# **Being responsive and agile in a changing environment – Insights into the updated National Priority Plant Pests**

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Introduction

This is the accessible text transcript of Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer entitled **Being responsive and agile in a changing environment – Insights into the updated National Priority Plant Pests**.

Transcript

Webinar: **Being responsive and agile in a changing environment – Insights into the updated National Priority Plant Pests.**

Hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** I'd like to welcome everyone to the Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer Monthly Webinar for April.

The topic for today's webinar is being responsive and agile in a changing environment, Some insights into the updated national priority plant pests.

First of all, I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia, and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, water and community and pay my respects to the people, the cultures and the elders, past and present.

I also extend that recognition to the traditional custodians of all other lands on which were gathered today across the country and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are attending our webinar today.

Firstly, a little bit of housekeeping. If you could please turn your video off, mute your microphone as it helps us improve our bandwidth. Until we get to Question Time.

Please note that the webinar is being recorded and it will be available afterwards through the DAFF intranet.

If you have any questions, you're welcome to put them in the chat, or alternatively you can put your hand up after the presentation when we open up the floor for questions.

Now I'll move ahead and introduce our speaker today. Our speaker is Doctor Susie Collins and this webinar is being responsive and agile in a changing environment- Insights into the updated national priority plant pests.

Susie is currently an assistant secretary in the Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity Division in the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Her role supports the national biosecurity system, and, in this role, she is responsible for a range of activities, covering preparedness, surveillance, diagnostics, response and trade. The role is about being a bridge between science and policy.

Susie has scientific qualifications in Biological Sciences with a PhD in molecular and cellular immunology from ANU where she studied Co evolution of the myxoma virus with the European rabbit and although starting off in a lab, like many of us, she has been working in government policy areas for over 20 years. I'm going to hand over now to Susie. Welcome, Susie, we're looking forward to your presentation today.

2:59

**Susie Collins:** Thanks, Gabrielle. Thanks everyone for coming along. It's really great to be able to present today on the national priority plant pests list, where it's up to, the recent review we've done of it. It's really great that so many of you are interested and have come along to, to hear about this important part of our bio security system.

As you'll all be well aware, Australia is very fortunate to be free from many of the world's most damaging plant pests and diseases. But as part of a biosecurity system and agency, it's really our fundamental role to protect Australia's natural environment and our agricultural industries from those threats that aren't yet present in Australia, but might be overseas, globally impacting industries and communities alike.

One of the tools we use to do this or to help us get prepared for exotic plant pests is our national priority plant pests list. It's a really good mechanism to focus national investment on the things that matter most, to make sure we are investing in our biosecurity system that we target against those key threats that have significant potential significant impact on our industries and communities.

The NPPP's or the national priority plant pests, our collaborative initiative between governments and they have been guiding our national preparedness investment since 2016.

The pest list has been reviewed recently and was endorsed in December last year, through the Plant Health Committee. In this webinar today, I'm going to run through the latest review we've done of the national property plant pests. Have a look at them in a little bit more detail and discuss the ways we use the pest list, through our national action plans and implementation schedules, to help us work collaboratively with stakeholders. To invest in the things that are going to make a difference to our preparedness for these sorts of threats.

5:38

Before we get into the details of the review, a little bit more about national priority plant pests; there's a lot of pests out there, many thousands, millions of different potential pest and diseases that can impact our plants. It's quite easy to be overwhelmed by that challenge, trying to make sure we are prepared for the pests that are going to impact Australia's agriculture and environment. The priority plant pests list is one tool to help us focus our effort, as we don't want to be so overwhelmed we don't anything. We really need to make sure our system is improving, making sure we've got the things and capabilities in place that we need to best manage our biosecurity. The national priority plant list provides a focal point for us to be able to do that.

