



National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (SEQ) Steering Committee

Friday 12 June 2020

Teleconference

9.00am - 10.30am

ATTENDANCE

Attendees	Wendy Craik, Chair Jo Laduzko, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (C'wealth) John Robertson, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) (QLD) Anne Walters, Department of Primary Industry and Resources (NT) Scott Charlton, Department of Primary Industries (NSW) John van Schagen, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA) Nigel Ainsworth, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (VIC) Lloyd Klumpp, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (TAS) Mike Richards, Chief Finance Officer, DAF (QLD)
Program Presenters	Graeme Dudgeon, General Manager Andrew Turley, Strategy Director Brett Turville, Operations Director
Observers	Malcolm Letts, Deputy Director-General/Chief Biosecurity Officer, Biosecurity Queensland, (DAF) Heather Lesson, Manager, Policy Liz Williams, Manager, Science
Secretariat	Kerrian Nobbs, Senior Policy Officer, (NRIFAEP)

MAIN DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

The meeting opened at 9.00am.

The Chair welcomed Steering Committee members, Malcolm Letts and Program staff to the teleconference scheduled to discuss the papers circulated on Wednesday 10 June 2020. Due to the short timeframe provided to the members to read the papers, the Chair requested the Program provide an overview of each paper and amendments made to the papers following the previous teleconference.

Graeme Dudgeon provided an overview of the items to be covered, including the Three Year Strategy; the Work Plan; the Goals, Strategies, Objectives and KPIs; and the Clearance and Proof of Freedom Strategy which have been amended to better align with the 10 Year Plan. The Program is constantly adapting the 10 Year Plan targets with respect to surveillance, clearance and proof of freedom and appreciates the input from the Steering Committee to assist with this.

The Chair suggested that any proposed modifications to the Program may need to go to NBC/AGMIN.

Three Year Strategy

The main amendments to the previous version of the Three Year Strategy were the updating of the KPIs, including:

- some naming changes (goals) in alignment with the KPI document
- updated Program Strategies



- clearance - a new section has been added – progressive clearance of the zones (breakdown into 5km grids and the surveillance of these areas)
- minor update to the organisational chart.

Other discussions included:

- forecast of expenditure to be reviewed on page 24 to include expenditure from 2019-2020
- a financial forecast for future years needs to be developed that includes a table outlining the spend each year and any funds unspent from previous years.

Work Plan

It is important to start implementing the Work Plan, including procurement arrangements for contract workforce and bait supplies. A strategy change represented in the Work Plan, is to try four treatments in one year as an eradication set rather than six treatments over two years. The issue with achieving this eradication regime, is accessing the bait which has to be pre-ordered from production runs in the United States. The Program has had preliminary negotiations with a bait supplier. The cost is currently five times the cost of IGR. A 20% discount has been negotiated but has not been formally signed off as yet. Ministerial and possibly Governor in Council approval will be required for this procurement process.

The Work Plan is the first annual program (2020/21) of the Three Year Strategy (2020/23) from the 10 Year Plan and includes a different approach to the eradication mix and the planned surveillance. The Program would like conditional approval to begin with the Work Plan pending availability of the bait; otherwise alternative arrangements may have to be considered.

Based on an initial estimation of the budget required to deliver the 2020-21 Work Plan, accounting for the discount on the toxicant bait, there is still a shortfall of approximately \$4M against funds currently allocated for 2020-21. The Program intends to limit expenditure to the available funds by finding \$4M of efficiencies including those that can be realised by implementing the Efficiency and Effectiveness Review recommendations. No additional funds from future years will be requested to be brought forward for 2020-21.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have the larger property developers around the Gold Coast/Yarrabilba areas, report back to the Program on areas they have treated. If this is a viable option, it could be a good measure to be reporting against, in terms of industry and community contributions for suppression. The Strategy and Legislation team are currently assisting with whether the Program can deputise local government to assist with compliance and whether there would be a cost involved.

Goals, Strategies, Objectives and KPIs

The main amendments to the work plan were:

- a glossary has been added to give a better understanding of the usage of terms
- 10 year objectives have been reframed as goals
- three year goals have been reframed as strategies
- key KPI's that been updated, include:
 - removed lifestyle from KPI
 - 2b which was previously about positive comments in media and social media. The revised KPI captures stakeholder satisfaction measured through surveys conducted broadly across the community in biosecurity zones
 - 4b – has now been reframed, intensity has been removed and replaced with relative density, to add better context that the Program is trying to measure the relative spread of fire ants within the containment area and the four family clusters in the target remain or we see more family clusters



- clearance – modified to align better with the 10 Year Plan of having high probability that 95% of clearance zones are free from fire ants two years after Eradication treatment. Another option for consideration is having a metric around phased steps from clearance to freedom – ie. a KPI could be probability based for declaring freedom, while the KPI for clearance could be based on a time since last detection of fire ants in an area.

It was suggested that for transparency, it would be useful in reporting against the Work Plan and the KPIs to show comments against the three year KPI as well as the one year KPI, to indicate how the Program is progressing against the three and 10 year targets.

The Steering Committee:

- noted the update on the Three Year Strategy and agreed to provide approval/comments by cob 19 June 2020
- noted the update on the Work Plan
- agreed to approve the Work Plan subject to satisfactory resolution of outstanding issues, eg. price of bait and toxicant, with the proviso that if any of these issues are not resolved in the way the Work Plan proposes, that the Program will revert to the Steering Committee for further consideration
- noted the update on the Clearance and Proof of Freedom Strategy and agreed to provide approval/comments by cob 19 June 2020
- noted the update on the Goals, Strategy, Objectives and KPIs and agreed to provide approval/comments by cob 19 June 2020
- noted the responses to the items covered out-of-session from the Steering Committee meeting held on 21 May and noted the comment on Item 2 has been retracted and the Governance Chart will remain as is in the Terms of Reference
- agreed if Steering Committee members require further clarification on any papers, a teleconference will be scheduled to discuss
- noted the Secretariat will follow up on the receipt of the signed agreement from Victoria and provide advice to Nigel Ainsworth
- agreed the next Steering Committee to be held in August 2020 will be three hours duration and to be held by teleconference.

Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
1.	Provide approval/comments to the Secretariat on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Year Strategy • Clearance and Proof of Freedom Strategy • Goals, Strategy, Objectives and KPIs 	Steering Committee members	19 June 2020	Completed
2.	Follow up on receipt of signed agreement from Victoria and advise Nigel Ainsworth.	Secretariat	19 June 2020	Completed
3.	Schedule three hour teleconference for August 2020 meeting.	Secretariat	19 June 2020	Completed



The meeting closed at 10.25am.