Is Australia's national biosecurity system and the underpinning Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity fit for the future?

PHA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the review on the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) and the Australian biosecurity system.

Rather than specifically address each of the detailed questions that are posed in the discussion paper, PHA has provided higher level responses regarding the current state of the biosecurity system and IGAB, and challenges that will need to be addressed in the future.

The effectiveness of IGAB

PHA acknowledges IGAB's role as an important mechanism to enable government to be part of a fully functional and efficient biosecurity system, which is vital part of the future profitability, productivity and sustainability of Australia's plant production industries and is necessary to preserve the Australian environment and way of life. PHA sees the IGAB as the mechanism by which state governments and the Australian Government ensure that they are working in concert to support and implement a national biosecurity system. It is a central pillar of the system, although not the only one.

There are no objective indicators that can be used to evaluate effectiveness, but from PHA's perspective, it is functioning well as a coordinating framework. PHA does not see a need to change the priority areas for collaboration to minimise the impact of pests and diseases.

In addition to the IGAB there are other structures which together form the framework of the system, notably PHA and AHA with their unique government and industry partnership structures.

Future directions

The **National Plant Biosecurity Strategy**, the blueprint for improving Australia's plant biosecurity system by 2020, incorporates the majority of the reforms set out in the IGAB schedules. This sets out future directions as PHA sees them and also as PHA's members see them, since the plan was developed in conjunction with our members and endorsed by them, that is, all governments and most plant industries.

In July 2015, half way through the life of the Strategy, PHA assessed progress against the vision, and therefore largely against the IGAB reforms. The results have been compiled into a report, the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy 2015-2020 Implementation Plan, which outlines the tasks remaining to be completed by the end of the decade.

A copy of the Implementation Plan is attached to this submission and PHA recommends that the panel refers to it to guide recommendations for the future of the biosecurity system.

Challenges to be addressed:

Adequate funding for governments

While the IGAB framework successfully sets out the roles and responsibilities of governments it is necessary for all agencies to be funded adequately so that these can be met. The IGAB has given remit to governments to resource the work to be undertaken in each of the schedules within it, but jurisdictions are struggling to undertake the work. It seems that agriculture agencies have trouble convincing treasury departments of the importance of pre-emptive risk mitigation in biosecurity and the enormous cost-benefit of prevention over eradication or management, particularly where market closures occur. The result is inadequate funding of biosecurity activities.

Governments must meet responsibilities under IGAB, as well as those under emergency response agreements and those agreed in endorsed biosecurity plans that seek to mitigate risk for particular industries.

Adequate funding for peak industry bodies

Smaller plant industry bodies are struggling to obtain sufficient funding to allow them to carry out the roles expected of industry. Industries need resourcing if they are to maintain their coordination roles, to keep abreast of biosecurity issues and to resource risk mitigation activities such as supporting on-farm biosecurity through implementing best management practice systems or educating growers with campaigns or biosecurity field officers.

Providing evidence of absence data for overseas market access

Overseas markets are demanding the provision of quantitative surveillance evidence to demonstrate pest freedom. One way to meet these requirements is to partner with industry to have the community - growers or professional advisers – provide the required data. PHA recommends that governments assist PHA to roll out the AUSPestCheck system that allows compilation of surveillance data entered by state governments, industries and individual growers or others along the supply chain.

Need to better engage the community

It is PHA's perception that the message of shared responsibility for biosecurity has largely not reached individuals. The word biosecurity means different things to different people, if it is understood at all, and the concept of shared responsibility is too vague to be meaningful, particularly without context. These issues are compromising the ability of stakeholders such as PHA to raise awareness of the need to mitigate biosecurity risks.

While partnerships between government and industry (such as the Grains Farm Biosecurity Program and the National Bee Biosecurity Program) have proven effective in raising awareness of the need for individual risk mitigation, there are still many others on-farm and in the community who have no idea about biosecurity beyond checks at the international airports. The new legislation put in place by NSW and Queensland is the first time that any real attempt has been made by governments to change this understanding at the community level. Educating people about the General Biosecurity Obligation will assist in raising awareness of everyone's responsibility, although public information comes at a cost and needs funding.

