



Association of Biosafety for Australia and New Zealand

Enabling Research using SARS-CoV-2

ABSANZ Position Statement

5 October 2020

The Association of Biosafety for Australia and New Zealand (ABSANZ) supports the current approach by regulators in Australia and New Zealand that:

- SARS-CoV-2 virus is not listed as a Security Sensitive Biological Agent (SSBA) in Australia during the current pandemic response; and
- SARS-CoV-2 virus is not listed as an Unwanted Organism in New Zealand

This approach provides scientific freedom in both countries enabling important public health research using the virus both to better understand its characteristics, epidemiology and to develop effective treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.

About ABSANZ

ABSANZ is the peak body for Australia and New Zealand in biosafety and biosecurity. Our purpose is to protect people, the community and the environment through advancing knowledge in biosafety and bio-risk management.

ABSANZ has previously provided [general information on SARS-CoV-2](#), and provides position statements on its website (www.absanz.org.au) that champion best practice in biosafety and biosecurity. ABSANZ also provides education materials that are available to both its Members and the wider community.