

# BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

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## Biosecurity reforms in Australia

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is implementing reforms to Australia's biosecurity system to minimise the threat of introduction of exotic pests and diseases that can adversely impact on their industries, people and natural environment and to enhance market access for exports. The reform program is substantial and focuses on building a sustainable system that manages risk across the continuum to better support consistent service delivery onshore, at the border and offshore; provides effective bio security risk management underpinned by sound evidence and policy; improves the efficiency and responsiveness of operations through modern legislation and technology systems; and strengthens relationships.

With this end in view, the Australian Government is developing new legislation to replace the century-old *Quarantine Act 1908* to create a responsive and flexible operating environment. The new legislation is a cornerstone of broader biosecurity reforms which is building a system to better manage the risks of pests and diseases entering, establishing and spreading in Australia and potentially causing harm to people, the environment and the economy. The new legislation is designed to deliver broader, yet simpler provisions that provide flexible powers to efficiently and responsively manage biosecurity risks. It is designed to focus on responsive regulation enabling a system that intervenes where there is a biosecurity risk that needs to be managed and promotes effective cooperation between governments, industry, trading partners and the broader community.

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### Activities and achievements

The department is progressing a range of activities that centre around the key reform themes of:

- implementing a risk-based approach to biosecurity
- managing biosecurity risk across the continuum
- strengthening partnerships with stakeholders
- intelligence-led and evidence-based decision making
- being supported by modern legislation, technology, funding and business systems

The reforms will ensure that Australia's biosecurity system continues to deliver a modern system that is responsive and targeted, in a changing global trading environment. Australia's biosecurity system lies at the heart of its position as a trading nation. The system ensures good biosecurity outcomes through Australia's activities as an exporter and importer of goods. Australia's biosecurity system has been subject to review several times.

Recommendations made for improvements to the way it operates started with the Nairn Review in 1995, and culminated in the 2008 independent review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements – *One biosecurity: a working partnership* (the Beale review). The Beale review found that Australia's biosecurity system operated well, but could be improved. It proposed significant

reforms to strengthen the system by revising legislation; targeting resources to the areas of greatest return from a risk management perspective; sharing responsibility between government, businesses and the community; and improving transparency, timeliness and operations across the continuum.

The reforms being undertaken position the department to meet this increasing demand and to ensure the biosecurity system is effective and sustainable into the future. The reform program is consistent with the themes outlined in the Beale review, informed by previous reviews and stakeholder needs; and underpinned by five key principles:

- implementing a risk-based approach to biosecurity management
- managing biosecurity risk across the continuum – offshore, at the border and onshore
- strengthening partnerships with stakeholders
- being intelligence-led and evidence-based
- supported by modern legislation, technology, funding and business systems

Through these themes, the focus on the continuum better supports consistent service delivery onshore, at the border and offshore; provides effective biosecurity risk management underpinned by sound evidence and policy; improves the efficiency and responsiveness of operations through modern legislation and technology systems; and strengthens relationships.

It is believed that the benefits of the reformed biosecurity system will be realised by industry, government, the environment and international trading partners – with positive flow through effects to the economy more generally. This will be through improved trade, streamlined business process, productivity improvements and reduced regulatory burden in a seamless and lower cost business environment; emphasizing risk-based

decision making, the use of intelligence, a single point of regulatory contact and robust partnerships.

The agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries were estimated to generate approximately 3 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product in 2010-11. Australia gains significant economic benefits as a major net exporter of agricultural products, with around two-thirds of national agricultural production exported to overseas markets. Australia also benefits from importing a range of goods from overseas. Imports provide Australia access to a wide range of products, technology and services which enable economic growth in multiple sectors. The Australian tourism and education sectors are major industries and benefit from facilitating the safe movement of people across the border.