This applies to on-farm biosecurity where Farm Biosecurity surveys have shown that the bulk of individual producers are not implementing changes to properties and procedures that would protect their enterprises. State governments were traditionally a source of best practice information for producers but the outreach efforts of state governments have been severely reduced over the past decade or two.

It should be noted that engaging with peak industry bodies does not automatically equate to reaching individual growers. As mentioned earlier, peak industry bodies are often poorly resourced and not qualified to undertake major communication initiatives. They need to be empowered and funded to spread the on-farm biosecurity message, to make it standard practice for producers.

In addition, industry bodies are only responsible for reaching producers who members of their organisation. This means that other risk creators are not covered. For example, producers who choose not to join such as the high-risk peri-urban producers, and residents of regional towns that can ruin area wide management of endemic pests such as fruit flies, are not covered by peak industry bodies.

There is considerable risk associated with lack of engagement with the general public, as potential risk creators. Australians will inevitably continue to view biosecurity as just the remit of the Australian Government at the border, not realising their potential to introduce new pests or spread existing ones.

Better coordination of plant biosecurity RD&E

IGAB rightly identifies the need for better coordination of the science that is done by researchers in Australia to provide the answers that Australia need to best protect its plant production. The national biosecurity system is heavily dependent on an effective functioning RD&E system, from developing and validating the effectiveness of on-farm biosecurity hygiene practises, through to developing new disease resistant varieties.

PHA has taken the lead in this area, producing the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy (from inputs across the sector) and then establishing the Implementation Committee which is now working to identify areas where cross-sectoral research will confer efficiencies. By involving PHA's members including industry, government and plant-based RDCs, PHA has the scope to improve the coordination of biosecurity related research, and enable it to be more cost effective and sustainable.

Further partnership opportunities with industry

Partnership opportunities with industry need to be further developed. Better use could be made of PHA's Plant Industry Forums and the joint AHA and PHA industry forum to facilitate productive partnerships.

It is worth considering if there could be an industry representative on the National Biosecurity Committee to assist in this process, which would assist in making this committee truly 'national'. Industry participation, including consultation across industries, would need to be funded in some fashion.

Industry best management practice and certification systems are a good way to ensure uptake of good on-farm biosecurity practices but again these need to be funded. Smaller plant industries would require assistance.

Greater emphasis on interstate biosecurity

Domestic movement restrictions are a crucial part of the biosecurity system that is currently not receiving adequate attention. Interstate quarantine is essential for containing established pests but also for preventing the spread of any exotic pests that make it through international border controls. Yet there is very little funding for raising awareness of interstate and regional zone restrictions or to engage individuals on risks that their activities pose.

PHA has recently upgraded the websites for Interstate Quarantine and for the Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (soon to go live) but there is almost no publicity associated with the program.

Greater engagement with local governments

IGAB does not include councils around Australia and local governments are becoming increasingly important for various reasons. These include the need for area wide management of established pests, the General Biosecurity Obligation, the need to engage at community level and the need to address incursions in the environment, weeds and pastures. A structure is required to engage councils.

Closing gaps: weeds, fodder and pasture and management of non-eradicable pests

Currently there are no legally binding agreements for dealing with weeds, or with pests of fodder and pasture. There is also no agreement in place for plant pests that are deemed not eradicable. These are gaps in the system that need to be addressed urgently. Since these are potential risk creators, they confer risks on plant and livestock industries, in addition to being a risk in their own right.

Expanding sources of funding

With governments and industries struggling to resource required activities including raising awareness of biosecurity, there is a need to find another source of funding. PHA recommends that a levy on international travellers be considered as a mechanism. Such a levy would serve two purposes: it would provide funding for partners working to keep exotic pests out of the country and it would raise awareness among travellers of the dangers of exotic pests and the need for everyone to play a role. A levy on travellers seems appropriate, given that visitors and travelling Australians are significant potential risk creators.

