

Tasmania biosecurity roundtable report

Thank you for attending the 2016 National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) Biosecurity Roundtable (Roundtable) held in Hobart, Tasmania on Thursday 28 April 2016.

This event was hosted by the NBC, together with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania. 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, Adam Main from the Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association (TSGA).

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

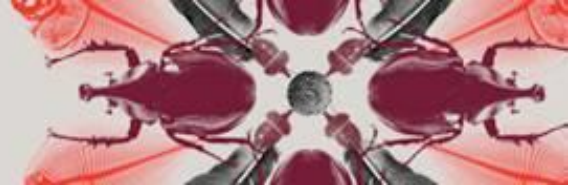
The afternoon session consisted of discussion groups on two key topics 'Regional Differentiation' and 'Community Awareness'. For both sessions the group discussed the topic as a whole.

Key themes from the Tasmanian include:

1. Regional differentiation
2. Community awareness of biosecurity
3. On-farm biosecurity, and
4. Responding to and managing potential serious pests and diseases

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. Regional Differentiation

The group discussed why regional differentiation is important from a Tasmanian government perspective. The advantages of being 60-80% pest free in Tasmania and how this is the key point of difference for the Tasmanian brand was discussed. It was also noted how heavily the Tasmanian economy depends on its export market.

The group also discussed the consequences of an incursion in Tasmania, how it would impact on pest status, local businesses, the Tasmanian export market and the domestic market which includes mainland Australia.

2. Community Awareness of Biosecurity

The group discussed the general public's knowledge of their role in the biosecurity system and how important it is. Concerns were raised that people's knowledge from previous education campaigns is diminishing overall. An example was given of the high volume of people arriving in Tasmania at the airport with fruit each day. The group discussed ways to improve and maintain the public's knowledge. Suggestions included: educating school children, communication campaigns, effective use of social media and introducing harder punishments for those who do the wrong thing.

3. Improving on-farm biosecurity

The group spoke about ways to improve on-farm biosecurity plans. Suggestions included working directly with farms to create individual plans and providing examples of good plans as a guide; raising awareness of the importance of on-farm biosecurity and having a good plan by drawing attention to other traumatic losses (for example the POMS outbreak); and the government and peak bodies working together to implement a contemporary system that helps people understand and meet their obligation.

4. Responding to and managing potentially serious pests and diseases

The group also discussed the tools used to respond to and manage potentially serious pests and diseases. This included the importance of having an effective surveillance system to prevent the entry of pests and diseases and having a good post-entry system to assist with a speedy response if an outbreak were to occur.

It was also discussed how the Tasmanian government is currently reviewing its biosecurity legislation and how suggestions can be fed into this process to ensure that the legislation has the right tools to manage biosecurity. The group also discussed current work and the need for a national agreement for the response to aquatic diseases.