To be considered a national priority plant pest a particular species:

* -has to be injurious to plants or plant products, bees and or impact social amenity,
* has to be exotic to Australia, or if it is in Australia, have limited distribution and be under official control,
* it's got to have that negative impact on agriculture and economies and environmental communities,
* Importantly, it's got to have a pathway to potentially to enter Australia and establish and spread if it does get here, and
* also importantly, there's got to be a clear benefit from a nationally coordinated action or approach.

The priority plant pests list is around that national, government and public investment and collaboration across different stakeholders to invest in our national system. There's got to be benefit in having a larger national group of stakeholders involved.

The national priority plant pests cover plant diseases, it also covers terrestrial invertebrates like insects, nematodes and snails. We do recognise that the national priority plant pests aren't the only pests of biosecurity concern. Industries have a high priority pest lists that are key pests of concern for their particular industries. There's also other surveillance or more regionally focused lists, all of these different lists are really great for focusing effort and providing a trigger and a focal point for collaboration. The national priority plant pest list is exactly that as well, it complements those other lists and provides that national focus point for investment at that national level.

8:53

So why do we want to review the NPPP’s? As we are all aware, we've got a growing challenge in being able to manage plant biosecurity risks. There's increased global trade and travel that impacts pathways and risk management measures. There is changing climates and increased urbanisation and all of these different things mean there are changes to how pests are evolving, how pests are spreading, and how pests are moving across the globe. So, we really need to make sure we've got a proactive and a collaborative approach to make sure we're prepared for these pests.

In terms of drivers, there are three main drivers:

* First one is the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity, and this is an agreement between the Commonwealth and state territory governments that outlines roles and responsibilities and obligations, in terms of the National biosecurity system. The intergovernmental agreement mandates having a national priority pest and disease list and making sure that list is reviewed every five years. It's clear under that agreement that we need to review our national priority plant pests.
* There's also changes in risk, as I said, with the changing trade and travel, and pests are doing things a bit differently. So we need to make sure we don't just have a static list, we need to make sure that if there's new or unanticipated risks emerging that we do accommodate that and can make sure that preparedness arrangements for those particular emerging pests so are also included in our national arrangements. Making sure we have that proactive approach to managing these threats.
* Lastly the use of the list is to build our preparedness capability. We want to make sure that we maintain the currency of our investments, so that we are investing in things that matter the most now and are going to address the threats that are happening now. Reviewing the NPPPs regularly means we can make sure that the investments are being targeted to the things that are contemporary and the things that that we need to deal with.

Under the IGAB, Plant Health Committee is responsible for the NPPP list. Plant Health Committee is the peak government biosecurity policy decision making forum which includes all the chief plant health managers from the states and territories, as well as Australia's Chief Plant Protection Officer. Plant Health Australia is also represented as an observer. Plant Health committee overseas the list, and overseas the development of the action plans, which I'll talk about in a minute.

The first NPPP list was back in 2016, so we're almost at 10 years of having this, as one of the tools and the mechanisms, in our national system to help us be prepared. We reviewed the NPPP list first in 2019, and then most recently last year. It’s the process that we did last year I just want to walk you through.

12:48

When thinking about reviewing the NPPPs and the process we used, we decided to do what we termed a simple refresh rather than a comprehensive overhaul of the entire list. There was a number of reasons for that, but most obviously our stakeholders and the feedback we were getting about the list was that it was pretty OK. There was some refinements and tweaking needed, but generally it had retained its currency since the review that happened in 2019. We did through Plant Health Committee agree that we'd take a simple refresh type approach.

The criteria are up on your screen, as to all the things that we considered in terms of updating the list:

Firstly, we did remove those NPPP’s that had entered Australia since 2019 and that we're now considered established but weren't under any official control or eradication program. These pests no longer met that pest status criteria that is required for being a NPPP.

The 2nd criteria was around pathways of entry into Australia, some of the pests there was no longer a significant pathway of entry, so again these pests were removed from the list.

The third criteria up there is around another acronym, the NPPPs and EEPLs, and what equals the exotic environmental pests and diseases. This is similar to the NPPP’s, it's the list that our environmental biosecurity sector uses to identify pests, diseases and weeds of national importance, and in a similar way to the way we use the NPPPs, using that list to guide investment.

