

**National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee  
Meeting 16**

**FACE TO FACE**

**13 September 2016**

**9.30am - 2.30pm AEDT, DAWR PEQ Facility, Mickleham, Victoria**

**Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mr Greg Fraser	Chair
Dr Sharon Harvey	Wine Australia
Dr Suzy Perry	QDAF
Dr Leigh Pilkington	NSW DPI
Dr Kim Ritman	DAWR
Dr Shashi Sharma	DAFWA
Dr Simone Warner	DEDJTR Vic
Mr Rod Turner (Strategy Leader)	PHA

**Via teleconference**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mr Tim Lester	GRDC

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Dr Mike Ashton	QDAF
Dr Gary Fitt	CSIRO
Dr Victoria Ludowici (Executive Officer)	PHA
Mr David Moore	HIAL
Dr Michael Robinson	PBCRC
Dr Ken Young	GRDC

**Guest**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mr Mark Whattam	DAWR

## **Key dates**

SPHD/SNPHS meeting 11 – 13 October 2016

Next meeting of IC early November 2016

## **Meeting Summary**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Implementation committee agreed;

- That the Plant Biosecurity RD&E forum provided an opportunity for policy makers, regulators, industry, RDCs and researchers to network and this was the first time this mix of people had all been together at one time. The committee will be considering the information obtained from the Forum's workshops to guide it in determining priority cross sectorial RD&E projects.
- A paper for AGSOC R&I committee containing work of the committee to date and future opportunities will be developed. The paper will also consider the value contributed to the plant biosecurity RD&E system by the CRCPB and NPBCRC and will examine the RD&E needs of the regulators and policy makers.
- The meeting was held at the DAWR's post entry facility at Mickleham and the committee heard about PEQ Plant Biosecurity challenges and R,D&E needs and to observe the facility in operation.

## **Agenda Items 1 and 2: Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dr Mike Ashton, Dr Gary Fitt, Dr Victoria Ludowici, Mr David Moore, Dr Michael Robinson and Dr Ken Young.

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

Progress on the Action Items arising from the previous meetings were discussed. Action Items covered by the agenda were deferred to the appropriate Agenda Item with a number of Action Items being noted as complete.

For the action item relating to the chair and Tim Lester meeting with the PBCRC the Chair advised they had met with the CEO of the PBCRC Michael Robinson to discuss the role of the NPBRD&ES Implementation Committee in the future work of the PBCRC on their "Sustainable RD&E System to Support National Plant Health" project. The Implementation Committee (IC) was advised that the PBCRC are to report to government in October 2016 and they are working with stakeholders to develop a prospectus going forward. The meeting also discussed transferring project outcomes to PHA for use by all stakeholders.

The IC then discussed what has changed as a result of a \$250 million investment over the two CRCs and asked if the external reviews of the two CRCs could be provided to the committee for consideration.

**Action:** Executive team to obtain copies of PBCRC and CRCNPB reviews by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and circulate to members.

For the item on "CSIRO and the PBCRC to define the scope and how best to obtain information for an audit of platform technologies" the DAWR advised they had provided some questions to CSIRO and asked for to provide innovative technology solutions. The questions included topics such as;

- Detection of cryptic pests in timber or containers
- Detection of pests inside horticultural products
- Improving surveillance in multiple scenarios
- Improved detection and diagnostics for pathogens and insects
- Improvements in treatments
- Improved detection of marine pests
- Improvements in trapping
- New approaches for communication and tracking movement of unregulated small vessels.

**Action:** CSIRO and PBCRC provide advice to the IC on how they are progressing the question on obtaining information for and audit of platform technologies.

For the action item relating to provision of financial information to the committee the Strategy Leader advised information would be provided to the committee shortly.

**Action:** Strategy Leader to provide financial information to the committee.

WA advised they had contacted South Australia and SA had requested the IC to examine the DAWR top 42 pests from an RD&E perspective and to provide advice on RD&E needs.

