



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

Dear Mr Lange

Regulation Impact Statement – Final Assessment Second Pass

I am writing in relation to the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared for *Protecting Australian agricultural production and exports from growing global hitchhiker threats*.

I am satisfied that the RIS addresses the concerns raised in your letter of 29 April 2021.

To address your recommendations, the RIS has been amended to provide further detail and analysis on the -

- Estimated economic consequences of some of the key hitchhiker pests that have the potential to inflict significant damage on our agricultural industries, environment and broader economy.
- Impacts to industry by continuing under current arrangements from increased intervention and treatment of risk shipping containers and cargoes.
- Costs and benefits of the three feasible options proposed based on available information, including the increased effectiveness and efficiencies gained from managing hitchhiker pests under the preferred option.
- Consultation and recommendations from affected stakeholders that informed the policy development process and therefore the best option.
- Implementation and evaluation of the best option.

The RIS now better explores feasible options to respond to the growing biosecurity threat of hitchhiker pests for Australia. The assessment identified the best way forward for minimising unwarranted impost to businesses and consumers whilst still achieving an appropriate level of protection for Australia, which is defined in the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, as a high level of protection aimed at reducing risk to a very low level, but not to zero,

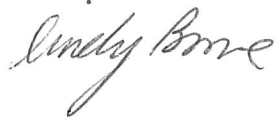
Fundamental to managing biosecurity is the capability of the biosecurity system to manage risk within the context of uncertain events occurring. As such a detailed cost-benefit analysis was not possible, however the RIS assessed how to shift more of the intervention activities offshore to points in the supply chain to achieve highest level of biosecurity protection and minimise unwarranted costs and delays.

On this basis, option 2, the integrated regulation and supply chain solution has been assessed as achieving ALOP whilst minimising unwarranted impost to business and consumers. Once fully implemented, this option is expected to be the most appropriate option as it will impose the least avoidable regulation and costs, as well as provide Australia with the strongest safeguard against hitchhiker pests. The precise cost to industry will depend on the nature of the risks and the type of controls adopted, including the location of the controls (offshore or onshore) and whether the controls are government or industry led. Therefore, the exact costs and savings have not been quantified in this RIS.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS is now consistent with the six principles for Australian Government policy makers as specified in the *Australian Government Guide to Regulatory Impact Analysis*.

I submit the RIS to the Office of Best Practice Regulation for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Briscoe".

Cindy Briscoe
Deputy Secretary
30 April 2021