

BIOSECURITY AS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

An opportunity for South Australia

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THE QUESTION

Is biosecurity a cost to manage
— or an advantage to build?

Today's environment challenges us to consider is biosecurity about compliance or strategic edge.

The mindset shift: Strategic biosecurity strengthens productivity, credibility, and buyer trust.



SCALE OF BIOSECURITY ACTIVITY ACROSS AUSTRALIA



115m

mail items received on average each year over five years (2016-17 to 2020-21)



2.6m

shipping containers arrived in Australia (2020-21)



**OVER
15,100**

inspections were conducted on international vessels (2020-21)



**OVER
2,600**

detections made post-biosecurity control (2020-21)

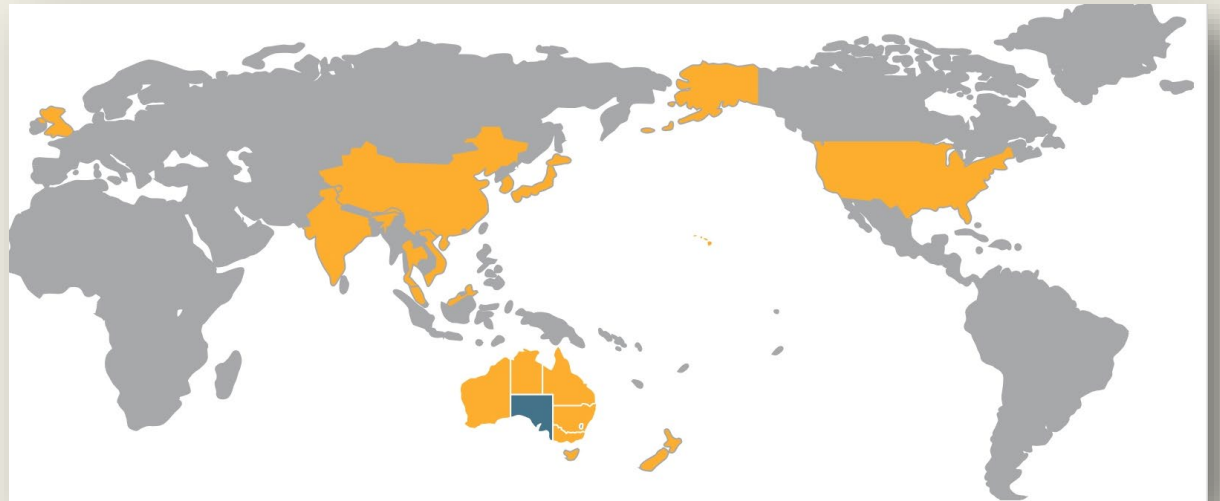
The Reality We Face

South Australia operates in a highly connected environment where constant movement increases biosecurity risk.

2015: 4.3M tonnes (\$7.3bn) arrived in SA from overseas.

2025: 6.11M tonnes (\$13.73bn)

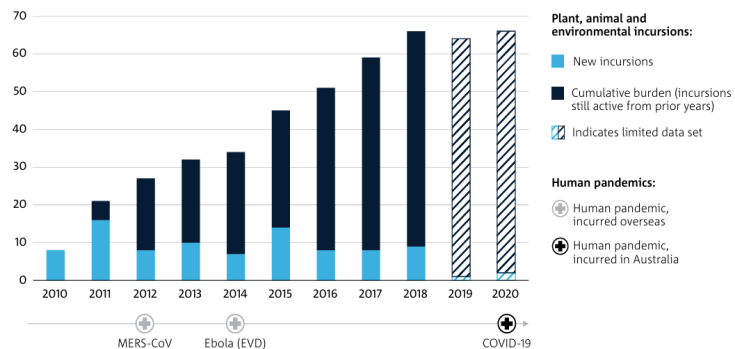
Biosecurity is now a core operating condition that requires ongoing risk management and disciplined response.



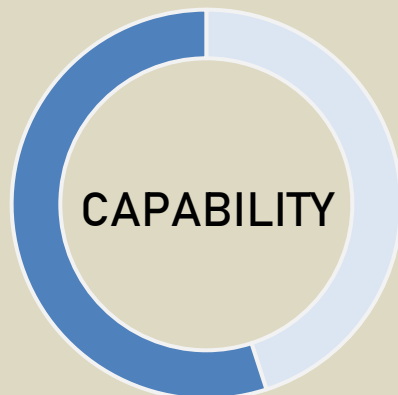
Reframing Biosecurity

Biosecurity is more than compliance—it is a strategic capability that strengthens continuity, resilience, and market confidence.

