



Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

**Community Biosecurity 2030: A strategic
roadmap for protection Australia's
environment, economy and way of life**

June 2021

About the Australian Fresh Produce Alliance

The Australian Fresh Produce Alliance (AFPA) is made up of Australia's key fresh produce growers and suppliers. The members include:

- Costa Group
- Perfection Fresh
- Montague
- One Harvest
- Pinata Farms
- Fresh Select
- Mackay's Banana Marketing
- Driscoll's
- 2PH Farms
- LaManna Premier Group
- Rugby Farming
- Freshmax
- Fresh Produce Group.

These businesses represent:

- half the industry turnover of the Australian fresh produce (fruit and vegetables) sector - \$4.5 billion of the \$9.1 billion total
- a quarter of the volume of fresh produce grown in Australia - 1 million of the 3.9 million tonne total
- more than a third of fresh produce exports - \$410 million of the \$1.2 billion export total
- more than 1,000 growers through commercial arrangements, and
- more than 15,000 direct employees through peak harvest, and up to 25,000 employees in the grower network.

The key issues the AFPA is focusing on include:

- packaging and the role it plays in product shelf life and reducing food waste landfill,
- labour and the need for both a permanent and temporary supply of workers,
- market access to key export markets for Australian produce,
- product integrity both within and outside of the supply chain,
- pollination and research into alternative sources, and
- water security, including clear direction as to the allocation and trading of water rights.

The AFPA's aim therefore is to become the first-choice fresh produce group that retailers and government go to for discussion and outcomes on issues involving the growing and supply of fresh produce.

Products grown by AFPA Member companies include:

Apples	Blueberries	Cherries	Nectarines	Raspberries
Apricots	Broccoli	Fioretto	Onions	Salad leaf
Asparagus	Broccolini	Green Beans	Oranges	Spinach
Avocado	Brussel Sprouts	Herbs	Peaches	Strawberries
Baby Broccoli	Butternut	Lemons	Pears	Sweet Corn
Baby Corn	Pumpkin	Lettuce	Pineapples	Table grapes
Bananas	Cabbage	Mandarins	Plums	Tomatoes
Beetroot	Cauliflower	Mango	Potatoes	Water Cress
Blackberries	Celery	Mushrooms	Cucumber	Wombok



Summary

The fresh produce industry is responsible for providing all Australians with access to healthy and nutritious fruits and vegetables. A robust biosecurity system is critical to protecting the fresh produce sector and ensuring that Australian's have ongoing access to affordable, high quality fruits and vegetables.

The fresh produce industry is also the fastest growing sector within Australian agriculture, with future growth reliant on high-value export markets that value Australia's growing environment and the protection offered by our biosecurity system.

The Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 Strategic Roadmap clearly demonstrates the importance of preventing further incursions of pests and disease in Australia. On review of the Roadmap, three key areas of feedback have been identified:

1. Definition of Biosecurity
2. Responsibility of Stakeholders
3. Focus areas to deliver the most benefit

While the Roadmap identifies key activity areas, the focus of investment and engagement of the Roadmap is prevention of incursions with limited action focussed on management of existing biosecurity challenges. Stakeholders that need to be engagement in the implementation of the Roadmap have been identified but ensuring that these stakeholders are clear on their roles and responsibilities will be critical to successful implementation.

Moving forward and focusing on the implementation of the Roadmap and development of annual action plan, the Australian Fresh Produce Alliance (AFPA) and member companies would welcome further engagement from the Department on how best to address biosecurity concerns and objectives as they relate to fresh produce.

Areas of Feedback

1. Definition of Biosecurity

The Biosecurity 2030 Strategic Roadmap identifies that the key area of focus, in terms of activity and investment, is the prevention of biosecurity incursions. The Roadmap notes that response, management and recovery costs are significantly greater than the cost of prevention. The prevention of key pests and disease of concern for the horticulture industry is critical, however, the ongoing management of pests and diseases that have already become established in Australia is also vital to the ongoing growth of the horticulture sector.

It is important that the Biosecurity roadmap better consider activities and investment that align across all areas of biosecurity, not just prevention or immediate response to an incursion. Investment and planned activity that also longer-term pest and disease management is vital. While prevention is preferable, effectively managed pests and diseases that are already in Australia is of significant importance to industry.

As an example, the established population of Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) has significant implications for the horticulture sector. The management of Medfly and fruit fly more broadly is critical to a number of Australia's key horticulture export industries as well as having a substantial economic impact on domestic trade of fresh produce.



2. Responsibility of Stakeholders

Identified in the Biosecurity 2030 Roadmap is a wide list of stakeholders. Key stakeholders are identified as Australian Government; State, Territory and Local Governments; Industry and Industry Representative Bodies; Research Organisations and Individuals.

Vital in the development of future action plans is not simply identification of and engagement with stakeholders but rather clear identifications of roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder. Stakeholders need to be accountable and be clear in their deliverables to ensure that all parts of the biosecurity system are working together effectively to protect Australia's environment and economy.

While allocating appropriate responsibilities and roles in operating and actioning tasks associated with Australia's biosecurity system careful consideration must be given to proposing future cost recovery arrangements. The Biosecurity 2030 Roadmap clearly identifies that the Australian Government's biosecurity system is of national interest, a public good of "critical importance in maintaining the health, wellbeing, prosperity and lifestyle of all Australians".

3. Focus Areas to deliver the most benefit

The Biosecurity 2030 Roadmap outlines nine areas of activity that will be undertaken as part of the Roadmap. There is an opportunity to better consider as part of the implementation of the Roadmap where activity can be best focussed to deliver the greatest level of benefit to the biosecurity system. An example of this in the horticulture sector is focussing initiatives and activity on best practice management of fruit fly. Where growers are actively managing for fruit fly and undertaking activities such as more comprehensive biosecurity plans, better orchard maintenance, engagement and compliance with local, State or Territory regulations and certification standards, there is a greater overall up lift in biosecurity awareness and preparedness among affected industry.

When implementing the Biosecurity 2030 Roadmap, engagement with key stakeholders with a focus on a specific pest or disease may provide better specific outcomes, and also more broad based benefits in terms of stronger biosecurity awareness, adoption and system operation.

