***How would you rate Session 3?***

21 participants answered this question.

57% selected 5 star high (12 participants)

33% selected 4 star (7 participants)

5% selected 2 star (1 participant)

5% selected 3 star (1 participant)

0% selected 1 star low (0 participants)

***What did you like about the session:***

* Honey bee session was a great introduction to what could potentially be the ramifications of an FMD eradication exercise and hopefully we have learnt from their process.
* Great group for the breakout session that hopefully put some insight into the issues facing the industry during the initial 72hr shut down.
* It was great to be in an animal/transport industry representative group. Lots of shared challenges. The theme of a poorly prepared industry/government. Lots of homework. Have made some very good contacts.
* Great exploration of all the challenges that biosecurity risks pose and some of the ways that we need to work together to respond to them.
* The conversations we had in the separate rooms. Talks were really interesting.
* Cross section of speakers - opportunity for Q&A.

***Was there anything missing from this session?***

* Vision of the responses from the whole group WITH TIME to read them and rank them. Time was very short today, too short to get much detail across - which it was mentioned earlier that Ag Vic wants the detail! Will there be an opportunity to have detailed and well thought out responses from relevant groups?
* Would be great to capture gaps or missing in preparedness.
* What does longer term recovery look like? I imagine it will be years of support required.
* Some applied fundamentals.

# **Day 2 – 30 November 2023 - Agenda**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Opening plenary**​  **Session 4: Caring for Country**  ​ | 9.00am​ | * Welcome to Country​ * Introductions, agenda and getting settled​   Hear from Traditional Owners about weed and pest management on Country, Aboriginal perspectives on biosecurity, improving partnerships at the local level and successful examples of whole-of-landscape management |
| ​ | ​ | ​ |
| **MORNING TEA BREAK**​ | 10.45am​ |  |
| ​ | ​ | ​ |
| **Session 5: Management**​ | 11.20am​ | Discuss how we reduce the impacts of established weeds and pests through local action. Join the efforts to support local collective action, bringing together all participants in order to achieve sustainable, long term, whole-of-landscape changes.​ |
| **LUNCH BREAK**​ | 12.45pm​ |  |
| ​ | ​ | ​ |
| **Session 6: Defining an implementation plan**​ | 1.30pm​ | Contribute to actions industry, community, Traditional Owners and government need to take to deliver an effective implementation plan, and how we measure success into the future.​ |
| **Closing plenary**​ | 3.30pm​ | Final reflections and closing remarks​ |
| **Close**​ | 4.00pm​ | ​ |

## **Day 2 - Outputs**

### **Session 4: Caring for Country | 69 participants**

As was articulated in the opening session of day one, Strategic Goal 1 - Partnerships underpins all biosecurity work. To underscore the important of walking and working alongside Traditional Owners, the purpose of this session was to:

* deepen understanding about how Traditional Owners manage weed and pest management on Country using successful whole of landscape management
* hear their perspectives on biosecurity
* discuss how we can strengthen partnerships at the local level building on country plans.

To set the scene, participants watched two **case study videos**:

* Vivian Reilly, Project Officer at First People of the Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation on biosecurity planning
* Elizabeth Mace, Dalki Garringa Operations Manager at the Barengi Gadjin Land Council on industry accreditation and partnerships.

The remainder of the session was a Caring for Country ‘yarn’ moderated by Tegan Smirl, DEECA First

Peoples Self-Determination Division with:

* Uncle Dave Wandin – Wurundjeri Elder and Manager of Coranderrk Wandoon Estate
* Sammy Walsh Bannam – Invasive Species Project Officer, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

#### Summary of the Conversation

A biosecurity system has been in place in Australia for tens of thousands of years. As partners and as rights holders, Uncle Dave and Sammy provided perspectives on how biosecurity can be strengthened through the lens of caring for Country and healing Country.

Emphasising the need to build partnerships between Traditional Owners, other land managers and

agencies, Uncle Dave works closely with the Victorian Rabbit Action Network, his neighbours and a network

of volunteers to address rabbits and other pests at Coranderrk and Sammy works with neighbours, Parks

Victoria and DEECA to get feral pigs under control at the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape on Gunditjmara

Country.

#### Key Takeaways

Participants were asked to capture a key takeaway from the conversation with Uncle Dave and Sammy. These are summarised below:

* **Collaboration is crucial for effective biosecurity management:** Pests and weeds spread across boundaries, making co-operation between landowners, communities, and government agencies essential.
* **Circular ecology emphasises the interconnectedness of all living things:** Recognising that pests and weeds are part of a complex ecosystem can help develop more holistic and sustainable biosecurity strategies.
* **Uncle Dave's work raises awareness of rabbit management options and the importance of collaboration:** His efforts empower communities to take control of pest management in their areas.
* **The active partnership between Sammy and Moogji in Orbost demonstrates the power of collaboration:** Their joint efforts highlight the value of Indigenous knowledge and traditional practices in biosecurity.
* **A physical field guide is a valuable resource for biosecurity practitioners:** It provides readily accessible information without reliance on technology.
* **Communication:** even if you don’t think you have to.

#### Local action to strengthen Traditional Owner partnerships

Participants created actions to help strengthen Traditional Owner partnerships in their local area. A summary of these actions is provided below:

* **Prioritise relationship building and trust:** Before embarking on partnerships, focus on establishing meaningful connections and fostering a trusting environment with Traditional Owner groups.
* **Recognise diversity and tailor approaches:** Acknowledge the unique cultural and knowledge systems of each Traditional Owner group and avoid applying a one-size-fits-all approach.
* **Identify common ground and shared interests:** Seek areas of mutual interest and align goals with those of Traditional Owner communities to establish a strong foundation for collaboration.
* **Engage in continuous learning and exchange:** Actively participate in cross-cultural learning opportunities, engage in open communication, and seek to understand Traditional Owner perspectives.
* **Support capacity building and collaborative stewardship:** Empower Traditional Owner communities through capacity-building initiatives and work together on sustainable land management practices, such as revegetation and weed control.

#### Session 4 Evaluation

At the end of the session, participants were asked to complete a short evaluation. A snapshot of feedback appears below with the full responses provided in the Appendix.

***How would you rate Session 4?***

24 participants answered this question.

54% selected 5 star high (13 participants)

33% selected 4 star (8 participants)

8% selected 3 star (2 participants)

4% selected 2 star (1 participant)

0% selected 1 star low (0 participants)

***What did you like about the session:***

* Varied views on Traditional Owner perspectives (incl. videos) - great panel
* The talks from Sammy and Uncle Dave show a deep commitment to improving Country and a dedication to the cause. Thanks for the inspiring chats!
* Incredible knowledge and experience shared by Uncle Dave and Sammy, expertly facilitated by Tegan. Such an important conversation and opportunity to continue to build connection and increase understanding.
* The open and honest discussion with Uncle Dave and Sammy. I learnt so much and appreciated their style and approach and calmness.
* Highlighted the value of having good conversations with and including discussions with all TO groups. They are all unique.

***Was there anything missing from this session?***

* Some more information about how to identify and link in with indigenous people. I came away feeling that the key to success is finding the right person. I'm concerned that just because someone is indigenous, there is an expectation they 'will do'.
* Approaches around feral animal control that are more environmentally friendly.
* Perhaps a voice from other agencies working with TO's e.g. VFF

*A key theme is stewardship and recognition for the contributions made by all participants. It would be good to think about our stewardship of the biosecurity system also... it will outlive us all and we need to think about what the preferred future we want to pass on and the value add that provides.*

### **Session 5: Management | 56 participants**

Session 5 focused on Strategic Goal 5 – Management - and its purpose was to:

* hear how the impacts of established weeds and pests can be reduced through local action, and
* discuss local collective action to achieve sustainable, long term, whole-of-landscape changes.

Participants heard from four different individuals about their experience reducing the impacts of pests and weeds in a range of environments.

The speakers were:

* Peter Jacobs: Conservation Officer, Invasive Species Council, and Executive Officer, Victorian Deer Control Community Network
* Lyn Coulston: Chair, Victorian Blackberry Taskforce
* Sharyn Williams: Director of Plants Chemicals and Invasives, Agriculture Victoria
* Fam Charko: Marine Biologist, Port Phillip Ecocentre (video)

#### Key Insights

**Peter Jacobs - Invasive Species Council and Victorian Deer Control Community Network**

Peter spoke about the work of the deer network to bring together community to collaborate and communicate on reducing the impact of feral deer.

Participants’ insights on Peter’s presentation included:

* **Invasive species:** The volume of invasive species across Victoria necessitates funding for on-ground action, along with education and awareness campaigns.
* **The Victorian Deer Control Community Network (VDCCN):** has chosen to remain a collective rather than an incorporated entity, focusing on supporting other legally constituted groups.
* **The VDCCN Deer Control Kit incorporating a Decision Support Tool: provides advice to landowners and** signifies the importance of local communities and collaboration in addressing invasive species issues.
* **The VDCCN's valuable resources:** include a library of information on the website and the toolkit, which are readily accessible to the public with additional information for members.
* **Invasive Species Council (ISC) engagement:** The ISC fosters community collaboration, communication and coordination across Victoria to effectively tackle invasive species management.

**Lyn Coulston - Victorian Blackberry Taskforce**

Lyn spoke about the work of the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce and other community-led initiatives to support landowners with weed and pest management.

Participants’ insights on Lyn’s presentation included:

* **Effective landholder engagement:** requires providing helpful and accessible information tailored to their specific needs and concerns.
* **Partnerships:** between different groups can significantly enhance the impact of invasive species management efforts.
* **Demonstration days and face-to-face interactions:** play a valuable role in educating and encouraging landholders to take action against invasive species.
* **Using language that resonates with different audiences:** is crucial for effective communication and engagement in biosecurity initiatives.
* **While showcasing the benefits of pest and weed control:** is important, compliance measures may still be necessary to motivate landholders to take action.

**Sharyn Williams - Agriculture Victoria**

Sharyn discussed the reforms underway at Agriculture Victoria to better support community-led action on established invasive species in Victoria.

Participants’ insights on Sharyn’s presentation highlighted that community members:

* **Are frustrated -** by the lack of action from government agencies in addressing private land infestations of invasive species. They feel that the burden of managing these infestations is unfairly placed on them, and that they are not adequately supported by government resources.
* **Believe that -** more funding is needed for on-ground action to control invasive species. They also believe that the government should take a more proactive approach to enforcing regulations on private landholders.
* **Appreciate -** the efforts of Landcare and other organisations to provide education and training on invasive species management. However, they believe that more needs to be done to coordinate these efforts and provide more financial assistance to landholders.
* **Support -** the establishment of the Victorian Invasive Plants and Animals (VIPA) board and the new investment program to support community and organisational action. They are also encouraged by the presence of pest program facilitators in the regions.
* **Are concerned** about the impact of invasive species on critically endangered species and vegetation communities. They want to see more action from the government to protect these important ecosystems.

**Fam Charko** - **Port Phillip EcoCentre**

Participants watched a short video featuring Fam’s work in Port Phillip Bay teaching locals how they can look after the marine environment.

Participants’ insights on Fam’s story highlighted the importance of:

* **Reporting:** any unusual organism you see, to make sure the ecosystem is not affected.
* **Linking biosecurity:** to the things that people love doing and where they live.
* **Engagement with community:** in the marine space is critical for early detection. More eyes on the water the better!

#### Getting local and supporting each other

The participants worked in small groups to identify issues already occurring in their local area. Once issues were noted, groups discussed how they would attempt to solve these issues and how they would set up a community action to resolve the issue.

A summary of main issues and actions are provided below:

* **Overall weed species management:** Unclear responsibilities for weed compliance and managing diverse weed species. Local councils are overburdened and need assistance from the State government. Customised weed control strategies and coordinated efforts from different land managers is needed.
* **Disconnectedness among biosecurity groups:** A lack of clear communication channels hinder collaboration and efficient problem-solving between groups. Organised meetings between these groups is needed.
* **Pest Management:** This includes foxes and fruit flies moving from property to property as well as Feral Cat and other 'cute' invasives management. Currently, there is a limited legislative framework. Needs to be direct engagement with feral animal advocates - e.g. brumby advocacy groups etc and with parliament to advocate for legislative reform. Get neighbours to work together and communicate more effectively and overcome any barriers to taking action.

#### Ideas for Change

Participants were asked to provide one great idea to achieve sustainable long-term change. A summary of responses is provided below.

* **Empower community-led action:** Provide adequate resources and support to enable local communities to take ownership of invasive species management initiatives.
* **Invest in long-term understanding and motivation:** Conduct research and engage with landholders to understand their motivations and develop behaviour change strategies that align with their values and aspirations.
* **Strengthen community relationships and continuity:** Foster long-term relationships with community members and provide job security for extension officers to ensure consistent engagement and support.
* **Promote community-led problem-solving:** Encourage community ownership of regional action plans, focusing on specific invasive species issues and engaging all stakeholders.
* **Tailor funding mechanisms to community needs:** Provide flexible funding options that align with the unique circumstances and priorities of local communities.

