

# National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee Meeting 13

**FACE TO FACE**  
**10 February 2016**  
**9:30pm- 2:00pm AEDT**

## Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Dr Clive Noble (Chair)	Independent Chair
Dr Gary Fitt	CSIRO
Mr Greg Fraser	PHA
Dr Sharon Harvey	Wine Australia
Mr Tim Lester	CRRDC
Dr Kim Ritman	DAWR
Dr Michael Robinson	PBCRC
Dr Simone Warner	DEDJTR Vic
Mr Rod Turner (Strategy Leader)	PHA
Dr Victoria Ludowici (Executive Officer)	PHA

## Via teleconference

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Dr Rosalie McCauley	DAFWA
Mr David Moore	HIAL
Dr Suzy Perry	QDAF

## Apologies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Dr Mike Ashton	QDAF
Dr Satendra Kumar	NSW DPI
Dr Rob Loughman	DAFWA

## **Key dates**

24th February 2016- AGSOC Research and Innovation (R&I) Committee presentation

14-15<sup>th</sup> July- NPBRDES IC Forum

12<sup>th</sup> April- Next meeting

## **Meeting Summary**

The fruit fly stocktake report, the cross sectoral analysis report and the updated program logic document have been updated and with some minor changes will be endorsed out of session.

The Executive provided an analysis of the cross over in scope between the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and the NBC National Environmental RD&E Strategy (Environmental Strategy), noting significant areas of shared scope. It was recommended that once the Environmental Strategy implementation is underway this committee revisit how to engage with it. The recommendation provided to NBC is that a member of this committee also sits on the implementation committees of the Environmental Strategy.

The PBCRC provided an update on the "Sustainable RD&E system to support National Plant Health" project. A consultant is preparing a report on the future of Plant Biosecurity RD&E post 2018 and all stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide input.

## **Agenda items 1 and 2: Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed all to the thirteenth meeting of the Implementation Committee. Apologies were received from Dr Mike Ashton, Dr Satendra Kumar and Dr Rob Loughman. Sharon Harvey was welcomed as the representative of Wine Australia.

## **Agenda item 3: Review of Action Items**

Progress on the individual Action Items arising from the previous meetings were discussed. Individual Action Items to be covered through the agenda were deferred to the appropriate Agenda Item. A number of Action Items were noted as complete.

CSIRO indicated that a response from DAFWA on the northern Australia audit had been received and NT DPIF had been contacted and a response was in preparation. The executive had contacted the AGSOC R&I Committee Secretariat who advised that there is no register of audits carried out by each of the strategies under the NPIRDE Framework. When the annual reports of each of the strategies were reviewed the cotton, horticulture, sugarcane and soil RD&E strategies all stated an intention to carry out an audit in the near future. The Chair advised that the dairy and animal welfare RD&E strategies also intended to carry out an audit. The Strategy Leader advised that only a powerpoint presentation was required for the AGSOC R&I meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. This presentation will be circulated to the committee out of session.

**Action:** Circulate the powerpoint presentation for the AGSOC R&I Committee to the committee out of session.

## **Agenda item 4: A Sustainable RD&E System to Support National Plant Health- Update**

The PBCRC provided an update on the "Sustainable RD&E system to support National Plant Health" project. The PBCRC circulated Report C, a summary report of the outcomes of two workshops in which ten potential models were presented and discussed, out of session.

A contractor, Mick Keogh, has been employed to develop an independent report on the future requirements for Plant Biosecurity RD&E post 2018. A draft Consultation report will be released 4 April and will be available for submissions from 11 April to 9 May. Letters have been sent to relevant Commonwealth Government Ministers and their Departments informing them of the project and requesting a meeting to discuss. Consultations with other stakeholders will also occur.

Following the submission stage, an amended Final report incorporating the information will be prepared. The Final report will be presented to the PBCRC Board for consideration and it will be released on 30 June 2016.

The Committee agreed it should make a submission and asked that the PBCRC make the report available to the Committee as early as possible. The next meeting of this committee should be organised for a date to allow for discussion of the Final report and to allow sufficient time to prepare a submission.

**Action:** PBCRC to circulate the board approved Mick Keogh consultation report as soon as possible.

**Action:** Executive to organise the next meeting early April to allow time for the Committee's submission to be given to PBCRC.