The EEPL list was established in 2020 and the last review of the NPPPs was done in 2019. Some pest species that primarily have environmental impacts were so important, we had included them as an NPPP because we didn’t have that environmental list at the time. Now that we do have that environmental list, one of the criteria, or one of the things we considered, in this refresh was whether the pests needed to remain in the priority plant pest list, which has more of that agricultural focus, or whether in fact it was better for the pest to be included on that environmental list given the significant to the environment, would provide better benefits was also one of those considerations.

Lastly, part of the refresh was to review the taxonomy and common names of the pests.

16:06

We set the review process and Plant Health Committee agreed to the to the refresh criteria that I just went through. Following that, we had the department do a preliminary assessment of the pests that were on the 2019 pest list. To look at what sort of pests might be appropriate to come off the NPPP list and whether they were pests that might need to go on. That preliminary advice was then reviewed by our Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Working Group, which is a working group consisting of all state and territory and Commonwealth government representatives. They had a look at that, filled some information gaps, provided a bit more evidence here and there about certain species, and that all culminated in some nominations from the Preparedness Working Group as to some of the pests that could be added to the national priority plant pest list and all those pests that should be removed from the NPPP list.

Following that, it went back to the department to have a look at the proposed additions and removals, to do a bit more of a detailed assessment, to make sure that that if we're removing a pest, for example, that there was actually in fact a lower entry pathway and the current measures that were in place to manage that particular pest were was all OK, so therefore there wouldn't be any advertent consequences from no longer having that pest on the NPPP list. Similarly for pests where it was proposed to add them onto the NPPP list to make sure there was a pathway of entry into Australia and that there was a need to have that as part of our national efforts for preparedness. The final outcomes being provided through the Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Working Group, up to Plant Health Committee for endorsement in December last year.

18:55

As a result of that, we've now got a list that's got 119 different species of pests and diseases on it, across 37 pest groups. I'll show you all of them in a minute, but before I do that, I'll just say what's no longer on the list through that review process, what actually got taken off list. There's sort of three main groups of these.

In the whole seven pest groups and one additional individual species were removed.

The first group was removed from the NPPP list because they had no or limited potential pathway into Australia. There are 10 pest species in this group, covering Cyst nematodes of cereals, Wheat stem sawfly and Hessian fly groups.

The second group of pests that were removed from the list were those that were now considered present in Australia. The first one of these being the fall armyworm, and the second being a group of leaf miners.

Now there are five different species in that Leafminer group and it was recognised that only three of those species in the group were actually present in Australia, but the likely impact that the other exotic leaf miners would have, and the measures that are already in place to deal with and manage those first three lots of leaf miners, would probably mean that there wasn't a lot of extra benefit by including, or keeping, these particular species on the list and therefore providing investment into those areas. They were already able to be managed through those other processes dealing with the other leaf minor species.

Lastly, as I said, we wanted to make sure that we didn't have pest on all the different national priority pest lists and just to really make sure that the action that was being taken to prepare for a particular pest was being driven by the correct sector. Making sure there wasn't any confusion over governance and things like that when we start, or potential duplication in investment, when we start actually getting down to projects. So those species that had been included on the environmental pest list were also removed from the national priority plant pests list. They included the exotic invasive ants, drywood termites and subterranean termites.

21.33

We did add a few things to the NPPP list, as I said, there were some nominations sought through those working group processes and then some analysis of those nominations, to make sure there were pathways of entry, and the sorts of pests and diseases that were going to be added to the NPPP list, were justified and defendable, and needed that national coordination for preparedness.

The groups you've got listed up on the screen, are the ones that that were added. Blood disease and moko disease of bananas was added. This is caused by a bacteria from the Ralstonia family and can affect the vascular tissue of banana plants, causing them to wilt. It's really a significant pest of banana crops in countries where blood disease and moko disease occur.

