



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events

MEDIA RELEASE

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BIOSECURITY REFORMS WORKSHOPPED WITH INDUSTRY

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, said industry and the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government have joined forces this week in a bid to bolster the State's biosecurity measures.

Ms Hodgkinson met with 40 industry representatives at a forum to discuss the proposed Framework to Protect NSW and today more than 200 people participated in two live and interactive webinars.

"This new framework will transform the way plant and animal pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants are managed in NSW," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"There has been robust discussion about the draft framework at the forum and webinars, focusing on the enhanced roles proposed for industry and individuals in managing biosecurity.

"Feedback from the forum will inform the future development of the NSW Biosecurity Act, which will reduce red tape for industry and individuals and support the nationally agreed principle that biosecurity is indeed a shared responsibility.

"Importantly, the changes will also ensure that NSW maintains its enviable market access and reputation for producing high quality, disease free food and fibre.

"This proposal will consolidate 14 pieces of outdated legislation into one piece of cohesive and modern legislation – the new NSW Biosecurity Act."

Ms Hodgkinson said 200 people participated in interactive live webinars today.

"The forum and webinars focused on how the framework will address such biosecurity threats as pest animals, stock diseases, avian influenza and citrus diseases," Ms Hodgkinson said.

NSW Farmers chief executive officer, Matt Brand, said the forum was a great opportunity to have a say about the proposed changes.

"Biosecurity outbreaks have the potential to devastate sections of agriculture and it's important we work together to protect our industry, environment and our communities," Mr Brand said.

Australian Horse Industry Council President, Joy Poole, welcomed the draft framework.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with the NSW Government to develop a new biosecurity framework to replace outdated legislation and improve partnerships between horse owners and government," Ms Poole said.

To view the framework, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/legislative-review