



Budget backs farmers and the North

What's in this year's Budget

The **2022-23 Budget delivers over \$600 million** to a broad range of initiatives supporting trade, exports, biosecurity, stewardship and regional communities across agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Strengthening trade and exports

We will continue our commitment to transform and modernise Australia's agricultural export services and reduce congestion. This whole-of-government \$267.1 million budget package to simplify the trade system includes:

- **Digital Services to Take Farmers to Market:** \$127.4 million to build on our \$328.4 million Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters package and to complete the transformation of our agricultural export system into a modern trading platform that delivers technological capabilities to achieve world leading government services for farmers and the export industry.
- **'Tell Us Once' trade system:** \$7.7 million, part of a multi-portfolio package of \$26.9 million, to establish a 'Tell Us Once' digital model for whole of government which delivers streamlined trade processes, reduces the cost and time of exporting and enables our agricultural businesses to become more internationally competitive.
- **Trade Information Service:** \$11.7 million to expand the service to additional agricultural industries, providing a centralised source of trading information and market advice for business, guiding Australia's 57,000 exporters through their export journey – saving them time and money and reducing the burden of navigating cross-border trade regulations.

Protecting Australia from pests and diseases

We are committed to building Australia's resilience to manage pests, weeds and diseases and strengthen on-farm biosecurity and traceability outcomes. Funding in the 2022-23 Budget delivers a range of measures including:

- **Japanese encephalitis response:** \$10 million, as part of a broader multi-portfolio response, to support state and territory agriculture departments to undertake necessary surveillance and control activities.
- **Boosting our Northern Biosecurity Frontline:** \$61.6 million to enhance our biosecurity operations across our northern borders and target actions in identified regions of growth and high risk, to safeguard against lumpy skin disease and other emerging vector-borne animal diseases.
- **On-farm biosecurity and traceability:** \$20.1 million to strengthen the national livestock traceability system and support grant recipients in improving their on-farm biosecurity and traceability activities.

Rewarding agriculture stewardship

Australia's agriculture industry depends on a biodiverse and well-managed resource base. We are expanding our support for a voluntary biodiversity stewardship program to deliver a well-functioning voluntary market with new income streams for farmers. Funding in the 2022-23 Budget delivers:

- **A voluntary biodiversity market with new income streams for farmers:** \$27.3 million to deliver a well-functioning market that will simplify participation for farmers and buyers, while providing on-ground support from Natural Resource Management organisations. This includes improved baseline data on biodiversity and the expansion of the National Stewardship Trading Platform that will incorporate an automated system for trading by the private sector and farmers.
- **Allowing primary producers to claim carbon abatement and biodiversity stewardship income as primary production income:** expected to reduce taxes paid by primary producers by \$100 million over the next four years, increasing the rewards to farmers from their environmental stewardship.

Incentivising innovation

We are committed to increasing productivity and growth in the agricultural sector by integrating new capabilities and technology-enabled delivery to meet the demands of an increasingly connected, changing and complex world.

That is why we are investing \$30 million to establish a new National Centre for Digital Agriculture and to provide additional funding to our 8 Innovation Hubs to support the uptake of digital agriculture. This funding forms a part of the Government's Regional Accelerator Program.

We will also invest \$23.4 million to extend the recently developed patent box regime to the agriculture sector—designed to ensure that plant breeding, agricultural and agvet chemical innovation and commercialisation not only gets a strong start locally, but remains in Australia to grow and thrive.

Preparing for future challenges

Australia's farmers are facing the reality of more frequent and severe droughts which can have significant economic, social and environmental impacts. The best time to prepare for drought is before drought hits.

The 2022-23 Budget allocates \$94.5 million in funding from the **Future Drought Fund** for activities to improve the drought readiness and resilience of Australian farmers and communities. The funding consolidates our four-year drought resilience plan through the \$5 billion Future Drought Fund, supporting farmers and their communities to forge a path towards drought resilience.

Programs underway include support for drought planning at an individual farm and regional level, provision of digital tools that assist with drought-resilient decision making, over 124 projects to further drought-resilient farming practices and technologies, eight regionally based and focused Innovation Hubs with over 40 locations across Australia and building drought resilience leaders and supporting community organisations and networks in preparing and responding to droughts.



Supporting for shows and events

We are continuing to support regional agricultural shows and large events. The 2022-23 Budget builds on the government's \$83 million investment in agricultural shows and ensures our iconic local shows continue to strengthen regional communities, while our national trade events keep on showcasing Australian agriculture to the world. This Budget delivers:

- **Agricultural Show Development Grants Program:** \$15.4 million to deliver a second round of the oversubscribed and in-demand grants program.
- **Agriculture trade events:** \$12 million to sponsor large events, an investment that promotes goods and services to national, emerging and export-focused agriculture production sectors in Australia. This includes \$6 million for Beef Australia.

Growing and protecting Australia's forestry sector

The government will provide \$90.6 million to secure the future of Australian forestry.

This includes \$86.2 million to grow our domestic estate through the establishment of new plantations. This is the largest investment by an Australian Government in more than 30 years and will get more trees in the ground and help meet future demand for wood products.

It includes another \$4.4 million to protect Australian growers from being undercut by illegal imports and strengthen Australia's illegal logging traceability and timber identification systems.

Why is this important

Australia's agriculture industry is a strong contributor to the Australian economy. It provides significant employment opportunities across regional and rural Australia.

Over 334,000 people are employed across Australian agriculture and a further 243,000 are employed in the food and beverage manufacturing sector. The whole Australian agriculture supply chain employs 1.6 million people. All of these people will benefit directly from growth in the agriculture industry, as well as the broader Australian community and economy.



How much will this cost

	2022-23 \$m	2023-24 \$m	2024-25 \$m	2025-26 \$m	TOTAL (to 2025-26) \$m	TOTAL (overall) \$m
Strengthening trade and exports						
Digital Services to Take Farmers to Market *	0.0	64.5	58.5	4.3	127.4	127.4
'Tell Us Once' – Agriculture	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	7.7
Trade Information Service	11.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	11.7
Protecting Australia from pests and diseases						
Japanese encephalitis response – Agriculture **	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
Boosting our Northern Biosecurity Frontline	10.4	18.6	17.2	15.4	61.6	61.6
On-farm biosecurity and traceability	6.1	8.0	6.1	0.0	20.1	20.1
Rewarding agriculture stewardship						
Voluntary Biodiversity Stewardship Program**	20.7	14.9	2.1	0.3	25.5	27.3
Taxation of Australian Carbon Credit Units and biodiversity certificates	0.0	30.0	30.0	40.0	100.0	100.0
Incentivising innovation						
Expanding patent box tax concession	3.1	4.4	8.2	7.7	23.4	23.4
Preparing for future challenges						
Future Drought Fund	27.1	47.5	5.0	5.0	84.5	94.5
Support for shows and events						
Supporting Regional Agricultural Shows	8.8	6.5	0.0	0.0	15.4	15.4
Large agricultural trade events	2.7	7.3	2.1	0.0	12.0	12.0
Forestry						
New plantations for future wood supply**	10.2	25.2	30.2	20.3	86.2	86.2
Improving illegal logging traceability	2.8	1.6	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.4
Total	116.3	228.4	159.5	93.0	589.9	601.7

* This measure has ongoing funding of \$4.4 million not included in the total.

** Totals costs for these measures include funding provided for 2021-22

More information

For more information, visit awe.gov.au/budget

For more information about the 2022-23 Budget visit budget.gov.au

