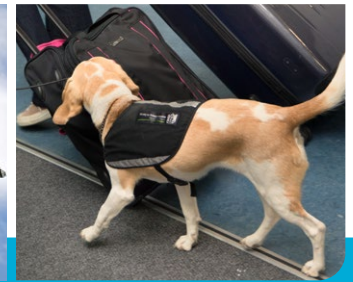




# The BorderSpace

Working together to secure New Zealand's borders from biosecurity threats



## Border tightens after second fruit fly find



**We've stepped up some of our border controls following the detection of a second Oriental fruit fly in Auckland.**

The single male fly was detected in a backyard surveillance trap in the North Shore suburb of Birkdale on 20 February, sparking a major response to determine whether there were more flies and, if so, to eliminate any population.

At the time of writing, no further flies have been detected. The response follows an Oriental fruit fly detection in Papatoetoe in January. Our diagnostics team has determined the two flies are not genetically linked.

At the border, we are continuing to target air passengers with information about Oriental fruit fly, particularly those arriving on flights from Asia, where the pest is established.

We recently introduced new digital signage at Auckland Airport, asking passengers to dispose of fruit that could potentially host the pest.

We have reviewed airport seizures over the past six months to determine which fruit and other food items travellers are most likely to bring into New Zealand.

It is no surprise that common fruits such as apples, bananas, and jackfruit appear in the top five. Our airport messaging will target this

list, and we will monitor its impact on passenger behaviour by tallying what we find in our amnesty bins.

As an additional verification check, we have also reintroduced detector dog teams to sniff passengers after they have been through x-ray screening during peak arrival periods. Especially trained to find fruit fly host materials, detector dogs will also screen mishandled baggage that arrives separately from its owner.

We are working closely with our intelligence teams to analyse relevant passenger and seizure information from high-risk flights. This will provide a more complete picture of the risk associated with Oriental fruit fly and help us determine whether further action is needed.

The new measures are currently being reviewed weekly.

### The top five

The top five fruit fly host materials seized (declared and undeclared) from passengers arriving from countries with Oriental fruit fly between 1 September and 20 February.

Apples	336	Oranges	103
Bananas	194	Jackfruit	84
Mandarins	167		

**Fruit can carry pests such as fruit fly**

**You must dispose of all fruit, including:**

- Apples
- Bananas
- Mandarins
- Oranges
- Jackfruit



Targeting fruit that could carry Oriental fruit fly.

# Detector puppies on the move

We are keeping our detector dog programme well stocked with fresh talent.



Milo during his assessment.



Taffy – life as a detector dog awaits.

## Taffy and Milo join the programme

**We recently purchased two new puppies for the programme – Taffy and Milo.**

Black Labrador Taffy has settled in with her puppy walking family and recently ventured out on her first mall-walking experience as part of her training.

Five-month-old beagle pup Milo has also just entered our puppy walking programme after passing his assessment with flying colours.

Puppy walking families play an important role in developing successful biosecurity detector dogs. The families, who are volunteers, help raise and socialise puppies before they move to formal training.

Our puppies stay with their families until they are around one year-old. After this, they are assessed to enter our pre-training programme where they learn basic odour recognition and other detection techniques.

*...continued overleaf*



## S-litter graduation

**Four puppy walking families joined us in February to celebrate S-litter's coming of age for the next step in their biosecurity training.**

The families have been looking after Sage, Sonic, Starsky and Stevie, otherwise known as S-litter. The beagle puppies entered our pre-training programme in February after being fostered with the families for nearly a year.

We were delighted to mark their progress with the families, who generously gave their time to support the programme.

Starsky, the only male in the group, will go through our breeding selection process. Sage and Sonic may become breeding dogs as well in the future.



Starsky from S-litter and his foster family at the recent puppy graduation.

