

WORK PROGRAMME AT THE BORDER

Our objective is to improve the overall efficiency of traveller clearance and effectiveness of our compliance efforts.

Border agencies, including Customs and Biosecurity NZ, have identified a number of projects and initiatives for improving efficiency and effectiveness across the border and delivering improvements in traveller experience. These include:

Testing new x-ray technology and clearing baggage and travellers concurrently

Biosecurity NZ will test new technology that is expected to enable faster, less intrusive, and more effective x-ray screening using three dimensional imaging. This initiative is aimed at detecting risk goods that may be hidden and normally go undetected using currently operated technology. Tests will begin in November 2018.

Biosecurity NZ will also trial the new x-ray technology in a “back of house” environment at Auckland Airport, with traveller bags screened before being put on baggage carousels. This initiative is aimed at reducing traveller time at the airport. The technology facilitates a less intrusive traveller experience.

Changes to processing cruise ship travellers

Biosecurity NZ is implementing a performance driven assurance model, to be undertaken at the port of first arrival. This replaces in-transit inspection on cruise vessels. It will reduce expenditure and improve biosecurity outcomes.

Changes to rosters

Quarantine officers have historically been rostered 4 days on and 4 days off. Biosecurity NZ intends implementing changes to enable more flexible working while delivering clearance services more efficiently.

Testing faster infringement processes

The current system for processing biosecurity infringements ties up quarantine officers and travellers for longer than desirable. Biosecurity NZ will trial a streamlined process at Auckland Airport over the 2018/19 summer months.

Exploring potential on-line systems

During early 2018, Biosecurity NZ trialled a proof of concept digital human kiosk at Auckland Airport, using biometric technology to interact with travellers answering a wide range of common questions. Its objective was to reducing the load on MPI staff during peak times. Potential use of digital humans as a border initiative is under review.

Continuing investment for a consistent traveller experience

We will continue to invest in staff competency assessment programmes as a tool to maintain and improve consistency across all Biosecurity NZ points of intervention. This initiative is also aimed at further improving biosecurity outcomes.

Border Clearance Levy rates will change from 1 July 2019

The current levy rates covering both Customs and Biosecurity NZ activities came into effect from 1 July 2018, based on projected costs and the memorandum account surplus balances.

Customs set rates for three years, while Biosecurity NZ rates were set for one year only and therefore need to be re-calculated from 1 July 2019. They will then apply for two years.

The proposed new Biosecurity NZ rate for non-cruise travellers is \$8.56 (current \$7.30), and for cruise travellers is \$3.81 (current \$5.34).

These rates reflect forecast expenditure and traveller volumes over 2019/20 and 2020/21, as well as the forecast memorandum account position at 30 June 2019.

Biosecurity NZ rate calculations – Cruise arrivals

		2019/20 - 2020/21
A	Estimated costs for the levy period	\$3.31m
B	Estimated surplus/(deficit) as at 30 June 2019	\$0.91m
C	Estimated traveller volumes over the levy period	0.63m
	Levy rate = (A-B)/C	\$3.81

Biosecurity NZ rate calculations – Non-Cruise arrivals

		2019/20 - 2020/21
A	Estimated costs for the levy period	\$124.48m
B	Estimated surplus/(deficit) as at 30 June 2019	(\$4.47m)
C	Estimated traveller volumes over the levy period	15.07m
	Levy rate = (A-B)/C	\$8.56

Current Border Clearance Levy

Levy rates from 1 July 2018- 30 June 2018 (excl GST)

	Customs	Biosecurity NZ	Total
For travellers other than a cruise ship traveller			
Arrival charge	\$6.43	\$7.30	\$13.73
Departure charge	\$2.56		\$2.56
			\$16.29
For cruise ship travellers			
Arrival charge	\$10.40	\$5.34	\$15.74
Departure charge	\$4.10		\$4.10
			\$19.84

The current combined levy rates including GST are \$18.73 (non-cruise) and \$22.82 (cruise) per passenger.

Proposed New Border Clearance Levy

Levy rates from 1 July 2019- 30 June 2021 (excl GST)

	Customs	Biosecurity NZ	Total
For travellers other than a cruise ship traveller			
Arrival charge	\$6.43	\$8.56	\$14.99
Departure charge	\$2.56		\$2.56
			\$17.55
For cruise ship travellers			
Arrival charge	\$10.40	\$3.81	\$14.21
Departure charge	\$4.10		\$4.10
			\$18.31

The new combined levy rates including GST are \$20.18 (non-cruise, up \$1.45) and \$21.06 (cruise, down \$1.76) per passenger.