**Action:** Executive team to review top 42 pests to determine RD&E needs and to report to Meeting 17.

There was discussion on progress of the Environmental RD&E strategy and DAWR advised it had not been referred to NBC at this stage.

**Action:** DAWR to consult NBC secretariat to determine if the consideration of the Environmental RD&E strategy can be included on the next NBC meeting agenda.

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

The PBCRC provided a paper for information to the IC. The committee also considered additional comments provided by Dr Robinson via email.

Michael Robinson asked that as the NPBRD&ES was due to expire this year was the committee going to revise it. The meeting was advised that the AGSOC R&I committee confirmed in February 2016 that they continued to support the ongoing role of the IC and the strategy. The IC previously discussed and agreed not to revise the strategy but to review sections as appropriate. The AGSOC R&I committee is considering the outcomes the Strategy Leaders meeting and work commissioned by it on how the strategies could be structured going forward and an update would be provided to the IC once the AGSOC R&I review is complete. The IC can then discuss a review of the Plant Biosecurity Strategy.

It was suggested that the IC develop a report to the AGSOC R&I committee outlining what has been achieved by the Strategy and what is planned for the future. Expanded detail could be included in the IC's future work plan. It was suggested the report could also include information on the outcomes of the two CRCs eg PhD students produced and some information on what has changed as a result of the CRC being in place. This would provide an overview of some of the plant biosecurity R&D over the last decade. Kim Ritman provided some notes on the possible items that could be included in this paper and those comments included at Attachment A.

The CRRDCs advised they had a project to consider how to define R&D opportunities and priorities going forward and that the views expressed by the CRC for a future arrangement were not shared by the RDCs or industry. The CRRDCs report is due for completion in 4 –6 weeks.

It was suggested the IC should spend some time defining the regulatory/policy needs of RD&E as this has not been done. This information should be provided to the AGSOC R&I committee to drive investment.

**Action:** The IC develop a strategic report for the AGSOC R&I committee consideration. The executive team to prepare a first draft.

**Action:** That the CRRDCs provide a copy of their report to the IC when it has been released.

**Action:** That the members of the AGSOC R&I committee on the IC update the committee on outcomes of the AGSOC R&I considerations on the structure and reporting requirements for all strategies once complete.

**Action:** The PBCRC continue to update the IC on progress of the "Sustainable RD&E System to Support National Plant Health"

## **Agenda Item 5: Plant Biosecurity Priorities Forum**

There was a general discussion around the Forum and the benefit of the networking opportunity. The committee felt the Forum worked. PHA has received feedback, post the IC meeting, that attendees have been actively using the connections made at the Forum. This feedback has also indicated that without the Forum they would not have known about these stakeholders.

The IC discussed the recommendations in the accompanying paper and agreed the committee needed to consider the "Workshop Outcomes" document (still in preparation) before being able to make recommendations on future activities. The IC agreed to hold a teleconference to discuss this item further.

The IC also took into account the comments provided by the PBCRC in relation to this item.

**Action:** Executive team to complete Workshop Outcomes document and circulate and prepare a paper providing R&D opportunities for the IC to consider.

**Action:** Executive team to arrange teleconference to discuss Forum outcomes.

### **Agenda Item 6: Meeting with other NPIRDEF Strategies**

The IC was advised that the Executive Officer presented to the "Cotton Innovation Network" on the work of the IC and in particular outlined the findings of the "Cross Sectorial Priorities Analysis". The meeting also heard from the water strategy which was of benefit as it is also a cross sectorial strategy.

Post the meeting PHA received the following from Mr Bruce Finney, CEO Cotton RDC.

