



Rebecca Vassarotti MLA  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Heritage  
Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services  
Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Member for Kurrajong

21/97495

The Hon David Littleproud MP  
Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia  
Parliament House  
[Minister.Littleproud@awe.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Littleproud@awe.gov.au)

Dear Minister Littleproud *David*

I write in response to recent discussions at the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and your request to report on jurisdictions' annual biosecurity expenditure for the ACT.

The ACT recognises that understanding expenditure on biosecurity will help to ensure that the national biosecurity system is resourced to maintain Australia's appropriate level of protection. For the financial years 2015-16 to 2020-21, the ACT's traceable expenditure on biosecurity was \$20.13m and a yearly breakdown of that expenditure is provided at Attachment A.

If any further information is required, please don't hesitate to contact me; or have your officials contact Bruce Hancocks, within my directorate ([bruce.hancocks@act.gov.au](mailto:bruce.hancocks@act.gov.au) -02 62054322).

The ACT is committed to national collaboration on agriculture through AMM and I look forward to continued progress on work program priorities.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

*13/11/2021*

ACT Legislative Assembly London Circuit, GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

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Attachment A: ACT Biosecurity Expenditure (2015/16 – 2020/21)

Financial year					
15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
\$1.83m	\$3.18m	\$4.33m	\$3.03m	\$3.91m	\$3.85m

**From:** [EPSD Government Services](#)  
**To:** [EPSDD DLO](#)  
**Subject:** TASH: File request: Biosecurity expenditure Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 18 October 2021 4:31:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [Background and scope for biosecurity expenditure reporting.pdf](#)  
[MS21-000070 Littleproud to Vassarotti - ACT.pdf](#)  
[ACT Biosecurity expenditure.docx](#)

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Hi Tash,

Please see below/attached from Env – let me know if you need me to set up a file

Thanks,

**Aimie Burns** | Ministerial Liaison Officer – Government Services  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate  
ACT Government | PH: 6207 2156 | [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)

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**From:** EPSDD Environment <[EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 October 2021 15:08  
**To:** EPSD Government Services <[EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** EPSDD Environment <[EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** File request: Biosecurity expenditure Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Govs team

Can you please consider and respond to the email below from Bruce.

Kind regards

Bindu

**Bindu Johnson (he/him)** | Government Business Officer  
**Executive Business Support | Environment, Heritage and Water Division**  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate  
Ph: +61 2 6205 1189 | Email: [Bindu.Johnson@act.gov.au](mailto:Bindu.Johnson@act.gov.au)

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**From:** Hancocks, Bruce <[Bruce.Hancocks@act.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Hancocks@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 October 2021 1:33 PM  
**To:** EPSDD Environment <[EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Coghill, Stacey <[Stacey.Coghill@act.gov.au](mailto:Stacey.Coghill@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: For action 8 October: Biosecurity expenditure Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Bindu

Can you ask GS to setup a template for response to Littleproud from Minister Vassarotti? Min V received the attached letter before my time (March) so I'm not sure if there is an existing folder or whether one needs to be created?

I am still waiting on input from BRS to complete the request.

Regards

Bruce

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**From:** Hancocks, Bruce  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 October 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** McLeod, Rebecca <[Rebecca.McLeod@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.McLeod@act.gov.au)>; Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Sides, Tim <[Tim.Sides@act.gov.au](mailto:Tim.Sides@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: For action 8 October: Biosecurity expenditure Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Bec and Warren

DAWE wanting an estimation of our biosecurity expenditure over the last 6 financial years. I've put together a table based on what DAWE have suggested is in scope and completed what our

area has carriage for (attached).

Are you able to complete from the BRS side? Whilst this is already due to DAWE, if you could get something back to me in the next couple of days that would be great. I just did rough estimates of staff costs for activity and used budget rather than actual spent for the years identified.

Cheers

Bruce

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**From:** Biosecurity Evaluation <[biosecurity.evaluation@awe.gov.au](mailto:biosecurity.evaluation@awe.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 30 September 2021 4:41 PM

**To:** Lynch, Jasmyn <[Jasmyn.Lynch@act.gov.au](mailto:Jasmyn.Lynch@act.gov.au)>; Sides, Tim <[Tim.Sides@act.gov.au](mailto:Tim.Sides@act.gov.au)>; Hancocks, Bruce <[Bruce.Hancocks@act.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Hancocks@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Wellman, Hannah <[Hannah.Wellman@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.Wellman@agriculture.gov.au)>; Biosecurity Evaluation <[biosecurity.evaluation@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:biosecurity.evaluation@agriculture.gov.au)>; Qureshi, Ejaz <[Ejaz.Qureshi@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:Ejaz.Qureshi@agriculture.gov.au)>

**Subject:** For action 8 October: Biosecurity expenditure Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Dear ACT colleagues

As you are aware, one of the deliverables arising from the Agriculture Minister's Meeting held this past June, is to compile annual biosecurity expenditure by jurisdiction for financial years 2015-16 – 2020-21 inclusive.

Please see the attached document which outlines the background of this deliverable, as well as the suggested scope for biosecurity expenditure reporting as discussed at the recent working group meeting earlier this month.

The Commonwealth is assisting in coordinating this deliverable, and subject to views received from this group, we will progress this matter through the NBC network and an update will also be provided to the AMM meeting on 1 November 2021.

We encourage you to review the attached and provide any updates to our team as appropriate.

**Actions:**

We would appreciate your response by COB Friday 8 October. Please email responses to [biosecurity.evaluation@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:biosecurity.evaluation@agriculture.gov.au)

Kind Regards,

Biosecurity Evaluation Team

Ejaz Qureshi

Assistant Director | Biosecurity Future Design | Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Office

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

18 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra | GPO Box 858, Canberra A.C.T 2601

☎ 02 6272 2374

✉ [ejaz.qureshi@awe.gov.au](mailto:ejaz.qureshi@awe.gov.au)

Attachments:

Background and scope for biosecurity expenditure reporting

Copy of Letter from Minister Littleproud to the Hon Rebecca Vassarotti MLA on 15 March 2021

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Expenditure category	Description	Spending 15-16 to 20-21.
Biosecurity risk management strategies	Risk management strategies including having an agreed strategy, legislative frameworks, policy material, risk strategy and analysis capability, performance evaluation framework	\$1.2m (approx. 200k per year)
Stakeholder biosecurity awareness and capability building (domestic and overseas)	Stakeholder awareness, capability/capacity building, communication and engagement as well as education and outreach (including producers and land/sea managers, logistics sector, importers/exporters, consumers, travellers)	
Biosecurity prevention and preparedness	National and jurisdiction emergency response activity through to proof of freedom/transition to management, including initial incident definition phase should response not proceed. <i>Industry compensation payments?</i>	Contribution to national emergency response - \$496k
Established pest and disease management	Programs specifically focused on management/control of established pests and diseases, including on-ground effort, RDE into new control tools, national and regional coordination	
Interstate, regional and local biosecurity movement controls together with	Establishing or assuring such arrangements along with verification,	

mitigation, containment or exclusion arrangements to seek to retain 'pest/disease free' status	compliance and enforcement activity	
Business systems (supporting biosecurity outcomes)	These are about any systems, innovative approaches or technologies used to enhance biosecurity risk analysis and management including automation and machine learning, technology driven surveillance and diagnostic capability as well as databases and reference collections	
		Total = \$