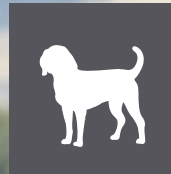
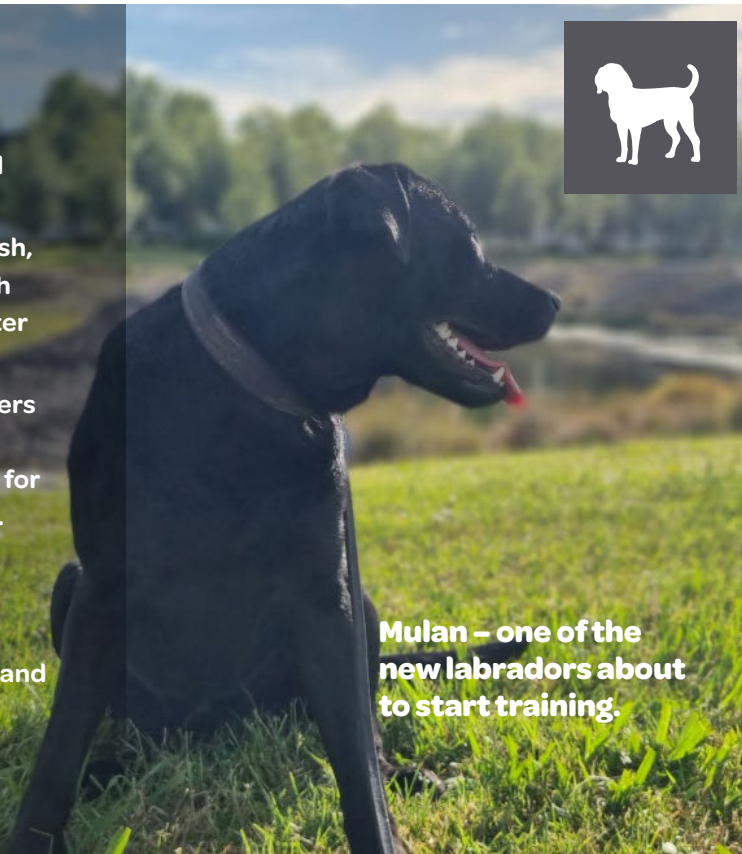
## New canine blood

We also have several other dogs due to graduate from puppy walking homes and start pre-training later in April.

These include three labrador puppies (Ash, Mulan and Kermit) purchased from North Island breeders last year, as well as T-litter beagles Tilly and Tito.

We are also planning for three beagle litters this year under our in-house breeding programme. And we will continue to look for new canine talent from external sources.

Following a recent recruitment drive, Biosecurity New Zealand currently has 37 detector dog teams – 26 in Auckland, three in Wellington, five in Christchurch, and three in Queenstown.



**Mulan – one of the new labradors about to start training.**

## Biosecurity partnership with Tahiti

**Members of our detector dog programme recently visited the Direction de la biosécurité in Tahiti to audit the French Polynesia Biosecurity Dog Programme.**

As part of a partnership arrangement, Biosecurity New Zealand supported the agency to set up its own detector dog programme during 2022 and 2023. We provided training for three handlers and three detector dogs.

We were recently invited to audit the dog programme, which saw two of our team members visit Tahiti in February. Their role was to assess and make recommendations on the detector dog unit's operations and control areas at Tahiti Faa'a International Airport, the postal sorting centre in Fare Rata (Faa'a), and the Autonomous Port of Papeete.



Biosecurity dog programme auditors Gerri Stoltz (left) and Bill Taylor (right) at Tahiti Faa'a International Airport.

## Salute for detector dog programme

**Great to see our detector dog programme recognised for its essential service to the community in this year's Purple Poppy Day ceremony.**

The event recognises animals that serve in conflicts and those that protect the community.

Handler Rob Osborne attended the event on behalf of Biosecurity New Zealand at the Devonport Naval Museum in February.

Rob gave a speech about our dog programme, highlighting the important work at the border performed by our canine teams. This was followed by a demonstration of our biosecurity detector dogs in action, ably assisted by working beagle Huia, Judd (a retired biosecurity dog), and children attending the event.



Rob and Huia at Purple Poppy Day.



**BIOSECURITY  
BUSINESS  
PLEDGE**  
KO TĀTOU

The Biosecurity Business Pledge is a partnership helping all New Zealand businesses take a proactive approach to biosecurity practice.

Biosecurity protects your business, the environment and the economy.

[bbpledge.nz](https://bbpledge.nz)



## BMSB detections remain low

**Detections of live brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) this season remain low.**

As at 18 March, 36 live bugs have been detected – a significant drop compared with 102 live BMSB at the same time last season.

BMSB is one of New Zealand's most unwanted pests due to its voracious appetite for fresh produce.

The high-risk season for New Zealand runs from September to April. This is the period when BMSB is most likely to be found in imported goods.

Recent detections include:

- 44 dead BMSB that arrived in Nelson with a boat hoist imported from Italy. The seven-container consignment had been treated before export by an approved provider.
- a live BMSB detected on a curtain at Airbnb accommodation in Cambridge. The owner spotted the bug during cleaning after guests from Germany had checked out that morning. Our lab team identified it as a non-reproductive female BMSB. No further BMSB were detected at the Cambridge address or the guests' prior accommodation in Auckland.
- a live female (unmated) BMSB in an Auckland hotel room. The bug was spotted flying around a room by a tour party from Asia. The guests captured it before alerting hotel staff. Biosecurity New Zealand staff provided educational material to the hotel. No further BMSB were detected during the guests' stay.

