

Queensland Biosecurity Strategy

2024–2029

Shared | United | Committed



Queensland
Government

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the diverse lands across Queensland and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. The Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024–2029 was developed with an appreciation of the deep connection First Nations people have with the land and waters of Queensland and the Torres Strait, recognising their vital role as custodians of country and Queensland’s natural environment.

Partners across Queensland’s biosecurity system pay respect to the Jagera and Turrbal peoples, traditional custodians of Meeanjin (Brisbane), where this strategy was developed.

Queensland’s biosecurity system recognises that the traditional wisdom and enduring connection to country by First Nations people has safeguarded this land for future generations.

We acknowledge the importance of connection to place for First Nations people and promise to protect the land, waters, sky, and natural resources of Queensland with them.

We seek the expertise and perspectives of First Nations people to enhance Queensland’s biosecurity system, building effectiveness and leading to sustainable and holistic approaches to land, water, and natural landscape management.



Ministerial foreword

Biosecurity in Queensland continues to mature and evolve as part of Australia's robust biosecurity system. It is a critical partnership between all levels of government, industry, agriculture, and Queensland communities. It safeguards our industries, economy, environment, biodiversity, and our way of life.

I'm pleased to endorse the second *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024–2029*. This strategy builds on the *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2023* which has served us well over the past 5 years, establishing a collective focus for tackling plant and animal pest and disease threats.

Building on these strong foundations, the refreshed strategy for 2024–2029 establishes a strategic framework for ongoing capability and capacity development in prevention and preparedness to address the increasing risk and changing nature of biosecurity globally.

Queensland is acknowledged as Australia's frontline state for many plant and animal pests and diseases due to climate, proximity to northern neighbours, increased movement of people and products, and our extensive coastline. As such, the potential for us to face multiple, concurrent biosecurity incidents is very real.

While Queensland's biosecurity system is strong and continues to evolve, the rising complexity and increased frequency of biosecurity threats necessitate continued collaborative efforts to address them.

Through the collective efforts of all Queenslanders, we will continue to protect our state and Australia from emerging biosecurity threats and effectively manage existing ones.

This strategy provides the mechanism for coordinating our efforts and is designed for all Queenslanders – we all share the responsibility of safeguarding Queensland.

Honourable Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry
Development and Fisheries and Minister
for Rural Communities





**‘Biosecurity safeguards
our industries, economy,
environment, biodiversity
and way of life.’**

Honourable Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and
Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

Message from the Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council

Building on Queensland's first biosecurity strategy: A refreshed approach

I'm pleased to support the *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024–2029*, a document developed in partnership and designed to guide coordinated statewide efforts that build and sustain biosecurity.

On behalf of the Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council (BQMAC), I extend my appreciation to our biosecurity system partners for their valuable contributions. Your involvement in developing this strategy has culminated in a document which benefits from the learnings in the 2018–2023 strategy; it reaffirms our commitment to shared responsibility and recognises the crucial role of biosecurity in safeguarding Queensland's environment, economy, and way of life.

This strategy acknowledges that the biosecurity challenges facing Queensland are continuing to increase exponentially. We need to work smarter and together to address these challenges, including with our interstate and national partners.

As a result, there is a refreshed focus in this strategy aligning Queensland's work with the *National Biosecurity Strategy 2022–2032*. The strategy also focuses on the need to build our collective knowledge about biosecurity threats and the factors that influence biosecurity, as well as how we monitor performance and measure the strategy's success.

This strategy once again reinforces shared responsibility at its foundation. It establishes consistent language to support the culture of our shared responsibility, including designing action to translate the legislated general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld)* into practice.



Both exotic and endemic pests and diseases that threaten, or hold the potential to threaten, our biosecurity are encompassed by this strategy. We commit to embedding risk-based and intelligence-driven prioritisation for addressing these threats irrespective of where or when they are identified.

BQMAC is encouraged that, in line with stakeholder feedback, the 2024–2029 strategy will be supported by annual reviews and action planning to ensure it retains its relevance. This is particularly important given persistent projections about the continued growth in biosecurity threats, challenges, and opportunities, as well as shifts in key drivers for biosecurity such as climate change and its differential impacts across our regions.