#### Session 5 Evaluation

At the end of the session, participants were asked to complete a short evaluation. A snapshot of feedback appears below with the full responses provided in the Appendix.

***How would you rate Session 5?***

20 participants answered this question.

45% selected 4 star (9 participants)

35% selected 5 star high (7 participants)

15% selected 3 star (3 participants)

4% selected 2 star (1 participant)

0% selected 1 star low (0 participants)

***What did you like about the session:***

* The breakout room on problems was good - even though our group came from different backgrounds and had different issues we were able to identify some high level issues we shared.
* Speakers and the opportunity to extend this into other invasive pests that are a Biosecurity concern in some regions- despite their classification as established.
* Hearing from community groups about what works and what doesn't.
* Integration across different government agencies.

***Was there anything missing from this session?***

* I feel we could have had a more focussed discussion on how to improve landowner relationships.
* The problem is too big for all pest plant and animals to be managed with one set of actions. Need key Stakeholders that manage large areas of land, e.g. Vic Roads, Parks, Forestry to be involved in these discussions.
* There are a lot of Departments, agencies, local government involved in this space and it would have been helpful to have this mapped out.
* Detail from DEECA about how "community led action" will be implemented and resourced.
* What are the future challenges and opportunities the speakers see moving forward.

*Like to see significant investment in communications that focus on behavioural change practices. Clear comms on everyone's biosecurity roles and responsibilities across Victoria and nationally.*

### **Session 6 – Defining an Implementation Plan through collective action | 44 participants**

The final session of the Roundtable was facilitated by the Nous Group. Its purpose was to flesh out the key elements of an implementation plan for Victoria’s Biosecurity Strategy by:

* confirming the implementation challenge
* testing propositions for each of the key elements of implementation: governance, measures, priority actions
* exploring our individual commitments to change over the next 12 months.

The session was broken into three segments and the Nous Group used Slido to capture ‘sentiment’ from participants throughout. Topics of conversation, key questions to test and participant responses appear below with a full set of results appearing in the Appendix.

#### Testing early thinking: governance arrangements

Key principles for governance arrangements were shared by Katherine Clift, Executive Director of Biosecurity Victoria at Agriculture Victoria. Katherine’s presentation outlined governance propositions, responsibilities and ways of working.

Using Slido, participants responded to:

***To what extent do you support the proposition?***

26 participants answered this question.

46% selected 4 star (12 participants)

19% selected 3 star (5 participants)

15% selected 5 star high (4 participants)

12% selected 2 star (3 participants)

8% selected 1 star low (2 participants)

#### Testing early thinking: performance indicators

Key principles for performance indicators were shared to build outcomes, indicators, and measures for each strategic goal. To support the development of a baseline of performance to track in future roundtables, participants used Slido to respond to the following questions:

***How well are we doing at making biosecurity everyone’s business?***

30 participants answered this question.

63% selected 3 star (19 participants)

17% selected 2 star (5 participants)

13% selected 4 star (4 participants)

7% selected 1 star low (2 participants)

0% selected 5 star high (0 participants)

***How well are we working together to achieve a stronger more resilient biosecurity system?***

30 participants answered this question.

53% selected 3 star (16 participants)

27% selected 4 star (8 participants)

17% selected 2 star (5 participants)

3% selected 1 star low (1 participants)

0% selected 5 star high (0 participants)

***How well is Victoria’s biosecurity system performing at preventing and managing harms caused by pests and diseases?***

30 participants answered this question.

53% selected 3 star (16 participants)

20% selected 4 star (6 participants)

17% selected 2 star (5 participants)

10% selected 1 star low (3 participants)

0% selected 5 star high (0 participants)

#### Testing early thinking: priority actions

Key principles for guiding priority actions were shared and a reminder that to get traction, effort must be focused and collective. In small groups participants discussed what each can contribute in the next 12months, more specifically response to: ***What specific tangible changes will we need to see to have confidence we are making progress on our strategic goals?***

A snapshot of responses is shown below with the full data set in the Appendix.

* Increased capabilities for managing biosecurity risk across the system.
* Increased investment in the systems, science and tools that help manage risk.
* Successful compliance/enforcement outcomes.
* Prevention: people remain involved in early detection programs and don’t drop off.
* Being deliberate about including local government in achieving the increase in several of these other changes.
* Growing awareness of, and action on biosecurity risks.
* More community-led local action on weeds and pests.
* Project-program-Activity-output-outcome-impact hierarchy of measures linked to 2-3 time horizons.
* Behavioural change in general public - increased awareness of biosecurity and how to minimise/mitigate risk and where to report suspected pests or disease.
* Less reliance on volunteering...the rural community is tired and have to prioritise their time to their respective producer responsibilities.

### **Session 7: Closing plenary | 44 Participants**

#### Head, heart, hands

At the end of the second day, participants were offered an opportunity to reflect on the event using three prompts:

* Head – one thing you have learnt from the Biosecurity Roundtable.
* Heart – one thing that has inspired you from the Biosecurity Roundtable.
* Hands – your first action after the Biosecurity Roundtable to continue this work will be…

Some key insights from this session shared by participants through the online tool were:

**Head**

I have learnt:

* **Need for informed and experienced resources:** There is a shortage of knowledgeable and experienced individuals to provide guidance and support on biosecurity issues.
* **Improved coordination between state and federal agencies:** Enhanced collaboration between state and federal agencies is crucial for effective biosecurity management.
* **Leveraging existing information and resources:** Instead of duplicating efforts, it's essential to utilize and adapt existing biosecurity information to local contexts.
* **Raising awareness and engagement:** Addressing the disconnect between those who understand biosecurity and those who don't requires effective communication and outreach strategies.
* **Recognizing biosecurity as a collective responsibility:** Biosecurity is not just the responsibility of experts and agencies; it requires active participation from all stakeholders.

**Heart**

I have been inspired by:

* **Widespread commitment to biosecurity:** There is a strong collective interest in biosecurity among the whole group which was evident from the amount of contribution to discussions.
* **Passion and dedication:** Participants demonstrating a high level of passion, dedication, and expertise in biosecurity, highlighting their commitment to improving biosecurity outcomes.
* **Desire for continued action:** There is a strong desire among participants to continue the momentum of biosecurity efforts and explore new approaches to enhance biosecurity practices.
* **Emphasis on collaboration:** Participants acknowledging and wanting to collaborate and co-operate among various stakeholders to effectively address biosecurity challenges.
* **Real-world progress:** Participants showcased practical biosecurity work being undertaken and highlighted the value of incorporating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into biosecurity strategies.

**Hands**

My first action will be:

* **Raise awareness and share information:** Spread the word about biosecurity resources, including the AgVic website and biodiversity information.
* **Join relevant networks and communities:** Connect with the Vic Deer Control community network and other relevant groups to learn more about local pests and facilitate information sharing.
* **Engage with key stakeholders:** Reach out to individuals and organisations in your area to discuss biosecurity issues and encourage action.
* **Strengthen partnerships:** Build relationships with Indigenous communities, new network connections, and key stakeholders to enhance collaboration and support.
* **Take action and promote biosecurity:** Implement practical biosecurity measures in your own activities and advocate for stronger biosecurity initiatives at industry and government levels.

# **Appendix**

## Session 1 – Strategic overview

#### What’s top of mind

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adequate infrastructure throughout the state i.e. effluent dumps, truck washes to ensure trucks can continue to maintain high level of biosecurity. | Finding out what happening in other states |
| Apply, don't just document. | Funding and resources |
| As farmer - not only threat of international diseases, living by a forest and dealing with foxes, rabbits, wild pigs, and issue of weeds | Getting on with action |
| Awareness of the Effluent Code of Practice | Improving Calp Act compliance and enforcement. |
| Awareness | Investment in regions |
| Biodiversity | Involvement and inclusion of all stakeholders. |
| Biodiversity is biosecurity | Land management and cross tenure management of pests |
| Biosecurity is a way of being, not something we pay attention to when there is an issue | Learning about how this can be relevant to your community. E.g. Land carers |
| Biosecurity is one of many issues - competition for interest (funding, community action) | Learning from Traditional Owners to manage Country holistically |
| Budget and staff cuts are an ingenious way to not have to do anything! Limited resources are the department's excuse for inaction - when will the trend of staff and budget cuts end? | Listening to others to learn about their concerns and challenges |
| Collaboration and co-ordination across agencies, programs and community | Finding out what happening in other states |
| Communities and regional organisations will be critical to successful implementation of the strategy | Funding and resources |
| Community awareness and that it is a shared responsibility | Getting on with action |
| Complacency - how do you get public to care and understand the harm pests like rabbits cause | Improving Calp Act compliance and enforcement. |
| Contributing to the importance of a One Health approach to Biosecurity, given the increasing risk of local HPAI (avian influenza) incursions and its impact on wildlife, animal industries and human health (potential for pandemic) | Investment in regions |
| Education | Involvement and inclusion of all stakeholders. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Land management and cross tenure management of pests | Protecting biodiversity |
| Learning about how this can be relevant to your community. E.g. Land carers | Regionally controlled weeds and rabbits are getting more prevalent |
| Learning from Traditional Owners to manage Country holistically | Resourcing of early invader environmental weed management on public land |
| Listening to others to learn about their concerns and challenges | Talk to the community about biosecurity - everyone's responsibility |
| Managing existing pests - E.g. rabbits | Teams on the ground that can engage and communicate well |
| Need for continuum of responsibility and input for biosecurity | The role of industry for surge workforce |
| Need for integrative management - on an issue as big as biosecurity | There are industries |
| On Farm Biosecurity Plans and now Farm Biosecurity Management Plans in Vic | Through discussion understanding how we build collective action |
| Pests in marine and coastal environment (incl. coastal weeds - garden escapes, couch grass) | Tourism |
| Preparedness | Understanding how some production models cause more biosecurity risks |
| Preparedness and prevention | Understanding of what is important to community |
| Preparedness and well-oiled machines ready to go in the case of an incursion | Weed and Pest across private and public land |
| Preventing a disease from entering Oz and wreaking our exports | Working to reduce the impact of established pests and diseases |
| Prevention of new and emerging threats | Working together for a better result |

#### Session Insights

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Speaker insights & Questions** | **Comments/Question** | **# Likes** |
| Matt Lowe - Chief Executive Agriculture Victoria | Biosecurity of biodiversity is important to the whole community including wildlife health and disease surveillance. Melb Vet School contributes and partners with DEECA-AgVic, Parks Vic, First Nations, Zoos Vic, Health Vic, EPA Vic, community organizations etc. Environmental contaminants impact health. | 0 |
|  | We as government need to change the way we work; to become enablers of the system, as opposed to drivers. | 2 |
|  | In answer to Matt's question regarding different ways of working - Could AgVic collaborate with industry bodies to support farmers to meet LPA audit requirements? Connecting to pain points to offer comfortable solution may improve uptake of messages. | 0 |
|  | Recognition of all levels of biosecurity within government - sometimes we talk about a federal issue with an agency, and then they check with a biosecurity agency who say it isn't a biosecurity issue, where it isn't their biosecurity issue. That just makes it even harder to get understanding. | 0 |
|  | Having biosecurity as a core principle in the management of crown land | 0 |
|  | Much more needs to be done to reduce the impact of pests and diseases | 0 |
|  | We need clear and united communications to help everyone (across industry, First Peoples, community and government) understand their role and responsibilities, so we see collective action. | 1 |
|  | Ensuring Victoria's strong and resilient Biosecurity system to protect our unique native wildlife, which is inherently linked to Aboriginal cultural heritage more broadly | 3 |
|  | We face greater threats, risks and consequences | 1 |
|  | Victoria standing up well in the face of threats and biosecurity emergency responses | 1 |
| One key question for Matt is.... | Can you provide more details about funding resources and allocation for the implementation of the strategy? | 4 |
|  | How do we get around silos of land management? Different industry sectors have different priorities and concerns - how do we work together as neighbours? | 2 |
|  | Still working in silos and not aware of what others are doing. | 1 |
|  | Still big focus on economics rather than biodiversity. What are the drivers for action? | 1 |
|  | How robust are we to respond quickly in the event of a biosecurity outbreak and how can we strengthen our partnerships across industry and government? | 1 |
|  | So many stakeholders involved - which parts are everyone's responsibility? Which parts need to be led by government and how does all this work together? | 1 |
|  | How do we reduce duplications with other agencies? | 0 |
|  | Has the State considered the impact on the recreational equine community in the event of another exotic disease? The impact on racing is well quantified. | 0 |
|  | Aunty Mary Graham, Uncle Dave, and many other First Peoples regularly tell us that if we aren't in right relations with Country, we can't be in right relations with each other. How is the partnerships goal going to encompass prioritising and reflecting on the health of our partnerships with Country? Many of our agricultural production models reflect unhealthy relations with Country that produce (and/or amplify) biosecurity risks. | 2 |
|  | Shared responsibility - how does everyone do their bit and understand what needs to be done? | 0 |
|  | Can biosecurity of biodiversity be considered in all Vic ecosystems? | 0 |
|  | It's great to see the level of preparedness developed recently for an EAD in Victoria. However, what level of practice has been completed to ensure this preparedness is effective at preventing and controlling EAD? | 1 |
|  | Legislative change takes time but is critical. Will we start this process now? | 0 |
|  | How can we promote better understanding of the benefits of biodiversity to biosecurity? Addressing the roots causes rather than reactive management. | 1 |
|  | As a State that enjoys strong economic input from the tourist dollar and is easily and readily traversed by tourists, what awareness and engagement are we activating to ensure everyone from the tractor to the tourist understands biosecurity? For example around the transmissibility risk and devastating impact of Phylloxera on winegrapes? | 5 |
|  | Government, industry and the broader community all face significant budget/ financial pressures - what can we do differently to manage these increased risks and challenges in the face of less funding and resources, without just shifting costs between these parties? | 2 |
| Jenny Treeby - Australian Table Grapes Association | Need clear roles and responsibilities | 1 |
|  | Having accountability to ensure things get done | 0 |
|  | Refreshing to hear from group representative with direct knowledge, insight, understanding | 2 |
|  | Importance of working together and partnerships being focus in the strategy for the BRG | 0 |
|  | Breadth of knowledge in the Biosecurity Reference Group | 0 |
| One key question for Jenny is.... | How do we increase awareness, resourcing, and management of biosecurity issues? | 0 |
|  | Who else would you like to see on the BRG - what other industries and sectors did you feel need to add/heard from? | 1 |
|  | What insights can you offer in how to increase industries biosecurity planning and measures and cooperation across industry | 1 |
|  | How do regional communities like Mildura / Sunraysia want to be involved in Strategy implementation? | 1 |
|  | What is the value as an industry member of being a part of a group like BRG? | 1 |