PHA is an active supporter of IGAB

PHA is an important element of the Australian plant biosecurity system, acting as the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia. PHA has participated in various IGAB working groups and has had active involvement with IGAB's delivery mechanisms.

In particular, PHA has been strengthening working partnerships, raising awareness, and improving components of the system including the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network, the National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy, information exchange through the Biosecurity Portal as well as coordination of the plant biosecurity RD&E strategy.

The company is happy to expand on our submission and to comment on the draft report that the panel publishes.
12 August 2016

National Plant Biosecurity Strategy

2015–2020 Implementation Plan

July 2015

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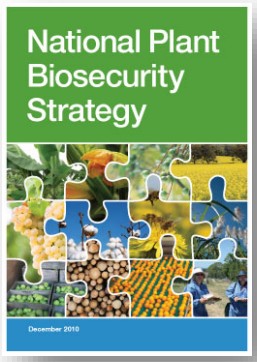
National Plant Biosecurity Strategy 2015–2020 Implementation Plan

The National Plant Biosecurity Strategy (NPBS), produced by PHA in 2010, sets the strategic direction for the plant biosecurity system to 2020. Recognising and responding to a number of substantial challenges facing the plant biosecurity sector, the NPBS was developed for decision makers, policy creators and plant biosecurity stakeholders, to provide clear guidance on a pathway for the implementation of a world class national plant biosecurity system. It was developed with the support and endorsement of PHA Members. The aim of this 2015–20 Implementation Plan is to assist PHA members to identify where work remains to be done and to coordinate efforts across government, industry and PHA.



The NPBS sets out ten high level strategies for the key functional areas of emergency response, diagnostics, surveillance and communications:

Strategy 1 Adopt nationally consistent plant biosecurity legislation, regulations and approaches where possible within each state and territory government's overarching legislative framework

Strategy 2 Establish a nationally coordinated surveillance system

Strategy 3 Build Australia's ability to prepare for, and respond to, pest incursions

Strategy 4 Expand Australia's biosecurity training capacity and capability

Strategy 5 Create a nationally integrated diagnostic network

Strategy 6 Enhance national management systems for established pests

Strategy 7 Establish an integrated national approach to plant biosecurity education and awareness

Strategy 8 Develop a national framework for plant biosecurity research

Strategy 9 Adopt systems and mechanisms for the efficient and effective distribution, communication and uptake of plant biosecurity information

Strategy 10 Monitor the integrity of the plant biosecurity system

These strategies are supported by a comprehensive series of recommendations and actions designed to facilitate the implementation of the NPBS.

In 2014–15, halfway through the life of the Strategy, PHA reviewed the Strategy in consultation with stakeholders and produced a progress report on the implementation of the Strategy. All stakeholders agreed that the document is still current and fit for purpose. It was found that most recommendations and strategies were progressing well and that some initiatives had been completed.

The mid-life review also provided the opportunity to identify remaining areas that need resourcing over the next five years. The matrix in this document charts progress and presents the remaining tasks to be achieved by 2020 using a priority traffic light system. The matrix provides suggested work priorities and identifies stakeholder groups that may be best equipped to advance elements of the Strategy.

PHA commends this plan to Members and will continue to work with all industry and government stakeholders to facilitate ongoing implementation of the NPBS to 2020.

National Plant Biosecurity Strategy 2015–2020 Implementation Plan

A traffic light system is used in this report to indicate the **progress** of each action of the NPBS. The colours are:

Achieved		On track		No action	

A further colour coding system is implemented within the year columns to indicate the **priority** of the identified gap in the implementation plan. The colours are:

Low priority		Medium priority		High priority	

IGAB SCHEDULE	NPBS ACTION	ACTION DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED GAPS	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Strategy 1		**ADOPT NATIONALLY CONSISTENT PLANT BIOSECURITY LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND APPROACHES WHERE POSSIBLE WITHIN EACH STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT'S OVERARCHING LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**.							
Recommendation 1		*Establish a framework for plant biosecurity legislation that promotes harmonisation and consistency of regulation for trade in plants and plant products within Australia, in accord with the principles of domestic trade and Australia's international rights and obligations.*							
2	**1.1**	Establish an agreed, nationally consistent risk assessment method for trade in plants and plant products in accordance with International Plant Protection Convention International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 2 (Framework for Pest Risk Analysis).	• Development of an eminent scientist group to inform dispute resolution in regulatory processes. • Agreement on metadata standards for pest profiles. • Implementation of national risk assessment method for international trade and domestic trade.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Codes of Practice Pest Risk Analysis (CoPRA) working group					
2	**1.2**	Address complex, inconsistent legislative processes and language via the development of a framework that delivers nationally consistent approaches to the biosecure trade of plants and plant products in Australia.	• Agreement through the Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) to use ISPM 5 Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms to assist with standardising terminology. • Focus on consistency in policy, intent, interpretation and implementation.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					

IGAB SCHEDULE	NPBS ACTION	ACTION DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED GAPS	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
7	**1.3**	Ensure that legislation and agreements are in place to meet all Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed requirements and that bilateral/multilateral arrangements are in place to remove any impediments to cross border emergency responses.							
	1.4	Align domestic and international market access policy and operations to identify and capture efficiencies in their delivery through integrated export systems and processes.	• Develop principles to guide the operation of the new system. The framework will take into account connections to existing international biosecurity and interstate trade responsibilities and agreements. • Implementation of an Established Pests and Diseases Framework.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
3	**1.5**	Review domestic and international phytosanitary certification processes for the movement of plants and plant products, focusing on the national adoption of electronic systems for certification by government inspectors and by businesses accredited under approved schemes.	• Streamlining domestic and international certification projects. • Development of an appropriate model for electronic certification.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Industry					
6	**1.6**	Develop a process for government and industry education and training on regulatory processes and obligations at national and international levels.	• Provision for an online training framework.	Australian Government					
				PHA					
				States & territories					
Recommendation 2		*Provide resources and appropriate processes to ensure the development and implementation of nationally consistent plant biosecurity legislation and regulations.*							
2	**2.1**	State and territory governments commit sufficient resources to implement the actions recommended under this strategy.	• Create economic metrics and risk assessment criteria to prioritise investment of resources based on risk/consequence assessment.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					

IGAB SCHEDULE	NPBS ACTION	ACTION DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED GAPS	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Strategy 2		**ESTABLISH A NATIONALLY COORDINATED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM.**							
Recommendation 3		*Facilitate the development of a nationally coordinated and targeted surveillance system that provides intelligence, supports the early detection of exotic plant pests, reports evidence of area freedom, enhances pest incursion responses and supports the effective management of established pests.*							
2, 4	**3.1**	Establish nationally agreed standards and plans for the collection of surveillance data for priority plant pests for the purposes of early detection and market access.	• Use of Biometrics to aid in development of plant biosecurity surveillance activities. • Completion of rapid diagnostic protocols for all High Priority Pests (HPPs).	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				PHA					
				Industry					
				SNPHS					
				SPHD					
4	**3.2**	Establish a national surveillance coordination centre with responsibility for reviewing the national design, collection, capture and analysis of data.	• Produce nationally agreed standards and data storage systems which can capture surveillance data from multiple sources. • Establishment of the Virtual Surveillance Coordination Centre (VCC) and integration of available surveillance data into the VCC. • Creation of a framework to ensure the implementation of the VCC.	PHA					
				States & territories					
				Australian Government					
				Industry					
				Broader biosecurity community					
	3.3	Establish a mechanism to engage industry, regions and communities t ensure broader recognition of the importance of surveillance and collection of surveillance data.	• Citizen science and involvement of society in surveillance. • Support the continued development of general surveillance. • Ensure appropriate prioritisation of surveillance to address market access.	States & territories					
				Australian Government					
				Industry					
				PHA					
				SNPHS					
				PBCRC					
4	**3.4**	National surveillance protocols should be developed and linked with Quality Assurance systems and accreditation to act as a	• Ensure linkage of industry to quality assurance (QA) systems and accreditation schemes. • Incorporation of surveillance into QA	Australian Government					
				Industry					

