

7 July 2022

## **ANNOUNCEMENT INFORMATION PAPER – COMMENCEMENT OF A PEST RISK ANALYSIS FOR KHAPRA BEETLE (*TROGODERMA GRANARIUM*)**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) introduced emergency measures, in phases, from September 2020 to manage the risk associated with khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*). The department is now initiating a pest risk analysis (PRA) to assess the biosecurity risks presented by khapra beetle, evaluate the efficacy of emergency measures against the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) for Australia, consider ongoing phytosanitary measures, and ensure any ongoing phytosanitary measures are scientifically justified. The department will continue to engage with stakeholders during the process of development of this PRA.

### **Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*)**

Khapra beetle is one of the world's most destructive pests of stored plant-based products and an effective hitchhiker. Khapra beetle is not present in Australia and is rated as the second highest national priority plant pest for Australia.

Khapra beetle is small and cryptic, with a preference for inhabiting cracks and crevices. These characteristics enable the pest to remain undetected in shipping containers, vessels, goods and packaging. Khapra beetle larvae can undergo long periods of diapause, particularly in unfavourable conditions, including during lack of food sources. Diapausing larvae have an enhanced tolerance to starvation, insecticides, and extreme temperatures. When food becomes available, they can break diapause, mature and breed rapidly, and quickly expand their population. Diapause, in combination with small size and cryptic nature, allows this pest to be an effective hitchhiker, facilitating its global spread.

The introduction and spread of khapra beetle in Australia would have unacceptable economic consequences, particularly for Australia's agricultural and food production sectors. Australia is a significant exporter of wheat, other grains, oilseeds, and pulses. The presence of khapra beetle in Australia could result in restrictions to or loss of access to overseas markets where this pest is absent, causing a significant impact on the Australian grain industry.

Khapra beetle had previously been intercepted at Australian borders only a few times each year prior to a marked increase in 2020, when there were 16 interceptions of this pest. In addition to the increase in interceptions, khapra beetles were found in goods with which they had not previously been associated, and in shipments from countries not known to have khapra beetle. These interceptions indicate a changing pathway risk profile and have justified the introduction of the current emergency measures.

### **Introduction and implementation of emergency measures against khapra beetle**

In August 2020, Australia notified trading partners through the WTO-SPS notification system of its intention to implement phased emergency measures to safeguard Australia against the entry, establishment and spread of khapra beetle through various pathways. Notifications were also provided prior to the implementation of each phase of emergency measures. Details of emergency measures can be found at [Urgent actions to protect against khapra beetle](#). A summary of the

introduction and implementation of emergency measures to manage the risk of khapra beetle is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1 A summary of emergency measures against khapra beetle and implementation dates**

Implementation date	Emergency measure	Measures
3 September 2020	Phase 1	Ban on high-risk goods within unaccompanied personal effects and low value freight
15 October 2020	Phase 2	Ban on high-risk goods within unaccompanied baggage or via international travellers or mail articles
12 April 2021	Phase 6A (part 1)	Introduced offshore treatments for sea containers packed with high-risk goods in a khapra beetle target risk country
12 July 2021 and 15 December 2021	Phase 6A (part 2)	Introduced offshore treatments for sea containers packed with all types of goods (except for high-risk goods) in a khapra beetle target risk country and will be unpacked in: - a rural grain growing area of Australia (12 July 2021) - a rural nut growing area of Australia (15 December 2021)
30 September 2021	Phase 3	Revised phytosanitary certification and new offshore treatment requirements for high-risk goods via all commercial pathways
28 April 2022	Phase 4 and 5	Revised phytosanitary certification requirements for other-risk goods and seeds for sowing
Implementation date to be announced in due course	Phase 6B	Introduction of measures to a broader range of containers (i.e., all high-risk containers)

## Next steps

A draft PRA report is expected to be published on our website in early 2023 for stakeholder consultation. The department will notify stakeholders of the release of the draft report, and a Biosecurity Advice will be issued to invite comment at that time.

The department will consider all stakeholder comments received during the consultation period in preparing the final report.

If you would like to know more about this risk analysis or the risk analysis review process, please email [plantstakeholders@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:plantstakeholders@agriculture.gov.au) or phone 02 6272 5094