The department expects to be impacted by a range of domestic and global challenges, including:

- increased complexity in biosecurity risk management as new and different products arrive from a wider variety of countries and growing demand for timely import risk analyses, as more countries seek access to Australian markets
- increased volumes of goods arriving via international mail rather than more traditional importation routes; such as sea cargo
- tighter timelines in logistics chains; increasing the pressure on border agencies to process goods more rapidly

For more information go to [www.biosecurity.govspace.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.govspace.gov.au)

## Australian Economy – General

A Press Release by PR Newswire states that Australia set a world record of some sort with 21 years of continued economic growth – an achievement unmatched by any other developed country. Although the global economic crises continued, Australia's trade with Asia, mining industry and a government which supported business drove towards a positive growth for the year 2012. While natural resources attracted investors to Australia from around the world, specific regions have benefited from a focus on high tech sectors and reinvestment in local economies. One such region is Victoria. Although constituting only 3 percent of the land mass of Australia, Victoria has been responsible for almost a quarter (24 percent) of Australia's economy so far and has AAA credit ratings from Standard and Poor and Moody's. The press release goes on to describe the contribution made by Victoria towards economic growth, for example, growth of export by 9 percent over the year, overall economic growth 2.7 percent, A\$ 1.4 trillion pension industry in Melbourne, network operations centre for the ambitious National Broadband Network.

## Business Opportunities

### WA keen to revive Okajee project

WA Government is very keen to see the stalled Oakajee port and rail project take off with the Chinese participation. However, the Chinese side made it clear to the WA authorities that the report by China Investment Corporation on whether China would provide 50% of the \$5.9 billion investment in the Oakajee port and rail project is unlikely to be ready before September. Meanwhile, Mitsubishi Corporation, the current sole investor, is engaged in talks with a number of Chinese companies, including Sinosteel, Ansteel and China Railways Corporation. The Oakajee port and rail project consists of a 570km rail line and a new deepwater port 30 km north of Geraldton.

### Merger plans by Gold producers

WA goldminer StBarbara and Allied Gold have unveiled a merger plan aimed at creating an international gold producer and explorer with a market capitalisation of more than \$1 billion. St Barbara has launched a friendly \$556 million takeover bid for Allied Gold Mining, which owns mines in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The combined group will have an expected gold production of around 435,000 ounces for the 2013, with three established mines, Gwalia and Marvel Loch in WA and Simberi in Papua New Guinea, and a fourth in the Solomon Islands. If realised, the deal is expected to help St Barbara to prevent any fall in its gold production in 2013.

### Japanese Company to explore gas off WA coast

Japan's Inpex Corporation plans to expand its exploration coverage off WA's far north-west coast by undertaking drilling operations early next year in Bassett Deep prospect which is expected to contain 20 trillion cubic feet of gas. It is located to the north of Ichthys and Prelude fields. Inpex and Total, its partner in Browse LNG project, hope that

the additional gas discovery could help in expanding the US\$ 34 billion LNG project under construction in Darwin. Inpex is acquiring 50% of the AC/P36 permit held by Murphy Oil Corporation in the Browse Basin.

#### Rio Tinto awards contract for driverless train

Rio Tinto has awarded a \$317 million contract to build its driverless high tech train to transport iron ore to Ansaldo STS Australia. Ansaldo will develop and deliver the automated train management system for Rio Tinto heavy-haul iron ore rail network in Pilbara region of Western Australia.

#### Victoria promoting mining projects in Latrobe Valley

The Victorian Government's Latrobe Valley Roadmap, which includes funding for projects and job creation, was released on 10 July, 2012. Acting Premier Peter Ryan said, the plan was looking at business opportunities and making the region an attractive place to live in a low carbon economy. A Latrobe Valley Industry and Infrastructure Fund of \$15 million was also announced to support businesses. The roadmap was the government's response to the Latrobe Valley Transition Committee Report (please see our report dt. [11.07.2012](#) on this subject). Other funding will be injected into Gippsland aviation and tourism plans. In the report, the government said, it would work with the Latrobe City Council and the private sector to find a terminal operator to run the proposed freight facility which would give customers access to bulk and container rail services. The report also said that brown coal would continue to provide the state's base load electricity generation for the foreseeable future. Latrobe City Mayor Ed Vermeulen said, there was no way the region could ignore its brown coal resource. There is around 33 billion tonnes of brown coal as a potential economic resource with 13 billion tonnes unallocated.

#### Recognition for two Melbourne-based Universities

Two Melbourne-based universities have been included in the top ten centres for Life Sciences and Medicines – Pharmacy & Pharmacology, reflecting the city's world-class reputation in drug discovery. Monash University and the University of Melbourne have been ranked 6th and 9th place respectively in the 2012 QS World University Rankings by Subject. The University of Melbourne was named Australia's top-ranked university in 14 disciplines in the report.