IGAB SCHEDULE	NPBS ACTION	ACTION DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED GAPS	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
		driver for creating capacity and capability.	systems and accreditation. • Ensure surveillance in QA is aligned to national protocols.	States & territories					
				SNPHS					
Strategy 3		**BUILD AUSTRALIAS ABILITY TO PREPARE FOR, AND RESPOND TO, PEST INCURSIONS.**							
Recommendation 4		*Continue to review and improve emergency response efficiency and effectiveness through improved processes, decision making, education, training and accreditation of personnel.*							
7	**4.1**	Continually review and improve joint industry and government decision making and response management arrangements to ensure they are rapid, collaborative, clear, effective, efficient and meet stakeholder expectations.	• PHA to deliver scenarios and training sessions for priority industries. • Enhancement to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). • Address issues related to CCEPP and NMG processes and their application.	States & territories					
				Industry					
				PHA					
				Australian Government					
7	**4.2**	Gain national commitment to ensure emergency response training is available, delivered at the appropriate frequency and meeting role needs (also covered by Recommendation 7).	• Endorsement of skill sets for biosecurity emergency response roles. • Accredited industry liaison training. • Provision of sufficient capacity and funding for emergency response training.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Industry					
				PHA					
7	**4.3**	Increase efficiency by identifying and addressing gaps and overlaps in responsibilities of relevant national, state and territory, and regional authorities in emergency management roles							
2	**4.4**	Develop a nationally agreed approach where eradication is technically not feasible.	• No agreed approach to transition to management under EPPRD arrangements. • Further work required for those pests that are not eligible for a transition to management program.	States & territories					
				PHA					
				Australian Government					
				Industry					
	4.5	Develop forecasts of expected production by plant industries as a biosecurity risk management, preparedness and response tool.	• Incompleteness of current land use data.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Industry					

IGAB SCHEDULE	NPBS ACTION	ACTION DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED GAPS	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
				PHA					
7	**4.6**	Stakeholders provide resources to ensure that baseline capacity is sufficient to meet normal commitments under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and similar instruments, through the development of normal commitments benchmarks, performance standards and regular reporting	• Comprehensive assessment of currently available resources. • Further clarification of expectations, standards and reporting is required in order to deliver against IGAB commitments.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Industry					
				PHA					
2	**4.7**	Develop pre-agreed, risk-based national response and cost sharing arrangements for pests not covered by existing arrangements.	• Response arrangements for pests that impact on industry but are not covered by the EPPRD (i.e. weeds). • Finalise policy position in this regard and communication of this with relevant industries	Australian Government					
				States and Territories					
				Industry					
				PHA					
Recommendation 5			*Develop contingency plans or business continuity plans covering all High Priority Pests.*						
5	**5.1**	Develop contingency plans or business continuity plans for all identified High Priority Pests with the allocation of agreed national roles and responsibilities.	• Currently 355 HPPs of which 295 are not covered by contingency plans. Thus, it is important to review the quality and currency of contingency plans.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Industry					
				PHA					
Recommendation 6			*Develop a national risk based decision making and investment framework that guides the efficient allocation of plant biosecurity resources, maximising return on investment and establishing a transparent and objective decision making process.*						
Strategy 4			**EXPAND AUSTRALIA'S PLANT BIOSECURITY TRAINING CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY.**						
Recommendation 7			*Maintain and enhance Australia's plant biosecurity training capability and capacity to underpin the ongoing needs of the national plant biosecurity system.*						
6	**7.1**	Develop a national training framework (at both tertiary and vocational levels) to fill existing and anticipated future skill gaps.	• Increase in undergraduate and Postgraduate qualifications specifically related to the Agricultural industries.	Universities					
				Industry					
8	**7.2**	Assessment and appropriate allocation of Australian Research Council and Research &	• There is currently no overarching coordination identifying gaps where research funding can focus –	RDCs					
				PBCRC					
				States & territories					