*Firstly many thanks again for Victoria's presentation to our August meeting of the Cotton Innovation Network at the Yanco Agricultural Institute. Beyond driving strategic awareness and understanding of collaboration opportunities I am confident these discussions are fostering greater RD&E co-investment with the cotton and across other sectors. Our meeting agenda included a similar discussion of the Water Use in Agriculture RD&E strategy, an update from each of the members, a discussion of the Network's performance and the forward work plan.*

*As evidence of increased co-investment in cross-sectoral RD&E I note CRDC's cross-sectoral investments have grown to near 25% of our total investment. We are particularly aware of the opportunities to do more in the plant biosecurity space and thank PHA and the Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy for their support.*

The Executive Officer and Strategy Leader met with the Strategy Leader for the Horticulture strategy. The IC was advised that the horticulture strategy want to work more closely with this strategy and would like assistance in developing the horticulture capability and capacity audit. The executive team will continue to liaise with horticulture strategy on a regular basis and will update the IC as appropriate.

### **Agenda Item 7: Whitefly and Transmitted Viruses Workshop**

The IC was updated on the workshop and the high level outcomes. The meeting report is still being prepared and this will be provided to the IC when complete.

There was a general discussion on the high level outcomes and the IC will consider the workshop report at the its next meeting.

**Action:** Whitefly workshop proceeding circulated to the IC.

**Action:** Discussion paper prepared for the next IC meeting so it can consider cross sectorial RD&E opportunities.

### **Agenda Item 8: Future Workshops**

The Strategy Leader updated the committee on discussions regarding the potential agenda for the Diagnostics Workshop. The IC also considered the comments provided by the PBCRC. It was agreed that a diagnostics workshop was of value and some of the items that could be on the agenda included:

- Discussion on the platforms themselves including where can the sequencing be done onshore/offshore
- Pathogenicity testing – when is a new species recognised as a new species and how do you know it is pathogenicity
- Do we have diagnostic protocols for the 42 pests identified through the DAWR process and,
- Obligations for reporting,

It was also noted the workshop provided an opportunity to educate the researchers and it was recommended industry be included.

A request was made for assistance in the planning of the workshop and QDAF and DEDJTR Vic volunteered.

A date or venue for the workshop has not been set.

The IC then considered the pasture workshop and agreed discussion on this workshop would be held over until after the Diagnostics workshop.

**Action:** Diagnostics Workshop committee to develop full agenda, recommend speakers, venue and date for consideration at the next IC meeting.

### **Agenda Item 9: Future Work Activities**

There were three areas of activity considered by the IC. These were:

- Major Support Link review
- Audit of Viticulture RD&E capability and capacity
- Cross sectorial Report (2016 version)

For the major support and link review the IC felt the table in the strategy was for the most part current with the noted exception of some work Murdoch was assigned for nursery and garden R&D activities.

The IC were advised that the AGSOC R&I committee were looking at the definitions of major, support and link but found the information of value. It was agreed to wait until AGSOC R&I committee had completed its work then revisit this area of the strategy. The IC also discussed the value of the table in its current form for plant biosecurity RD&E and agreed they will further consider this when this item revisited.

The IC endorsed work on the audit of Viticulture and noted the capability and capacity audit needed to include both Wine Australia and Hort Innovation as the viticulture sector covers wine, table and dried grapes as R&D activities on one is generally applicable to all three sectors.

The cross sectorial report was discussed on the basis of the 2015 National Plant Biosecurity Status Report (NPBSR) having been released. The IC was advised the 2015 NPBSR was modified to accommodate recommendations from the IC. Data collected for the 2015 report is better targeted and reflective of the needs of the plant biosecurity R&D.

The IC agreed the "Cross Sectorial Report" should be updated and that the Fusarium case study should be included in the updated report to illustrate what has changed over the two reports.

**Action:** Executive team to work with Wine Australia and Horticulture Innovation to develop a plant biosecurity capability and capacity review for the Viticulture industry.

**Action:** Executive Officer to update Cross Sectorial Report with new information contained in the 2015 NPBSR.

### **Agenda Item 10: Sub Committee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD)**

The IC were advised that SPHD had invited the executive team to provide a paper on the activities of the IC and to present at the upcoming SPHD meeting 11 -13 October 2016. The Sub Committee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) is also holding a meeting at that time and the IC requested the executive team present at this meeting as well.