#### Session 1 evaluation:

***What did you like about the session? -*** 24 out of 125 participants answered this question

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Flexible | Set the scene for the rest of the round-table! |
| Not many presenters | Opportunity to have short chats with others about  our priorities and concerns. Also the GroupMap with  opportunity to ask questions of speakers. |
| Good time management | Matt’s presentation was informative and having Minister Ros Spence was a great support for the cause |
| Interesting to hear Minister Rose Spence’s announcements around investment into Biosecurity. | Good to hear from the minister. Good to be able to put questions to Matt |
| Chat rooms | Setting the scene for the rest of the roundtable |
| Q & A with Matt from Dept of Ag | Good speakers - hearing from gov and industry (strategy & practitioner) |
| The broad range of participants who all share the | The overview provided by the speakers on work completed to boost biosecurity in Victoria. |
| common concerns around land care, biosecurity | Small chat groups worked well. |
| awareness, preparedness and good responsiveness. | Feedback from group members |
| Facilitation, welcome to country and setting the scene. | Very interactive. Mosaic lab did a great job of making everything seamless |
| Update and overview on the strategy, panel session and opportunity to ask questions | Breadth of speakers and opportunities to have conversations with those attending. |
| Very well managed (I am accustomed to MosaicLab’s expect level facilitation!!) | Speakers were well prepared, knowledgeable. |

***What there anything missing from the session?*** 9 of 125 participants answered this question.

Liked it, good intro.

The city-country divide that is widening. City people don't understand country issues in general (food comes from a supermarket, not a farm) let alone Biosecurity.

This evidence by urban based contractors for powerline companies, water authorities etc. that go straight past biosecurity signs without stopping.

Is the investment, current policy and supporting work force adequate for the task or do we need to do more work here. What is everyone’s role? How will govt be supporting others besides the grants?

A bit more structure in the breakout sessions.

Great start.

The session was very broad, which is great for an introductory session. However, more detail on the big picture would have been appreciated before diving into table grape specifics. Jenny provided an excellent talk, however, just wanted more background before diving into this specific industry.

Some deeper philosophical discussions about the origins of biosecurity risks, such as colonial capitalist food and agriculture systems.

More detail on the grants announced by the Minister.

***Any other comments.*** 11 out of 125 participants answered this question.

The decline in the budget and the influence of the Dept of Ag in Victorian Government operations and decisions, is clear. Part of the same city-centric narrative.

It would be good to get an understanding around the funding for preparedness especially for volunteer-based organisations. If there was a greater incentive to do emergency response training in the event of calling upon the expertise of the volunteer groups who manage some of the organisations within the recreational equine community.

Well done crew.

Uncle Dave’s welcome to country was highlight - so thoughtful and considered. Such a depth of knowledge and experience.

There is a big job ahead!

Thanks for a great start!!

Looking forward to the following sessions.

Lot to take in. But great concern to think about. Look forward to the rest of the sessions.

Good start.

Thank you all for this forum. Very informative.

It was a little slow, but maybe others needed that.

## Session 2 – Prevention

#### Key Messages

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key insight/Question** | **# Likes** |
| We must end the ‘whack-a-mole’ approach to biosecurity that fails to ask why diseases are emergent in the first place (intensive monocultures are producing diseases and increased pathogen loads), and why those same production models are fundamentally lacking the resilience to cope with incursions when they do occur. Addressing the loss of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems is central to halting the increase in biosecurity threats facing the world today. | 1 |
| Good to see small changes such as the feed accessibility, can make a big difference. | 0 |
| Most of these biosecurity strategies are limited to surveillance and control, ignoring prevention of the sources of biosecurity threats inherent to production models. Prevention does not begin at the border or the farm gate, it begins on the farm. Many emergent diseases such as novel porcine and avian influenza are born of intensive livestock production, a model that evolutionary epidemiologist Rob Wallace asserts produces ‘food for flu’ – because ‘raising vast monocultures removes immunogenetic firebreaks that in more diverse populations cut off transmission booms’. | 1 |
| Increased truck washes up to a standard and effluent dump throughout the freight network are vital to ensuring the biosecurity levels remain high. Great work to Murray Bridge on designing the multi-million dollar facility. | 0 |
| Great to see on-farm practices in place to improve biosecurity across the entire supply chain. One key weak link often identified is human compliance to these procedures. Would appreciate any comments on improving compliance on farm to enforce biosecurity procedures implemented through significant investments? | 0 |
| Early detection is key!!! | 1 |
| Truck and vehicle wash facilities could be developed for public land managers and fire fighters to reduce the spread of weeds within and between public land sites | 2 |
| It would be great for Victoria to have truck washes like the example in South Australia (what industry collaborations could make this happen?) | 2 |
| Prevention is better than the cure | 2 |
| Where is this information available? Online? | 0 |
| Supply chain approach can be applied to the trade of ornamental etc plants that become the majority of environmental weeds in Victoria. Keep improving the weakest link | 0 |
| Genetic approach that uses traditional or GM breeding to reduce disease vulnerability while still maintaining genetic uniformity that is itself a risk. | 0 |
| Rather than using the term "supply chain", which is linear and tends to have someone at the bottom and/or top, I have begun using the term 'ecosystem' in conversations around the wine sector. It helps to understand that each member of that ecosystem is as important as the others and without one ticking along properly, the rest also feel the impact. The same can be said for biosecurity. From tractor to tourist, paddock to plate, every stakeholder or part of the supply chain, is actually an important member of the biosecurity ecosystem. | 0 |
| Thinking about what small enterprises can learn from commercial farms - like Kirsty has talked about. | 0 |
| Supply chain biosecurity is important | 4 |
| Pig farms are in ecosystems with exposure to mosquito,v jap encephalitis virus, nipah in Malaysia, avian influenza viruses in water etc so ongoing surveillance on farms is key for early detection. Prevent mosquitos, manage viruses in water, test staff for influenza | 0 |
| APIQ is comprehensive with 126 core standards and 20 new | 0 |
| APIQ can adapt to new levels of risk | 0 |
| Biosecurity is only as good/strong as the weakest link in the supply chain | 1 |
| Taking a supply chain approach to biosecurity prevention | 0 |
| Love the mascot, I think it's great to teach kids early about how important bio security is for our future | 0 |
| Great video with wildlife included | 0 |
| Adding people to the digital resources developed is needed so work with the public can have more face to face interaction element | 0 |
| Communication with community on biosecurity great Natalie and team. We should partner with primary science, create awareness. Homework with family! Good for all animal health, domestic animals, wildlife, and people are animals too. Always include wildlife consideration in our ecosystems. | 0 |
| I would think it would be easy to find endemic invasives. It would get good spread data in, and might just find some outbreaks of priority etc | 0 |
| Citizen science is an excellent resource! | 2 |
| Increased public awareness and education is critical to tackle biosecurity threats and risks! | 1 |
| Improving awareness proceeds a call to action | 0 |
| Biosecurity is not just about farmers and the supply chain. It's about everyone doing what they can. | 0 |
| Educating the next generation helps to educate the current | 4 |
| Great to learn about the collaboration and learn about the expertise involved to get the Quest off the ground. | 0 |
| Creating a culture where it is expected and OK for property holders to require all visitors to farm to follow "clean on, clean off" procedures is important for embedding goal 2. Dairy Industry has developed a number of resources and delivered events to support farmers and service providers manage biosecurity risks. | 0 |
| Good to see that WorkSafe is on the front foot around FMD. | 0 |
| Disinfecting boots, tyres? Are good examples, washing hands we learnt with covid, collecting dead birds like dogs droppings! | 0 |
| All contractors or businesses that might visits farms, such as Worksafe or electricity/gas/water companies need to be included and fully briefed on biosecurity expectations and lead in that area with equipment and people moving across the State. Good on you Worksafe for beginning that process. | 1 |
| Hygiene of people and vehicles is very important to reduce weed spread - this is a great example to show to public land managers | 1 |
| Lead by example is powerful | 2 |
| Many zoonotic infections in agriculture, avian influenza possibly, salmonella, sarcoptic mange. Awareness and education of all are possible. | 0 |
| Well done Pete - should be across all organisations visiting farms | 1 |
| FMD was a learning opportunity for everyone - how can we continue to leverage these for opportunities to create awareness and change behaviour? | 0 |
| Great that people/contractors/inspectors like WorkSafe are thinking about the impacts they have on farms and taking action on biosecurity. | 4 |

