The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is an Australian Government department. For almost 90 years since 1925, under various names, we have been the dedicated agency responsible for serving the community on matters relating to Australia’s agriculture, fisheries, forestry and related industries.

We operate under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 and the Public Service Act 1999.

Who we are

We have 4500 full-time equivalent staff, including policy officers, program administrators, scientists, researchers, economists, accountants, information and communication technology staff, veterinary officers, inspectors and survey staff.

We work in offices, airports, mail centres, shipping ports, laboratories and abattoirs.

You will find us in regional centres, rural communities and cities. We also have people representing Australia’s interests in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the United States.

Who we serve

We work to build strong relationships with our stakeholders:

- governments
- industry
- importers and exporters
- natural resource managers
- producers, harvesters, processors and consumers
- research and development organisations
- rural communities
- travellers.
Our finances
In 2012–13 we:
• received a department allocation of $310.7 million
• collected $447.1 million in levies to fund research, development and marketing
• collected $329.2 million in recovered costs for service delivery
• administered appropriation of $135.5 million for the range of programs that support our outcomes.

Our outcomes

Outcome 1
More sustainable, productive, internationally competitive and profitable Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries through policies and initiatives that promote better resource management practices, innovation, self-reliance and improved access to international markets.

Outcome 2
Safeguard Australia's animal and plant health status to maintain overseas markets and protect the economy and environment from the impact of exotic pests and diseases, through risk assessment, inspection and certification, and the implementation of emergency response arrangements for Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries.

How we performed
In 2012–13, we met or expected to meet 107 of our 125 key performance indicators under the programs contributing to our outcomes.

Ten performance targets were ‘partially met’. Only four indicators were ‘not met’ during the year, while another four were not applicable. More information is available in Part 3: Report on Performance.