Figure 1: Indicative biosecurity incursions and cumulative burden in Australia²



COMPLIANCE →



Strategic Framing

A **compliance mindset** meets minimum rules, but seldom builds culture, systems, or readiness.

A **capability mindset** treats biosecurity as a business discipline that protects assets, supports continuity, and strengthens confidence across the supply chain.

Business discipline

RESILIENCE →



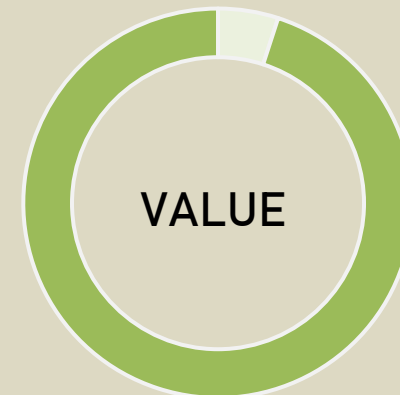
Strategic Framing

Prevention remains essential, but strong biosecurity also needs preparedness, detection, response, recovery, and learning.

High-performing industries are defined by how quickly they identify issues, coordinate action, and restore trust under pressure.

Trust under pressure

MARKET VALUE



Strategic Framing

Biosecurity investment protects trade, brand, jobs, and future investment.

Strengthens South Australia's value by signaling high standards and commitment to research and safeguarding production.

Market confidence

WHY INVEST

PRODUCTION

Biosecurity protects South Australia's productive base by reducing the risk and impact of pests, diseases, and other threats.

For producers and processors, it supports continuity, strengthens planning confidence, and helps protect yields, costs, and margins over time.

Protects output and margins

TRADE

South Australia's market position depends on trust. Customers and trading partners expect risks to be managed systematically and transparently.

Strong biosecurity settings reinforce confidence and help protect the integrity of South Australia's agricultural and food systems.

Supports market confidence

REGIONS

Biosecurity failures are rarely contained to one site or business. They can affect entire regions through lost output, movement restrictions, business disruption, and reputation.

Stronger prevention and readiness helps protect jobs, local economies, and the long-term viability of regional industries.