### **Agenda item 5: Linkages between the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and the draft Environmental biosecurity RD&E Strategy**

After the last meeting DAWR provided the Executive with a draft copy of the Environmental Biosecurity RD&E Strategy (EBRDES). The Executive compared this strategy to the NPBRDES and prepared a document for consideration by the committee.

DAWR advised that the EBRDES is currently being updated by the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) secretariat and will be referred to CSIRO for input before going to NBC for consideration.

There are links between the EBRDES and the NPBRDES, however there are a number of areas covered by the EBRDES which are considered out of scope of the NPBRDES. The Chair asked if the Committee should implement the Environmental Biosecurity Strategy. It was decided that this issues should be discussed at a future date when the EBRDES review had been completed and NBC made its decision. DAWR advised there are currently no timelines associated with this review. DAWR suggested the committee submit a paper to NBC pointing out the areas of linkage between the NPBRDES and the EBRDES.

**Action:** PHA to draft a NBC paper highlighting the links between the Environmental Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and the NPBRDES.

**Action:** PBCRC, CSIRO and DAWR to contact Matthew Koval and discuss the possibility of running a workshop on Environmental Biosecurity RD&E to bring the stakeholders together and include a discussion on the future of the EBRDES.

### **Agenda item 6: Forum Working Group**

A conference is currently being planned by a Steering group (led by PBCRC) and an Organising committee. The agenda has been developed and it is focused on aligning priority decision making processes of government and industry on plant biosecurity RD&E. The conference will be a two-day event with a conference dinner. The date of the conference (14 – 15 July 2016) was endorsed.

There were questions regarding the target audience of the conference. The intended audience is government, industry and research leaders, however, names of who may be invited have not been determined. The content of the programme is still lacking in detail and the committee

suggested including the Cross sectoral analysis report in either session 1 or 6 as it helps highlight opportunities in the plant biosecurity RD&E system. It was proposed that the PBCRC Sustainable RD&E System to Support National Plant Health be included in one of these two sessions. It was felt that session 2 was particularly important due to its industry focus and more time should be allocated to this session.

The draft budget was presented to the committee. Currently there are a number of unknowns including the level of attendance, financial support and the costs of keynote speakers. It was felt that registration costs should be avoided.

A draft flyer was presented to the committee and their overall reaction was positive. The committee felt that it should not have a brand but there was no issue with the conference having branding. It was also felt that the word researchers was too prominent and should be changed to research leaders.

**Action:** Forum Steering Group to finalise content of the conference programme and invitee list.

**Action:** Whole committee to advise on potential speakers for the conference.

### **Agenda item 7: AGSOC R&I Committee Meeting Report**

The committee is due to present to the AGSOC R&I Committee in February. The Strategy Leader contacted the AGSOC R&I Committee Secretariat who advised the normal procedure is that the Strategy Leader presents and if considered appropriate they bring the Executive Officer. The AGSOC R&I Committee Secretariat also advised that there was no report associated with this presentation but it does provide an opportunity for the Strategy Leaders to ask questions of the AGSOC R&I Committee. The Strategy Leader advised that the draft presentation will be ready for distribution amongst the committee next week.

The committee felt that the R&I Committee should be made aware of the difficulties of driving a cross sectoral strategy as there are multiple stakeholders and no single associated RDC or other RD&E funding source which can align with the strategy. The committee felt that its work on the logic frame and associated strategic plan, cross sectoral priorities analysis and the linkages with the PBCRC Sustainable RD&E System to Support National Plant Health project and the consultations with the other RD&E strategies and RDCs should be highlighted. The Chair asked that any additional comments on items to be included should be submitted to the Strategy Leader.

The Executive advised that the six monthly report to the AGSOC R&I Committee has been drafted and will be circulated out of session.

**Action:** Committee to submit any items to be included in the AGSOC R&I Committee presentation to the Strategy Leader.

**Action:** Executive to circulate the AGSOC R&I Committee powerpoint presentation to the Committee.

**Action:** Executive to circulate the AGSOC R&I Committee six monthly report to the Committee before submitting it.

### **Agenda item 8: Updated Strategy/Program Logic**

Since the last meeting this document has been updated. Feedback was received from DEDJTR and this has been incorporated into the documents. It was suggested that another column be added describing whether the Committee was influencing each activity or undertaking it directly. The committee was asked to consider the where the outcomes of each of the actions should be reported to, such as AGSOC, Plant Health Committee or other stakeholder groups.