Once again, on behalf of BQMAC, I am thankful for the participation and contribution from our system partners in developing this strategy, and more generally, in promoting improvement in Queensland's biosecurity status. We call for you to continue your commitment, and we are happy to support the *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024–2029* as the framework for guiding our collective and coordinated efforts.

Scott Spencer
BQMAC Chair



Our purpose

Biosecurity: Protecting Queensland's economy, environment and lifestyle

Queensland relies on a robust biosecurity system to protect animal, plant, human, and environmental health.

Queenslanders have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to safeguarding our state's unique natural environment, superior produce, and enviable outdoor lifestyle, in response to increases in harmful pests, weeds and diseases nationally and globally.

It's crucial to embed coordinated controls and measures to mitigate the risk of biosecurity threats infiltrating, emerging, establishing, or spreading across Queensland, ensuring the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Plant and animal pests and diseases hold far-reaching effects for our communities, ranging from increased cost of living to reduced access to social amenities and include human health risks and decreased biodiversity.

Every Queenslander plays a part in preventing and responding to plant and animal pests and diseases that threaten our great state.

This strategy establishes an overarching framework, guiding collaborative efforts by all partners to protect our economy, environment, and lifestyle. It also calls on every Queenslander to assist the biosecurity system in developing the capability and capacity needed to shield Queensland from continuously evolving biosecurity risks.

Worth protecting



Economy

Queensland's food and fibre products are highly sought after nationally and internationally. Plant and animal pests and diseases impact production and restrict market access for industry and supply chains, causing substantial economic losses. While Queensland's agricultural sector faces the greatest risk, biosecurity threats affect all sectors ranging from retail and construction to importers.



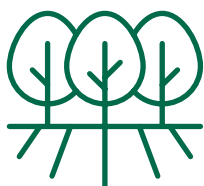
Communities

Plant and animal pests and diseases have widespread economic and social impacts, affecting entire communities. Biosecurity incidents strain community resilience, especially when they lead to reduced production or disrupt the supply chain. The agricultural sector, crucial for many rural and regional communities across Queensland, is particularly vulnerable. Implementing biosecurity measures that build community resilience and preparedness is crucial for maintaining thriving and cohesive communities.



Food and fibre

Queensland has a global reputation for producing a diversity of high-quality food and fibre products, which are also enjoyed nationally and internationally. Plant and animal pests and diseases disrupt the availability and quality of our produce, adding to cost-of-living pressures and potentially compromising food safety and consumer health.



Environment

Queensland's renowned biodiversity is essential for our state's tourism industry. Our unique and expansive ecosystems and varied climate makes Queensland highly susceptible to a wide range of plant and animal pests and diseases, which can have potentially devastating effects on our environment.



Lifestyle

Queenslanders and visitors cherish our outdoor lifestyle. Biosecurity threats, especially invasive pests and weeds, impact Queensland's social activities and enjoyment of nature, potentially altering the way we live, socialise, and enjoy our natural surroundings and biodiversity.

Vision, goals and guiding principles

Single, united vision

This strategy is underpinned by the vision that our state is protected from biosecurity threats through the coordinated and informed efforts of all Queenslanders.

Queensland thrives from a collaborative, efficient and future-focused biosecurity system committed to safeguarding our environment, economy, communities, and lifestyle from biosecurity threats.

Shared goals

Approaches to biosecurity must be responsive to various threats, with the primary aim of safeguarding Queensland. Our shared goals for Queensland's biosecurity system are to:

- prevent the entry, spread, or establishment of exotic pests and diseases in Queensland
- contain, suppress, or manage significant pests and diseases already present in Queensland
- contribute to Queensland's food security and maintain our reputation as a safe and high-quality trade partner
- protect Queensland's economy, environment, biodiversity, rural and regional communities, and way of life
- prepare for and effectively address new pest and disease incursions.