Safeguards jobs and communities

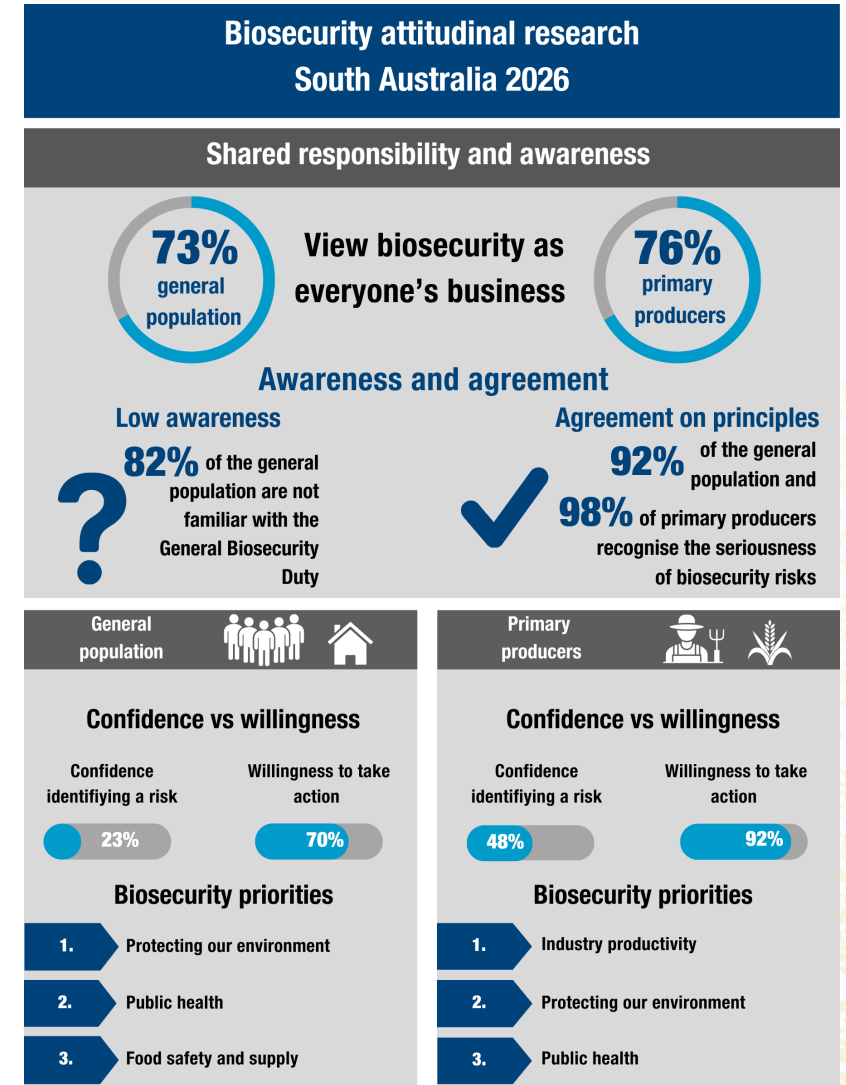
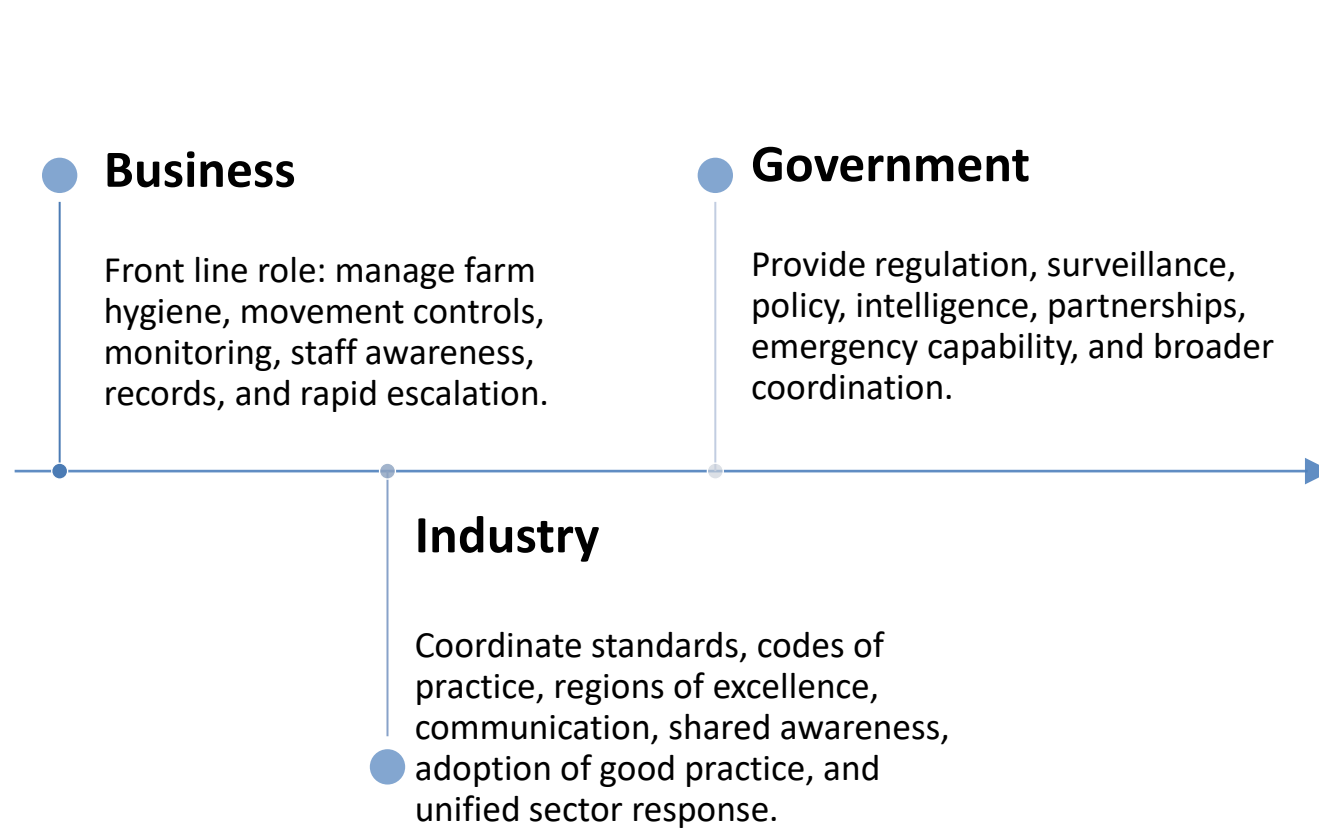
REPUTATION