We also added spotted lantern fly, although very pretty in the picture, it's one of those pests that feed on far too many important crops. It's a hitchhiker pest ,which you know has its own challenges, and feeds on plants across horticulture, forestry, nursery and garden, viticulture, all those sorts of plants.

Lastly, you've got up there is the yellow spotted stink bug. The yellow spotted stink bug has similar traits and risks as the brown marmorated stink bug. Both species can breed to quite large populations that become household nuisance pests, and a major problem for crops. They can feed on more than 300 hosts, including fruit trees and other woody sort of ornamentals, again a significant pest that we need to make sure we're prepared for should it enter Australia.

23:39

This slide is the new NPPP list. Now we have, as I said before, the 37 pest or pest groups. Previously we had 42, now we've got 37 pest and pest groups includes 116 different species.

In our previous list we had everything numbered sort of 1 to one to 42. We wanted to get away from was arguments or discussions about whether you should fund, number 26 versus number 27. So, we've taken the approach this time of just having a top 10.

You've got the top ten across the 1st row there, and then just listing the rest of them in alphabetical order. And we're expecting that this will provide us with a bit more flexibility and a bit more agility to prioritise investment and to take opportunities as they present themselves to invest in certain pests or certain parts of the system that may have been a lower priority if we had numbered the pest from 1 to 42.

In terms of the top ten up there, there has been a couple of changes from the previous list. As I said, the brown marmorated stink bug category, which is number 8 up there, now includes yellow spotted stink bug.

As I said, the invasive ants have been removed from the NPPP list and have gone over to the EEPL list, they're no longer part of our top 10.

Then lastly, the exotic strains of Myrtle Rust has moved up and is now number 10, just made it into that top 10.

We have got fact sheets on the department's website around each of these groups, if you want to have a bit more information about what all them are, the potential pathways and the potential impacts, so check that out.

26.01

Communicating the national priority plant pests and any changes as the lists are updated is an ongoing activity. It is important for a few reasons. One is to make sure that people are aware of some of these pests and to use these as sort of exemplars, if you like, to attract people's interest in into biosecurity and into the sorts of risks that we're facing. The other angle for communications is around making sure other partners in the biosecurity system, particularly in terms of the research and funding providers, are aware that these are the things that we're really concerned about and that we really want to invest in. Quite a number of communications activities that happen, as I said, the department's website has a lot of information about the priority plant pests.

We have got some other national committees that do specific work around diagnostics and surveillance and the like, so making sure that they're aware that the list has been updated and the things that are a priority, will really help them in developing the policies and processes that they are responsible for, as well as them thinking about investments as well.

We need to do some updates to action plans and to internal systems and the like, just to make sure that we are reflecting the importance of these pests in those particular systems. We are also planning some other communications mechanisms to raise awareness of the national priority plant pests, the potential impact that they might have on industry and community and also the things that are being done through governments, and through industries, and through research funders, to try and mitigate the risks, and prepare us for the potential entry of these pests, should that happen. Keep an eye out for those sorts of things.

28:10

I wanted to now just turn to a bit more information about how we use the list. It's all good to have a list and then to tell people you've got a list. But how are we actually using them to guide national action and investment?

The main tool we use, is to develop what we call our national action plans and these action plans identify the action, and activities, and the goals that we're seeking, collectively, to be able to make sure we're prepared for a potential incursion of these exotic pests. In doing that, when we identify actions and activities, we're really hoping and wanting to guide allocation of our national plant health resources and investment into those areas, to try and fill those gaps, and make sure where we are putting the best preparation in for each of these pests.

Must be noted now, just a bit of a side thing, it doesn't mean that being an NPPP, doesn't mean they're the only pests that that we care about. As I said at the beginning, they're not the only pests that we respond to. Governments and industries will respond to incursions of other pests as they arise, and they'll manage them as they arise, in terms of responding to pest incursions, it's not just about the NPPPs we will respond to other pests as arise. The NPPPs and the action plans that come from that, is around that our nationally coordinated investment in preparedness before we get one of these pests into the country.

