



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Australian Biosecurity Awards 2014

2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS







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From the Deputy Secretary

Australia's robust biosecurity system sustains Australia's prosperity and way of life.

It is the foundation of our strong and productive agricultural industries, supports Australia's position as a key exporter to international markets, and helps protect our unique environment and our health.

With increasing numbers of people, goods and vessels crossing our borders, it's more important than ever for industries, government and the community to work together to maintain Australia's biosecurity integrity. Getting it right benefits everyone, and everyone has a role to play.

It is this concept that has been strongly embraced by the winners of the 2014 Australian Biosecurity Awards.

The recipients come from a broad range of areas including the agricultural, resource, and television industries. Despite this diversity, they have a common quality—a commitment to working collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture to support and promote Australia's biosecurity and the systems that uphold it.

I thank and congratulate all the winners.

Rona Mellor
Deputy Secretary,
Department of Agriculture



Rona Mellor
Deputy Secretary

Australian Biosecurity Lifetime Achievement Award

Border Security, Seven Network

The Biosecurity Lifetime Achievement Award recognises an individual or team that has made an outstanding contribution to biosecurity integrity in Australia.

This year, the Department of Agriculture pays tribute to the Seven Network's television show *Border Security*, and the collaborative work and commitment undertaken in producing the series.

The factual television series *Border Security* has been broadcast for 10 years, revealing stories of peculiar items, amazing claims and biosecurity risks that Department of Agriculture officers encounter each day.

Shown in more than 150 countries, *Border Security* is a highly successful media channel that has raised the profile of the department by delivering vital biosecurity messages around the world.

Border Security has also provided the department with the opportunity to showcase its role in protecting Australia's unique environment and agricultural industries, and has supported the department's transition to a new brand.

Since the program's premiere in 2004, *Border Security* has attracted a wide national and international following and continues to draw an Australian audience of more than 1 million viewers each week.

The relationship between the Seven Network's *Border Security* team and the Department of Agriculture is a long and successful one with both parties working together, on the frontline and in policy and communication areas, to produce a quality television series that is accurate, entertaining and informative.

All members of the *Border Security* team have displayed high levels of professionalism and integrity towards the department's biosecurity objectives. They have developed a keen understanding of the department's operations to ensure they accurately represent the activities and messages of the department.

Border Security, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, continues to provide a positive platform for delivering biosecurity messages to the public and to industry, supporting Australia's biosecurity integrity.

**BORDER
SECURITY**



Lyndal Marks
Executive producer, Factual programming,
Seven Network





Federation of Australian Wool Organisations

Australia is the world's largest producer of wool and accounts for more than 90 per cent of the world's merino wool production. In 2012 – 2013 the export value of Australia's merino wool clip was worth almost \$3 billion.



The Federation of Australian Wool Organisations (FAWO) is a wool industry representative organisation comprising members from virtually all wool industry sectors, including Wool Producers Australia, Australian Wool Innovation, the Australian Council of Wool Exporters and Processors, the Australian Wool Exchange, the Australian Wool Testing Authority, the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia, the Australian Superfine Wool Growers Association, Sheep CRC, the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, and the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia.

The FAWO has been an active participant in sheep and wool biosecurity activities for several years, and is proactive about the threat of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and other emergency animal diseases (EAD) that could have devastating social and economic consequences for Australia.

In 2011, FAWO members recognised that as most Australian early-stage processing plants for wool had closed, attention to the potential impact that an FMD or other major EAD outbreaks would have on wool exports was required.

The FAWO established an Emergency Animal Disease Working Group (EADWG) to ensure member organisations were fully aware of developments at government level, and of the implications for the wool industry. The working group also enabled FAWO's expertise to be fed into government planning strategies to manage an outbreak.

The organisation, in addition to its work in traditional EAD technical preparedness, has also been instrumental in introducing EAD trade preparedness. This trade preparedness potentially reduces time out of markets

by improving national capacity to trace and certify wool product to the required international standards.

FAWO also led the development of an industry-specific AUSVETPLAN Wool Industry enterprise manual that details the appropriate response, by the enterprises involved in wool handling, to an EAD incident.

FAWO is a strong advocate of the importance of biosecurity and industry awareness of emergency animal diseases. Its contributions have made a substantial improvement to onshore biosecurity arrangements pertaining to Australia's wool industry.

The Federation of Australian Wool Organisations' forward planning and leadership among industry partners has ongoing positive outcomes for Australia's biosecurity integrity.



Fertilizer Australia

Fertilizer Australia (previously known as the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia) represents manufacturers, importers and distributors of fertiliser in Australia, and associated service industries. It supplies more than 95 per cent of the fertilisers used in Australia, and plays a key role in managing biosecurity risks associated with importing fertiliser.



Peter Lihne, Assistant Secretary for Cargo and Shipping, Department of Agriculture (left) and John Lewis, Chair of the Fertilizer Australia Import Logistics Committee signing the Imported Containerised Fertiliser Audit and Inspection Protocols



The importation of fertiliser to Australia is considered a high biosecurity risk as the fertiliser could be contaminated with seed, soil and animal matter, which can introduce exotic pests and diseases into Australia.

With this risk in mind, and considering that fertiliser is applied directly onto soil, in 1995 the Department of Agriculture implemented a zero tolerance policy on fertiliser contamination.

