

# Media Release

**The Hon Gayle Tierney MP**

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education

Minister for Agriculture



Friday, 2 September 2022

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON VICTORIA'S BIOSECURITY LAWS

Victorians now have the opportunity to shape the future of biosecurity as the Andrews Labor Government works to safeguard the agriculture sector.

The Labor Government has released a discussion paper setting out key topics to guide reforms to Victoria's biosecurity legislation.

Public feedback on Victoria's current biosecurity system is vital to ensure it remains effective, including the legislation that underpins it.

Strong and modern biosecurity laws will ensure Victoria maintains its reputation as a producer and exporter of safe and high-quality produce.

Legislative reform also provides an opportunity to develop laws that address risks, and support new ways for government, industry and the community to work together.

Combining the laws relating to animals, plants and pests currently provided across multiple pieces of legislation into a single Biosecurity Act will help make everyone's responsibilities clear.

There is also opportunity to consider how biosecurity legislation can emphasise that biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and to recognise Traditional Owner rights and knowledge systems in Caring for Country.

This is the first time Victorians have the opportunity to have their say on combining the biosecurity laws.

Feedback received will help the Government understand the priorities of the public and guide the development of new policies.

The reform delivers on the Government's ambitious 10-year agriculture strategy, ensuring the sector is well-placed to guard against future risk.

Community members can complete a survey or make a submission by midnight, Sunday 9 October 2022 via [engage.vic.gov.au](https://engage.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney

*"Victoria already has very strong legislation and systems in place to protect the state's agricultural industries but it's important we continually review and improve."*

*"Biosecurity is complex and preparedness everyone's responsibility, and I encourage all Victorians to have their say about how Victoria can best protect itself in the face of increased risks."*