The national action plans cover a range of different functions of the biosecurity system, from regulation and screening, data, intelligence needs, surveillance diagnostics, risk analysis, infrastructure requirements, communications, all of those sorts of things. We go through a very collaborative process to develop the national action plans, they're then, once finalised, put up through Plant Health Committee for endorsement. The idea is really to capture the whole breadth of activities that are needed to best prepare for our national priority plant pests.

30:47

This slide just gives a snapshot of where our national action plans are up to, the ones on the left are the endorsed national action plans and the ones on the right, are the ones that are in progress and under development. The plans, cover the range of biosecurity functions and activities we need to improve the preparedness, detection and response to these pests should the come in. Making sure in terms of the collaboration we do, we're addressing all the needs of the different stakeholders and sharing responsibility.

The national action plans also include what we call an implementation schedule, which is more of that day-to-day tracking of progress of the different activities. Making sure all the different stakeholders can see what's happening and where things are up to, which helps us better coordinate our efforts. It also lists some activities that may not be funded at the moment, which then provides opportunity for funding partners or other agencies to have a look, to build on the projects or invest in those areas where there are gaps. We are trying through these national action plans to foster collaboration across government, industry and research institutions to make sure we are collaborating and working together in building our capability to manage the prevention, response and detection of our NPPPs.

You'll see up there that some of the national action plans cover a number of pests and some are specific for a particular species. There are advantages and disadvantages of both approaches. In terms of the benefits of having more than one pest within the plan, means the activity that's identified, and we invest in, also has broader benefit to the management of the other species. This means the capability to deal with some of these pests are done in more timely manner and some of the actions are more focused on changes to the underlying system, which can help manage a whole lot of pests rather than the management of specific species. There are benefits both ways, but at the end of the day, what we're really trying to do is make sure we're fostering collaboration and ensuring we're coordinating well, so the investment we all put into the system is going to the to the right place.

The national action plans are 10-year strategic documents. There are annual reviews where we look at the plan and the implementation schedule. We update the projects and the activities that have been happening across our different stakeholder groups and also look for opportunities for future collaborations and working together on some of the gaps that are yet to be filled. The ultimate goal of having that strong national biosecurity system.

34:28

Here's a bit more of a detailed example of the Xylella National Action plan, this was the first one that was developed. The actions in this action plan cover 4 areas, as you can see on your screen, there's actions in relation to:

* Prevention, which is focused on better understanding the diversity in relationship between Xylella the vectors and hosts, better understand our pathways, and how we minimise the risk of entry, establishment and spread.
* The action area around Detection, is focused on surveillance and diagnostic capacity, making sure we can find an incursion of Xylella or one of its exotic vectors, and we can identify it, if we do find it.
* There's action area around our Response, which is doing more detailed and advanced planning, if we do have to try and eradicate or do have to manage the disease, what does that look like and how do we build that capability now? We've got minimise the impact on our industries and environment.
* The last area is Cross Cutting Actions, these actions tend to be those that support and enable some of the other action areas. Things like capability building, governance and communications.

You can see up in your screen, the status in terms of activities that have been completed or ongoing activities that are in progress and the activities that have been identified but are still pending at some investment.

36.17

In terms of the next step down, one of the projects in the Xylella plan relates to the native insect vectors. This particular project is in that first action area around prevention which, as I said earlier, is around better understanding relationships and the diversity of hosts and vectors of Xylella.

For this particular project, it's important to understand what it might look like in the Australian situation, in the Australian context. This project was having a look at native insect vectors that could potentially vector Xylella, with the view of better understanding that, which means we can better put in place eradication measures or management measures in the event that we do happen to get Xylella.

