

## FACT SHEET: Annual increases to License Fees

This fact sheet sets out a proposal to change the fees fixed for licences and invites members of the public to comment on the proposed changes.

PrimeSafe is established under section 43(1) of the *Meat Industry Act 1993* (MIA). Section 44 of the MIA sets out the functions of PrimeSafe which include controlling and keeping under review the standard of meat produced for consumption and sale in Victoria, licensing meat processing facilities and carrying out the functions conferred on it by the *Seafood Safety Act 2003* (SSA)

Both the MIA and the SSA authorise PrimeSafe to fix and charge fees for the issuing of licences and for carrying out PrimeSafe's functions.

PrimeSafe proposes an increase in application and annual licence fees of up to 2.75% for the 2025/26 financial year, with the final rate to be determined following the consultation process and is subject to Board approval. This capped rate is below the current inflation rate of 2.8%<sup>1</sup>.

### How to make a submission

Members of the public are invited to provide feedback on the proposed annual fee increases. PrimeSafe particularly welcomes responses to the following questions:

1. Do you believe that the annual fee increases are appropriate, and will create no significant economic or social burden?
2. Are there any alternative fee increase options that you believe should be considered?

All submissions must be in writing and received by 5.00pm on Wednesday 18 December 2024. Submissions will be treated as public documents unless confidentiality is requested and can be made by:

- email to: [feeincreases@primesafe.vic.gov.au](mailto:feeincreases@primesafe.vic.gov.au)
- post to: PrimeSafe, PO Box 2057, South Melbourne, VIC, 3205.

### Proposal

The Victorian Government seeks to ensure that proposed regulations are well-targeted, effective and appropriate, and impose the lowest possible burden on Victorian businesses, individuals and the community.

PrimeSafe operates as a self-funded statutory authority and, accordingly, must fix the fees it levies at a level sufficient to discharge its statutory functions.

PrimeSafe currently levies two types of fees:

1. An annual licence fee payable by all regulated entities. The annual licence fee is intended to cover recurrent costs associated with regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> Published Inflation rate as per Sep 2024 quarter: [rba.gov.au/inflation/measures-cpi](https://rba.gov.au/inflation/measures-cpi)

2. A licence application fee which is a "one off" fee paid on lodgement of an initial application for a licence. The licence application fee reflects the cost to PrimeSafe of assessing the suitability of new licensees and new facilities to be licensed in Victoria.

Fees set by PrimeSafe are not governed by the Monetary Units Act 2004 and therefore are not automatically adjusted in line with changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). However, PrimeSafe generally reviews and adjusts fees annually, considering factors such as operational costs and the rate specified under section 5 of the Monetary Units Act 2004. For the 2024-25 financial year, this specified rate was 2.75%.

For the 2025-26 financial year, PrimeSafe proposes to increase licence fees by up to 2.75%, with the final rate to be determined following industry consultation and is subject to PrimeSafe Board approval.

#### **Further information on PrimeSafe**

PrimeSafe is authorised to

- administer licensing schemes for meat, poultry, game and seafood processing facilities;
- license and inspect meat transport vehicles;
- investigate and prosecute those who may operate unlicensed facilities; and
- conduct inspections of facilities to ensure that licensees comply with relevant hygiene, food safety and animal welfare standards.

Further information on PrimeSafe's activities are available in the Annual Reports which are on the [website](#).