

OUT14/39707

The Marine Pests Unit
Animal Biosecurity Branch
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Dear Director

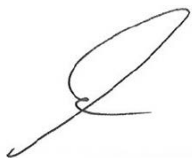
NSW DPI response to *National Marine Pest Biosecurity Review: Issues Paper*

NSW DPI appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the National Marine Pest Review that is being implemented, through the recent Issues Paper.

NSW DPI Biosecurity NSW has considered the questions posed in the Issues Paper, and would like to provide a list of general comments that you will find as an Attachment to this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Andrew Sanger on 02 6042 4207.

Yours sincerely



Bruce M Christie
Deputy Director General
Biosecurity and Food Safety

8 January 2015

Attachment 1. NSW DPI comments on Marine Pest Biosecurity Review: Issues Paper

Ballast water and biofouling regulations

- Biosecurity NSW commends the Commonwealth Government on its Biosecurity Bill and the proposed regulation of ballast water marine pest risk of both international and domestic vessel movements.
- NSW considers the current national arrangements are not effective in preventing marine pests from arriving in Australia via biofouling on ships hulls, this being evidenced by numerous reported detections of marine pests of concern on international arriving vessels in Australian Ports (via CCIMPE).
- There is currently no legislation or guidelines to manage the marine pest risk associated with biofouled international vessels arriving into Australian Ports. NSW DPI supports the development of Commonwealth regulation to manage this issue through Commonwealth legislation.
- NSW considers there could also be improvements to reduce the risk of marine pests spreading from one Australian jurisdiction to another. This could include agreement for the Commonwealth to take a role in coordinating and improving mechanisms communication on high risk domestic vessel movements.

National response to marine pest incursions

- NSW notes the current arrangements for managing a new incursion of a marine pest species include consideration under the *National Environment Biosecurity Response Arrangement* (NEBRA), and further notes that while the NEBRA appears to be adequate, it has not yet been tested on a real scenario.
- NSW has no resources identified to implement the monitoring as required under the National Monitoring Network Strategy. NSW is awaiting development and implementation of a cost sharing model that is currently being developed and discussed at the national Marine Pest Sectoral Committee.

Consultation and communication

- NSW considers that the Australian government engages stakeholders (such as state governments, Oceanwatch, environmental partners, shipping and port associations) adequately when planning or implementing changes to national guidelines and regulations. NSW suggests that ongoing engagement with stakeholders throughout entire development processes, including post implementation of new guidelines for example would improve knowledge and voluntary compliance.
- NSW DPI acknowledges the effective communication provided by the Consultative Committee on Introduced Marine Pest Emergencies for which the Commonwealth is the Secretariat/Chair role However, NSW further notes that it would be of benefit to make improvements to national communication procedures to ensure timely sharing (no delays) of information relating to impending arrivals in other jurisdictions of vessels that have been identified as a marine pest risk.

Preventing, containing and managing marine pests

- NSW considers education of key stakeholders about marine pest issues to be fundamental in seeking voluntary compliance with activities that work to prevent new marine pest incursions, detect new incursions early, and prevent spread of established marine pest populations.
- NSW promotes Biosecurity as a shared responsibility between government agencies, stakeholders and the community.
- NSW also implements movement controls where considered appropriate to reduce the spread of marine pests; and implements restrictions in some areas that have known marine pest populations to minimise the risk of spread via key vectors.

Marine pest research

- NSW recently met with WA Fisheries and recommends the further development, including Commonwealth support (as appropriate), of the WA proposed National Marine Pest Research Network.
- NSW would also like to recommend some versatility to the data that is accepted as part of the National Monitoring Strategy Marine Pest Database. Whilst there are no resources identified to conduct the Marine Pest monitoring as per the NMN Survey methodology, NSW does collect marine pest data through other research projects. To-date this data has not been accepted to provide marine pest status/presence/absence information in the National Strategy.