

**National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee
Meeting 17**

FACE TO FACE

27th March 2017

10:00am – 3:45pm AEDT, Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited, Sydney

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Mr Greg Fraser (arrived at 11 am)	Chair
Dr Satendra Kumar	PHC Chair
Mr Tim Lester	CRRDC
Mr David Moore	Hort Innovation
Dr Suzy Perry	QDAF
Dr Leigh Pilkington	NSW DPI
Dr Michael Robinson	PBCRC
Dr Nancy Schellhorn (on behalf of Gary Fitt)	CSIRO
Dr Simone Warner	DEDJTR Vic
Dr Ken Young	GRDC
Mr Rod Turner (Strategy Leader)	PHA
Dr Victoria Ludowici (Executive Officer)	PHA

Via teleconference

Name	Organisation
Dr Shashi Sharma	DAFWA

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Dr Mike Ashton	QDAF
Dr Gary Fitt	CSIRO
Dr Sharon Harvey	Wine Australia
Dr Kim Ritman	DAWR

Key dates

10 April 2017- SNPHS meeting and DAFWA Plant Pest Surveillance Workshop

May 2017- Policy Considerations Around Plant Pest Diagnostics and RD&E Workshop

17-20 September- Australian Entomological Society AGM and Conference

26-28 September- Australasian Plant Pathology Society and PBCRC Science Protecting Plant Health Conference

Meeting Summary

The 17th Meeting of the Implementation Committee agreed;

- The strategy will be reviewed and a working group consisting of PHA, QDAF, DEDJTR and possibly CSIRO was formed. As a part of the strategy review, the Implementation Committee membership will be reconsidered.
- The Executive Team will meet with DAWR regarding the National Environment and Community Biosecurity RD&E Strategy, its implementation and possible cross over with the Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy.
- Papers will be prepared for the Science Protecting Plant Health Conference and the Australian Entomological Society Conference.

Agenda Items 1 and 2: Welcome and Apologies

The Strategy Leader welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dr Mike Ashton, Dr Gary Fitt, Dr Sharon Harvey and Dr Kim Ritman. The Chair arrived at the meeting at 11am.

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 most of the Action Items being noted as complete.

For the Action Item relating to QDAF contacting NTDPIF, the NT Chief Plant Health manager expressed interest in joining the Implementation Committee. The committee membership will be reconsidered after the strategy review. It was also noted that the financial reporting was not complete and will be sent to the Implementation Committee out of session.

The Executive Team analysed the DAWR National Priority Plant Pest list using the most recent National Plant Biosecurity Status Report (NPBSR)¹. The Implementation Committee advised that surveillance was being done for all 42 pests and this list should be sent to the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD) for further analysis as there may be extra diagnostic information which should be included, such as the type of diagnostic tests available and the expertise available. The RD&E needs from this analysis should be summarised and sent to Plant Health Committee (PHC). QDAF noted that the National Priority Plant Pest list is being used to help prioritise Queensland's top plant biosecurity pest threats.

¹ NPBSR 2015. The 2016 version is due for release mid-2017.

Action: Send the National Priority Plant Pest list to SPHD for comment and provide a summary of RD&E for PHC.

Agenda Item 4: Smart Biosecurity: Australasian Plant Biosecurity Collaborative Research Institute - Update

The PBCRC provided a paper for information to the IC. A proposal for an Australasian Plant Biosecurity Collaborative Research Institute has been submitted to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. The PBCRC advised that positive feedback had been received, however, no decision on the institute would be received until the IGAB review has been completed later this year.

The PBCRC recently hosted a Biosecurity built on science breakfast at Parliament House to demonstrate the impact of the PBCRC research. This event was attended by Senator Ruston and the chair of the IC.

Agenda Item 5: Council of RDCs Initiative

Hort Innovation provided an overview of a newly formed committee consisting of the seven plant-based RDCs. This initiative will formalise the interaction of the RDCs and allow for greater cross sectoral RD&E investment. Capacity building was raised as an important area for this new committee to focus on. It was noted that this model does not preclude co funding on a longer-term basis rather than a project by project basis. A program director is being recruited to work across the seven RDCs and with the Implementation Committee.

Action: Hort Innovation to provide the presentation to the Executive Officer for distribution to the Implementation Committee.