Guiding principles

Partnerships determine our success. Biosecurity requires an integrated system where all partners understand and fulfil their roles. Partnerships, while sometimes challenged by competing and unanticipated priorities, represent the cornerstone of safeguarding Queensland from biosecurity threats. As a collective, we agree on the following guiding principles that underpin the strategy and cultivate a stronger biosecurity system for our state:

- **Trust:** Partners commit to transparency, sharing and mutual learning.
- **Collaborate:** Partners commit to coordinated effort in recognition of its vital role in a robust biosecurity system.
- **Participate:** Partners commit to engagement, acknowledging that proactive and preventative measures are more effective than reactive remedies.
- **Innovate:** Partners commit to challenging the status quo and developing responsive solutions.
- **Future-focused:** Partners commit to addressing current threats and evaluating the future by scanning Queensland's horizon and assessing emerging risks, challenges, opportunities, and trends.



‘Queensland thrives from a collaborative, efficient and future-focused biosecurity system.’

A framework for Queensland's biosecurity system

Strategy scope and alignment

This strategy addresses challenges and opportunities for the entire Queensland biosecurity system. Covering exotic pests and diseases not yet present in Australia and endemic ones that are already here, it encourages a risk-based approach for prioritisation and allocation of effort.

In Queensland, the *Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld)* establishes the legislative framework for biosecurity. This modern legislation supports the strategy by providing comprehensive biosecurity measures to protect Queensland. It also reinforces that everyone plays a role in biosecurity by establishing the general biosecurity obligation (GBO).

The GBO means everyone holds responsibility for managing those under their control and, to the best of their ability, recognise and minimise biosecurity risks within their industry, home, or place of visitation.

Under Queensland's GBO, individuals and organisations must not spread a pest, disease or a contaminant by:

- taking all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risk,

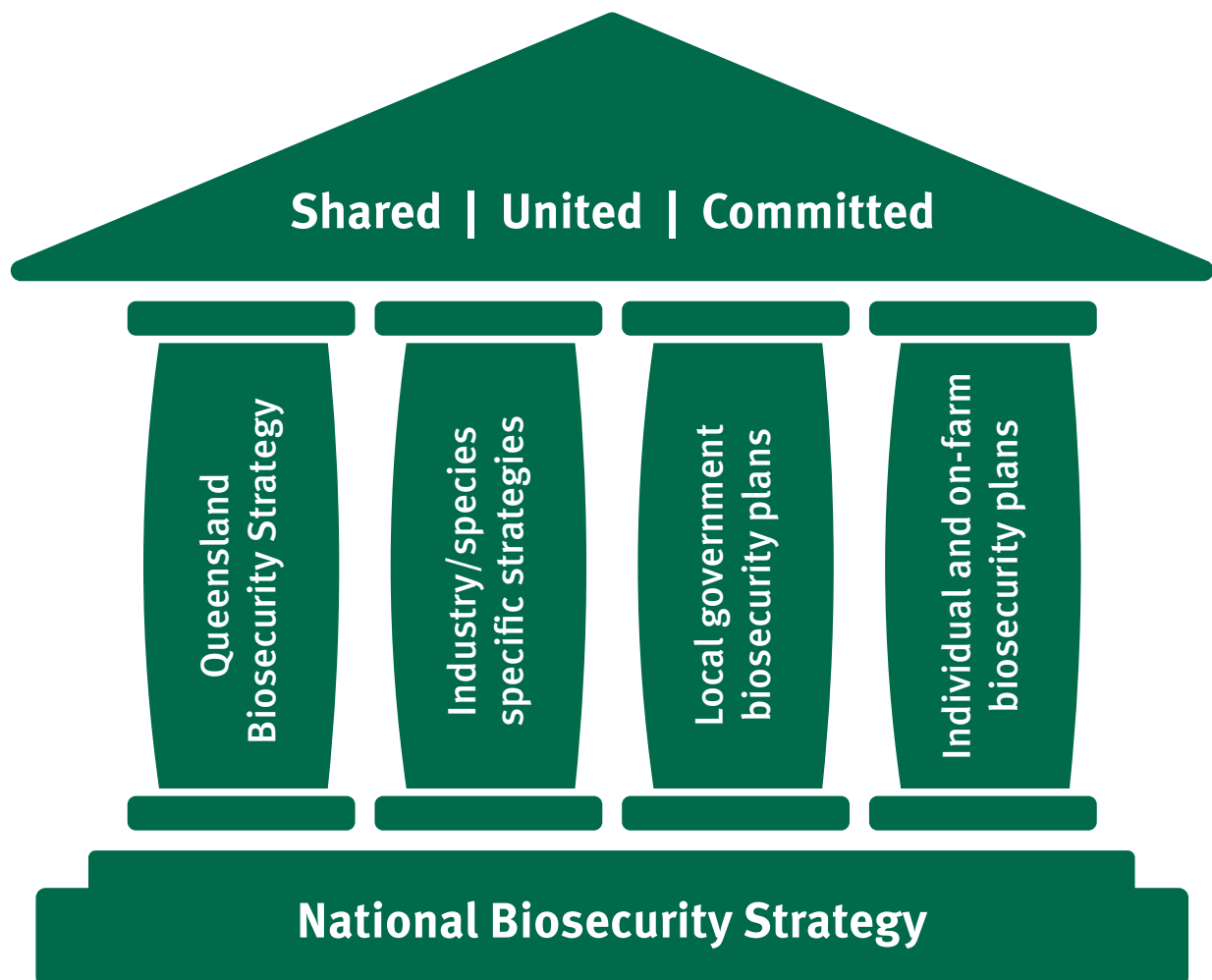
- minimising the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event', and limiting the consequences if such an event occurs,
- preventing or minimising the harmful effects of a risk, and not increasing any harmful effects.

