



## MEDIA RELEASE

**20 June 2019**

### **New biosecurity collective ready for action**

With the number of pest and disease threats that could enter our country rapidly growing, last week biosecurity champions from across Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Mexico came together to form Australia's first biosecurity collective.

The inaugural *Australian Biosecurity Symposium*, co-hosted by Animal Health Australia (AHA), the Invasive Species Council (ISC) and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS), saw almost 400 delegates converge on the Gold Coast to discuss how we can future-proof our biosecurity system to better protect our multi-billion agricultural industry, our iconic native plants and animals and our people.

Andreas Glanznig, CEO of CISS, said we need to double down on smarter actions to future proof Australia's biosecurity system.

"By 2030 Australia will see a doubling of international passenger arrivals and containerised cargo traffic will increase 170% to 2032. We need to work more collaboratively and smarter, with more efficient systems to keep future pests and diseases out.

"Prevention is a key part of the solution and new techniques like environmental DNA surveillance, drone detection using thermal regulation, artificial intelligence and recognition are just some of the new innovations on the horizon which could be game changers for the biosecurity system if we strengthen efforts now," Mr Glanznig said.

Kathleen Plowman, CEO of AHA, called for the development of a national biosecurity strategy and a long term sustainable biosecurity investment plan, as well as a national biosecurity partnership agreement, to mobilise all of Australian society.

"Biosecurity prevention is a shared responsibility but without a shared vision and authority it is difficult to bring everyone along for the ride.

"We need clear signposts along the way, we need to plot our journey and we need to make sure we are all on the same path, to ensure the system is well-equipped for the future," Ms Plowman said.

Andrew Cox, CEO of ISC, wants to rally the community together and start a biosecurity movement.

"We want biosecurity to be top of mind and top of importance for all Australians, like the Landcare movement has been since it was formed in the 1990s.

"There is growing awareness of biosecurity and now we want to take it further and build a mass movement of biosecurity champions across the country who take ownership of the problem and help keep our country free of new weeds, pests and diseases," Mr Cox said.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Biosecurity Symposium will be held in 2021 with a workshop to be held in 2020 to progress key outcomes from this year's Symposium.



For more information and updates visit [www.biosym.com.au](http://www.biosym.com.au)

**Fast facts:**

- The five-point plan to future-proof Australia's biosecurity system includes:
  1. Setting 2020-2030 as the decade of biosecurity
  2. Designing an innovation-centred biosecurity system
  3. Developing a national biosecurity strategy and sustainable investment plan
  4. Creating a formal national biosecurity partnership agreement between government, industry and the community
  5. Mobilising a 25-million strong biosecurity mass movement
- Inaugural Australian Biosecurity Symposium was held 12-13 June on the Gold Coast, Qld.
- 380 delegates attended from all corners of Australia as well as delegates from NZ, US, Canada and Mexico.
- Over 100 speakers with talks spanning the topics of future-proofing biosecurity, transformative technology, international insights and behaviour change.
- A very special thank you to our sponsors, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, NSW Department of Primary Industries, the Queensland Government, James Cook University, EcoWize, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis, Elders, Carnovale Recruitment, Agriculture Victoria and NSW Local Land Services.

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**Media enquiries:** Ian McDonald 0429 985 643 / [Ian.McDonald@invasives.com.au](mailto:Ian.McDonald@invasives.com.au)

**Media enquiries:** Jackie Poyser 0410 994 410 / [jpoyser@animalhealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:jpoyser@animalhealthaustralia.com.au)

**About Animal Health Australia:** Animal Health Australia is a not-for-profit public company that facilitates innovative partnerships between governments, major livestock industries and other stakeholders to protect animal health and the sustainability of Australia's livestock industry.

**About Invasive Species Council:** The Invasive Species Council was formed in 2002 to keep the Australian environment safe from weeds, feral animals and other harmful invaders and focuses on prevention and early action.

**About the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions:** The Centre for Invasive Species Solution is a national collaborative research, development and extension organisation, formed to tackle the ongoing threat from invasive species.