

## **Reshaping agriculture biosecurity for Australia**

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Australia has an enviable pest and disease status which provides significant benefit to the Australian industry, environment and community. However as new challenges arise and the global situation changes, biosecurity systems must evolve and improve to maintain their effectiveness.

The recent review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements (the Beale Review) recommended a new paradigm shifting from over-emphasis on border activities to strengthening systems along the biosecurity continuum (pre-border, border and post-border). This involves targeted, risk-based implementation of controls and sharing responsibility for biosecurity between governments, industry and the community. The new paradigm recognises that zero-risk is unachievable and encourages biosecurity stakeholders to work "smarter", particularly through risk-based targeting of resources to areas of the biosecurity system where activities will have the greatest return for the resources invested.

Reshaping of Australia's agriculture biosecurity will not be solely based on the outcomes of the Beale Review. There are many other challenges facing Australia: many biosecurity budgets are shrinking as a result of the global financial crisis and competing priorities; long term drought affects the ability of the agricultural community to invest time and money in biosecurity; there is a growing expectation that biosecurity arrangements will cover threats that impact beyond primary production; and, there is ever-increasing pressure for market access, both into and out of Australia.

It is within this context that biosecurity agencies in Australia are working to enhance our biosecurity system. Partnerships and associated decision making processes are being strengthened to protect the biosecurity status of our agricultural industries, together with the environment, is secured for future generations.