AS AT 18 MARCH 2025

**36** live bugs

102 same time last year



## FMD watch

**We are closely monitoring foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks in Germany and Hungary.**

FMD is a highly contagious virus that affects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, and pigs.

The disease was confirmed in a small herd of water buffalo in Germany on 10 January – the first outbreak in the country since 2011. On 7 March, Hungary reported an outbreak in a dairy cattle herd near its border with Slovakia.

German, Hungarian and Slovakian authorities have introduced a range of control measures to stop the spread, including halting the movement of animals and animal products from the affected areas, culling and disposing of affected animals, and establishing restricted zones.

Biosecurity New Zealand introduced extra risk assessment measures for animal product imports from Germany and for travellers arriving from Europe following the first outbreak.

We have since introduced additional checks for passengers and animal products arriving from Hungary and Slovakia. New Zealand imports very low volumes of animal product from these countries.

**The latest advice on importing animal products from Germany can be found on our website.**

**ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL PRECAUTIONS**

# Fairer border charges for managing goods

**The government has approved changes to the fees charged by Biosecurity New Zealand and New Zealand Customs for managing goods at the border following public consultation.**

The changes will be introduced in two stages. The first stage will take effect from 1 July 2025 and will only involve an increase in Customs' fees. Biosecurity charges will not change.

The second stage will introduce structural adjustments to both Customs and Biosecurity New Zealand's fees, taking effect from 1 April 2026. These changes will make the fees fairer for all importers and ensure sustainable funding for border controls.

The changes include:

- moving to consignment-based charging for the management of low-value imports (goods valued at less than NZ\$1000). This means importers will be charged per consignment rather than for each submitted cargo report, which can contain multiple consignments.
- removing the taxpayer subsidy for border clearance of imported low-value cargo and postal items.
- introducing a commercial vessel charge to manage the risks posed by arriving commercial ships.

The impact on shipping costs for consumers from the changes is expected to be very small. There could be an increase of up to \$2.21 when goods are couriered and \$1.28 per kilogram when shipped through the mail. For a typical 400g package, the additional charge would be \$0.51.

Further detail is available on the [NZ Customs website](#)

## New goods fees from 1 April 2026

Here are some of the border fees and levies that will apply from 1 April 2026.

"Low value" refers to consignments valued at \$1000 or less.

	Customs \$ excl GST	MPI \$ excl GST	Combined \$ excl GST
Low-value import (air)	1.46	0.75	2.21
Low-value import (sea)	1.34	0.75	2.09
Inwards international mail (per kilogram)	0.40	0.88	1.28
Commercial vessel	3,717.00	962.00	4,679.00

## Taking action

The Ministry for Primary Industries (which includes Biosecurity New Zealand) has launched an **action plan** for 2025 to 2026. The plan outlines how MPI can support the government's goals to drive growth and position the primary sectors for success.

**Protecting New Zealand from harmful pests and diseases is one of the four key goals.**

## Our goals

- 1 Double the value of exports by 2034
- 2 Deliver solutions for New Zealand farmers to reduce GHGs by 2030
- 3 Protect New Zealand from harmful pests and diseases
- 4 Back the primary sector to win



# Health and safety guidance for TFs

**We're about to wrap up public consultation on new health, safety, and wellbeing (HSW) guidance for transitional facilities (TFs).**

We are proposing a new HSW guidance document and related updates to the guidance boxes in the Transitional Facilities for General Uncleared Risk Goods (TFGEN) standard, which outlines the operating requirements for TFs. There are no proposed changes to TFGEN requirements or the existing TFGEN biosecurity guidance document.

The new guidance is designed to:

- proactively communicate Biosecurity New Zealand's expectations for the safety of our officers when they're working at TFs.
- support workplace safety conversations between Biosecurity New Zealand and TF staff, ensuring everyone is on the same page.
- provide TF operators with information to help identify and manage HSW risks related to biosecurity work.
- ensure Biosecurity New Zealand meets its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

We have emphasised to industry that the HSW changes are guidance only – they are not requirements. Biosecurity New Zealand is not an HSW regulator, and we will not be adding health and safety to our audits or verifications.

Like all New Zealand workplaces, TFs must already comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act regulations. We are not asking for anything beyond what this law requires – our focus is on applying these requirements in a biosecurity context. TFs with strong safety practices will see little change.

Biosecurity New Zealand's standards team plans to issue the guidance in September, depending on public submissions.

## TFs in brief

- Transitional facilities provide a secure location for managing imported goods until they receive biosecurity clearance. Most operate under the Transitional Facilities for General Uncleared Risk Goods (TFGEN) standard. There are about 4000 approved TFs across New Zealand.
- Our officers visit TFs regularly to clear incoming cargo, exposing them to various workplace risks.
- Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, both Biosecurity New Zealand and TF operators share responsibility for a safe work environment.

