

Balancing Trade Facilitation and Quarantine Risk

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Trade is of central importance to Australia's economy

- In 2002, Australia's trade in goods and services totalled \$313 billion, of which exports were valued at \$151 billion
- One in five jobs relies on exports
- Exports account for nearly a quarter of Australia's income

Australian Food Trade

- The value of Australian food exports was \$26.6 billion in 2001–02.
- Over the same year, imports amounted to \$5.3 billion.

Australia's Appropriate Level of Protection

- Currently expressed in qualitative terms
- Provide a high level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection aimed at reducing risk to a very low level, although not zero.

How to find the balance between trade facilitation and quarantine risk?

- Trade means imports, as well as exports
- The Appropriate Level of Protection
- Adequate resourcing of IRA process
- ‘Centres of biosecurity excellence’

How to find the balance between trade facilitation and quarantine risk?

- Greater recognition that through AQIS there is an effective mechanism for applying conditions and controlling imports.
- Ready availability of all relevant biosecurity conditions to overseas exporters is critical.