Coordinated efforts between states and at the national level are crucial for good biosecurity outcomes. Recent examples like white spot disease in prawns, red imported fire ants, and varroa mite confirm cross-border biosecurity vulnerabilities. These examples reiterate the importance of aligning state and national efforts to safeguard our interconnected industries, environments, economies, and communities.

This strategy builds on and aligns with the *National Biosecurity Strategy 2022–2032* and its implementation and action plans. It also serves as a framework to support local government and industry biosecurity plans. This alignment ensures the Queensland and Australian biosecurity systems remain strong - it recognises cross-border connections yet accommodates Queensland's unique vulnerabilities and biosecurity requirements.



Translating vision into action: An integrated approach to managing biosecurity

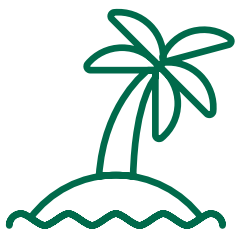


What shapes Queensland's biosecurity

Drivers

Factors influencing Queensland's biosecurity risks and biosecurity system

Multiple factors influence the type, nature, complexity, and extent of biosecurity threats faced by Queensland. Queensland's biosecurity system needs to continually adapt and evolve to effectively prevent and respond to these multifaceted drivers.



Uniqueness

Geography, attributes and assets: national parks, coastline, northern location, borders 3 states, suitable climate.



Disruptors

Climate change, COVID, natural disasters, war, decreasing biodiversity, global shift to sustainability.



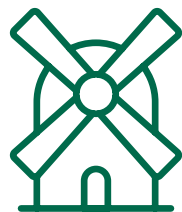
Movement

Impact of trade, future tourism, illegal activity/online shopping.



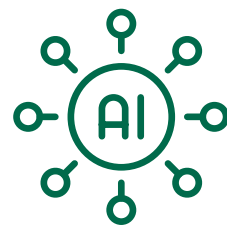
Population

Growth forecasts, development and urbanisation.



Land use

Trends are changing: land diversification, competition for agricultural areas with infrastructure, land conservation.



Innovation

Emerging technologies have the potential to revolutionise how we detect and manage biosecurity risks.

Biosecurity system partners



Partners assume crucial roles within Queensland's biosecurity system, contributing diverse perspectives, expertise, lived experience, and resources. Successful biosecurity outcomes depend on the willingness and commitment of each, and every partner.