#### Priority actions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Priority Action (PA)** | **Title** | **# Likes** |
| PA4. Improve community engagement to increase awareness, drive behavioural change | Not just about making community aware. It's about empowering community to do something about it. Being prepared to listen to them (not just talk to them). IAP2 spectrum of engagement - we need to use the whole spectrum of levels recognising community can be at different levels. This will take time - so it's an investment in good quality, ongoing engagement. | 1 |
|  | Can't just deliver an app, tick box exercise - you need to have a FACE at the interface. A real contact person that is there to back up digital and print resources. add meaning, emotion, humanity to the equation. Ensure two way communication when situations change, so that clarity is maintained. (except when a pest becomes endemic, transition to management phase - in some cases this might be perceived by community as the threat no longer being present). Partnerships with community groups can help here (Landcare, Neighbourhood Houses etc). Messaging needs to meet people where they are - consider where they are coming from and their operating context before crafting a message or designing a strategy to engage. | 0 |
|  | Good quality engagement: Rebuild networks and channels of communication. Identify points of common ground on which we can build partnerships and connections. Keep people involved through two-way flow. Connect biosecurity issues at the point where people care (e.g. at the point of buying food.) | 0 |
|  | More industry and community led action driven by local networks. An example was the industry led livestock biosecurity Network (LBN), staff in each state working with departments and VFF - held relationships in localised areas. | 1 |
|  | Working with people in small groups (such as catchment or sub-catchment areas) who all face the same issues/threats/conditions - and share tailored message that meets their needs and issues. | 1 |
|  | Community leaders to assist with communicating and disseminating the messages, including local government. Local government are well placed to work with diverse communities and make connections. We need the systems and resources to support this to happen. | 0 |
|  | Make information available and easily accessible. Put the right info into the hands of the people who hold relationships at the local level (for trust and accessibility). | 2 |
|  | No matter who you are engaging with, let them know that other individuals, groups and demographics are also on board and each group has an important role to play in the greater context. Enable people to understand where they are in the bigger picture and building trust with neighbours or other industry groups. #togetherwecan | 0 |
| PA5. Strengthen the network of industry and community biosecurity champions | Invest in targeted marketing / engagement that is relevant, understandable and relatable | 1 |
|  | Activities that increase awareness of existing networks - so people know what's around, encourage people to join existing networks. Invite different expertise into the 'room'. Connect different biosecurity networks in a region - so people can share issues and problem solve, get a broader view of the challenges, share resources. | 0 |
|  | More awareness - more and more education to keep everyone up-to-date using all possible medium (including social media platforms) | 1 |
|  | Identify current and emergent leaders across industry / community and empower them. | 1 |
|  | Identifying key people and organisations at a regional / local level - need to understand which organisations have credibility locally, and what local biosecurity interests are (e.g., marine). The approach will be different for all different regions. Need the right ppl starting it and leading it. Mapping of what different organisations do, their reach (their credibility!), level of understanding. | 0 |
|  | More robust structures for networking, that aren't based on a person being in position within an org (to deal with issue of staff churn) - then it is the actual network that is maintained, rather than the individuals. But you need an individual to lead and coordinate networks - needs to be a dedicated resource for that. These roles need to be valued and supported - the right person. Re-assess regularly who needs to be in the room. | 0 |
|  | Promote the existing networks, create new as needed and understand accessibility | 1 |
|  | Government tends to focus too much on policy and not enough on operational actions and implementation | 0 |
|  | Industry needs to be in the room - more collaboration - bringing industry into the conversation more should be a priority: 'quote: there is nothing about them without them'. | 0 |
| PA6. Improve the compliance and engagement tool kit to incentivise good biosecurity practices | Incentivise good biosecurity practices. Companies or organisations can be recognised as having good practices to help with branding (sustainability and building social license). | 0 |
|  | Improve understanding of upstream risk from unhealthy production models | 1 |
|  | Understanding of mutual responsibilities and roles. Behavioral change through including triggers/touch points/points of influence - including all sectors/layers/community. | 0 |
|  | Educating the community and key stakeholders on the compliance and engagement tool kit. Improve understanding of the consequences of current and future biosecurity risks - impacts on biodiversity, industry and food security. | 0 |
|  | Digestible language and messaging | 1 |
|  | Communication materials (FAQs) using appropriate platforms, social media can be effective, to reach the appropriate target audience. | 0 |
|  | Not sure what this kit is? | 0 |
| PA7. Support People to better manage biosecurity risks | Biosecurity plans and training packages | 0 |
|  | Ensure Government standards planning, and policy is consistent with sound biosecurity practices. | 0 |
|  | Provide ongoing biosecurity education and management through industry competency training. | 0 |
|  | Practical behaviour change: Make it easy. Carry a bucket and disinfectant with car.  Applying biosecurity plans to events, around access and egress. When people register for events. Clean your vehicle before arriving.  Shown behaviour change through covid such as washing hands with soap.  Vehicle hygiene for construction and maintenance. Sometimes cost prohibitive and time prohibitive. Making it business as usual. | 2 |
|  | Consider operational practices that cannot be changed and support the investigation of alternative practices. | 0 |
|  | Workshops | 0 |
|  | Audits | 0 |
|  | Awareness and education, outreach. Positive modelling. Why they should do it. Appeal to the values that we're protecting. Could include some primary school science model, in classroom and in school garden/pets.  Education for new rural landowners around biosecurity issues. Sharing resources between local council, Parks Vic, Ag Vic. DEECA and Universities to share resources. | 1 |
|  | Apply some ideas of biosecurity on farms to national parks and state forests, particularly in relation to weeds. Some places have footbaths. Extend disinfection awareness to all ecosystems. Protects our biodiversity. | 0 |
| PA8. Support initiatives that enhance community and industry engagement in reporting | Using easy technology to support data collection and reporting e.g. QR codes, Good Nature (mouse traps that are connected for collecting activity) | 0 |
|  | Following up with the person reporting by providing feedback about what is happening in response to the report. | 0 |
|  | Make it accessible and easy to use and sell the value of it for users e.g. open data sources based on standards for Q/A and consistently | 0 |
|  | Use networks to share messaging to stakeholder groups. People might take more notice if info comes from a trusted source. Ensure joint guidance by neighbouring states | 0 |
|  | Identifying individual and collective incentives to report for diverse stakeholders and communities. | 1 |
|  | On-site, face to face topic-specific meetings/workshops to improve understanding in the community/industry of biosecurity issues | 0 |
|  | Asking community/industry what they need or want in relation to understanding biosecurity risks and how to report | 0 |
|  | Demonstrating benefits of learning with peer-to-peer learning, local champions and positive case studies. | 0 |
|  | Models to consider for positive reporting that's enduring - e.g. Dial before you dig. | 0 |
| PA9. Improve the uptake of traceability systems across industries and maintain market access | More education on the benefits of electronic tracing through eNVDs within the supply chain | 0 |
|  | Share information with the industry about what the overseas market requires for export and trade. Understanding where the impediments are might change practice. | 0 |
|  | Encouraging the use of current mechanisms - e.g. pig pass, e tags. Greater promotion and explanation of the legislative requirements. Using existing engagement extension networks to communicate. | 0 |
|  | Informing people about what is being traced to enable accurate information to be captured and used in traceability e.g. GPS tracking of trucks, electronic NVDs | 0 |
|  | Improve ownership of responsibilities within the supply chain for information collected and the accuracy of the information - improved trust within supply chain participants and in the traceability system | 0 |
|  | Make it easy to do. Improve the technology. Consider animal welfare and workplace health and safety improvements at the same time. | 1 |
|  | Work with supply chain members to ensure "market pull", i.e. market requires it | 0 |

#### Industry into action

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Industry Group** | **PRIORITY ACTION IDEAS (from our last discussion)** | **What will your industry be responsible for (or advocate)** | **What is hampering your industry playing a role?** |
| Community group | Opportunity for community groups to bring together people from different industries | Encourage broad participation at events that allow knowledge sharing across industry borders. example: Landcare group may have members living in the local area who are active in different industries. When all get together at the AGM or Xmas party, opportunity to have a guest speaker on biosecurity. | Not all landholders or residents of an area are keen to be involved in land care. Challenge for the group to make their offering accessible and interesting to all. |
| Utilise skill sets, groups, community to "be at the ready" | Providing the discussion group forums | Continuity of funding year in and year out to keep the face at the interface |
| (Landcare) funding security | Advocate for continued and increased funding for the Victorian Landcare Program | Lack of long term financial security for Landcare Facilitators means low job security and difficulty retaining good people. these part time, skilled roles can be extremely hard to fill in rural areas. gap in continuity for position means communication networks and group momentum completely break down. Local knowledge is not retained and passed on. |
|  | Capturing those that don't know (the weakest link) |  |  |
|  | Need continuity of funding for the community co-ordinators to exist. | Queensland Fruit Fly | Need further funding for continuity of contact, learning and education. |
|  | Animal welfare links to gain community support and buy in |  |  |
|  | (Landcare) add Biosecurity as a discussion topic at events and use local markets to increase the importance of biosecurity to local growers. |  | Funding for events. |
| Community group | Using other agency or community groups to engage people, i.e. all community groups CFA, rotary, morning markets, community events - local markets are a direct impact between a grower and consumer. Education at schools to engage the whole family ( lessons learnt from fire plans in primary school with CFA) |  |  |
| (Landcare) Position as interface between community and government/industry group messaging - establish relationships in both directions | Share information and hold events to share information. Work consistently on relationship building and trust building. | Landcare is sometimes overlooked for their power in getting messages out to rural communities. Not all groups/networks are the same - some have a longer way to go in establishing their communication networks with local landholders |
| Events - face to face engagement |  |  |
| Funding and compliance by both landowners as well as government and the crown who own land. |  | When one complies but the other doesn't the cycle continues to impact adjoining land. Community-based approach works to a degree but requires others on board to make it work. Serrated tussock grass, fruit fly etc are examples |
| Education providers | Fund wildlife health surveillance in Vic at Melbourne Veterinary School, they have capacity, expertise, underway 》15y but not key uni responsibility. What agency is responsible for wildlife health and biosecurity of biodiversity? |  |  |
| Include universities, agriculture, vet school, Melbourne vet school biosecurity of biodiversity and wildlife health and one health etc. Include all with capacity and expertise in biosecurity. |  |  |
| Raising an awareness of biosecurity measures throughout school programs |  |  |
| Sharing the research that is going on more broadly and in a format that is accessible to the community so they can be more aware of the work that is going on. |  |  |
| Provide the reach and extension to the community with developed resources |  |  |
| Importance of connections, networks and opportunities to leverage groups and organisations - networks of networks |  |  |
| Utilise skill sets, groups, community to "be at the ready" |  |  |
| Education providers | Educate and raise awareness of gardeners and related industries to reduce the demand for, trade and spread of invasive garden plants that become environmental and agricultural weeds | Awareness raising and education about invasive garden plants, and reduce trade of priority high-risk species | Prioritisation and resourcing |
| Passion-mashing: Connect people to what they already care about (e.g. bird watching) to what we care about (i.e. Biosecurity) Tap into existing motivation! | Make new connections or use the leverage of existing citizen science programs such as Waterwatch, Backyard Bird count to increase awareness of Biosecurity Quest app and encourage use of this app when they undertake field trips.  Leverage what people already care about. Build partnerships with key groups and link a biosecurity message to their main message.  Work out people's motivations, and work backwards. Find the people with Passion. Share info with them.  When people are inspired or proud about what they do - they will more likely do it.  Helping people understand why they do what they do, and the value it brings, also inspires action. | Silo mentality of current networks/program that may not believe there is crossover or benefit in speaking beyond primary focus. |
| Simple and regular messaging |  |  |
| Include Melbourne Uni Vet School |  |  |
| Government - local/state/federal/ statutory authority | I think we have also lost a lot of the skills that help us do this... Extension is good, but we need to build on it to achieve actual behaviour change. Underpinned by partnerships and relationships, finding common ground, building rapport, earning trust.... then we can start to influence behaviour! |  |  |
| Wildlife health Australia contribute expertise and community in biosecurity across Australia |  |  |
| Resourcing and prioritising biosecurity consistently, independently of election and budget cycles, recognising how critical it is to Australia's way of life. |  |  |
| Biosecurity infrastructure standards - freight network effluent dumps, heavy vehicle truck washes | Advocating for the implementation of infrastructure | Funding |
| Resource skilled field staff to bridge strategy with implementation (people on the ground) | Local government has decided to resource a compliance officer | Money or resourcing |
| Improved coordination between government portfolios | Opportunity to align portfolio priorities in business cases to achieve multiple outcomes from government funding. | Silo approach to how government portfolios prepare business cases for funding. |
| Renew regional plans for the management of Biosecurity in the context of the new strategy. |  |  |
| Run subsidised for free whole farm planning / land management planning days for new landholders. | Ag Vic led - supported by Local Government  Landcare already runs free programs for smaller landholders - Healthy Hectares in NE Vic. It is well subscribed but Landcare relies on grants to run the programs. | Resources. |
| Government has role to lead and facilitate bringing various groups together to build capacity and use that capacity in different locations when required. |  |  |
| Providing education and training tools appropriate to a range of audiences (general public, farmers, industry, parks users etc) | Developing these tools |  |
| Standard contract conditions for construction and maintenance including allowing time for vehicle hygiene activities. | Provided by AgVic to local govt. | Need to standardise so businesses are not penalised by doing the right thing (i.e. more time) |
| Standard event biosecurity plan to be part of planning approval process. Template from AgVic to be approved by AgVic as a statutory referral. |  |  |
| Consistency of approach and messaging across borders |  |  |
| CMAs and other government organisations have a standing capacity that could be utilised for biosecurity prevention efforts with the community. Let's build a network of accredited people that can be co-opted to support the effort. |  |  |
| Highlighting to government the issues from industry perspectives e.g. traceability on small landholdings |  |  |
| Industry involvement on legislative reform | Engaging and bringing expertise from industry | lack of collaboration across industry sectors potentially |
| Implement policy and procedures for Local Government land, equipment and staff to ensure bio security protocols are followed | To implement the protocols for working or visiting rural properties and use of equipment. | Lack of understanding of the various requirements for individual industries and awareness when attending properties or public spaces of the risks. Also that there is an apathy to developing protocols and any additional work required around the protocol (i.e. washing down equipment.). Some industry specific check lists would help |
| Must have links to credibility- champions |  |  |
| LGAs - leverage emergency response for biosecurity emergencies | DECCA/AgVic to lead discussions, provide guidance and information about what high biosecurity risk events into the future preparedness, response and recovery.  Leverage LGAs emergency response capability for biosecurity emergencies. Leverage LGAs good connections into communities at the local level.  Also leverage regulations in place - and extend these to other LGAs. E.g. Melton requires developers to do a weed management plan when applying for a developer's permit. If every council did this, there would be great mitigations in place for the spread of weeds. | EMV to broaden the scope of LGA/Regional EM committees to include biosecurity hazards.  Funding needed. + funding for compliance. |
| Ensure there is good linkage with industry and emergency management planning and response | Promote through risk mitigation discussions | Biosecurity risk management lead at regional level |
| Develop and resource a program to promote improved environmental hygiene in government jurisdictions e.g. vehicle hygiene to reduce the spread of weeds and soil-borne pathogens such as Phytophthora. This includes fire management bodies. | Promote environmental hygiene procedures, make them a part of day-to-day work, provide the facilities (fixed and mobile) to undertake easy hygiene processes e.g. mobile vehicle wash-down units during campaign bushfires | Prioritisation and resources |
| Catchment Management Authorities - Have connections with tens and thousands of producers and land managers each year. They can play a significant role in supporting government and industry education and extension programs. |  |  |
| Increase engagement with local industry and key stakeholders |  |  |
| Increase visibility of actions (which is more of a collective responsibility) |  |  |
| Grower/producer  /farmer | Committing to meeting a minimum standard of biosecurity across all farms, as we're only as strong as our weakest link. |  |  |
| Grow more biodiverse, healthy farming systems as the first preventative and to increase resilience |  |  |
| Identify the highest risks and manage them. Also done on a wider scale - govt and industry. | Biosecurity plans. Demonstrate sustainability of profitability. Analysis of threat data by government and industry. | Duplication of QA programs is a problem i.e. having QA program as well as biosecurity plan etc. |
| Create a Biosecurity Plan- livestock industries have to have a biosecurity plan to sell stock | This is an individual action all small and large scale farmers can take.  Industry provide farmers with resources to complete plans. | Large scale and certain industries have obligations to have a plan. But others don't. What motivates farmers varies. It can be productivity. Larger scale enterprises more likely to have the value of scale to support investment into biosecurity measures, whereas smaller enterprises may not have $$ to invest.  Broadacre agriculture could have more complex issues, incursions won't necessarily throw business into chaos like FMD but they have many more issues/breadth of risks to contend with.  Risk can exceed a farmers ability to be prepared. More risks, the less prepared they can be.  Commercial and lifestyle enterprises have different motivations.  Invasive usually affect larger enterprises more.  Peri-urban can see a risk different (e.g. bunnies are cute, not a threat).  Biosecurity planning is more challenging for mixed enterprises as their issues/touchpoints are more complex/varied and there is a lot of information but also lot of different messages from different sources. |
| Inform trades or visitors to the farm on the protocols - i.e. variance in days between visits to poultry to pork farms |  |  |
| Support for smaller landholders to understand their responsibilities and how their actions impact on the larger landscape e.g. blackberry, rabbit, fox, fruit fly management |  |  |
| Roadshows, projects and extension materials on biosecurity | Facilitating these events (roadshows, projects and extension materials) | Financial support |
| Access to political support and resources to help facilitate awareness and uptake by members | To advocate for this support and resources to facilitate awareness. | Receive better support from the government on this. |
| Industry group/  peak body | Working together on areas of mutual risk and benefit such as biosecurity. The principles are similar and there needs to a cross-ecosystem approach for prevention to actually work. | Would be good to have a one page biosecurity checklist ..."so you're visiting a poultry farm/vineyard etc' |  |
| Enhance trust throughout the community that industry are ensuring high levels of biosecurity measures are met | Advocating our shared values of maintaining the supply chain and being able to continue to feed the country | Reduce social license of transport and animal welfare practices |
| Induction resources so employees on farms etc can understand why and know how to behave - biosecurity infrastructure only works when people use it, and take pride in being good at it (tapping into motivation and behaviour change theory) |  |  |
| Having good resources to inspire action for people on the ground. Tailor education to find individual motivation for implementing good biosecurity practices. | Bringing key stakeholders together. | Education methods |
| Educate members and our related community through using new and available communication pathways. But we need access to simple, concise and clear messages that are suitable for different comms pathways and can reach people who are hard to reach. |  |  |
| Better granular data collection about members to understand exactly what is impacting farms across the State |  |  |
| Access to political support and resources to help facilitate awareness and uptake by members |  |  |
| Improving understanding, and veracity, of 'strong' biosecurity practices (as well as the plans that sit behind) |  |  |
| Creating consistency across state borders/ jurisdictions |  |  |
| Live on-farm data collection of pest and disease status | Surveillance data collection (by independent agronomists or trained/registered producers) for export - in place; would be good if the domestic market would also ask for this | Lack of domestic market pressure; cost to implement |
| Projects to enhanced biosecurity / traceability |  |  |
| Traceability across industry | Implementation of traceability from farm to plate | Different technologies talking to each other; perception of Big Brother; cost and time to implement - CBA would be useful |
| Roadshows and extension materials on biosecurity |  |  |
| Land owner/Land manager | Finding ways to connect biosecurity actions to other benefits/motivations for land ownership - e.g. double fencing boundaries might also include planting shelterbelts and or biodiversity corridors - 1 action, several benefits. | E.g. I will create a shelter belt between my double fencing.  Help me create multiple benefits, understand why I own the land and what I can do. | Lack of awareness or knowledge of what I can do and the benefits it brings. |
| Use trusted sources e.g. peak bodies/advisers etc to communicate messages and leverage networks and connections |  |  |
| How to use industry resources available to modify the method of engagement for small landholder/managers for improved biosecurity practice and risk prevention | Filling a gap in education and awareness of risk to biosecurity  Advocating for a minimum level of expectations and compliance with biosecurity protocols that apply to land managers | Priorities are difficult to manage and resources for engaging with private sectors of industry are limited |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Having good resources to inspire action for people on the ground. Tailor education to find individual motivation for implementing good biosecurity practices. | Bringing key stakeholders together. | Education methods |
| Educate members and our related community through using new and available communication pathways. But we need access to simple, concise and clear messages that are suitable for different comms pathways and can reach people who are hard to reach. |  |  |
| Better granular data collection about members to understand exactly what is impacting farms across the State |  |  |
| Access to political support and resources to help facilitate awareness and uptake by members |  |  |
| Improving understanding, and veracity, of 'strong' biosecurity practices (as well as the plans that sit behind) |  |  |
| Creating consistency across state borders/ jurisdictions |  |  |
| Live on-farm data collection of pest and disease status | Surveillance data collection (by independent agronomists or trained/registered producers) for export - in place; would be good if the domestic market would also ask for this | Lack of domestic market pressure; cost to implement |
| Projects to enhanced biosecurity / traceability |  |  |
| Traceability across industry | Implementation of traceability from farm to plate | Different technologies talking to each other; perception of Big Brother; cost and time to implement - CBA would be useful |
| Roadshows and extension materials on biosecurity |  |  |
| Land owner/Land manager | Finding ways to connect biosecurity actions to other benefits/motivations for land ownership - e.g. double fencing boundaries might also include planting shelterbelts and or biodiversity corridors - 1 action, several benefits. | E.g. I will create a shelter belt between my double fencing.  Help me create multiple benefits, understand why I own the land and what I can do. | Lack of awareness or knowledge of what I can do and the benefits it brings. |
| Use trusted sources e.g. peak bodies/advisers etc to communicate messages and leverage networks and connections |  |  |
| How to use industry resources available to modify the method of engagement for small landholder/managers for improved biosecurity practice and risk prevention | Filling a gap in education and awareness of risk to biosecurity  Advocating for a minimum level of expectations and compliance with biosecurity protocols that apply to land managers | Priorities are difficult to manage and resources for engaging with private sectors of industry are limited |