Biosecurity New Zealand must protect its staff, while TFs are responsible for the worksite and safety within their own operations.

- The proposed new guidance falls under Biosecurity New Zealand's role as a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). It is a resource to assist TF operators but does not replace their existing legal obligations and does not carry the same authority as health and safety guidance from regulators like WorkSafe or Maritime New Zealand.



# Proposed Biosecurity Act changes: What the public thinks

**Thanks to those of you who took part in the public consultation on proposed wide-ranging amendments to the Biosecurity Act 1993 – the legal foundation stone for New Zealand’s biosecurity system.**

The consultation ran from 19 September to 13 December, attracting 137 submissions from a wide range of stakeholders.

Further targeted consultation is underway with submitters to refine the proposals. MPI expects to provide ministers with final policy recommendations within the next few months.

Our policy team has published a [summary of the submissions online](#).

Here’s a quick summary of what submitters thought about proposals affecting border operations and import requirements.

## Hefty fines for high-risk goods

A proposal for stricter penalties for travellers who fail to declare high-risk goods received 33 submissions, with 29 expressing at least some support. Most supported a higher infringement penalty of \$800. Opponents thought the two-tier system could complicate enforcement, and some suggested clearer education for travellers.

## Import health standard changes

There were five proposals aimed at making it easier to introduce changes to New Zealand’s import rules. They

attracted 59 submissions. Supporters were keen on greater efficiency, while others stressed the importance of biosecurity risk management and consultation.

## Stronger compliance options for Places of First Arrival (PoFA)

There were 35 submissions on two proposals to introduce new penalties for ports or airports that don’t comply with their biosecurity obligations. Supporters favoured fines as an enforcement tool over revoking a PoFA’s designation. Opponents argued current measures were sufficient. Some called for tiered penalties based on the severity of offences.

## Biosecurity checks for cruise passengers

A proposal to allow biosecurity inspectors to check passengers each time they leave a vessel (rather than just at the vessel’s first arrival point) received 30 submissions. Supporters argued cruise passengers should be subject to the same scrutiny as air travellers and that the proposal would strengthen biosecurity. Opponents feared overregulation and travel delays. Some called for a focus on high-risk behaviour rather than broad new rules.

## Regulating biofouling removal in New Zealand’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

There were 45 submissions on two proposals to strengthen biofouling rules. The proposals are intended to clarify powers to manage and regulate biofouling removal from vessels within the EEZ (12–200 nautical miles from the shoreline). Supporters cited marine protection benefits. The shipping and travel industries strongly opposed the proposals, citing compliance costs and a lack of clear

evidence for stricter measures. Some called for defined cleaning zones and more practical solutions.

## Limiting food in the air passenger pathway

Two proposals to cap food volumes carried by air passengers received 26 submissions, with most opposing them. Many saw no clear justification, and seasonal limits were viewed as impractical. Some suggested reducing the existing 40kg food limit.

## Facility approval and third-party verification

Proposals to streamline the approval of transitional and containment facilities and expand third-party verification received 35 submissions. Supporters saw efficiency benefits, but there were concerns about unclear guidelines and cost implications. Some recommended limiting third-party roles to low-risk tasks.

## Providing biosecurity information to incoming passengers on commercial craft

Thirty-five submissions addressed proposals on requirements for commercial vessel operators or airlines to provide arriving passengers with biosecurity information. One proposal suggested removing the existing requirement. Some argued the requirement helped improve compliance. Others felt it was unnecessary since carriers already provided the information voluntarily. There was also a proposal to require carriers to notify Biosecurity New Zealand when they provided the information to passengers. Supporters saw this as a compliance check. Opponents viewed it as unnecessary red tape. Some suggested digital solutions to better target passengers.



# The big mail **shift**



## Our international mail operations began the big shift to NZ Post's new Auckland Processing Centre (APC) in February.

The move is the final milestone for a project we have been working on since 2017 – one that has involved the complete redesign of our mail processes from the ground up.

Involving a phased approach, the move kicked off on 10 February, starting with items from Australia, which make up nearly 50% of the international mail entering New Zealand.

Both the APC and the current International Mail Centre (IMC) have operated together during the transition. Located next to the airport, the IMC has been New Zealand's gateway for international mail since 1997.

Some 25 officers will be located at the APC.

The APC was originally planned to start processing individual items from overseas

senders (Universal Postal Union items) in September. However, the go-live date was paused to avoid teething problems during the busy Christmas peak period. There have also been challenges connecting our biosecurity scanning technology with the centre's automated sorting system.

At the time of writing in March, the APC is processing 80% of international mail

volumes, with full operation due to start before the end of the month. There is no turning back. We must vacate the IMC by April, as Auckland Airport is planning to use the space for other purposes.