How partners fulfill their part

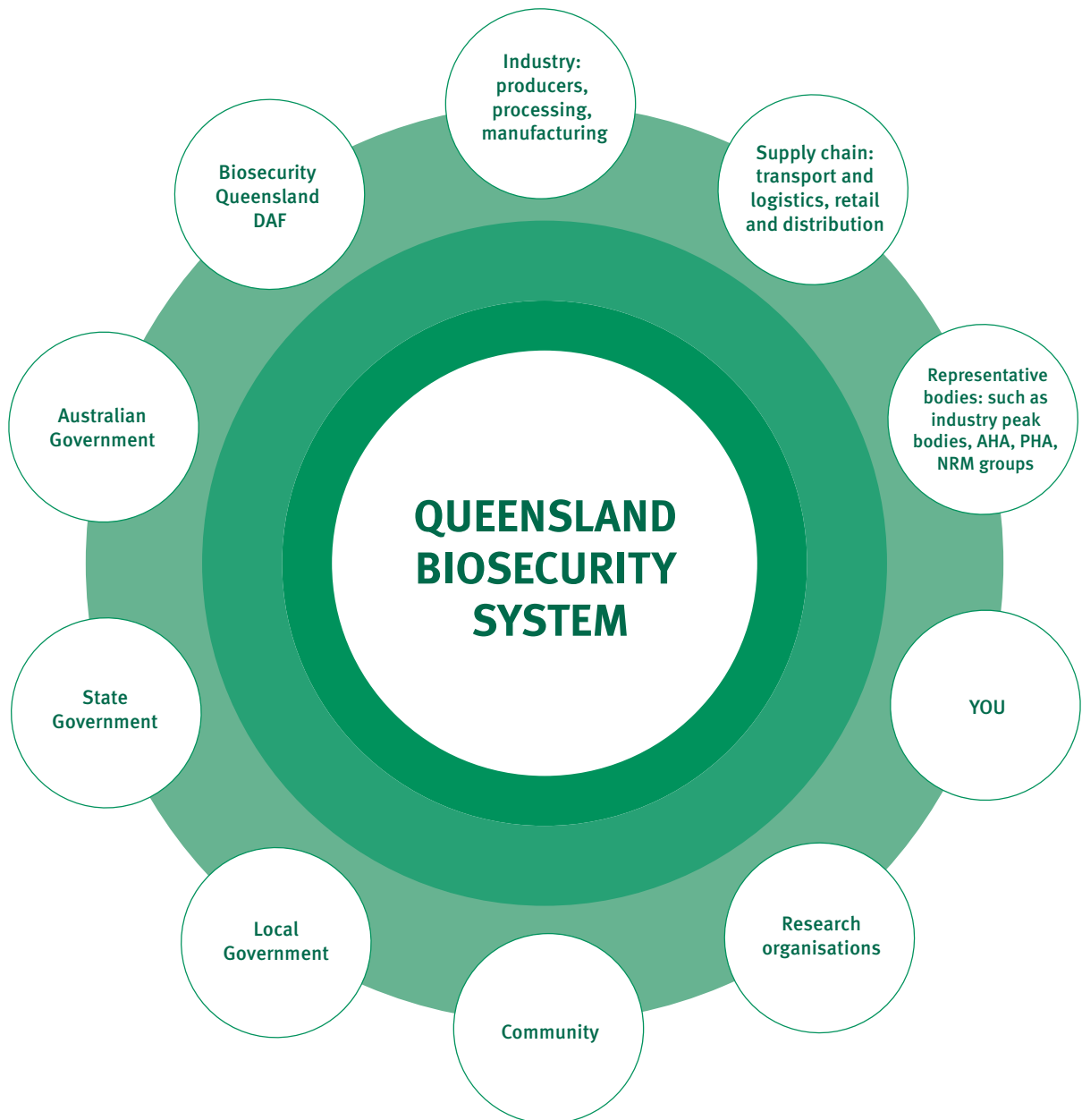
Collaborative decision-making: Partners across the biosecurity system participate in the development and implementation of the strategy. Partner input ensures diverse perspectives are considered, promoting informed and well-rounded decision-making. Facilitating collaborative, transparent, and accountable decision-making ensures that choices are in harmony with Queensland's biosecurity system and aligned with the strategy.