IGAB SCHEDULE	NPBS ACTION	ACTION DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED GAPS	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
		Development Corporation funding that contributes to the training of Australian scientists in plant biosecurity related disciplines.	Identification of research gaps in plant biosecurity and coordination of this.	Australian Government					
				Universities					
				Industry					
				PHA					
	7.3	Link undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships to industry and government employment opportunities.	• Continue to support programs that provide professional training programs in Plant Biosecurity.	Australian Government					
				Industry					
				States & territories					
				PBCRC					
				Universities					
7	**7.4**	Develop a mechanism to generate surge capacity in laboratory and operational staff in the event of an Emergency Plant Pest incursion.	• Identify and establish approved laboratories where capacity of existing laboratories are limited. • Comprehensive inventory of diagnostic laboratories and their locations across Australia. • Formal approach to utilise the staff outside of baseline jurisdictional capacity. • Development of Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) system to aid in tracking of sample transfer and results. • Finalise arrangements for using the Stronger Biosecurity and Quarantine initiative of the Commonwealth to aid in emergency responses.	Australian Government					
				States and Territories					
				Industries					
				SPHD					
7	**7.5**	Instigate annual plant biosecurity workshops to enable professional networking and information exchange.	• Workshops should be instigated in all areas where diagnostics are carried out but have not yet had a workshop.	States and Territories					
				Australian Government					
				PHA					
				Industry					
				SPHD					
				PBCRC					

IGAB SCHEDULE	NPBS ACTION	ACTION DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED GAPS	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Strategy 5			**CREATE A NATIONALLY INTEGRATED DIAGNOSTIC NETWORK.**						
Recommendation 8			*Develop a nationally integrated plant biosecurity diagnostic network that underpins Australia's plant biosecurity system.*						
4	**8.1**	Establish a nationally integrated plant biosecurity diagnostic network.							
4	**8.2**	Establish a harmonised approval process for the transfer of suspect and confirmed samples of priority plant pests between laboratories.							
4	**8.3**	Establish an integrated and coordinated network of diagnostic centres based on Australia's climatic zones.	**NOTE**: NPBDN not taking this approach.						
4, 5	**8.4**	Key roles and responsibilities agreed amongst agencies on a nationally coordinated basis.	• Assessment of which roles and responsibilities can be managed nationally. • Implementation of a national approach.	RDCs					
				PBCRC					
				Universities					
				States & territories					
				Industry					
				Australian Government					
				PHA					
4	**8.5**	Design and develop a National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy within the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy framework, which identifies key goals, objectives, timelines and resource requirements.							
4	**8.6**	Develop a process to encourage new diagnosticians to enter the field and enable continued professional development of current diagnosticians.	• Lack of mechanisms to encourage new diagnosticians to enter the field.	Australian Government					
				States and Territories					
				SPHD					