**Action:** Executive to update the Strategy/Program Logic and circulate to the committee out of session.

## **Agenda item 9: DAWR- Analysis of plant pest preparedness capability**

DAWR is currently trying to determine a prioritisation process to reduce the number of high priority exotic plant pests into a list of no more than 50 pests. This would then allow DAWR to help target preparedness activities, such as contingency plans, national diagnostic and surveillance protocols and departmental surveillance activities. The outputs of this work will feed into import conditions and links to the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper which lists plant biosecurity as a priority.

The committee considered this report and felt that it did not need a specific response from the committee, however, if individuals wished to respond they should send their responses to Sarah Hilton within DAWR by the end of March 2016.

## **Agenda item 10: Cross Sectoral Analysis Report**

The Executive presented a report on their work in analysing the cross sectoral priorities for the committee to consider. This report is an analysis of the preparedness resources available, surveillance undertaken and RD&E being carried out on cross sectoral high priority pests. The report also contains references to relevant RDC and NPIRDEF strategies.

After discussion it was agreed some of the recommendations would be reworded to clarify their intent. It was noted that the list of recommendations did not propose solutions and an extra sentence should be added to each with suggestions of who the recommendations should be submitted to. It was felt that this report linked to the Plant Biosecurity Priorities conference. The committee recommended that the report should be released before July 2016.

**Action:** Executive to amend recommendations of the Cross Sectoral Analysis Report and upload to the committee's website.

## **Agenda item 11: Fruit Fly Stocktake Report**

The fruit fly stocktake report was well received by the committee, however a couple of minor errors were identified and CSIRO noted that some of the fruit fly projects they are carrying out were missing. The report concluded that currently fruit fly RD&E is well funded and there are adequate numbers of diagnosticians. It was noted that there are no clear succession plans in place and there are very few younger diagnosticians being trained and that diagnostic capacity could be at risk into the future. There is currently adequate infrastructure, however, the post-harvest Medfly facility in Western Australia is a potential issue since this is the only Medfly post-harvest facility in the country and it currently does not have secure long term funding. There are potential gaps in RD&E being carried out in communications and awareness, emergency response, prevention, crop improvement and systems approaches. After amending the report it should be circulated amongst the committee for approval and then be uploaded to the committee's website after endorsement from the Fruit Fly Council.

It was recommended that another audit should be carried out in two years time. Both the committee and the Fruit Fly Council should maintain a watching brief on the fruit fly RD&E area as although it is currently adequately funded with good infrastructure, capability and capacity there are risks associated with succession of personnel, the infrastructure for Medfly research and some areas of RD&E.

**Action:** Executive to amend errors in fruit fly stocktake report and add in CSIRO projects.

**Action:** Executive to upload the fruit fly stocktake report to the committee's website after approval from the committee and the Fruit Fly Council.

## **Agenda item 12: Budget**

A brief update of the budget was presented to the committee. It was noted that the committee will come in on budget at the end of the financial year. The chair stated he has some ideas to make some savings.

### **Agenda item 13: Key Messages for Communication**

The committee felt that the committee's stakeholders should be made aware of the upcoming conference in July, the cross sectoral report, the updated Strategy/Program Logic and the linkages between the environmental biosecurity RD&E strategy and the Plant Biosecurity RD&E strategy. The Chair asked the state representatives to contact their partner states not represented on the committee and give them an update of the committee activities.

**Action:** Committee to contact key stakeholders and inform them of the upcoming conference in July 2016, the updated Strategy/Program Logic and the report showing the linkages between the environmental biosecurity RD&E strategy and the Plant Biosecurity RD&E strategy.

**Action:** DEDJTR to contact DPIPWE, QDAF to contact NT DPIF and DAFWA to contact PIRSA and provide an update of the recent activities of the committee.

### **Agenda item 14: Other Business**

No other business was raised.

### **Agenda item 15: Next Meeting and Close**

The next meeting will be held in April prior to the submission closing date for the PBCRC "A Sustainable RD&E System to Support National Plant Health Report" submission closing date. The committee agreed the meeting would be held in Adelaide.

**Meeting close:** 2:00pm