Expertise and knowledge sharing: Queensland faces complex and diverse biosecurity challenges, both current and emerging. Recognising and sharing

specialised knowledge, expertise, and learnings will minimise duplication of effort, identify potential risks, inform the design of effective, evidence-based interventions, and implement best practices.

Community action: Engaging with local-level and community partners fosters shared ownership and responsibility, and increases compliance with biosecurity measures. It also improves reporting of potential threats, builds our collective knowledge through citizen science, and encourages proactivity in response to biosecurity challenges. Partners in leadership positions play crucial roles in community engagement, embedding the GBO as standard practice for everyone.

Trusted relationships: Biosecurity is a dynamic field, with new challenges constantly emerging. Building mutual trust across biosecurity system partners strengthens collaboration and reinforces shared responsibility and ownership. Trusted partner relationships encourage innovation and adaptation which present critical attributes of the system to ensure it adapts to changing circumstances over time.





Theme 1

Collaborative governance and leadership

National biosecurity strategy alignment

Strong partnerships

We will strengthen and expand partnerships and networks between all stakeholders at local, regional, national, and international levels.

Governance and leadership are critical as biosecurity requires effort from various partners, including government agencies, industry representatives, scientific researchers, healthcare professionals, communities, and people. Collaborative governance and leadership support a shared vision, uniting diverse partners to collectively address biosecurity threats.

Governance and leadership are especially crucial for biosecurity as the multifaceted challenges often transcend organisational, jurisdictional, and functional boundaries. Collaborative governance and leadership refer to a set of principles and practices aimed at addressing complex biosecurity challenges through cooperation, coordination, and shared decision-making among relevant stakeholders.

Collaboration, mutual trust, and common goals are at the core to theme one. The approach emphasises inclusivity, cooperation, and informed decision-making to enhance preparedness, response, and resilience in the face of increasing biosecurity risks.

Diverse partners work together to identify threats and opportunities, assess risks, and develop system-wide strategies and approaches to improve biosecurity and any mitigation and response to threats.

Areas of focus

- **Framework and procedure development** – to allow relevant stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to system governance, design and decision making.
- **Collaboration and transparency** – to help stakeholders leverage potential, share knowledge, and reduce potential duplication of effort.

What outcome will be achieved

The Queensland biosecurity system establishes frameworks and procedures that drive collective and collaborative partnerships, which are inclusive, transparent, and aligned at all levels.

What will success look like

By 2029, priorities for investment in the Queensland biosecurity system are determined through an agreed governance structure involving partners.





Theme 2

Every Queenslander plays their part

National biosecurity strategy alignment

Shared biosecurity culture

We will enhance our culture of biosecurity action, so everyone understands its importance and plays their part.

Biosecurity relies on a shared culture where the strength of the system depends on the willingness of everyone to be actively involved. In Queensland, responsibility for good biosecurity practices is also underpinned by the general biosecurity obligation.

Achieving widespread positive behaviour requires deepening everyone's understanding of, and commitment to, Queensland's biosecurity and encouraging community and industry stewardship across the system.

Social research is foundational for informing initiatives that build awareness, drive positive biosecurity behaviours, and incentivise voluntary compliance.

Promoting a culture of mutual support, collaboration, and coordination will inspire Queenslanders to actively embrace their biosecurity role as part of creating a resilient and united system to safeguard our state.

Areas of focus

- **Roles and responsibilities** – helping stakeholders better understand the beliefs, attitudes, intentions, and behaviours of groups across the biosecurity system to inform tailored strategies that encourage positive biosecurity behaviours.
- **Education and awareness** – driving positive biosecurity behaviours and embedding good biosecurity practices in business and community planning.

What outcome will be achieved

Queenslanders have access to a broad range of programs that promote positive biosecurity behaviours and embed planning and practices, particularly for high-risk partners or industries.

What will success look like

By 2029, partners will have an enhanced understanding of what biosecurity means for them, how their activities create risk, and how they can minimise risk and manage issues to embrace and actively fulfil their general biosecurity obligation.