Reputation is hard to build and easy to lose. South Australia benefits when it is seen as clean, reliable, and well managed.

Biosecurity is central to that perception - making reputation protection a practical economic priority.

Protects the state brand

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY MODEL



Case Study: Grains Australia

What they did:

- Developed a National biosecurity plan identifying specific threats and responses for industry.
- Set out coordinated actions to prepare, monitor and respond.
- Invested in Grains Farm Biosecurity program to support on ground training, tools and support.
- Adopted a coordinated systems of shared responsibility.

Shared standards	Collective strength
Clear expectations across the industry	One sector voice builds trust
Consistent action across supply chains	Coordination improves crisis response
Easier adoption of common safeguards	Prepared sectors act faster under pressure

Vehicle Biosecurity Risk Assessment Tool
GRAINS FARM BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

If this vehicle has travelled off the property or is not stationed on the property, please review this vehicle risk assessment to determine if vehicle requires a clean down before entering the property.

Where has the vehicle been and what is the likelihood it has come into contact with weeds or other pests	Dry	Damp	Muddy	Flooding
Travelled only on bitumen or gravel roads	Low	Low	Med-Low	Med-Low
Travelled on dirt roads but not on farm	Low	Med-Low	Medium	Med-High
On farm but only on formed roads	Medium	Medium	Med-High	High
On farm and off formed roads/in paddock	Med-High	Med-High	High	High
On farm and in paddock in area known to have pests eg CO Parthenium	Very High	High	Very High	Very High

Low or med-low risk	No mitigating action required but inspect if entering HOT ZONE
Med to Med-high	Consider if vehicle should be cleaned down – especially if likely to go onto productive areas (HOT ZONE).
High	Recommended that vehicle is cleaned down before entering any productive areas (HOT ZONE). Careful inspection.
Very High	Vehicle should be cleaned down (inside and out) before accessing property.

Remember ...if it's wet forget it. Vehicles should not be entering the productive areas of your property when it is wet or flooded unless there is an urgent need.

For more information on farm biosecurity or help in developing your plan, talk to your local Grains Biosecurity Officer. To find a Grains Biosecurity Officer in your region, scan the QR code or visit grainsbiosecurity.com.au/contact

EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE 1800 084 881

CALL THE HOTLINE IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE PEST OR DISEASE SYMPTOM IS, OR IF IT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS.

grainsbiosecurity.com.au GPA Plant Health AUSTRALIA

Farm Biosecurity Plan for Grain Producers

Property name: _____ Owner: _____
 Property address: _____ Manager: _____
 PIC: _____ Agronomist: _____

GRAINS FARM BIOSECURITY PROGRAM



**BIOSECURITY
BUSINESS
PLEDGE**
KO TĀTOU

The Biosecurity Business Pledge is a partnership helping all New Zealand businesses take a proactive approach to biosecurity practice.

Biosecurity protects your business, the environment and the economy.

bbpledge.nz

CASE STUDY: GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP – NEW ZEALAND

1

BUILT AN END-TO-END SYSTEM

NZ manages biosecurity risks across the full pathway – from offshore risk management to border controls and in-country surveillance and response. Connecting Government, industry, Maori, researchers and communities under a shared responsibility action plan.

2

BUILT COORDINATED CAPABILITY

NZ explicitly frames biosecurity as something everyone participates in – individuals, businesses, iwi/Maori, and local communities. Strong public campaigns with actionable steps

3

BUILT A ‘CLEAN GREEN’ BRAND REPUTATION

Developed a trusted global reputation for safe, high-quality food and fibre products generating trade access.

THE CHALLENGE TO INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT

If biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, it must also become everyone's priority.

Agreement alone is insufficient; visible capability, coordinated action, and commitment drive stronger performance.

