

Government Industry Agreements for Biosecurity Readiness and Response: How it will work in practice



GIA makes industry joint partners, alongside government, in managing their most important biosecurity risks. Working collaboratively will be the norm rather than the exception.

Under the GIA, industry organisations and MPI, as the government's representative in the GIA partnership, will sign a Deed that formally establishes the biosecurity partnership to prepare for and effectively respond to biosecurity risks.

The Deed sets the ground rules for minimum commitments, joint decision making and shared resourcing. It provides for a biosecurity forum for all signatories, to be held twice a year for discussions on the whole biosecurity system. Industry signatories will also be able to meet annually or as otherwise agreed with MPI to discuss industry specific issues.

Setting priorities

Having signed the Deed, industry organisation and MPI will explore the biosecurity risks and development priorities that represent business risks and/or opportunities. Partners will discuss actions that they each can take across the wider biosecurity system (pre border and border control, pest management, as well as readiness and response) to improve biosecurity outcomes.

During Biosecurity responses, MPI and affected industry signatories will be partners through the process, with shared and decision-making responsibilities.

Operational agreements

Partners may also agree Operational Agreements. These are practical documents that describe arrangements to achieve outcomes related to:

- Specific unwanted organisms
- Groups of unwanted organisms
- Activities that improve overall biosecurity readiness and/or response.

Commitments

Industries commit to the following by signing the Deed:

- Joint decision-making during a response affecting the industry
- Cost sharing readiness activities agreed in an Operational Agreement
- Cost sharing for responses activities
- Engaging in the wider biosecurity system – including the Biosecurity Forum
- Meeting with MPI annually to define and review risk profiles
- Meeting minimum commitments
- Participating in Deed governance arrangements.

Cost sharing and transitional discounts

Sharing costs will give industry strong incentives to identify readiness activities that will best protect them and to decide what risk organisms should be a priority for a response.

Where significant beneficiaries from biosecurity activities can be clearly identified, it is fair to expect those beneficiaries to contribute directly towards them. With this expectation, comes the right to make decisions about when and how those activities are undertaken.

The cost of the commitments in the Deed will depend on the current level of investment made by each industry organisation and MPI.

The Government has agreed to apply transitional discounts to costs for readiness and response activities that are shared. These arrangements mean that industry cost shares will start at a low level and gradually increase over six years. In addition, government has agreed to cap the industry cost share for readiness and response at 50 percent.