

Australia unveils first National Agricultural Traceability Strategy to protect and grow Agri industry

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Australia has proposed a ten year strategy to aid the agriculture sector. It also supports Australia's agriculture industry's goal of growing the sector to a AU\$100 billion a year industry by 2030. The Strategy was officially launched on 13 July at the Agriculture Ministers Meeting (AMM) in Perth.

Government is investing over \$100 million into Australia's agricultural traceability systems with \$55 million invested already this year, an investment that will pay dividends through trade while helping to protect Australia from biosecurity incursions.

The 10-year Strategy will guide research, as well as industry and government investment to improve already strong systems, increase efficiencies, and deliver benefits to farmers. Traceability systems provide consumers and markets with information about the origin of their food and fiber. Landmark strategy will help protect and grow Australian agriculture.

The National Agricultural Traceability Strategy was developed in 2022/23 through industry and government working together, with a wide range of stakeholders along agricultural supply chains, from producers to retailers. It was also informed by the National Traceability Summit and Working Group Sessions, industry design group sessions, the Australian Agricultural Traceability Alliance Forum, and a Have Your Say public survey.

Agriculture ministers from across Australia have come together to deliver the country's first National Agricultural Traceability Strategy, to protect and grow agriculture sector.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Murray Watt said “Better traceability systems help Australian farmers show where and how food was produced, bringing more value to their production. These systems also help our farmers adapt to changing trade relations, regulatory environments, biosecurity risks and consumer preferences. Modern national traceability system proves Australia’s credentials in areas like biosecurity, food safety and sustainability, in order to gain a market advantage for our producers”.

He further added “It can help increase product value domestically and internationally and allows for produce movements to be tracked, in the event of a biosecurity outbreak. Traceability is a shared responsibility and I commend the states and territories and industry for coming together, in partnership with the Commonwealth, to undertake this important work”.