



South Australian biosecurity roundtable report

Thank you for attending the 2016 National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) Biosecurity Roundtable (Roundtable) held in Adelaide, South Australia on Tuesday 12 April 2016.

This event was hosted by the NBC, together with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia. After receiving feedback from stakeholders who attended previous events, a new format for the Roundtables is being trialled this year. There will be one roundtable event held in the capital city of each state/territory. The key themes from each Roundtable will be discussed at the National Forum in Canberra later in the year.

The morning session opened with updates from the state government, federal government and an industry representative, Robbie Davis from Potatoes SA.

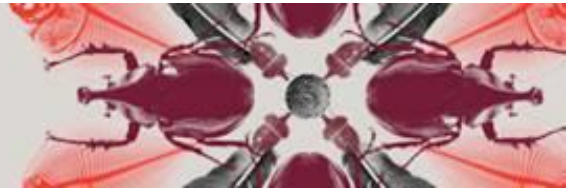
The morning session closed with a question and answer (Q&A) panel, made up of six state government, federal government and industry representatives.

The afternoon session consisted of discussion groups on two key topics 'Market Access' and 'Community Awareness'. For the Market Access session, attendees broke up into two smaller discussion groups, then reported their key discussion points back to the group. The group then reconvened for the Community Awareness session and discussed this topic as a whole.

Key themes from the South Australian event included:

1. Trade barriers and market access
2. Improving traceability
3. On-farm biosecurity
4. Ownership of biosecurity issues.

More detail about these themes is included below. The key themes from the other roundtable events will be added to this list and then discussed at the National Forum.



Key themes

1. Trade barriers and market access

The group discussed trade barriers and their effect upon market access. Interstate certification requirements were identified as a trade barrier. The group suggested work could be done to improve the arrangements between states and ensure that products flow between them on a risk-based approach.

Attendees also discussed the importance of understanding different market requirements. For example; being aware of both regulated and non-regulated markets and any changes in requirements to access a market. The group then discussed how changing country requirements might be addressed. If the requirements change, then new ways to meet those requirements need to be found, or a different market needs to be found instead whose requirements can be met.

2. Improving traceability

There was some discussion by the group of ways to improve the traceability of horticultural products. The idea that Property Identification Codes (PICs) could be used for horticulture was raised a number of times. Many in the group believed implementing a PIC system, similar to that used for livestock, could be a way to enhance biosecurity trace back capability in the horticulture sector.

3. On-farm biosecurity

On-farm biosecurity discussions touched on how larger companies often have more established systems with higher standards, which are audited by a third party. Some companies even have a Biosecurity Officer role.

There was discussion of how smaller operators may not have the same established systems due to financial constraints. However, smaller operators are still responsible for upholding the same biosecurity standards. There was discussion around how peri-urban, hobby farmers and smaller operators can be reached to make sure they have an on-farm biosecurity plan and understand their responsibilities.

The group agreed that the use of Authorised Officers is a good system where government and industry collaborate.

4. Ownership of Biosecurity issues

The group discussed how there is a large problem with people not understanding their role in the biosecurity system or taking personal responsibility for biosecurity. Biosecurity is often viewed as someone else's problem. The group also discussed ways to change this perception such as advertising and social media campaigns.