An update on the issues raised from the meetings will be provided to the IC at the next meeting.

**Action:** Executive team arrange a presentation to the joint meeting of SPHD and SNPHS and inform the IC on issues raised at the joint SPHD/ SNPHS meeting.

### **Agenda Item 11: DAWR PEQ R&D Presentation**

Mr Mark Whattam, Director, National Plant Pathology Co-ordinator, Service Delivery Division, Science Services Group, Operational Science Services Department of Agriculture and Water Resources presented on the "Plant Biosecurity challenges and R,D&E needs at Australia's border".

A copy of the presentation is in the IC's Members site. The following URL is a direct link but IC members will need to first log onto the Portal to gain access to the secure area:

**<https://portal.biosecurityportal.org.au/rde/pages/Home-Members.aspx>**

The presentation stimulated discussion with discussion on several topics including possible links to the Grocery Council of Australia, need for interception data to assist industry appreciate risk at the border, consideration of food safety issues and the DAWR initiative for funding for basic PEQ R&D to streamline the screening process for high risk nursery stock material entering Australia.

In response to questions the DAWR advised the IC that they will be providing border interception data to the members of NBC every quarter and a new procedure will be introduced to alert jurisdictions if a high priority pest is detected.

The IC thanked Mr Whattam for the presentation and the discussion it stimulated.

### **Agenda Items 12: Key Messages for Communication**

See Meeting Summary.

### **Agenda Items 13: Other Business**

Discussion around a teleconference to progress the R&D findings from the Forum were discussed and it was agreed it would be of value. It was agreed discussing how the next Forum could be run more effectively could be held over to the next face to face as the IC had previously agreed to run these Forum's once every 2 years.

It was also agreed the discussion on the AGSOC R&I paper discussed at Agenda item 4 should be considered at a face to face meeting.

**Action:** Executive team to arrange teleconference when Workshop Outcomes document and paper on RD&E opportunities prepared.

### **Agenda Items 14: Next Meeting and Close**

The chair thanked the DAWR for hosting the meeting and providing a presentation on R&D challenges at the border. The DAWR were also thanked for providing the IC with the opportunity to tour the PEQ part of the facility.

Discussion on the next meeting concluded a poll would be circulated to IC members for a teleconference on the week 31 October to 4 November noting that Melbourne Cup was on that week.

**Action:** Executive team to circulate poll for next meeting date.

**Meeting close:** 2:30pm

## **Strategic Report for AGSOC R&I Committee**

The IC discussed preparing a comprehensive report to the AGSOC R&I committee and recommended it be also be presented to the NBC.

Discussion was general on this item but Dr Ritman provided some thoughts on a draft context. Further discussion will take place at the next face to face meeting.

### Key Components of an RD&E system

This section need to include information on;

- Contractual R&D – what is being funded currently
- The need for capability and capacity building – where are the strengths, gaps and opportunities with the current plant biosecurity RD&E system. Could also include a section on where capability and capacity is at risk into the future.
- Where are these opportunities for innovation?
- Outline where there is national coordination/focus now – are there gaps?

### Consideration of Demand needs for RD&E

In the plant biosecurity much of the RD&E is supply driven. There is a need to consider RD&E needs from a demand perspective. Some thinking on this is already being done by the DAWR. The challenge is for the jurisdictions to also develop a list of demand driven RD&E projects.

Consideration on how innovation can be built into the demand needs is also important. Dr Ritman provided an example where DAWR had provided CSIRO with a list of problems needing solutions and CSIRO were asked to provide innovative solutions to them.

### Resources

Information on the resources needed to be applied to mobilise the demand RD&E needs to be considered. This could include some comment on where current resources could be re focused.

Consideration of the capacity of RDCs and agencies would be taken into account. It maybe recommendations are given to AGSOC R&I that agency resourcing needs to be re directed.

### Authority

The paper would go to the AGSOC R&I committee for consideration and the recommendation would be also considered by NBC. Agreed recommendations would go to AGSOC who are the decision makers.