#### Session 2 evaluation

***What did you like about the session?*** 14 out of 125 participants answered this question.

Discussions around what other government agencies are doing.

The engagement.

Ability to engage with others.

The Great Biosecurity Quest! what a great initiative and way to get kids involved. also love the idea of taking it to the Melbourne show to reach a huge cross section of people.

Small groups allow everyone to have a say and to get to know the people a bit.

Breakout discussion, problem solving.

Great leaders who helped make mosaic lab and group lab work, I felt included. Can be too fast.

Highlighted the areas in particular communication which could be enhanced.

Speakers.

Opportunity to meet and talk with different people from different parts of Aus and sectors.

Thought provoking and inclusive.

The activity to discuss and then work through what each sector/individual could do. Also good framing topics from the speakers.

Opportunity to showcase what skills we have in our organisation that could help deliver Vic’s biosecurity strategy.

Informative session - great discussion.

***What there anything missing from the session?*** 8 of 125 participants answered this question

More industry people.

Time to reflect.

Awareness of the compliance and engagement tool kit.

Last breakout room was a little challenging - I feel like my group spent most of our time individually filling in ideas for our industry sector. we did get together at the end to briefly discuss what we’d written but didn’t feel this was as interactive as it could be. Wonder if it would be better to breakout rooms so that everyone was from the industry section?

The breakout rooms had big questions and very difficult to add into the maps while also being on Zoom. Possible needs to be an easier system there.

Wasn’t of expectations to put in own ideas or group ideas. Multiple sectors in conversation - so discussion related to multiple sectors.

Not much information on how prevention / risk mitigation is being managed in emergency management arrangements - seems to be a bit of a disconnect.

Time – it is such a huge skill set to describe and detail. Plus the description of activity is so specific to land use/activity/product/special interest, we need individual time to add our own examples and ideas (as well as listen to others in the group).

***Any other comments*** 11 out of 125 participants answered this question.

We had a lot of ideas, but not enough time to flesh them out with the details.

Tricky thing to balance, I know.

Was sometimes difficult to know which groups comments belonged in. Many proposed solutions applied to more than one group.

Great conversations - good people - great facilitation.

It would be great to practice the response with fellow horse community members.

Lots of groups need to work together better, less silos, One Health? Including all ecosystems?

Small breakout groups are fine, but they were long brackets broad topics. Perhaps more tick box response options and general notes would work better when the topic questions in these groups are broad and the contributors are from such different pars of the biosecurity ecosystems.

It was a valuable exercise because people’s ideas were obviously stimulated. I didn’t get enough time to read everyone’s responses and reflect. In terms of efficiency - extracting a lot of information/ideas from a diverse audience in a short space of time - this was achieved!

Action to support prevention is very funding reliant and action needs to happen on an area wide management scale. We have not yet had an opportunity to work as a local area, local council, local organisations on a regional capacity. We need national and state funding to get to local groups consistently and a discussion group on how to deliver this. This is missing still.

Great discussions - good people - great facilitation.

## Session 3 – Response

#### Speaker insights

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Speaker insights** | **Title** | **# Likes** |
| Top insights that stand out from Chris's talk... | Such a complex, intricate and extensive system at a national level - so many different contributors and sub-systems. | 0 |
|  | There are so many pathways for pest and disease coming to Australia are massive. | 0 |
|  | Biosecurity is a team effort | 0 |
|  | Achieving harmonisation of national and state systems and strategies was identified as a priority in the workshops contributing to the Vic strategy, so it is pleasing to see it has happened!! | 1 |
|  | The pathways into Australia for weeds to arrive are ever increasing including in the mail | 0 |
|  | Management of border incursions and surveillance/testing of people/planes/ships as well as environmental factors are a huge undertaking. | 1 |
|  | The huge challenge that response agencies will face in a biosecurity emergency. | 0 |
| One key question for Chris is.... | The relationship with Vic seems good. Is it the same with other jurisdictions and if not, what does that mean for risk and preparedness? | 2 |
|  | Do you think your department tells the story of the work done behind the scenes and how can this be done better to engage the community? | 0 |
|  | We have just implemented a levy on farmers to help fund biosecurity efforts. Should we consider a levy on importers and travellers. | 5 |
|  | Government is increasingly asking industry to pay for biosecurity - how can we distribute responsibilities more equitably? | 1 |
|  | How do we get the public more engaged? | 0 |
|  | What are the key synergies between Commonwealth and Victoria Biosecurity Strategies? | 0 |
|  | If you were to need more funding to enhance what you currently oversea, what sector of your portfolio would you increase the budget for? e.g. surveillance or border staff or greater lab testing capabilities. | 2 |
|  | Managing such an enormous portfolio of biosecurity at a federal level, what and who is your go-to for drilling down to understand needs, wants, risks and challenges at State and regional level in Victoria? i.e. How are Victoria's biosecurity needs best heard and most efficiently managed at your level? | 2 |
|  | What is the calculated risk of new weeds arriving in Australia incl in the international mail given that every package and envelope coming into Australia cannot be checked please? | 0 |
|  | How does Aus Chief Vet officer etc link to Chris Locke Biosecurity etc - OCVO is within Chris's responsibility | 0 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Top insights that stand out from Julie's talk... | Great to be taking the next steps in finding out how industry and community want to partner | 0 | |
| Supporting families and communities during emergency crisis | 0 | |
| Not sure the workforce surge capacity is across all government. My organisation hasn't been engaged to contribute, beyond informing the strategy. | 0 | |
| Good to understand the risks and impacts; implications of suspended trade and social impact of a serious animal disease outbreak | 0 | |
| One key question for Julie is.... | Thank you, Julie, how can we access the e-learning modules? Have you done any equine industry specific videos? | 0 | |
| The focus is very much on farmers, livestock producers have to have biosecurity plans to be part of Livestock Production Assurance- you are not meant to be able to sell stock without this accreditation- should processors be more accountable that they buy off accredited producers only? | 1 | |
| The new Biosecurity Legislation Amendment (Incident Response) Bill 2023 aimed to increase police office powers. In an outbreak, what will be their role? and how will the Department train them on biosecurity measures? | 0 | |
| Is there a way for industry members to register workforce surge capabilities? | 1 | |
| How are we going to address an emergency response if we can't deal with established pests well? Surely, we need to be better at managing pests and weeds like blackberry and fruit fly to be able to deal with exotics? | 0 | |
| In the event of having to euthanise large numbers of animals, is there a policy regarding the use of chemically destroyed animals/livestock versus using a bullet? | 0 | |
| There is obviously a big focus on response (as it should be) however is there any consideration or discussion around the recovery effort and support that would be needed? | 0 | |
| Communicating with Stakeholders and communities: Given it is such a complex matter, how did you determine the key simplified priory messaging. How has the feedback been with regarding to hitting the mark in the level of detail. | 0 | |
| What learnings from EAD preparedness can be applied to horticultural food and fibre risk events? | 0 | |
| There are lots of plans, are there good examples of making them operational. Getting from plans to action? | 0 | |
| How will coordination with other agencies and partners be achieved, and information provided to all sectors, to be best prepared? | 0 |
| Given what you've heard in earlier sessions today - about tapping into local networks and expertise and targeted comms to improve biosecurity awareness - what do you think are some of the big opportunities for building EAD awareness and preparedness in the next stage of the program? | 3 |
| Should footbaths be the number one priority alongside registers? | 0 |
| The message should be more widely targeted to the whole community, not just producers (think about tourists travelling to cherry farms). What are the mechanisms to reach out to community more broadly (especially tourists)? | 0 |
| How do you factor in, or inform, to gain the social license needed to take biosecurity measures (in some instances drastic measures) to stop the spread of a disease? | 0 |
| Top insights from Bianca's talk & the ILO video | High demands, high stakes of a biosecurity response - good collaboration of industry/beekeepers with biosecurity emergency responders | 0 |
| Importance of treatments to help keep bee colonies alive | 0 |
| Good showcase of complexity of a response - and that every response is different (e.g. keeping bees alive in a lockdown) | 0 |
| Good insights from a beekeeper and person involved in the response | 0 |
| One key question for Bianca is.... | Are feral mobs something we should report? | 0 |
| Bianca, can you think of any or some actions that may have made a difference in response result? | 0 |
| For landowners who don't have bees, what can we do to help? e.g. Are there inadvertent harbours for Varroa that we should destroy? | 2 |
| Are we documenting the learnings well enough and ensuring they are written into our future plans | 0 |
| What would you say to anyone considering becoming an industry liaison officer? | 0 |
| What are some of the key engagement and communication considerations (for communicating to beekeepers AND the broader community) when moving from an eradication strategy to containment/management? | 0 |
| Is there a way to monitor private (non-commercial) hives, was there a strategy to monitor and manage the small one off hives in backyards? | 0 |
| Do you think there was enough psychological support for bee keepers during the eradication process? | 0 |
| Was there any mental health implications for bee keepers from the Varroa incident and is this something that the biosecurity strategy needs to connect to support producers in times of an incident? | 0 |

