



## Australian Government

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### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Office of Best Practice Regulation

Reference: 16609  
Telephone: 6271 6270  
Email: helpdesk@obpr.gov.au

Ms Rona Mellor PSM  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Agriculture

*Via email*

Dear Ms Mellor

#### **Final Assessment of Regulation Impact Statement – Biosecurity Legislation**

Thank you for forwarding the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for final assessment on 15 May 2014. I note that you have formally certified the RIS as required by the best practice regulation requirements.

The Office of Best Practice Regulation's (OBPR) final assessment is that the Department of Agriculture is compliant with the Government's requirements. This assessment is based on:

- the annual regulatory cost savings having been agreed with the OBPR (some \$6.9 million);
- the Department of Agriculture having twice submitted the certified RIS for the OBPR's assessment prior to a decision being taken; and
- your letter of 15 May certifying that the RIS responds to the OBPR's formal comments of 12 May.

In addition, I note that the RIS: addresses the 7 RIS questions; does not contain obvious errors; and considers a minimum of three policy options, one of which is a non-regulatory option.

The RIS concludes that the proposed legislation will allow resources to be better focussed on biosecurity risks that may cause the most harm. It does this by: reducing red tape; providing a more risk-based approach to compliance; and allowing for modern and efficient service delivery.

The OBPR notes that while the overall effect of the proposed legislation is a reduction in regulatory burden on business, the compliance cost burden on some industry participants is expected to increase. This is primarily through the increased regulation to manage biosecurity risks associated with ballast water by domestic vessel movements.

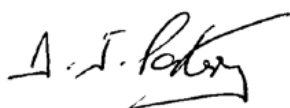
*Publication requirements*

The OBPR maintains a RIS website and the Government requires that RISs be posted within 5 business days of a regulatory decision being publicly announced. We would appreciate you advising us when a decision on this proposal is announced and forwarding a final copy of the RIS in *Microsoft Word .doc* format in a form meeting the Australian Government's *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines*.

We suggest liaising with your web services team to ensure these guidelines are met. The OBPR should be consulted if the RIS is amended. It is the agency preparing the RIS, not the OBPR, which is responsible for the content of the published RIS. The website provides a public comment facility. The OBPR moderates this facility for offensive content but does not moderate debate.

Please retain this letter as a record of the OBPR's advice. Our reference number for this issue is 16609. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 6271 6279.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. J. Porter', with a horizontal line underneath.

Darrell Porter  
Deputy Executive Director  
Office of Best Practice Regulation  
21 May 2014