The project focused on things like field surveillance in Southeast Australia, in the crops, looking at what sort of insects or potential vectors were associated with those crops. The project also looked at reference collections in some of the key physical specimens that we'd collected, it did some genetic analysis around insect diversity and the bacterial community that live within those insects, also some experiments around feeding physiology and how that might work. Better understanding this will help us understand what might happen, or how might the vectors be involved in Xylella’s spread, if Xylella gets here. If we understand things like the bacterial communities, we can hopefully better identify and manage Xylella if that ends up happening.

There are more details about the national action plans and the implementation schedules and projects like this, on our department website if you want to know more information, please have a look.

38:38

In summary, the National Priority Plant Pests play a critical role in helping us safeguard Australia's agriculture and environment. The list is important to make sure we are aware and understand the contemporary risks that's facing our system. It's also important we build from that list things like the national action plans and the implementation schedules where we can collaborate and coordinate collective investments into our national preparedness.

The national action plans and the pest list are regularly reviewed. The national action plans in particular are reviewed annually as well as every five years in a bit more detail, we are planning to have an online event, probably the third quarter of this year, to look at the implementation plans that currently exist for the national action plans and discuss progress and what else is needed to make sure we are better prepared. If you have an interest in that, please do reach out to us and we'll get you involved.

I wanted to also before I finish, recognise it's the continued support and collaboration across all of our different stakeholder groups, around the National Priority Plant Pests and the National Action Plans. That is critical for our national preparedness, to help us manage and mitigate the risks posed by exotic pests.

I really do encourage you all to keep awareness of the National Priority Plant Pests and the changes that happen periodically to that list. Keep up to date on the impacts that they might have, the risks they pose to our industries and environment, and the work we're doing to strengthen preparedness for those.

Get involved as appropriate in the process to make sure that the things that we're investing in are the right thing and we are not missing a key emerging risk or a key opportunity to improve the way we do things.

In closing, I'd just like to thank you for joining today on this particular topic. A big special thanks to the Plant Preparedness Working Group and Plant Health Committee and those who've been involved in the review of the NPPP and the development of the National Action Plans, for all the important support. It's really great to have such a collaborative process that's helping our biosecurity system. Thank you.

Thanks, Gabrielle.

41:45

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** A big thank you Susie for that. A really nice systematic logical overview of the review of the NPPPs, why we have adopted those approaches and also the action plans. Thank you for that.

We have a little bit of time for questions and if you've got questions, please put your hand up, I'll try and get to you. We have a few questions already in the chat, so one from Matt Sheehan: thank you for the presentation. Very interesting. I have a question about the additions. I presume like the EEPL, the NPPPs would have originally had a risk assessment process to include them? Was that the same risk assessment process used for the additions, or was it modified or simplified?

42:37

**Susie Collins:** Yeah. Thanks, Gabrielle.

The original list back in 2016 and the review in 2019 did do more of that comprehensive analysis. The criteria, the ones that I put up at the beginning, around what is the impact on plant health, what is the potential entry into Australia and the consequences of that. Those original reviews did have all of that.

This recent review we've done, as I said was more of a simple refresh, just seeing if anything significant had changed or if pests needed to come on or off, but also there was that check, with the work of the department did, and just really making sure that if someone said, oh, you know, there's no pathway into Australia, or there is, that there is a bit more evidence and justification underpinning that. The most recent review was more of a light touch, but the original starting lists and this review that we had, was that much more comprehensive assessment. Going forward we're looking at what is the best approach to that analysis going forward and it's likely that, you know, we'll probably do a bit more of a comprehensive review and refresh the next time we need to review the list again, to make sure we're not missing anything, and things are still appropriate.

44:13

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** Thanks, Susie.

I've got a question here from Karen Stralow about the invasive ants- The old list had a number of invasive ants, and she's listed them in the chat from the Asian needle ant, browsing ant, tawny crazy ant, raspberry ant, as well as RIFA and the black imported fire ant and electric ants, and the advice was that these have been moved to the Exotic Environmental Pest List, but she can only see the electric and the RIFA on this list?

