

Agriculture Victoria  
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Australia



10 March 2026

## **Re: Victorian Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Plan Consultation**

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Victorian Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Plan (the draft Plan).

As the peak industry body representing the post farm gate meat industry, AMIC supports an integrated biosecurity framework that promotes animal health and welfare, ensures compliance with food safety standards, provides regulatory clarity, and supports the livestock supply chain, market access and long-term industry sustainability.

AMIC supports the overall direction of the draft Plan and its shared responsibility approach. The comments below focus on areas where greater clarity would strengthen the Plan as a practical implementation framework.

### **Implementation outcomes and measurability**

The draft Plan identifies a broad set of activities across the Strategy's goals and priority actions. While this provides a structure for implementation, the Plan does not yet clearly articulate the outcomes those activities are intended to achieve.

Clearer articulation of implementation outcomes would assist stakeholders to understand what improvements the Plan is intended to deliver across Victoria's biosecurity system and how progress under the Plan will be demonstrated.

The Plan recognises clarity and measurability as a principle informing implementation. However, this principle is not yet consistently reflected in the implementation framework. Greater clarity on the outcomes associated with each priority action, and on how progress toward those outcomes will be assessed, would strengthen the Plan as a practical implementation document and support consistent interpretation across government, industry and other stakeholders.

### **Early implementation priorities**

Consultation on the implementation framework emphasised practical delivery, including discussion of actions that could realistically be progressed in the near term.

The draft Plan would benefit from reflecting this implementation focus more clearly. In particular, greater clarity on early priorities would assist stakeholders to understand which actions are intended to be progressed first and how the initial stages of implementation will be delivered.

Clearer identification of early priorities would support coordinated implementation across the biosecurity system and help ensure effort is directed toward actions that deliver the greatest immediate biosecurity system benefit.

### Protection of biosecurity controls at premises

The integrity of biosecurity controls at agricultural and processing premises is a fundamental component of an effective biosecurity system. These controls are designed to manage disease risk, protect animal health, and support food safety and market access outcomes across the livestock supply chain.

Unauthorised entry or interference with biosecurity controls can create avoidable risks for agricultural and processing premises, undermining established biosecurity measures and disrupting normal operations. There have been a number of incidents involving trespass at livestock processing establishments in Victoria in recent years, which have demonstrated the potential for such activity to disrupt operations and compromise biosecurity controls.

AMIC recommends the Implementation Plan recognise that trespass of agricultural and processing premises creates direct biosecurity risks and undermines on-site biosecurity controls. Recognising this risk within the Plan would support compliance and enforcement approaches aimed at protecting biosecurity controls across the livestock supply chain and reinforce the importance of appropriate regulatory settings to manage biosecurity related trespass risks.

### Conclusion

AMIC supports the direction of the draft Victorian Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Plan. The Plan would be strengthened by clearer articulation of implementation outcomes, stronger application of the principle of clarity and measurability, clearer identification of early implementation priorities, and recognition of the importance of protecting biosecurity controls at premises.

AMIC appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this consultation. Should you wish to discuss the content of this submission further, please contact Sue Viana, Manager – Animal Health & Welfare, at [sviana@amic.org.au](mailto:sviana@amic.org.au).

Yours sincerely,



**Tim Ryan**

CEO

Australian Meat Industry Council