#### Get Ready – If an outbreak were to happen next week, what do you need to do to be ready?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Idea** | **Who do you need to talk to?** | **What systems do you need to get into place?** | **What's the first ACTION you need to do to start?** |
| Be ready - Ensure biosecurity plan is revisited, updated where necessary. Robust systems in place. Early identification of problem | All stakeholders involved | Have processes in place so they are second nature | Revisiting biosecurity plan |
| Communication + help people understand roles and responsibilities - know what to do beforehand | Authorities (government/industry peak bodies); local areas/communities/neighbours (what are they doing, what are their worries); link people current info through existing channels | Promote - current up to date information via website, social media, media + distribute through trusted sources such as peak bodies  A biosecurity plan - help people understand the risks, pathways and actions they need to take  Signage - if needed, make sure people have the right signage and warnings in place | Have good biosecurity practices in place for starters: good hygiene/keep equipment clean, know where to go for current info if outbreak occurs, know who to report to, keep surveying property, etc for threats.  In a response - comply to any control or lockdown requirements; report people on and off property. |
| Ensure the support resources are provided for the Class2 Controller at the State Control Centre and how will this role/cell will link with the State Ops Centre at Atwood and at the National level to avoid missed comms or crossed messages | AgVic 'SAC" and AgVic Class2 Controllers for what need/have for an effective response. | Confirm the roster/capacity of key roles from AgVic - activate the first rotation | Loop into the AgVic preparedness arrangements (don't duplicate the work) |
| Farming/plant infection | Ag Vic, regional and state peak bodies, neighbouring properties, contractors, transport, staff | Signage, livelihood management (mental and financial assist) , general public awareness | Report the outbreak. |
| Government - emergency preparedness. |  |  |  |
| Landcare - broadacre cropping area | AgVIc emergency management team and local landholders and groups | Communication lines with AgVic, strengthen communication lines with landholder networks | Become more familiar with priority pests in my region so I have some background knowledge prepared for some of the more likely pest outbreaks that could occur. |
| Livestock transport and destruction. | Government  Key Industry bodies - transport and logistics. | Where to house livestock and follow welfare and health regulations and obligations.  Logistics of depopulation and burial of large scale farms (pigs and poultry).  Build social license for depopulation during an EAD. | Instant text message service to alert drivers to any EAD outbreak and communicate appropriate response.  Set processes for livestock holding.  Have a strong social license to implement appropriate responses.  Considering consequential losses following an EAD response. |
| Local government - get emergency management plans to explicitly capture biosecurity threats and outline aspects of preparedness and pathways to response | Emergency management team - which also covers to get community and industry around us prepared. | Ensuring emergency plan is clear about weeds, pests | Having a meeting with our emergency management team :) |
| Media management |  |  |  |
| Organisation/agency involved in Volunteer management | Ag Vic, agency/organisation staff and volunteers | Lots... We are not ready for this!! | Prepare for the need to "lockdown" |
| Ttraining and upskilling of our current trusted proven engagement personnel | The networks need to be kept up to date (contact lists in both directions - across the chain and up and down the chain) regularly revisited to ensure it works | Training, practicing, hypotheticals, exercises, workshops, improved comms networks | Be prepared - group of commodity based industry people that can convene, establish one form of truth, be a part of the co-ordinated response, identify who needs to be contacted, join with the experts and recognised advisors, raising awareness for reporting the issue |

#### Session 3 evaluation - Response

***What did you like about the session?*** 22 out of 125 participants answered this question.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Honey Bee session was a great introduction to what could potentially be the ramifications of an FMD eradication exercise and hopefully we have learnt from their process. | Different presenters providing an overview of biosecurity that is in place as at today. |
| Great group for the breakout sessions that hopefully put some insight into the issues facing the industry during the initial 72hr shut down | Great to see the campaigns, engagement for preparedness and during response- preparedness more focused than in the past |
| Great to get the range from national to state to an industry group (and ILO who is also a producer, so really a 4th level insight) | The conversations we had in the separate rooms. Talks were really interesting |
| Introductions and information sharing | Informative and great discussion |
| It was great to be in an animal/transport industry representative group. Lots of shared challenges. The theme of a poorly prepared industry/government. Lots of homework. Have made some very good contacts. | Mix of people, perspectives, national industry, DEECA, feral animals |
| The three presenters gave important context for thinking about biosecurity at three levels - national, state, and individual/industry. The discussions and “response” activity was useful and timed well. | Diversity of views. Great presenters esp Bianca from bee industry with recent real life experience to share |
| The consistency between the animal and plant emergency responses (the needs and the networks) | It was long. |
| Great exploration of all the challenges that biosecurity risks pose and some of the ways that we need to work together to respond to them Identify more collaboration between government and industry | Great speakers, good information |
| Identify more collaboration between government and industry | Great speakers |
| Interacting with other participants with similar interests and experiences. But interaction with people with very different experiences were most valuable. | Cross section of speakers - opportunity for Q&A |
| This was the best session of the day. I found it very rewarding. | Real life example, group discussion |
| Interactive |  |

***Was there anything missing from the session?*** 11 out of 125 participants answered this question.

Some applied fundamentals

Vision of the responses from the whole group WITH TIME to read them and rank them. Time was very short today, too short to get much detail across - which it was mentioned earlier that Ag Vic wants the detail!. Will there be an opportunity to have detailed and well thought out responses from relevant groups?

What does longer term recovery look like? I imagine it will be years of support required.

It would have been good to possibly have some more time.

Would be great to capture gaps or missing in preparedness.

Wine.

I didn't think so, a lot was covered in a short time.

Didn’t need to have break out rooms between talks when plenty of questions were available to ask from the group map.

3 valuable points of view, with breadth, depth.

A little frustrating that the map limits your entries especially if you are scribing for others and get limited to only 2-3 entries.

It’s so broad hard to focus on a particular session.

***Any other comments?*** 17 out of 125 participants answered this question

Great finish to a productive day.

Established a foundation for the future.

Great discussion, these forums are a great way to network with those you wouldn’t normally have interaction with

Thank you for having such an excellent working group. Scary how the journey of the bee industry played out and with what could/would happen to our sector in the event of an EAD and what our community would have to surmount.

Much of this input content was captured in the earlier sessions - is it captured and recorded?

For emergency we all need a trusted network, for wildlife it is wildlife health Australia, great communication, fact sheets, brilliant.

Small staff 21-year-old.

Thank you once again for a well organised session!!

The breakout rooms worked well, as a break between sessions and as a point of reflection and consideration.

Great day. Greatly enjoyed, lots of good discussion and speakers. Like the mix of videos and speakers to break things up. Good use of breakout sessions.

The last breakout session was better as it wasn’t so short, but we didn’t have anyone from industry in our group. Would be great to have a good mix of gov, local gov and industry in each group. Tricky to coordinate though I’m sure!

Disease spread through populations of wildlife very hard to contain.

It’s getting late in the day.

It has been a great first biosecurity roundtable experience.

Best to give breakout groups the task of a specific area of Ag to focus with so many different parts of the sector represented, ideal to cover them all and allocate them to breakout groups.

Very important session.

Facilitators did well to keep the energy high and moving after a long day of discussions.

## Session 4 – Caring for Country

***Questions for Sammy and Uncle Dave***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Notes** | **# Likes** |
| One key take-away is.... | The importance of partnerships - pests and weeds don't respect boundaries. | 4 |
| COMMUNICATION (even if you think you don't have to)- well said U. Dave | 0 |
| Love the concept of a circular ecology. | 1 |
| Rabbits are one of Australia's most invasives species - a thief in the landscape. Imagine what our landscape would look without them. Thanks Uncle Dave for all your work raising awareness of the options we have to tackle rabbits and how we can work better together. | 0 |
| The active work with Moogji in Orbost, thanks Sammy | 0 |
| Yes Liz- biosecurity of our water! | 4 |
| I like the importance of bodies like the CMAs that are trusted and helpful in being that middle "person" between all the different biosecurity values | 4 |
| Include Victorian universities with capacity to improve application of strategy, e.g. Melbourne Vet School for biosecurity of biodiversity [pamw@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:pamw@unimelb.edu.au) | 0 |
| I like the field guide - we can't always turn to a phone/iPad/laptop | 4 |
| One question for Sammy is... | Sammy, I know you recently presented at a national conference around feral pig management, and you heard from other Traditional Owners in other states - what were some of the innovative things they are doing that you learned about? | 1 |
| Do you have a memorable story about working with a neighbouring farmer or others in community on one of your pest issues? Have you had any successes in removing or partially removing pests or weeds? | 3 |
| Pigs are destructive to the environmental and cultural values of an area, they pose a disease risk to the pork industry, and they are a vector for diseases that affect people too. They are also really smart...  Your work to control them is really important, and successes should be a source of pride. Thank you!! | 7 |
| Your attempts to manage the feral species is encouraging. Is it just the pigs and deer? Do you also notice many foxes, feral cats or brumbys? | 1 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Notes** | **# Likes** |
| One question for Uncle Dave is... | What kind of threat and issues do deer cause on Corranderk? | 0 |
| In areas where rabbits have out competed various native species it's been observed that numerous birds of prey and reptiles now rely on rabbits as nourishment. If eradication is undertaken, has there been study into timeframe for native rodents to re-establish themselves in areas so there is no knock-on effect for other species. | 1 |
| You've been such a great biosecurity advocate, and great to hear the relationships with the neighbours - what builds good partnerships with your neighbours? | 2 |
| Uncle Dave, I really love how open you are about how you have learned and re-learned your knowledge, and the way you apply and combine traditional knowledge with new knowledge to work in a modified landscape that retains a lot of historical records of culture.   I suspect this is mostly an outworking of your personality, and it is part of what has made our partnerships successful.  Are you deliberate about this way of operating, and as an Elder, do you teach younger mob to work this way too?  (Open, collaborative in learning and teaching) | 2 |
| Hi Uncle Dave and Sammy, We work on wildlife health and biosecurity of biodiversity at Melbourne University Vet School, Werribee. We are keen to listen to you and other community members at Budj Bim and Wurundgeri country about wildlife health and respect your knowledge. We also wish to partner with you about disease in wildlife. Can we visit sometime to talk? Pam Whiteley [pamw@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:pamw@unimelb.edu.au) 0400119301 anytime | 0 |

#### 1 – 2 Actions to strengthen partnerships with my local Traditional Owners

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action** | **# Likes** |
| Need to recognise that each TO group is different and there is no one size fits all. | 3 |
| Partnerships and relationships: To work together (partner) first we need to build relationship (know each other) - this helps build trust. So show up for opportunities to connect when it is possible, reach out for conversations. \* Set an intention to connect - reach out to TO Corp... | 2 |
| Find common ground (i.e. between farmers and Aboriginal groups), because there is always something there | 2 |
| Establish relationships PRIOR to an issue (i.e. outbreak or biosecurity emergency) occurring | 2 |
| Listen and spend time with each other | 2 |
| Work with TOs when designing citizen science initiatives to include elements that build connections and are important | 1 |
| Capacity building and relationships - skill sets need to allow for turnover of people. \*Great to have programs that engage First Nations people with management of current systems, but the learning opportunities in this space need to be embedded and constantly renewed and rekindled. | 1 |
| Use existing processes for partnership development where appropriate. Don't reinvent the wheel | 1 |
| Intention: set an intention to connect - reach out to TO Corporations to connect, do cross-cultural learning; also show up to events/panels like this | 1 |
| Collaborate with TO groups to conduct invasive species monitoring & control | 0 |
| Local Government plans and constant review and yarns | 0 |
| Stewardship (making biosecurity sustainable for a very long time) | 0 |
| Work with community groups to heal the land through revegetation and weed control works | 0 |
| Build, nurture and maintain relationships with TO's | 0 |

