

Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee – Meeting Update

Updates on key projects and issues are summarised following each committee meeting.

Meeting 20 held on 17 July 2019 - Summary

The committee met on 17 July 2019 in Canberra and received operational updates from the department on the Horticulture Exports and Authorised Officer programs, the Plant Export Management System (PEMS), the Horticulture Exports Cost Recovery Arrangements and market access activities.

Regional Assurance Manager Pilot

The Regional Assurance Manager Pilot program was established to provide support to Authorised Officers and increase departmental visibility to industry. The pilot was conducted over a six-month period from January to June 2019. Based on the initial evaluation and positive feedback from industry, the Regional Assurance Manager program will continue over the next four years with an increased number of Regional Assurance Managers to be appointed.

Plant Export Management Systems (PEMS)

Versions 3.1 and 3.2 were delivered on schedule in March and May 2019 respectively. The main enhancements introduced included In-Transit Cold Treatment calibrations and integration with the department's finance system to allow automated invoicing for departmental Authorised Officers. The final phase, for PEMS to integrate with third party systems, is to be released in September 2019.

Agricultural export legislation

The department held an information session for committee representatives on 1 May 2019 to present and seek feedback on the key policy concepts of the new Plant Export Control Rules. There will be further opportunities for participants to provide feedback on the content of the Rules when the Plant Export Control Rules are released for public consultation.

Next Export Documentation System (NEXDOC)

Commodities will be transitioned to NEXDOC in stages, with the horticulture and plant (including ePhyto) commodities planned for delivery in late 2020 followed by an implementation period of up to 12 weeks. Direct access to NEXDOC will be provided through a departmental interface as well as through third party software.

Plant exports National Documentation Hub (DOCHUB)

The DOCHUB experienced an increased in the horticulture documentation resubmission rates in February 2019 and worked to resolve these resubmissions resulting in a decrease in resubmissions in March 2019. The most common issues experienced by the DOCHUB were discussed during the meeting.

For additional information on the above summary please contact your industry HEICC representative.