Agenda Item 6 & 7: National Environment and Community Biosecurity RD&E Strategy & Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (IPAC)

NBC has endorsed the National Environment and Community Biosecurity RD&E Strategy (Environmental Biosecurity RD&E Strategy). The Implementation Committee saw a previous version of this document and the Executive Officer performed an analysis to identify cross over between the Environmental Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and the Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy. It was found that this analysis was still valid and the areas of overlap between the two strategies previously identified are still relevant. The committee recommended that the Executive Team meet with DAWR to ascertain how it is going to be implemented and suggest a common member between the Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee and the Environmental Biosecurity RD&E Strategy implementation committee, if such a committee is formed. The Implementation Committee recommended that the Executive Officer assess the DAWR National Priority Plant Pest List and compare it with the priorities in the Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and the Environmental Biosecurity RD&E Strategy for presentation to NBC.

IPAC, a subcommittee of NBC, have formed an Invasive Plants and Animals Research and Development Expert Group. This group aims to improve coordination in R&D relating to weeds and pest animals. The Expert Group have identified 22 national RD&E priority areas for invasive plants and animals. IPAC's scope only covers established pests not exotic pests, however, there is overlap between Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and the Expert Group in weed RD&E.

Action: Executive Team to meet with DAWR and discuss the implementation of the National Environment and Community Biosecurity RD&E Strategy.

Action: Executive Officer to analyse the National Priority Plant Pest List and assess it for cross over with Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and Environmental Biosecurity RD&E Strategy for presentation to the Implementation Committee and presentation to NBC.

Agenda Item 8: Strategy Linkages

There are many stakeholders in the plant biosecurity RD&E space and not all of these groups are currently represented on the Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee. Universities and ACIAR are two such groups. The Implementation Committee considered the inclusion of new members from ACIAR and either individual universities or the Council of Agriculture Deans and the Council of Science Deans. It was decided that this should wait until the Strategy has been reviewed as the revised scope of the Strategy will determine the membership of the Implementation Committee.

Agenda Item 9: Strategy Review

There have been significant changes in the biosecurity sector since the Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy was written. In particular, there is now a greater emphasis on environmental biosecurity than there was previously and there have been changes in the amount of funding for biosecurity RD&E within the state jurisdictions. It was agreed that the Strategy should be reviewed. It was also noted that the strategy implementation committee should be given more direction than in the next version. Environmental biosecurity was highlighted for possible inclusion in the new strategy. It was noted that the NBC has developed the National Environment and Community Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and this initiative needs to be taken into account.

As a part of the strategy review, an audit needs to be undertaken. It was noted that the style of audit should be similar to the previous biosecurity RD&E audit carried out in 2012, to allow for a comparison of the findings. The Implementation Committee noted that effort should be made to capture flexibility of plant biosecurity RD&E capacity in the audit. DEDJTR and QDAF volunteered to be on the working group responsible for rewriting the strategy. CSIRO expressed interest in taking part but Gary Fitt should be approached for approval.

Action: Strategy Leader to ask Gary Fitt if he is happy to be on the strategy review working group.

Agenda Items 10 and 10a: Science Protecting Plant Health and B3 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Workshop

The Australasian Plant Pathology Society and the PBCRC are holding the Science Protecting Plant Health conference on 26-28 September 2017 in Brisbane with PHA and DAWR being platinum sponsors. It is expected that 400 people will attend this conference. The Implementation Committee agreed to submit a paper about the committee's activities, in particular the outcomes of the workshops.

Better Border Biosecurity, NZ approached PHA for assistance in planning a workshop on brown marmorated stink bug. This workshop is planned to be held on 26th September, in Brisbane, prior to the registration for Science Protecting Plant Health conference.

The Australian Entomological Society is holding a conference in Terrigal on 17-20 September with a theme of Biosecurity- A Partnership Approach. Care is being taken by the conference organisers to ensure that the content does not double up with the Science Protecting Plant Health conference in the following week. This conference is likely to have 100 to 150 people in attendance. The Implementation Committee agreed that a paper on the outcomes of the whitefly workshop should be presented at this conference.

Action: Executive Team to write papers for the Science Protecting Plant Health conference and the Australian Entomological Society Conference.

Agenda Item 11: Grape RD&E Audit

The proposed approach to the grape biosecurity RD&E audit was presented. The Executive Team plan to use the NPBSR to find what RD&E is being carried out on wine, table and dried grapes and then contact the relevant RDCs, jurisdictions, universities and industry bodies to confirm the data and determine the expertise in this space. The Implementation Committee were comfortable with the approach and noted that Wine Australia should be contacted to ensure they are comfortable with the proposed methodology. It was suggested that the Implementation Committee should contact Inca Pearce from Vinehealth Australia for insight into this process as well. Since this audit may coincide with a larger audit for the review of the Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy it was suggested that the grape biosecurity audit might be included in the larger audit of plant biosecurity RD&E for the review of the strategy.