#### Session 4 evaluation

***What did you like about the session?*** 20 out of 125 participants answered this question.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uncle Dave is always great to hear from | Hearing directly from TOs |
| Varied views on Traditional Owner perspectives (incl. videos) - great panel | Enjoyed the presenters. So important to include these perspectives in this event. Biosecurity is a good example of a place for farmers and First Nations to find common ground |
| Positive stories about tackling the problem | The open and honest discussion With Uncle Dave and Sammy. I learnt so much and appreciated their style and approach and calmness. |
| The talks from Sammy and Uncle Dave show a deep commitment to improving Country and a dedication to the cause. Thanks for the inspiring chats! | Highlighted the value of having good conversations with and including discussions with all TO groups. They are all unique. |
| Hearing stories from Uncle Dave, Sam, Elizabeth and Vivian about the work they are doing. | The yarn session was a really nice idea, culturally relevant to let Sammy and Uncle Dave share their insights. I liked it. |
| Slower pace - directly hearing from indigenous people of real life examples. | Wonderful speakers. I could listen to Uncle Dave all day long! |
| Hearing First Nation perspectives and how they are working in Bio sector. Really liked the interviews with Ag Vic and TO partners. | Discussions on biodiversity |
| The Depth of discussion on a very interesting area of the biosecurity system. | Discussion on TO groups and the invasive species works they are conducting |
| Meeting others | Really good stories and case studies |
| Incredible knowledge and experience shared by Uncle Dave and Sammy, expertly facilitated by Tegan. Such an important conversation and opportunity to continue to build connection and increase understanding. |  |

***Was there anything else missing from the session?*** 10 out of 125 participants answered this question.

Would like to have heard about more case studies.

Some more information about how to identify and link in with indigenous people. I came away feeling that the key to success is finding the right person. I’m concerned that just because someone is indigenous, there is an expectation they ‘will do’.

More time!

Perhaps a voice from other agencies working with TOs e.g. VFF.

No, it was excellent.

No, perhaps next year bring in some experience from mob in northern Australia.

No - I thought this session was well done!

The input time for the group is too short - in a group of diverse backgrounds, it is hard to engage, listen, finda couple of common ideas, and refine to contribute to the Groupmap.

Approaches around feral animal control that are more environmental, friendly.

Good session.

***Any other comments?*** 12 out of 125 participants answered this question.

Breakout rooms are always a great way to get involved with participants.

Thank you to all.

A key theme is stewardship and recognition for the contributions made by all participants. It would be good to think about our stewardship of the biosecurity system also... it will outlive us all and we need to think about what the preferred future we want to pass on and the value add that provides.

Programs that our organisations run are not exclusive or targeted towards any particular cultural demographic, however, I am unsure how to specifically reach out to the first nations people. I would like help to know how I can improve, and I also hope people from our first nation cultures reach out to me - I think it’s a two way street.

The moderator was an excellent choice.

How do we help bust the Myth of land take back. How can we make the Aboriginal Heritage Act easy to understand when it is framed around land development rather than NRM and Ag.

Tegan is an inspiring young lady!

Thank you.

Tegan did a great job.

Lovely conversations in the breakout groups too, so thanks for facilitating a good mix of people.

Got plenty of homework to follow up on...

Tegan was a fantastic facilitator.

## Session 5 – Management

#### Highlights From Case Studies

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Speaker** | **Comment** | **# Likes** |
| Sharyn Williams | Local government speaks with our community each week about recalcitrant private properties. These people are often heartbroken as they have spent considerable amounts of time, money and energy fulfilling their CaLP Act responsibilities on their land, only to see their hard work undone by a few in the community who have no interest in being a responsible land manager. Are these people in really expected to volunteer their precious time and energy to fulfil the old Department "Extension Officer" role in coordinating local action before the Department take any action other than a notice letter? | 1 |
| Can you provide more details about the role of the community and what actions are expected from the community? | 2 |
| So much pressure put on the community to solve this problem but not enough funding goes to on ground action. Landcare already provides a lot of education and training on management of pest plant and animals but we need coordinated action with funding to offset some of the cost. Must clean up roadsides and state/national parks to lead by example! | 3 |
| Encouraging behavioural change is challenging work. Great to see VIPA board being established and a new investment program to help community and organisations to continue to undertake this work alongside Ag Vic. | 1 |
| Great to see some pest program facilitators in the regions; really needed; how was the community membership of VIPA determined? | 0 |
| I'd really love to chat with Sharyn about this and my experience running Melton's private landowner / land management program where we get a lot of great outcomes without compliance. | 1 |
| There are critically endangered species and vegetation communities within the serrated tussock "core infestation area". How will the department help land managers to manage these precious remnants when every year, reported properties continue to have tussock seed re-infest these sites. The response in previous years has been that only a letter is sent to recalcitrant properties but year after year no action is taken on the private land. This really is an unacceptable situation. How will this change post review? | 3 |
| It is great to see the focus on community partnerships. How do you link in with the work undertaken Catchment Management Authorities with local communities? | 2 |
| Absentee landowners with large noxious weed infestations seem to be a growing concern. Is there any concern to address this issue? | 3 |
| Recalcitrant landholders tend not to engage with local community. A stick approach, in hand with land management plans and ongoing follow-up is what we are considering in Hume | 2 |
| Community role (collaboration and action) | 0 |
| The current high cost of living may be a barrier for leveraging community participation | 1 |
| Is there room for QFF programs to move into this space post the regional grants? | 0 |
| The Department has had a "community-led approach" for a number of years already. CaLP Act listed species have continued to become much more abundant across the general landscape during this time. What is going to change since the review to address this? | 2 |
| Isn't it a mix between community led and compliance approaches? | 1 |
| Is compliance still within the tool kit? | 2 |
| What is the departments definition of "community-led action" and how does the community resource itself to demonstrate "community-led action". | 1 |
| Is the "Future Directions" paper mentioned a public document? If so, is there a link? Cheers!! | 0 |
| Peter Jacobs | An overwhelming problem, that requires serious funds for on ground action, not just education. | 0 |
| interested in the deliberate decision to not become incorporated - focusing on being a collective (without the governance red tape) and supporting other groups that are legal entities | 0 |
| Peter and VDCCN have been a great resource for our organisation | 0 |
| How are you working with Landcare groups? | 1 |
| No need to become incorporated - the Invasive Species Council could auspice anything you needed to be an entity for, I'd think. | 0 |
| Decision Support Tool | 0 |
| Highlighted the importance of local communities and working together to tackle these problems | 0 |
| The VDCCN website information and the kit which is available for all to access. Wil be in contact to discuss your work further | 0 |
| Peter - It would be great to chat to see how Catchment Management Authorities can support your efforts. | 2 |
| Is the group collecting data on distribution of deer across Vic? | 0 |
| Great coordination and inclusion | 0 |
| Increase community collaboration, communication and co-ordination across the state | 1 |
| Great to hear the work and effort of community action into addressing deer | 2 |
| Great Initiative - saves re-inventing the wheel within each area/LGA | 1 |
| Lyn Coulston | Appreciated your insights Lyn, particularly around the need to provide landholders with helpful information | 2 |
| Great work Lyn | 1 |
| Hard to convince small landholders to take responsibility for pests and weeds when they are not managed on our roadsides, public lands and pine plantations. 3 years of wet summers has compounded the weed problem. | 3 |
| Partnerships between groups provides many benefits | 0 |
| VBT demo days are enormous value to a community group that is often unpaid volunteers and don’t have funds. The demo days are where face: face interactions are valued | 0 |
| Opportunities to integrate across invasive species may be a good opportunity for leveraging and efficiencies for better outcomes? | 0 |
| Collaboration | 0 |
| Liked the insight on language. "Biosecurity" doesn't have the same meaning to all people. Doesn't necessarily get across the personal implications. | 1 |
| Benefits from control of a weed/pest are sometimes hard to showcase, compliance still plays an important role | 0 |
| Curious about how groups like Lyn is involved in and how they make suggestions to landholders on managing weeds - what is the tipping point for farmers to 'want' to take action? | 1 |
| Fam Charko | Reporting any unusual organism you see, to make sure the ecosystems is not affected. Great video! | 0 |
| Linking biosecurity to the things that people love doing and where they live - great messaging from Fam | 2 |
| Engagement with community in the marine space is critical for early detection. More eyes on the water the better! | 3 |

#### Getting local and supporting each other

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Problem / Challenge** | **Need to Get Involved?** | **Need to do Resolve?** |
| Are local councils being asked to take on responsibilities for weed compliance that actually sit with Ag Vic? |  |  |
| Capture peoples' involvement without the risk of burning out. Marathon, not a sprint. Include rewards/celebration/harnessing the group effort |  |  |
| Challenge - managing multiple species of weeds |  |  |
| Community concern that not all land managers are doing their bit, community do not necessarily understand who managers what land, i.e. local, crown, linear | Bringing land managers together |  |
| Concerns that biodiversity is viewed as an 'alternative' to biosecurity - i.e., that it can replace biosecurity, by running a natural, biodiverse farm enterprise. When in reality biosecurity practices are critical alongside biodiversity practices. |  | Awareness raising at all levels |
| Dealing with species which are a problem but not listed as a pest. |  |  |
| Deer population impacts but lack of coordination at landscape level. | Department, Parks, Land Managers, Action Groups, Local Government, Ag Vic, community groups, Upper Murray Blackberry Network, Landcare | Needs a coordinated effort from a single lead group and facilitator to bring it together. |
| Different definitions of weeds and priorities between local state and federal, then the frustration of not getting a direct answer. | Everyone | Cooperation between levels of government |
| Education of the younger generations |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Problem / Challenge** | **Need to Get Involved?** | **Need to do Resolve?** |
| Feral Cat and other 'cute' invasives Management - Limited by current legislative framework and community 'license to operate' | Direct engagement with feral animal advocates - e.g. brumby advocacy groups etc.  Direct engagement with parliament to advocate for legislative reform to allow for more tools to be used within regulatory framework. | Working with these advocacy groups to determine alternative solutions - have the conversation about the impact - current measures - what are alternatives - what can we fund to allow you to come up with an alternative.  Ensure that claims are effectively countered with factual information - consider use of emotive photos / descriptions describing the impact of these pests to counter the emotive tools used by advocacy groups. |
| Hard to get contractors when needed in the weed life cycle |  |  |
| Illegal tracks that increase risks. | Recreational Users, Parks, Land Managers |  |
| Lots of disparate groups working on biosec issues, with lots of expertise and capacity - but not necessarily connected together very well. |  |  |
| Need enough people in groups who can identify the weeds and control them before seeding |  |  |
| Paid project officers to implement projects with community |  |  |
| People and our society - we call ourselves "community" when often we are really just neighbours, people who live next to each other and go elsewhere to work, play, etc. When we try to engage with people with whom we do not have relationships, it is no wonder that we keep crying out for the government to do more compliance. But compliance doesn't achieve long term behaviour change. | Local govt, community groups, individual land owners, all sorts!! | Building relationships - getting to know people - takes time but doesn't cost a lot of money. Inviting people to get to know each other and getting to know the agencies and organisations. |
| Problem: foxes and fruit flies - move from property to property | Solution: get neighbours to work together and communicate more effectively and overcome barriers. | Key to success: identify and influence a lead behind the scenes. Peer group pressure is often the key to address complex problems. |
| Recalcitrant/absentee landholders not managing established weeds particularly in core infestations with no compliance actions by Ag Vic |  | Increased engagement |
| Shifting towards a stewardship attitude to biosec - similar to what exists for environmental stewardship, First Nations stewardship, farmers as stewards | How can we bring all that passion together? Social science / behavioural change issue. | Capture the work that's already been done |
| Weeds across landscapes | Different locations have different stakeholders.  In rural setting - your neighbours are key.  AgVic - for funding programs for local action to address a pest species.  All land managers - LGAs, Parks, CMAs. Industry orgs - cropping, research entities/MLA/Grains/Hort innovation. Research bodies - encouraged and fundings to find solutions.  Farmers  Land holders.  Trespassers (more common in animal production - animal activists, bring on weeds/disease)  Traditional Owners - knowledge and Country know-how, land managers/responsibilities in land. In discussion as early as possible.  Local water authorities.  Public landowners - Government, also their entities - VicRoads, LGAs,  Industry - Plantations. Renewable energy structures. Retailers, retail nursery industry. | Look at who you need to communicate with? Work out what they need to know.  Start with gathering evidence. What examples of strategies used to combat this elsewhere. Starting point to talk to neighbours.  Hierarchy of stakeholders that need to be involved - hierarchy of issues and stages to conversation.  Trespasser - need to be made aware (through signs? other?). |
| We accept budget constraints, however funding is key a foundation to achieving desired goals, e.g. eradication, investing rather than costs. Sources of funding is a key factor for everybody. This has to traverse politics. |  |  |
| Who will coordinate "communications? |  |  |