Here's a recap of some of the APC's main features that will allow us to identify biosecurity threats more effectively and efficiently.

### Advanced biosecurity scanning

The centre will have a 3D mail scanner – the same model that has been installed at Auckland Airport for baggage screening. There will also be two 2D dual-view machines for screening smaller items. Both these models provide enhanced detection capability compared with the 2D X-ray machines used at the IMC.

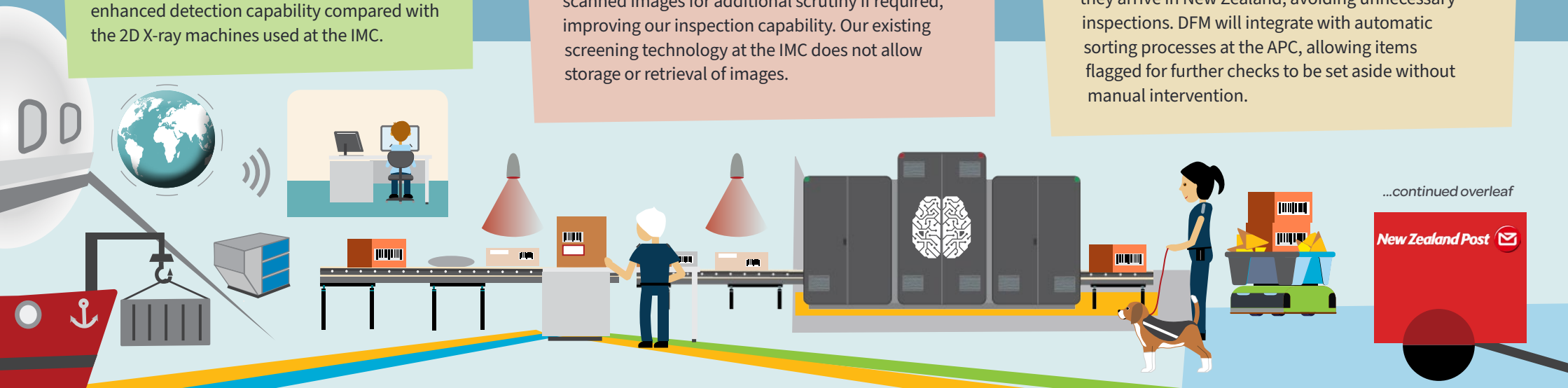
### Remote screening

A control room will enable officers to monitor images from the new scanners remotely, providing our officers with a clean, safe, and distraction-free environment. Officers working in the control room will have the ability to pause or recall scanned images for additional scrutiny if required, improving our inspection capability. Our existing screening technology at the IMC does not allow storage or retrieval of images.

### New data and intelligence tools

A new electronic data system will use declaration information to target risk items and enable faster processing for items that don't pose a threat.

Known as Data for Mail (DFM), the system has been running at the IMC for the last three months. It allows us to identify low-risk items and clear them before they arrive in New Zealand, avoiding unnecessary inspections. DFM will integrate with automatic sorting processes at the APC, allowing items flagged for further checks to be set aside without manual intervention.



