



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Report shows need for 21st century biosecurity measures

The Beale Report into Australia's biosecurity needs into the future has been welcomed by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor believes Australia must have strong biosecurity measures that will maintain Australia's international reputation of being clean and green as well as protecting Australian industry from disaster.

"Australia must jealously guard its international reputation for having strict quarantine and biosecurity measures that meet 21st century needs.

We can't afford to trade off any biosecurity protection for our industries in the name of free trade or the possibility of any other international agreements.

As we have seen through the recent upheaval in the horse industry with equine influenza managing to get through our defences, Australia must maintain the strictest of biosecurity measures.

Our local industries deserve and in fact demand that they be looked after in terms of keeping even the slightest possibility of disease out of the country.

If we don't, we run the risk of not only widespread economic hardship to many people but also much pain and suffering to the animals affected," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also congratulated the Rudd Government on implementing the review.

"I, along with industry groups had been calling on the previous government for a review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity measures for a number of years.

I congratulate the Rudd Government for having undertaken it in its first twelve months in office.

I now look forward to working with Government to see that the recommendations are adequately implemented so that our industries can be confident about their future," Mr Windsor said.

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