#### Ideas for change

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **My one great idea to achieve sustainable long term change would be...** | **Votes** |
| Ag Vic Extension Officers with resources available to enable "community led action" in local communities. They need to educate the community, coordinate local action and help those doing the right thing. You can't expect the community to do all this on their own! | 8 |
| Invasive Pests have funding at a level that can make a measurable difference | 5 |
| long term change needs to be underpinned by long term investment in understanding and connecting to people's motivation for owning land and their subsequent behaviour (behaviour change). | 5 |
| Strengthening community relationships. Long term continuity of funding comes into this - so relevant people working in the field have the job security to develop these relationships. | 4 |
| Let the community lead. | 3 |
| Separate government departments from 3-4 year political cycles - so that better ongoing outcomes | 3 |
| Engaging community through fun, social activities based on Citizen Science - build ongoing relationships, behaviours and advocacy | 3 |
| A collaboratively built regional action plan that has buy in from all parties- with commitments to act | 2 |
| More support to securing long term collaboration within local communities | 1 |
| The problem is overwhelming - focus action on one problem at a time and engage everyone so they understand how their behaviour relates to the overall issue e.g. fruit fly - responsible management of private fruit trees. Get everyone on board with a promotional blitz. | 1 |
| Clearer messaging to land managers and stewards about connection between biosecurity and biodiversity | 1 |
| Work with TO groups to develop pest and problem animal control plan. | 1 |
| Tailoring funding requirements to community groups | 1 |
| Stop including invasive exotic pests and wildlife and vice versa. | 0 |
| Integrating across issues and groups to leverage and share | 0 |
| Long term funding for a pest and weeds coordinator, ideally through a non-statutory authority e.g. Landcare | 0 |
| Consistent and clear communication for landholders, community groups and other land managers on how to identify and deal with pests and weeds | 0 |
| Long term funding for community and govt agencies. | 0 |

#### Session 5 evaluation

***What did you like about the session?*** 18 out of 125 participants answered this question.

Informative.

Good group discussion with similar agencies.

The breakout room on problems was good - even though our group came from different backgrounds and had different issues we were able to identify some high level issues we shared.

Speakers and the opportunity to extend this into other invasive pests that are a Biosecurity concern in some regions-despite their classification as established.

There was some good conversations had.

Group chat.

Hearing from a council worker and the problems, they face.

Lots of talk about community action and support.

Hearing from community groups about what works and what doesn’t.

Wonderful hear from both community and govt on what they are doing to make a difference.

The variety of topics and applied issues.

Integration across different government agencies.

Interesting presentations. Good cross section of perspectives in my group chat.

Input from community via the Groupmap.

Break out discussions were great.

Good speakers and examples.

Presentations were good.

The conversation.

***Was there anything missing from this session?*** 16 out of 125 participants answered this question.

I feel we could have had a more focused discussion on how to improve landowner relationships.

There was no reflection on the insights posted about the four speakers.

This was not such a bad thing - Sharyn seemed to get hammered a bit...

Again- time to contribute all ideas.

The problem is too big for all pest plant and animals to be managed with one set of actions. Need key Stakeholders that manage large areas of land eg. Vic Roads, Parks, Forestry to be involved in these discussions.

An example of a successful localised community pest program is wheel cactus.

Opportunity for the speakers to answer some questions.

Would like more time.

There are a lot of Departments, agencies, local government involved in this space and it would have been helpful to have this mapped out.

Not adequate linkage between the aspects of biodiversity that are casually associated with specific EAD’s.

How does the government support community capacity and collaboration.

Detail from DEECA about how “community led action” will be implemented and resourced.

What are the future challenges and opportunities the speakers see moving forward.

Are we having an opportunity for the speakers to address some of the issues raised?

Lots of gasbagging but no real answers.

More time.

***Any other comments?*** 12 out of 125 participants answered this question.

Deer presenter was perfect and what I was looking for.

Like to see significant investment in communications that focus on behavioural change practices. Clear comms on everyone’s biosecurity roles and responsibilities across Victoria and Nationally.

Please can we continue these workshops and meet ups with this very group of people so we can continue the energy and sharing!

The problem is too big for all pest plants and animals to be managed with one set of actions. Need key Stakeholders that manage large areas of land eg. Vic Roads, Parks, Forestry to be involved in these discussions.

Well done team.

Hard to see any real change to deal with the expanding issue.

First I heard of VIPA so will follow up.

Would like an option to stay on for next session.

Well done on running an engaging and interactive session online - very impressive.

We can spend so much money on getting feedback We need to be developing and implementing plans.

On the “one great idea” poll, the third and 4th placed ideas are basically the same, and adding their scores would make them the highest ranking idea. :)

Such a complex issue - it feels we barely touch the subject... but plenty to think about.

## Session 6 – Defining an implementation plan

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| --- | --- |
| **What specific tangible changes will we need to see to have confidence we are making progress on our strategic goals?** |  |
| **Idea text** | **Score** |
| More regionally-based whole-of-landscape pest and weed action plans | 24 |
| Improved compliance with good biosecurity practices | 19 |
| More community-led local action on weeds and pests | 14 |
| More funding for weed control across the state - at all levels esp at local govt level. | 13 |
| More regional training and exercises | 12 |
| A well-coordinated response across govt, industry and community | 11 |
| Stronger partnerships for understanding and supporting biosecurity practice on Country | 10 |
| Improved access to the people, skills and equipment required for fast response | 10 |
| Better understanding across the system of roles and responsibilities | 10 |
| More people taking part in surveillance and early detection activities | 10 |
| Long term funding and staffing model | 9 |
| Reduced pests in the landscape and increased compliance both prevention and enforcement. | 8 |
| Increased investment in the systems, science and tools that help manage risk | 7 |
| Regional based strategies and action plans developed and agreed by all stakeholders. | 7 |
| Growing awareness of, and action on biosecurity risks | 6 |
| Successful compliance/enforcement outcomes | 6 |
| Infrastructure development and improvements throughout the state i.e. effluent dumps on major freight routes especially on the outside of Melbourne, truckwashes up to adequate standard to achieve the outcome of high levels of biosecurity measures. | 6 |
| Increase in the number of Ag Vic staff. No more "lack of resource" excuses. | 6 |
| More people and organisations participate in response activities | 5 |
| Increased involvement of Traditional Owner groups in weed and pest management | 5 |
| Less noxious weeds in paddocks. | 5 |
| Less noxious weeds on Parks Vic, VicTrack and Regional Roads Vic land. | 5 |
| Greater focus on environmental biosecurity and the links with biodiversity protection as a whole | 5 |
| More participation in a wide range of biosecurity events (e.g. roundtables) and groups | 4 |
| New and emerging pests and weeds eradicated in a timely manner | 4 |
| Behavioural change in general public - increased awareness of biosecurity and how to minimise/mitigate risk and where to report suspected pests or disease | 4 |
| Being deliberate about including local government in achieving the increase in several of these other changes | 3 |
| Prevention: people remain involved in early detection programs and don’t drop off | 3 |
| Prioritize biosecurity. There are other legislations that can conflict with biosecurity, so it's needed to define our priorities. | 3 |
| Community needs to know where they can go to get accurate advice and response | 3 |
| Managed Compliance programs | 3 |
| Private landholders who have been reported to the Department actually controlling their weeds and rabbits. | 3 |
| evidence of increased regionally co-ordinated groups that have the capacity to stay active and sustainable, that can interact with each other | 3 |
| LGA have KPIs with regard to monitoring and responding to pest and diseases including informing and responding to peri-urban dwellers and risk to biosecurity. | 3 |
| Improve interaction/collaboration with other states. “Biosecurity doesn't have borders” | 3 |
| Funding to control weeds and improved enforcement of the CaLP act. | 3 |
| Increased capabilities for managing biosecurity risk across the system | 2 |
| Legislative and regulatory reforms help improve collaboration and compliance | 2 |
| No new outbreaks beyond controllable extent | 2 |
| Direct KPIs that measure impacts before and after interventions. Pest incursions reduction by x% Weed impacts $ reduced by X% | 2 |
| Clear easily accessible structures for community support in tackling pest plants and animals | 2 |
| Use and refinement of existing tools such as planning permit conditions, whole farm plans, SEMPs and contract specifications for earthworks etc. to improve biosecurity outcomes. | 2 |
| Improved awareness of the Effluent in Transit Code of Practice to help stop the spread of disease | 2 |
| Demonstration of investment in infrastructure (government or industry investment) - such as boot cleaning stations at national parks, truck & caravan washes, etc | 2 |
| Ensure emergency response planning includes the best sources of skills and information to ensure readiness is well planned | 2 |
| Follow up programs. Often there is a 1 off eradication program that is not that followed up | 1 |
| We need to establish several baselines to be able to measure our performance against. | 1 |
| SG1 geographically-based coalitions | 1 |
| Greater transparency | 1 |
| More interaction with other departments and within DEECA. There are crooks over subjects that must be managed to achieve better results. | 1 |
| Project-program-Activity-output-outcome-impact hierarchy of measures linked to 2-3 time horizons | 1 |
| Involving industry in EAD and pest and weed exercises | 1 |
| More community and volunteer education and training to contribute to the response networks. | 1 |
| No new outbreaks beating controllable extent | 0 |
| Less reliance on volunteering...the rural community is tired and have to prioritise their time to their respective producer responsibilities. | 0 |

## Closing plenary – head heart hands

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Head: One thing I learnt ....** | **Heart: One thing that has inspired me...** | **Hands: My first action to continue this work will be...** |
| Informed experienced resources and compliance an issue | The interest from so many groups | Biosecurity |
| Degree of involvement in and coordination between state and federal | The people - everyone I who spoke, and everyone I interacted in the breakout rooms are experts in their own right, dedicated to better biosecurity and admirable | Spread the AgVic website Biodiversity info around! |
| Don't reinvent the wheel - incorporate existing info into local context/sphere of influence | So many people wanting to keep going | Get cracking. |
| Biosecurity is everyone's issue but there is a huge disconnect between those who understand and those who don't. | Great upbeat facilitation | Priority Action 4!!! |
| Momentum comes after setting the intention to work together, doing the grind, and seeing the effort have positive impact / A sentiment from Bianca's talk that the effort is worth it, even if the outcome isn't exactly what we desired | Prioritise the biosecurity projects over BAU to get them done | Sign up to Vic Deer Control community network |
| A lot of people, agencies and industries are worried about Biosecurity risks and want more action. | Plenty of people who want to help | Learn more about the pests in my region and build relationships so I can facilitate information sharing |
| The work is not done, it is only just beginning | So many people have demonstrated so much passion. | Reach out to key stakeholders in the space to start discussions to increase awareness and action. |
| More organisations working in biosecurity than I had initially thought. Improving collaborations amongst them can lead to better biosecurity outcomes | Practical work already being taken on | Keep on keeping on! |
| Incorporating bio security in all planning and activities | The inclusiveness of First Nations approaches to caring for country | Inspired to return to the hard work |
| Biosecurity may not be the best word to engage with people on the ground | The focus on finding common ground - biosecurity affects everyone | Reach out to indigenous officer in our organisation |
| BAU will not be good enough. | How so many diverse groups are already deeply invested | Reach out to new network to assist with campaign |
| Breadth of activities occurring in so many different ways and through so many groups and organisations | Case studies | Holistic planning for 2024 |
| Biosecurity needs to be part of everything (BAU) | Willing people with great ideas. | Use every opportunity that arises in everyday life to champion biosecurity within my (albeit limited) community |
| Greater appreciation for the breadth of the issue | First session: the hands on work being done | Reach out to some of the new connections I've made to investigate how we might work together. |
| There are so many organisations engaged in Biosecurity | The hard work and commitment all across the system | Continue to push my industry to embrace biosecurity systems |
| The importance of Country to all aspects of Biosecurity | The recent advancements in preparedness | Review my own preparedness and how that integrates with Commonwealth and State Governments |
| Awareness of biosecurity needs to be increased to develop a broader understanding of all the work that happens unseen in the background preventing threats that are not yet here, and the value of prevention in context of available resources to also manage established threats. | So many passionate people | Lobby for a pest and weeds coordinator |
|  | So many passionate and committed people willing to work together | Tackle that horrible asparagus fern! |
|  | The genuine openness to collaboration and enthusiasm for working together | Consider volunteering |
|  |  | More thinking about how to connect our work (in strategy governance) better into local govt. |
|  |  | Follow up on my pledge - do some work to build relationships and strengthen partnerships, by making time to talk to some people!  How hard is that!! |

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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We pay our deepest respects to the Traditional Custodians of all the lands on which we live and work and acknowledge their long and valuable connection to land sea and culture.