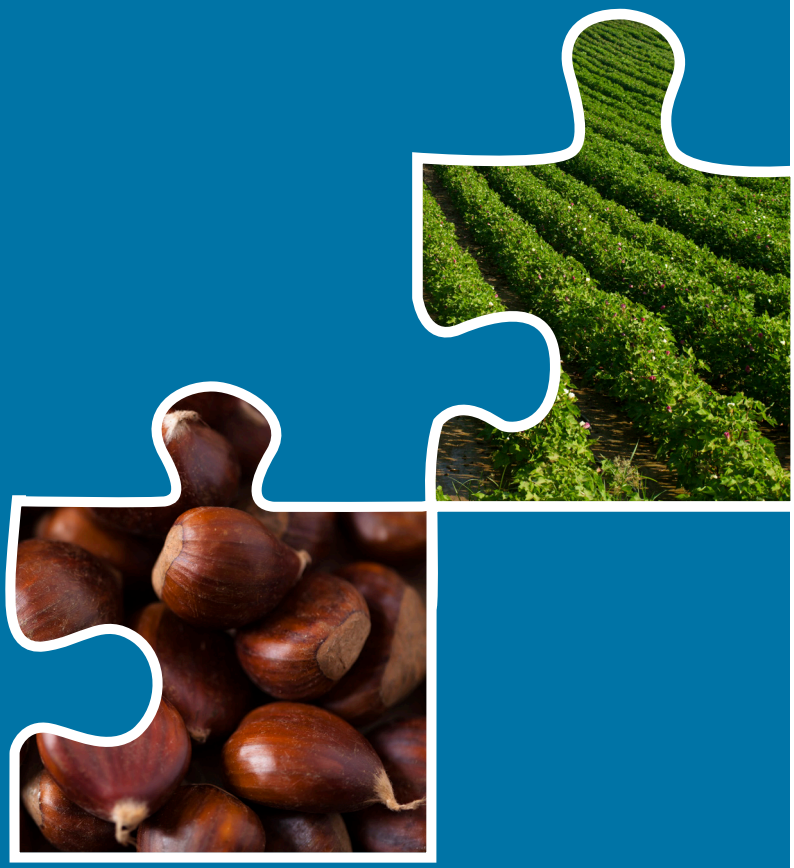
IGAB SCHEDULE	NPBS ACTION	ACTION DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED GAPS	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Recommendation 9		*Implement and maintain appropriate quality management systems in diagnostic laboratories.*							
4	**9.1**	All diagnostic laboratories in the network have the ability to deliver diagnostic testing to acceptable quality standards.							
4	**9.2**	Governments to take responsibility for establishment and ongoing costs of maintaining appropriate quality systems for diagnostic laboratories.							
Recommendation 10			*Diagnostic capability and capacity for all HPPs to be developed and maintained.*						
4	**10.1**	Regularly prioritise diagnostic protocols for development and review using a contemporary risk based approach.	• Availability of a quality agreed contemporary risk-based approach.	States & territories					
				PHA					
				SPHD					
				Australian Government					
3, 4	**10.2**	Develop a national policy to facilitate access to reference material and positive controls for diagnostic tests by ensuring appropriate processes and containment protocols are in place for their importation, storage and handling.	• No overarching policy or view of reference collections. • Access to international live positive controls of HPPs.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				SPHD					
				PHA					
	10.3	Regularly review current and future needs of the diagnostic system in terms of human resources, skills and infrastructure, and implement proactive approaches to ensure these are met.							

Strategy 6		**ENHANCE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR ESTABLISHED PESTS.**							
Recommendation 11			*Enhance the national management system for established pests.*						
5	**11.1**	Develop a nationally integrated approach for management of significant established pests that consolidates information into national data sets.	• Finalisation of a nationally integrated approach for pest management. This is currently been implemented through PHC.	PHC					
				States & territories					
				PHA					
5	**11.2**	Establish systems to accurately determine the cost of pest management operations and guide the effective allocation of resources.	• Simple, how-to-guide for Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA). • Nationally agreed framework for undertaking BCAs.	PHA					
5	**11.3**	Develop national decision making support tools that can assess the likely spread and impact of established species and determine shifts in pest risk profiles.	• Develop further decision making support tool software that can be made available to the Plant Biosecurity community.	Universities					
				States & territories					
				PBCRC					
				PHA					
				CSIRO					
	11.4	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) should be encouraged where applicable as the baseline for established pest management operations.	• Promotion of IPM for all industries and farms and be associated with strong accreditation. • Identification of key components of IPM that are specific for Australian Industries.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Industry					
8	**11.5**	Promote and facilitate active development and introduction of new plant varieties using both traditional breeding and other plant biotechnology techniques (including genetic modification), where consistent with state and territory legislation, that are resistant to pest attack and better adapted to regions subject to climate change and variability.	• Lack of information exchange between R&D scientists and Industry. • Definition of specific industry related requirements for GMOs.	Industry					
				RDCs					
				States & territories					