In 2004, the department, in collaboration with Fertilizer Australia, implemented protocols to manage the biosecurity risks associated with bulk in-vessel fertiliser. This saw a drop in the rates of contamination of bulk in-vessel fertiliser from 18 per cent in 1996 to less than two per cent in 2013.

The success of this project led to Fertilizer Australia and the department working collaboratively to set up the Imported Containerised Fertiliser Inspection Protocols for importing bulk and large bagged fertiliser in containers.

Last year, Fertilizer Australia initiated a revision of these protocols and, working in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, delivered a revised set of procedures that are more effective and relevant to today's fertiliser import conditions and industry practice.

Fertilizer Australia has a strong commitment to Australia's biosecurity integrity, and has been a driving force behind changes to biosecurity management in the fertiliser supply chain.

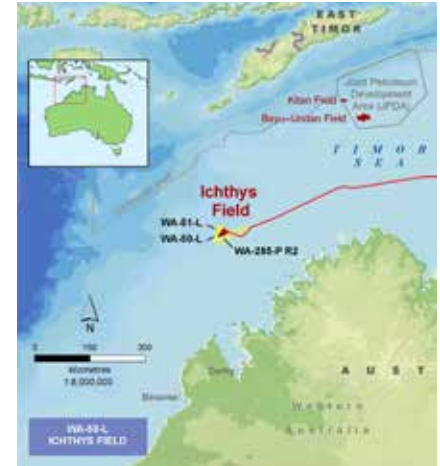
Fertilizer Australia's engagement with international partners, industry and stakeholders has supported others to adopt fertiliser protocols and better manage the risks to Australia.

Australia's strong reliance on our agricultural sector means the importation of fertiliser will continue to be a risk pathway for the introduction of exotic pests and diseases. Fertilizer Australia, recognising this risk, continues to work closely with the Department of Agriculture to further strengthen the partnership and align commercial and national interests.



INPEX

INPEX is a worldwide oil and gas exploration and production company currently involved in more than 70 projects across 29 countries. Several of these projects are in Australia and the Timor Seas, including the large-scale Ichthys LNG Project.



INPEX

As the operator of the Ichthys LNG Project, INPEX has demonstrated its commitment to Australia's biosecurity integrity by ensuring its contractors adhere to biosecurity requirements and, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, develop biosecurity management plans. The Ichthys LNG Project has made this a contractual requirement.

The biosecurity management plans outline the efforts and measures the contractors will put in place to reduce or eliminate biosecurity risk material contamination on equipment, before and during importation to Australia. Projects that use biosecurity management plans have demonstrated a reduction in biosecurity risk material contamination on imported equipment.

To assist its contractors to identify biosecurity risk before importing their equipment into Australia, INPEX developed an online biosecurity risk assessment tool. The tool identifies key biosecurity risks, and provides information and images of any biosecurity risks that may be present throughout their entire supply chain, from manufacturing overseas to delivery in Australia.

The work done by INPEX on the Ichthys LNG Project means the Department of Agriculture can be more confident that consignments for the project will be compliant with Australia's biosecurity requirements. This will allow the department to target its resources at higher risk activities.



Tony Filippi

Mildura Fruit Company Pty Ltd.

Tony Filippi is a grower services representative for the Mildura Fruit Company, one of Australia's leading citrus packers and exporters.



Mildura Fruit Company Pty Ltd General Manager Perry Hill (left) with the winner of a 2014 Australian Biosecurity Award Tony Filippi



The company markets a full range of citrus fruits around the world and, for the past three years, has also exported packed fruits to Korea, China and Thailand – markets that can be difficult to establish due to stringent requirements.

In supplying these markets, the Mildura Fruit Company works only within the orchards that can meet the requirements of its grower program. This program has seen a shift toward the exporter and packhouse taking greater responsibility for the fruit during the growing season. It has also helped growers to understand the need to meet importing country requirements – during the growing season and at harvest.

The grower program insists that all orchards are registered with the Department of Agriculture, and that export products are monitored and

found free of any quarantine pests for the importing country. Overall, the grower program helps to protect the reputation of the Mildura Fruit Company as a reliable exporter of Australian citrus.

In driving the development and implementation of this process at the Mildura Fruit Company, Tony Filippi has demonstrated a strong commitment to Australia's biosecurity system. Mr Filippi worked diligently to refine the grower program following pest interceptions of Australian Citrus in Thailand during 2012.

He engaged the Department of Agriculture to better understand the macro implications of pest interceptions and their impact on the market.

He also engaged researchers to further understand the critical control points for managing quarantine pests that affect citrus plants, and refined the grower

program to better realise the benefits of biosecurity management at orchards in Australia.

During the 2013 season, the Mildura Fruit Company had 38 citrus growers, with a total of 245 blocks covering more than 700 hectares across the Murray Valley, and Riverland and Riverina regions, in their Korea, China and Thailand export program. Growers in the program are committed to following the protocol requirements of importing countries under the direction of the Mildura Fruit Company, and were found to be 100 per cent compliant by the Department of Agriculture during the annual citrus grower audits in 2013.

The biosecurity efforts of people like Tony Filippi underpin the commercial success of Australian exporters such as the Mildura Fruit Company.