...continued overleaf

New Zealand Post

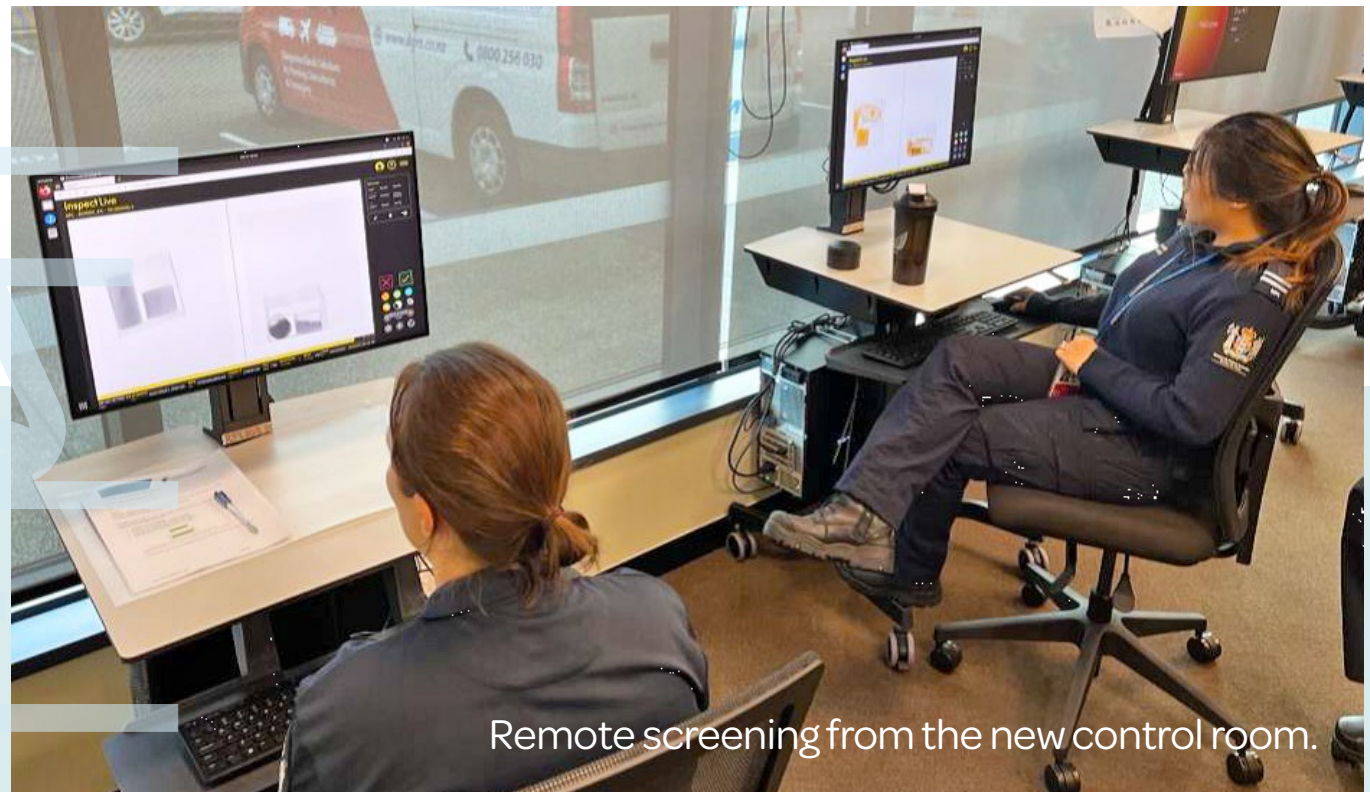
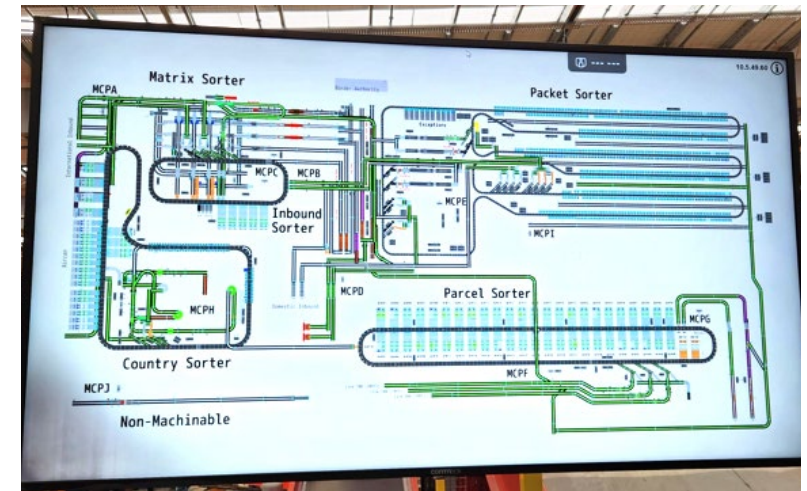
## Collaboration with NZ Customs

Biosecurity New Zealand and NZ Customs will share the inspection space in the APC, promoting a stronger working relationship between the two border agencies.

## Other features

NZ Post will become the main contact point for mail customers when operations move to the APC. This will allow Biosecurity New Zealand to focus solely on biosecurity processing and give NZ Post greater control in managing its business relationships.

NZ Post will also take over responsibility from Biosecurity New Zealand for ensuring the inspection area in the APC meets strict biosecurity requirements as a transitional facility. This aligns with existing business practices for other importers and will free up our resources for core biosecurity duties.



Remote screening from the new control room.

## From the frontline

### A selection of interesting interceptions and other border activity...

#### Honey boon

A passenger arriving in Queenstown in February from Australia turned out to be carrying a little more than the six bottles of honey they initially declared.

Our officers kept uncovering more bottles from multiple bags, leading to a full inspection.

In the end, officers collected 13 bottles, weighing 11.7 kg.

The passenger avoided a fine because they had initially declared honey. They also disclosed they had more honey during questioning.



Two bottles of New Zealand honey were able to be returned to the traveller, as they were sealed and clearly labelled as local product.

#### Sausage feast cancelled

A family arriving from Hawaii won't be dining on any of the 54kg of pork sausages

they declared to officers at Auckland Airport in February.

It was their first visit to New Zealand, and they were responding to a request from local family members to bring sausages from home. The sausages were seized and destroyed.



