



Biosecurity Response Levy Consultation information

Proposal to amend the Biosecurity Response Levy

The Biosecurity Response Levy is collected by DairyNZ on behalf of dairy farmers to pay the dairy sector's share of biosecurity response costs.

The Biosecurity Response Levy came into effect on 1 September 2019 and funded the *M. bovis* programme until 31 December 2024.

From 31 December 2024, the levy was reduced to 0 cents with the *M. bovis* programme now funded by the new Mycoplasma Bovis National Pest Management Plan Levy managed by OSPRI.

DairyNZ is seeking your view on broadening the scope of what the Biosecurity Response Levy can be spent on to include **readiness activities**, which are the things that help us prepare to respond in the event of other disease outbreaks in New Zealand.

What does that mean for you as a farmer paying the levy?

In short, it helps us as we work towards a single biosecurity levy, and it unlocks existing *M. bovis* reserves that can be used for other biosecurity readiness activities making better use of investment farmers have already made.

Readiness activities include our commitments to prepare for Foot and Mouth Disease as part of a new operational agreement signed in June 2025 as well as getting ready for other possible threats like Lumpy Skin Disease.

Why do we want to change the Biosecurity Response Levy?

Currently, the Biosecurity Response Levy can only be used to fund biosecurity **responses**. By supporting the change to expand the levy to also fund **readiness**, we can simplify the funding of biosecurity readiness and response activities and make spending more transparent.

This change will bring DairyNZ in line with other sector groups such as Beef+Lamb New Zealand and Kiwifruit Vine Health who also fund response and readiness from one levy.

The funding reserve will remain as a safeguard for a response should it be needed but also be able to be drawn down gradually over time for biosecurity readiness.

Why we need to consult

Any change to the *Biosecurity (Response–Milksolids Levy) Order 2019* (the "Biosecurity Response Levy") requires consultation with levy payers. This means we can't make changes without consulting with levy payers first.

We encourage you to have your say so that your views are considered. This is your opportunity to provide feedback on how levy funds are used to protect your farm and the wider industry from biosecurity threats.

A non-response is taken as support for the proposal to amend the levy order and spend the levy funds collected prior to the amendment on readiness activities.

Biosecurity Response Levy Consultation Process

This is a **consultation** with all Levy Payers.

DairyNZ is seeking to amend the *Biosecurity (Response - Milksolids Levy) Order 2019* (the "Biosecurity Response Levy"). This process is governed by the Biosecurity Act 1993, and the relevant sections are 100ZA and 100ZB.

To amend the Biosecurity Response Levy, the Minister must be satisfied that, amongst other things, those people that will be liable to pay the levy have been consulted by DairyNZ, and that DairyNZ has given due regard to the views expressed.

The Biosecurity Response Levy is imposed on Milksolids produced in New Zealand by a dairy farmer for supply to a dairy processor, this includes dairy farm owners, dairy farm leaseholders, and sharemilkers. A dairy farmer that provides Milksolids for supply to a dairy processor and are required to pay the levy are termed 'levy payers'.

DairyNZ is engaging all levy payers as part of the **consultation process** and using the information it receives from processors to identify and contact relevant farmers.

For more information about the proposal go to **www.dairynz.co.nz/biosecuritylevy**

The **consultation closes** at 12pm on Tuesday, 4 November.

For any assistance with voting enquiries please contact the Electionz helpline on 0800 666 935.