#### Siemens tie up with Monash University to develop smart grid energy solutions

Monash University was recently chosen from among the world's top research institutes to partner with Siemens, a global electronics and electrical engineering company operating in the industry, energy and healthcare sectors, to develop smart grid energy solutions.

## Business related events in Australia

### Delegation from Gujarat at Perth promote 'Vibrant Gujarat 2013'

A 12-member delegation from Gujarat led by Shri H K Dash, Principal Secretary, Government of the State of Gujarat, India visited Perth on 11-12 July 2012 to promote "Vibrant Gujarat 2013" as also to explore opportunities for business partnership. The delegation comprised representatives of Reliance Industries Limited, Adani Enterprises Limited, the Industrial Extension Bureau of Gujarat, Confederation Indian Industry (CII), ABG Shipyard Limited, ASTA India Pvt Limited, Ganpal University, Sai Info Systems, Pandit Deen Dayal Petroleum University, Sintex Industries Limited and Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC). The delegation explored various business opportunities. WA companies expressed interest to collaborate with Indian partners in ship building, IT, education, resources and oil & gas sectors.

The delegation earlier visited Melbourne from 8-9 July, 2012 to promote 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Vibrant Gujarat Summit to be held in Gandhinagar from 11-13 January, 2013. The delegation also met with the business community and state government authorities to explore investment/business opportunities.

A 3-member delegation led by Mr.Jagdish Shah of iNDEXTb (part of Vibrant Gujarat delegation), Government of Gujarat also visited Hobart and met with Tasmanian Chambers of Commerce (TCCI) members led by Mr.Neil MacKinnon, CEO. They gave a presentation on the investment opportunities available in Gujarat.

A delegation from IIT Delhi visited Perth on 22-23 June and met with the authorities at the University of Western Australia. The delegation held discussions with Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof Robyn Owens and visited the Centre for Offshore Solutions-centrifuge modeling facility and laboratories.

### Indian Skills delegation visit Melbourne

On 12-13 July, the Indian Skills Delegation was in Melbourne at the invitation of Department of Business & Innovation of the Victorian Government. On 12th July, both the Indian and the Victorian side gave presentations on the prospects of collaboration in the Skill Development Sector. On 13th July, the Indian delegation visited different institutions under Victorian TAFE International.

### Upcoming Events in Australia:

#### Australia Shoe Fair (26 - 28 August)

The Australian Shoe Fair is Australia's newest independent trade fair for the footwear industry. The Australian Shoe Fair has been developed as a result of demand from suppliers and industry stakeholders for a high quality, industry operated and truly independent footwear fair for the Australian market.

**Venue:** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

**Website:** <http://www.australianshoefair.com/>

**Organizer:** [Australian Exhibitions & Conferences Pty Limited](#)

#### Bags and Accessories Fair (26 - 28 August)

Bags & Accessories Fair will be one of the best events related to bag and accessories organized for the retailers and other professionals. Exhibitors will showcase their latest products like bags, jewellery, belts, millinery, leather, luggage, eyewear & many more. Bags & Accessories Fair will provide an excellent opportunity for all the new designers and showroom owners to work along with topmost designers to get an international exposure and to find their target customers, retailer and manufactures.

**Venue:** Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

**Website:** <http://www.bagsaccessories.com.au/>

**Organizer:** [Australian Exhibitions & Conferences Pty Limited](#)

### All Energy Australia (10–11 Oct)

All Energy Australia is Asia–Pacific region's only event devoted to all forms of clean energy. The event will feature areas of renewable energy industry – wind, solar, hydro, hydrogen and fuel cells, solar and bio-fuels.

**Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia**

**Website:** [http://www.all-energy.com.au/Exhibition\\_2012.html](http://www.all-energy.com.au/Exhibition_2012.html)

**Organizer: All–Energy Events Pty Ltd c/o Reed Exhibitions Australia Pty Ltd**

The Chief Minister of Northern Territory has invited wide Indian participation in the following events scheduled to be held in the Territory in resources sector.

**South East Asia Australia Offshore Conference (SEAAOC)**

18–20 September 2012

Darwin, Northern Territory

**Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES)**

19 – 20 March 2013

Alice Springs, Northern Territory