#### Gory gift

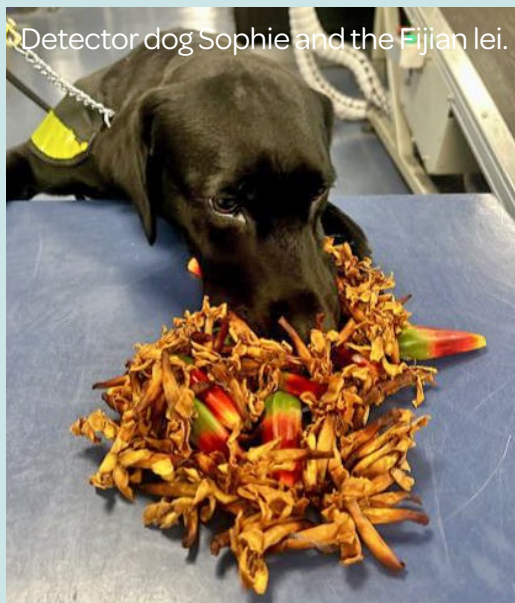
A passenger returning to Auckland from France in February declared human body parts – an ancient skull and femur.

The artefacts were a gift from the passenger's grandmother.

The skull was lined with lead. According to the passenger, it had once belonged to a monk and was used for begging.

The femur, decorated with feathers, belonged to a long-ago victim of cannibalism.

A quarantine officer carefully inspected the items. Found free from contamination, they were released back to the passenger.



Detector dog Sophie and the Fijian lei.

#### Sophie detects flowers and mystery meat

Detector labrador Sophie was on duty recently at Auckland Airport when she stopped to sniff some flowers.

No, she wasn't taking a break – the flowers in question were a fresh lei from Fiji.

The lei was wrapped in clothing inside the passenger's trolley basket. The passenger claimed they had forgotten about it. Hopefully, the \$400 fine will act a memory jog for future travels.

Sophie followed up her flower detection

by alerting officers to a suitcase belonging to a passenger arriving from Sichuan, China.

The passenger had not declared any food, yet inside the suitcase were fresh pomegranates, two vacuum-sealed packs of chicken feet, and another sealed packet of unidentified meat.

When asked what the meat was, the passenger simply replied, "It's like chicken."

The mystery meat wasn't identified, but there was no doubt about the \$400 infringement notice. The food was destroyed.



## From the frontline....continued

### Mossie detection

A sharp-eyed quarantine officer intercepted a mosquito at Auckland's Princes Wharf cruise ship terminal in late February.

The officer was helping clear cruise passengers arriving on the *Celebrity Edge* when the mosquito landed on a nearby surface.

As is our standard procedure, the interception was immediately reported to Health New Zealand's National Public Health Service. A public health officer quickly arrived to collect the specimen and check for pooled water in the terminal.

It turned out to be a false alarm. The specimen was identified as a southern house mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*), which is already widely established in New Zealand.



### Valentine's seizure

Detector dog Bodie made a very fitting discovery on Valentine's Day – an undeclared rose tucked inside a suitcase.

The passenger, a Kiwi traveller returning to Auckland, thought the flower was fake. It was a gift from her grandson.

The \$400 fine will hopefully encourage her to take a closer look next time. The rose was destroyed.



The Asian subterranean termite

### Invasive termite thwarted

Sharp observation by one of our officers at Auckland Port led to the interception of one of the world's most invasive termite species.

In January, the officer noticed insect tunnels on the underside of an empty container arriving from Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Upon further investigation, they found white, ant-like insects inside the container that resembled termites,

prompting direction to undergo treatment.

The insects were indeed termites – specifically, the Asian subterranean termite (*Coptotermes gestroi*), as confirmed by our lab team.

Native to Southeast Asia, this species is highly invasive and destructive, particularly to wooden structures. It feeds voraciously on any material containing cellulose and will even bore through rubber, plastic and Styrofoam to reach food sources.

### Snake alert at Timaru Port

A grainy video of a wiggly creature swimming away from a pilot launch sparked a snake alert at Timaru's PrimePort in February.

It looked very much like a terrestrial hitchhiker, prompting deployment of trained snake handlers to the port.

The handlers were stood down before reaching the site after a better-quality video and expert advice confirmed the swimmer was an aquatic animal – most likely some sort of eel.

Right: The wiggly swimmer.



## From the frontline....continued

### Drone inspections at port

Innovative use of drone technology is helping local officers inspect grain hoppers at Lyttelton Port.

The hoppers are used to discharge imported grain from arriving vessels. The team has been using drones to check that the hoppers are free from contamination since the port closed access to the upper walkways last year for health and safety reasons.

As our officers could no longer complete full inspections, it was decided to trial a drone to capture video

for determining whether the hoppers were clean.

