

National Traceability Project

Enhancing Australia's systems for tracing agricultural production and products



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Current State

- Australian agricultural supply chains produce commodities for both the domestic and export markets and traceability is important for all commodities.
- Exports are very important to our economy since we export around two-thirds of the agricultural products we produce.
- We have a strong history of exporting safe products that meet importing country requirements, and producing safe food for domestic supply.
- We are able to provide assurances to support our certification and other product claims.
- Our traceability arrangements meet the needs of our trading partners and consumers. However, we should be, and are, thinking and preparing for the future, looking for enhancements to current systems that will continue to provide and improve our competitive edge.

Drivers for Change

- Trading partners and their consumers are increasingly wanting to know more about the products they import from all countries regarding matters such as:
 - food safety
 - animal and plant pest and disease status
 - provenance
 - authenticity
 - sustainability
 - animal welfare practices.
- Fraud involving Australian food and other agricultural products in overseas markets is also an increasing concern.
- Trading partners and our domestic consumers want any claims made about food and other agricultural products to be well supported by fast and effective traceability systems.
- To maintain our competitive advantage, we need to look to the future to see how we can facilitate faster and more effective traceability systems across our agriculture product supply chains.

National Traceability Project

- The Traceability Project has now concluded. It had two stages



Stage 1

Commenced November 2017
Concluded June 2018

Assessed the current state of Australia's agricultural traceability systems, across most agricultural commodities and reviewed global drivers for the future.



Stage 2

Commenced October 2018
Concluded September 2019

Involved the development of an industry-government National Framework and Action Plan for enhancing Australia's agricultural and traceability systems.

Stage 1 – what we did

- Australia's traceability systems were reviewed for all agricultural commodities, such as food, animal feed, fibre and timber during.
- The key findings are provided in the document, *Enhancing Australia's systems for tracing agricultural production and products*, which is available on the department's website
- A cross-jurisdictional working group conducted the review. Members include:
 - Australian Government
 - State and Territory Governments.

Stage 2 – What we did

- A National Traceability Framework and Industry Action Plan was developed and has been agreed by government.
 - It was published on the Department of Agriculture's website on 19 November 2019
- Consultation with all stakeholders along the supply chains was critical to the process.
- Stakeholder engagement commenced in November 2018 and involved a range of activities such as co-design workshops, face-to-face meetings and information provided on websites.
- Broader public consultation was made possible via the department's online platform.
- The next steps are important and are where the real value of the project lies.

National Traceability Framework

- The framework and industry action plan provide a common vision and set of principles to guide the development of enhancements to our traceability systems.
- Industry ownership of traceability systems is important, as are industry-government partnerships.
- Existing arrangements and technology are to be considered in planning enhancements so that enhancements will be as cost effective and innovative as possible.
- Enhancements will be implemented in a way that minimises any risk of trade disruption and strengthens the confidence of consumers and trading partners in our food supply chains.

Next steps

- Agricultural industries have started to work with government to populate the action plan and make sure it remains current for their industry.
- A cross-jurisdictional working group has been formed to, among other things, coordinate governments' efforts in working with industries on traceability projects.
- Work on enhancing traceability systems through supply chains is not a new idea. There are a number of projects being progressed by both industry and government, some by industry alone.
 - Government has a responsibility to assist industry where possible, but at the same time to make the best use of resources.
- All commodities have their traceability challenges- bulk, processed etc. New technologies and research are proving to be invaluable in providing options to address the challenges.
- It will be important to make sure any changes are accepted by trading partners.

THANK YOU