

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Training and Skills
Minister for Higher Education
Minister for Agriculture



Monday, 25 September 2023

JOIN THE QUEST AND LEARN HOW TO PROTECT OUR BIOSECURITY

The Andrews Labor Government is encouraging families to learn how to protect Victoria's agriculture industry.

Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney visited the Melbourne Royal Show today to launch the Great Biosecurity Quest, a new science program that will teach people how to combat against pests and diseases that threaten our environment.

Held in October, Victorians can register to join the Quest as a Watchout Warrior and access a science toolkit that explains the pests and diseases in their backyard, local garden or national park.

Watchout Warriors can also report their discoveries via Agriculture Victoria's online portal and help keep our natural assets safe.

Ahead of the Great Biosecurity Quest's opening, Melbourne Royal Show visitors can take part in the Junior Quest, an interactive display in the Livestock Building which will educate children on specific animals and diseases.

Visitors will also discover how to join the Great Biosecurity Quest and enter a competition to win an iPad Mini.

Pests and diseases pose a major threat to the state's multi-billion dollar agriculture and tourism industries – so a strong biosecurity system is fundamental to the health, well-being and prosperity of all Victorians.

The Labor Government is committed to managing and preparing for key biosecurity threats, including emergency animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease or lumpy skin disease.

The Government has invested \$17.5 million in biosecurity as part of this year's budget, to ensure Victoria has the skills and capability to respond swiftly to an emergency animal disease detection.

For more information and to register to become a Watchout Warrior, visit the Great Biosecurity Quest stand at the Melbourne Royal Show or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurityquest.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney

"We're asking Victorians to join the Great Biosecurity Quest and play their part in keeping our unique natural environment safe."

"Keeping our environment safe from pests and diseases is a shared responsibility – thanks to our new Great Biosecurity Quest program, small actions from people like you and me can have a big impact."

"When we all keep an eye out for the risks, we have the power to protect our precious natural resources, valuable agricultural industry and ensure future food security for everyone to share and enjoy."