Using a drone operator supplied by the port company, the trial proved to be very successful, providing high-quality images that support clearance decisions. In fact, the footage is so detailed that officers can check areas they wouldn't be able to see with a physical inspection.

In recent inspections, the hoppers have been able to be cleared with just one sweep from the drone.

Drone inspections have significant health and safety benefits, as officers no longer need to access high areas to carry out checks.



### Cactus detected remotely

A live cactus crawling with insects was detected remotely by officers working in the new Auckland Processing Centre (see pages 9–10).

A biosecurity control room allows officers to view images from the centre's new scanning equipment.

The parcel containing the cactus underwent inspection in March after two alerts during remote screening.

Arriving from China, the parcel was declared as a car cover.

The cactus was seized but held back from destruction to allow Department of Conservation officers to check its status under international rules for trading endangered species.



### “Vegetarian” meat packs

An air passenger arriving at Auckland from Vietnam in February claimed the packs contained tofu and beef jerky and were a gift from a vegetarian friend.

They looked suspiciously like cured meat to Pixie's handler following her detector dog's keen interest in one of passenger's suitcases.

Pixie's sniffing skills were vindicated when a search bench inspection confirmed the passenger was carrying 2.7kg of cured beef.

The passenger may be reconsidering the friendship after paying a \$400 fine.



## From the frontline....continued

### Canadian carpenter ants found in Northland

Our Northland team will monitor a transitional facility in Ruakākā after a carpenter ant nest was found in a consignment of imported timber from Canada.

All four containers in the consignment were directed to undergo treatment after one of our Whangārei-based officers spotted the nest in February. The treatment was completed in just over 30 minutes after the detection using a heat treatment facility at the site.

Sticky traps have been placed in the devanning area to catch any stray ants.

This is the second carpenter ant nest detected recently at the facility in timber sourced from Vancouver, where the pest is endemic. The importer has contacted the suppliers to investigate.

Not established in New Zealand, carpenter ants are known to damage structures by tunnelling into wood to build nests.

Right: Carpenter ant tunnels in imported timber.



### Head-turning Lamborghini cleared

Our Invercargill team had the pleasure of inspecting one of Lamborghini's top track cars in February – and it may well have been the cleanest.

An Invercargill importer shipped the 2020 Lamborghini Huracán Super Trofeo EVO1 from the USA. Worth around \$350,000, it was held for clearance at a transitional facility in Gore.

Officers travelled up from Invercargill to carry out a full inspection, reporting that the vehicle was in immaculate condition.



### Does garlic count?

Just because fresh garlic can be good for eye health doesn't mean it isn't a biosecurity risk.

A passenger who recently arrived at Auckland Airport learnt this the hard way after detector dog Bodie became very interested in a suitcase.

Inspection revealed a ziplock bag containing undeclared fresh peeled garlic. The passenger claimed that, as she used it for her eyes, it didn't count as food so shouldn't result in a fine.

Either way, it was an undeclared risk good. A \$400 infringement notice was duly issued.



### Freedom bid fails

A four-legged fugitive was quickly apprehended after trying to make a run for freedom through the express lane at Auckland Airport.

The sighting in the early hours of 24 February saw officers set off in hot pursuit with brooms and buckets.

Identified as a stoat, it was soon captured under a box.

It was later humanely euthanised by a vet.

Right: The captured stoat.



## Border activity for January and February 2025

	Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2024	Feb 2025
<b>Passenger</b>				
Total arrivals	657,127	702,288	568,580	555,846
NZ/Australia	372,823	395,480	271,558	268,021
Rest of world	284,304	306,808	297,022	287,825
Risk items seized	11,363	11,195	9,452	9,091
Risk items treated or destroyed	7,969	7,375	6,589	6,177
<b>Infringement notices</b>	933	951	851	782
<b>Mail</b>				
Mail items screened	1,276,387	902,545	970,801	799,281
Mail items requiring further inspection	2,066	1,242	1,599	932
Risk mail items treated or destroyed	341	183	214	162
<b>Sea Containers</b>				
Sea containers arrivals	58,079	57,983	62,310	57,901
Sea containers inspected	3,037	3,315	2,982	3,686
<b>Cargo</b>				
Cargo lines of interest to MPI	18,136	17,835	18,611	16,420
Cargo lines inspected	4,999	4,825	4,507	4,165
Cargo lines treated, reshipped or destroyed	961	731	829	933



**Mike Inglis**  
Commissioner, North  
Biosecurity New Zealand



**Andrew Spelman**  
Commissioner, Biosecurity Intelligence  
and Systems, Biosecurity New Zealand



**Diane McDermott**  
Commissioner, Central/South  
Biosecurity New Zealand

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