Theme 3

Empowered to act

National biosecurity strategy alignment

Highly skilled workforce

We will develop and sustain a highly skilled workforce to ensure we have the right capability and capacity, in the right place, at the right time.

Queensland will continue to strengthen biosecurity capability, capacity, and resilience through a highly skilled and responsive workforce. With biosecurity threats continuing to evolve, a well-equipped, adaptable, and proficient workforce is needed to manage emerging biosecurity challenges.

The changing dynamics of biosecurity call for a robust system with the necessary human, physical, and systemic attributes to effectively address preparedness, prevention, surveillance, response, market access, and endemic threat management.

Partners are increasingly embracing their responsibility for managing biosecurity risk. Biosecurity partners from industry, the supply chain, government, and the community must continue to be empowered to build their expertise and skills and encouraged to use their capability to uplift Queensland's biosecurity system.

Areas of focus

- **Skills enhancement** – to develop capability across the system that addresses identified biosecurity needs now and into the future.
- **Knowledge and skills transfer** – to develop professional collaborative networks that directly support a highly skilled and responsive biosecurity workforce.

What outcome will be achieved

A biosecurity training and development framework, based on a comprehensive environment scan, will be in place to build the highly skilled workforce required to support the State's biosecurity system now and into the future.

What will success look like

By 2029, stakeholders will support a workforce plan and have broad access to biosecurity training and streamlined professional development programs that address biosecurity-related skill gaps.





Theme 4

Innovation and intelligence

National biosecurity strategy alignment

Integration supported by technology,
research and data

We will create a more connected, efficient
and science-based system to facilitate more
timely, informed and risk-based decisions.

Ongoing innovation across the system is necessary to manage biosecurity risks, community expectations and competing investment priorities.

Fit-for-purpose innovation and intelligence will provide the system confidence in biosecurity decision-making and deliver value to all Queenslanders.

A more integrated and intelligence-driven system will facilitate timely, informed and evidence-based decisions across the biosecurity system.

Adopted technologies will have clear value propositions with transparent communication about them to drive timely investment. We will develop, share, and embed new technologies in areas such as traceability, surveillance, screening, data analytics, treatments, and diagnostics.

There will be a clear definition of what 'intelligence' means and the agreed sources of data and information that will be used e.g. model, geographic information, shared data sources, and surveillance information from across biosecurity partners.

Biosecurity research priorities will continue to be delivered, informed by national biosecurity research, development, and extension (RD&E) strategies.

Areas of focus

- **Environmental scanning** – to strengthen efforts in the collection and analysis of intelligence about emerging biosecurity threats and implement practices to identify potential risks and trends proactively.
- **Exploration and promotion of new technologies** – to actively explore, evaluate and promote new technologies which can be applied to improve detection methods, and the management and eradication of new biosecurity threats.

What outcome will be achieved

The timely adoption of innovation and intelligence practices that keeps Queensland informed about, and ready to respond to, emerging trends and risks.

What will success look like

By 2029, Queensland integrates intelligence and data to assist with detecting and assessing current and emerging biosecurity trends, and encourage innovation, technology, and research to deliver timely, risk-based decision making.





Theme 5

Valuing and building on our investments

National biosecurity strategy alignment

Sustainable investment

We will ensure funding and investment is sufficient, co-funded, transparent, targeted to our priorities, and sustainable for the long-term.

Biosecurity risks are increasing, which requires investment to keep pace with these changing threats and ensure approaches to biosecurity remain responsive.

Valuing and building on the investment in biosecurity protects public health and safety and safeguards economic stability, national security, biodiversity, and the environment.

Investment in biosecurity takes many forms, including capital expenditure to develop systems, funds to undertake research to inform decision making and secure skilled human capital for the system.

Measuring impact at all levels of the biosecurity system requires prioritisation to assess value for Queensland and inform future investment.

Establishing a future sustainable funding model will benefit from an analysis of past incidents to determine the potential costs associated with biosecurity threats.

Building and valuing investments in biosecurity is ongoing requiring dedication from all parts of the system.