DEDJTR noted that they are currently doing an internal RD&E audit and DEDJTR is undertaking phylloxera research. This should be included in any audit of grape biosecurity RD&E.

Action: Executive Team to contact Wine Australia and Vinehealth Australia to discuss grape audit approach.

Agenda Items 12: Xylella Research Portfolio

The Implementation Committee previously looked at the outcomes of the Forum and decided that Xylella was an area that needed attention. The Executive Team presented an analysis of gaps and proposed activities on Xylella prepared by DAWR. This analysis

highlighted that DAWR and Hort Innovation are intending to fund RD&E relevant to Xylella and consequently there is little for the Implementation Committee to achieve in this space. It was noted that this analysis was different to the Xylella entry in the analysis of the National Priority Plant Pest List in Agenda Item 3². It was recommended that the Implementation Committee keep a watching brief on Xylella RD&E and look at other options from the Forum. The Implementation Committee also recommended contacting stakeholders to ascertain what has been achieved over the last 10 years in Xylella RD&E, which could be presented to PHC. It was noted that PHC, SNPHS and SPHD are doing an analysis of the DAWR National Priority Plant Pest list, including Xylella, and care should be taken not to duplicate this work.

Action: Executive Officer to circulate the outcomes from forum to the Implementation Committee for distribution, comment and recommendations from within the member organisations, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Executive Officer to contact Hort Innovation and DAWR to ascertain what has been achieved over the last 10 years in Xylella research.

Agenda Items 13: Workshops

Whitefly and whitefly transmitted virus workshop

The Executive Team completed workshop proceedings for the Whitefly and whitefly transmitted virus workshop held in Brisbane. Twelve recommendations were developed from this workshop and the Executive Officer asked where the recommendations should be taken. The Implementation Committee agreed that the recommendations should be taken to PHC, SNPHS, SPHD, the AGSOC R&I Committee, the new plant RDC biosecurity committee, CSIRO and relevant peak industry bodies. The Implementation Committee also recommended that an executive summary should be included.

Action: Executive Officer to write an executive summary for the Whitefly and whitefly transmitted virus workshop proceedings.

Policy Considerations Around Plant Pest Diagnostics and RD&E Workshop

The Executive Team presented a draft workshop agenda for the Policy Considerations Around Plant Pest Diagnostics and RD&E Workshop. The Implementation Committee felt that some of the sessions on individual diagnostic techniques should be combined to allow for an earlier finish. The Implementation Committee also recommended locking in a date sooner rather than later. The Executive Team agreed to liaise with DEDJTR to secure a date for the venue.

Hort Innovation noted that there is a Horticulture Convention (Hort Connections) on 15-17th May and care should be taken not to hold the workshop on the same date.

² These two analyses have different scopes. The analysis of the National Priority Plant Pest List from Agenda Item 3 was a snapshot, based on the NPBSR from 2015, whereas the Xylella gap analysis was a document prepared by DAWR capturing RD&E currently underway and future RD&E.

Action: Executive Officer to review the Policy Considerations Around Plant Pest Diagnostics and RD&E Workshop Agenda and circulate to the Implementation Committee for endorsement

Action: Executive Team to liaise with DEDJTR to book a date for the venue for the Policy Considerations Around Plant Pest Diagnostics and RD&E Workshop Agenda.

Pastures workshop

The Strategy Leader has been working with MLA to organise a workshop on pasture biosecurity extension, with reference to weeds. The Implementation Committee suggested that AHA should be contacted and involved in the planning process and Cameron Allen from MLA and Leslie Weston from Charles Sturt University should be contacted to progress the planning for this workshop.

Action: Executive Team to liaise with MLA, CSU and AHA to progress the planning of the pastures workshop.

Agenda Items 14: Other Business

Hort Innovation noted that fruit fly expert Eric Jang (USDA- retired) is coming to Australia in May for the HortConnections conference. This conference will have a fruit fly focus.

DAFWA highlighted a Plant Pest Surveillance Workshop being held on the 10th April. SNPHS is also holding a meeting on this day.

Agenda Items 15: Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be a teleconference to be held in six to eight weeks. The Executive Officer will send a Doodle Poll to determine a date to suit everyone.

Action: Executive Officer to send a Doodle Poll to ascertain dates for next meeting.

Meeting close: 3:15 pm