



Mr Jason McNamara
Executive Director
Office of Best Practice Regulation
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Email: helpdesk@obpr.gov.au

Dear Mr McNamara

REGULATION IMPACT STATEMENT –FINAL ASSESSMENT SECOND PASS

I am writing in relation to the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared for the Department of Agriculture (the department) for new biosecurity legislation. The regulatory burden to business, community organisations and/or individuals has been quantified and offsets have been identified and quantified using the Business Cost Calculator. These have been agreed with your office.

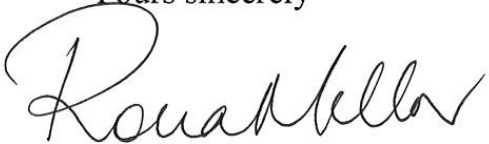
I am satisfied that the RIS addresses the concerns raised in your letter of 12 May 2014. Specifically, the department has made the following amendments which are included in the attached version:

- The executive summary provides a clearer summary of the key points arising from the RIS and includes the net estimated compliance costs savings and the distributional effect of these changes on businesses.
- The department has included information on the consultation that has taken place on the proposed biosecurity legislation since it was introduced to Parliament in 2012.
- The ‘no regulation or self regulation’ has been removed from the impact analysis and compliance costs chapter as no regulation or a reliance on self regulation is not considered feasible.
- The department has explained more directly that by reducing unnecessary regulatory and administration burden, it is expected that biosecurity resources will be better focused on biosecurity risks that may cause the most harm and therefore the effectiveness of biosecurity risk management.
- The department has addressed questions regarding the compliance cost estimates for approved arrangements and first points of entry.
- The RIS provides reasoning for the statement that it is not possible to estimate the costs to business of updating their facility to become a first point of entry.

- In the preferred option section, the department has drawn together all of the analysis in the RIS to provide the decision maker with a fuller picture of the likely impacts of the proposed biosecurity legislation. This takes into account the reduction in regulatory burden, the distributional effects of the proposed biosecurity legislation on stakeholders and the compliance cost savings.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS now meets best practice consistent with the *Australian Government Guide to Regulation*.
I submit the RIS to the Office of Best Practice Regulation for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rona Mellor', written in a cursive style.

Rona Mellor

Deputy Secretary
Department of Agriculture
2014

Cc: Chief Medical Officer
Department of Health