45:03

**Susie Collins:** Yep, that's correct, in terms of the current situation, they were removed from the NPPP list, with two of the species already being on the EPPL list. There is the review of the EEPL list that is happening, and that has commenced. That'll obviously pick up all consideration of these other ants as well. But the National Action Plan for the invasive ants still includes all those species. So again the EEPL review should have a look at refining or updating or including additional invasive ant species, but the current national action plan for invasive ants does cover those species, and therefore does have actions that will help us prepare for those ones.

45:54

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** Thanks Susie

Insight observation from Robert Markinson- the stronger partitioning between the NPPP list and the EEPL list does carry some risks in that awareness of EEPL outside of the biosecurity circles remains a lot lower than the NPPP's. So the two need to be closely cross promoted in media and presentations. People tend to be satisfied with the first search result they get and remain unaware of the other relevant lists.

Thank you for sharing that insight, Rob. I think we'll be able to have a think about that and consider potential risks and approach there.

Matt Sheen, I'm circle back to your second question because there's a few others in the in the chat.

There's a question from Justin Billings around a range of different lists- how are the various list coordinated for duplicate species? His talks about interception data, various interceptions, data and material master list of introduced and invasive species. He's from the EBO team, and they're creating one list based on Australia's global register of introduced and invasive species. I think the question is around how are these lists coordinated, particularly for duplicate species? I'm not sure if you want to tackle that now, Susie, or take that one on notice?

47:36

**Justin Billing:** Sorry, I'm happy to take that separately, Susie, at another time.

47:37

**Susie Collins:** Thanks, Justin. I mean there is, you know, different purposes for different lists. There is a need to be consistent and there is I think a timing issue as well, when the lists were developed and when they're reviewed and how that relates to the EEPL list and when that was developed and when that’s reviewed and all of those sorts of things. But if there's learnings from the way the different sectors have been addressing this, we definitely should be talking to each other to make sure we are making the best product we can and making sure we're clear in who's responsible for what and how the different arrangements work without having any gaps in the system, because that's what we don't want.

48:25

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** Great. Thank you.

Really don't have much time for more questions, but there are a few questions in the chat. Bramez is asking the Phytophthora species, multiple species on oak foliage. Is that any particular species? Is Phytophthora ramorum included there? I think the answer to that is, yes.

48:47

**Susie Collins:** Yes, it is.

48:51

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** And then there's a question on fire blight (Erwinia). Is there a preparedness plan in place for Erwinia? And I think there is. There have been various plans in place over the years.

49:07

**Susie Collins:** Yeah, there has been, and in a national action plan, a group one, it is covered in. I’ll get my list up. The horticulture one.

49:22

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** One question about exotic snails, are all exotic snails on the list or just certain species?

49:37

**Susie Collins:** A lot of snails.

49:37

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** I think it's certain species, but we'll have to get back to you on that, Ben Page, we do have quite an interest in snails.

49:43

**Susie Collins:** It's easy to group, you know, whole lots of species together, but at the end of the day, there will be a few of them that have been identified that have that potential pathway and impact and in thinking about the national actions, we need to prepare and address those particular risks, will of course be addressing a whole lot of other risks that that aren't a specific species that's been identified.

50:12

**Gabrielle Vivian-Smith:** Great. Thank you.

And then a few other questions. Thanks Sharon Taylor, that's an interesting question about linking to the food Security preparedness strategy. Certainly, something to give some thought to. I might just now close off because we are out of time, we've lost quite a few of our audience. We've had some great questions and interest and I’m sure there's plenty more to discuss on this.

Before I close, I just wanted to firstly say please join us on the 15th of May for the next ACPPO webinar on the use of MALDI-ToF, its benefits and how it will make a difference. We use this for national border diagnostics. It's a fairly new initiative and I'm sure people will find it very interesting.

Finally, before I let Susie go, I just want to say a big thank you. If everyone could please show their appreciation for Susie, our speaker today, it's been a really interesting presentation, very timely and very relevant.

Thanks, Susie.

51:18

**Susie Collins:** Thanks. Thanks team for preparing it.