LIVESTOCK, BULK AND RURAL CARRIERS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 4243, Manuka ACT 2603
www.lbrca.org.au • office@lbrca.org.au

12 November 2026

Christie Sawczuk
First Assistant Secretary
Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Via: mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

RE: National Biosecurity Reform Roadmap

DRAFT

The Livestock, Bulk and Rural Carriers Association (LBRCA) supports strengthening Australia's biosecurity system. We ask that the National Biosecurity Reform Roadmap explicitly recognise rural carriers and road freight as a partner in preventing and responding to pests and diseases. Carriers connect farms, saleyards, feedlots, processors and ports. The effectiveness of movement controls and washdown requirements depend on whether operators can apply them safely on the road.

We appreciate the time taken to meet with us on 5 November 2026, further to that meeting the LBRCA submits the following to the department for ongoing consideration.

Invest in national wash facility infrastructure

Invest in a national truck wash and effluent network. We ask the Commonwealth to work with states, territories and councils to map gaps on priority freight routes and jointly fund upgrades, new facilities, maintenance and renewal. Sites should accommodate the combinations that use them, provide reliable 24-hour access where practicable, safely contain effluent and publish fees and service outages. Biosecurity does not work within truck wash operating hours or stop posing a threat where a wash does not exist. NSW's former *Fixing Country Truck Washes* initiative and the Commonwealth's *Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure* program offers a precedent for targeted investment. Biosecurity agencies have a role to play in supporting this ask and identifying an appropriate funding stream.

Cross-border movement controls

Disease controls must guide which movements can proceed. We ask officials to agree on a standard, common set of protocols for issuing and recognising movement permits across borders, with clear maps, consistent instructions and a single place to check current restrictions. Where the risk permits, pre-plan controlled routes for essential freight and give the transport industry clear instructions if a load is already in transit, including where

LIVESTOCK, BULK AND RURAL
CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 4243, Manuka ACT 2603
www.lbrca.org.au • office@lbrca.org.au

livestock can be safely held, unloaded or redirected. Biosecurity threats like freight, do not consider state or local boundaries when they pose a risk.

Include carriers in emergency planning and exercises

Give rural transport representatives a formal role in preparedness and response planning by ensuring agencies test scenarios with carriers, producers, saleyards and processors. The exercise should cover washdown capacity, driver communications, fatigue, animal welfare and how essential freight can keep moving under disease controls.

Make compliance practical for small operators

Use existing traceability and movement records wherever possible and do not duplicate the existing system with new emergency regulatory layers where it is avoidable. Likewise, do not make those responsible for moving livestock and animals responsible for traceability requirements, it is the direct responsibility of the animal owner. Agree on the minimum information carriers need to collect, who is responsible for providing it and how to record it when mobile coverage is unavailable. Give operators plain-language guidance and enough time to prepare for new routine obligations. This approach should extend beyond traceability and apply ethically and evenly across the supply chain and responsible parties.

We ask you to consider and raise these priorities with your state and territory counterparts as the biosecurity reforms progress and opportunities arise.

Yours sincerely,

Wade Lewis
President
Livestock, Bulk and Rural Carriers Association Inc.

DRAFT