Areas of focus

- **Co-investment** – to develop frameworks and procedures that allow partners to meaningfully contribute to proposed investment.
- **Sustainable funding** – to increase transparency of biosecurity activities across Queensland as a foundation for ongoing shared investment.

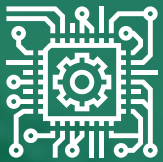
What outcome will be achieved

Investment in the Queensland biosecurity system prioritises positive outcomes and substantially reduces risk.

What will success look like

By 2029, a sustainable funding model is developed to ensure Queensland's biosecurity system prioritise activities according to risk.





Theme 6

Response effectiveness and preparedness

National biosecurity strategy alignment

Coordinated preparedness and response

We will boost our system's adaptability and its capacity to prevent, detect, manage, respond to, and recover from, outbreaks.

Our climate, proximity to neighbouring countries and extensive coastline are among the factors that make Queensland a frontline state for threats against biosecurity. Queensland has an opportunity to build on its strong foundation in biosecurity preparedness and experience in responding to and eradicating plant and animal pests and diseases.

As biosecurity threats continue to increase, the potential for multiple, concurrent pest and/or disease outbreaks expand. To protect Queensland's economy, communities, and the environment, a risk-based and comprehensive approach to developing Queensland's response, recovery and resilience capacity and capability is needed.

Strong integration between biosecurity and emergency response preparedness and response systems will expand networks and build knowledge that will assist in enhanced effectiveness during an outbreak. Understanding and supporting local governments and regional frontline responders are critical to success.

Robust preparedness will be underpinned by a commitment to collaboration, continuous learning, and streamlined data-sharing.

Building trust among key partner groups will bolster resilience and accelerate industry and community recovery, including events involving transition to management.

Areas of focus

- **Targeted approach** – to define and address preparedness targets that leverage the emergency management system and upskill stakeholders who would be most impacted by an incident.
- **Build trust** – to increase coordination and collaboration around preparedness and emergency management.

What outcome will be achieved

Queensland's biosecurity system will have a robust preparedness framework that includes defined targets for upskilling, information sharing, and engagement irrespective of the threat faced.

What will success look like

By 2029, key partners in the biosecurity response system are connected and have the capability and capacity to build resilience and reduce the harm associated with biosecurity threats.



Next steps

Queensland's strategy aligns with the *National Biosecurity Strategy 2022–2032* and complements other existing local, state, and national strategies and plans that support biosecurity. This strategy also builds on the efforts undertaken by governments, industries, First Nations people, landowners and managers, supply chain organisations, environmental groups, and communities.

Focus areas identified under each theme of the strategy set the approach for each partner when developing actions to support and monitor progress towards achieving our outcomes.

As part of the implementation approach, annual statements of intent will guide action under focus areas over each 12-month period for the life of the strategy. The strategy's implementation will be assessed according to a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Additional information supporting this strategy will be accessible **online** and periodically updated as knowledge grows and actions under the strategy are delivered.

For more information about the *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029*

Phone:

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Visit:

www.daf.qld.gov.au/biosecuritystrategy

Connect

@BiosecurityQld







Acknowledgements

The following organisations took part in the strategy refresh Partners' Forum 2023 as contributors:

AgForce Queensland
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Animal Health Australia
Australian Banana Growers Council
Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association
Australian Organic Limited
Australian Pork Limited
Australian Prawn Farmers Association
Australian Veterinary Association
Australian Veterinary Association – Queensland Division
AUSVEG
Ausvet
Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council
Brisbane City Council
Canegrowers – Queensland Cane Growers Organisation
Central Highlands Regional Council
Charles Sturt University
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Australian Government)
Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Department of Environment and Science
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Essential Foresight
Gladstone Ports Corporation
Herefords Australia
Inspector-General for Emergency Management
Invasives Species Council
James Cook University
Local Government Association of Queensland
National Resource Management Regions Australia
Plant Health Australia
Pork Queensland
Poultry Industry Association New Zealand
Queensland Beekeepers Association
Queensland Farmers' Federation
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Queensland Water and Land Carers
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