Strategy 7		**ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL APPROACH TO PLANT BIOSECURITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.**							
Recommendation 12		*Develop an integrated national approach to plant biosecurity communication between all key stakeholders.*							
6	**12.1**	Use Industry Biosecurity Plans and other relevant documents as a base to establish and develop specific sectoral awareness packages.	• Sufficient funding to industries in order to develop sectoral awareness packages. • Industries to be more proactive in developing and disseminating Industry specific sectoral awareness packages.	PHA Industry					
6	**12.2**	When developing plant biosecurity operational and extension plans, ensure specific stakeholder needs are taken into account.							
6	**12.3**	Through the National Communications Network develop a National Biosecurity Communication Strategy.							
Recommendation 13		*Processes need to be defined that identify, engage, evaluate and sustain community engagement and capture plant biosecurity information.*							
6	**13.1**	Community engagement strategies should be supported with infrastructure that enables feedback and follow up to be provided to community participants, delivering wider community engagement and valuable plant biosecurity information.	• Development and Implementation of a National Virtual Surveillance Coordination Centre (VCC).	Australian Government States & territories Industry PHA PBCRC					
	13.2	Develop processes that support the identification and characterisation of small and large agricultural enterprises in Australia.	• Existence of a national coherent PIC approach. • Comprehensiveness of the legislative requirement to have a PIC. • Complete map of all Industry members.	States & territories Industry PHA					

Strategy 8		**DEVELOP A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PLANT BIOSECURITY RESEARCH.**							
Recommendation 14			*Establish a national framework for plant biosecurity research.*						
7	**14.1**	Conduct a national plant industries research and development stocktake on a regular basis.	• Comprehensiveness of current stock take in terms of organisations and amount of information that is collected. • Regularity of a comprehensive analysis.	PHA					
				Plant Biosecurity RD&E Committee					
				PBCRC					
				CSIRO					
				States & territories					
				RDCs					
8	**14.2**	Identify and prioritise key research and development areas in plant biosecurity.	• Lack of data in 14.1	Plant Biosecurity RD&E Committee					
Strategy 9		**ADOPT SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS FOR THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION, COMMUNICATION AND UPTAKE OF PLANT BIOSECURITY INFORMATION.**							
Recommendation 15			*Establish a national plant biosecurity information management framework to optimise data sharing.*						
3, 4	**15.1**	Develop, implement and maintain standardised information systems nationally, both within government and industry, for the collection, analysis and retrieval of surveillance data, diagnostic information and research outcomes.	• Nationally agreed and defined standards for data entry. • IT systems that can link the disparate information systems and allow interrogation of the information at the national level. • Uptake and integration of the Surveillance Virtual Coordination Centre. • Finalisation of the data warehouse and surveillance enterprise solution.	States & territories					
				Industry					
				PHA					
				Australian Government					
3, 4	**15.2**	Develop a system that enables the sharing of diagnostic data nationally and complete a stocktake of existing data management systems in plant biosecurity laboratories.	• National LIMS system that can share data. • Map of existing IT systems used in Plant Biosecurity.	Australian Government					
				States and Territories					
				SPHD					

3, 4	**15.3**	Develop systems and strategies for efficient storage, effective distribution and uptake of research and development outcomes.	• Clearing house for scientific research results.	RDCs					
				States & territories					
				PHA					
				Plant Biosecurity RD&E Committee					
4	**15.4**	Ensure that existing data systems of relevance to plant biosecurity are linked to future systems.	• Establishment of the Surveillance Virtual Coordination Centre and its ongoing development and support. • Finalisation of the National Minimum Data Standards.	PHA					
				Australian Government					
				States & territories					
Strategy 10			**MONITOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PLANT BIOSECURITY SYSTEM.**						
Recommendation 16			*Monitor the integrity of the plant biosecurity system in conjunction with, and on behalf of, all stakeholders, through Plant Health Australia.*						
		No actions identified		PHA					
Recommendation 17			*Develop an implementation plan for the delivery of the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy in conjunction with, and on behalf of, all stakeholders, through Plant Health Australia.*						
	17.1	A National Plant Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Committee is established to develop an action plan that can direct the implementation of the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy in accordance with the recommendations and actions presented within the strategy.	• Defined roles and responsibilities for the implementation of actions and associated timeframes.	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Industry					
				PHA					



Plant Health Australia (PHA) is the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia. As a not-for-profit company, PHA services the needs of Members and independently advocates on behalf of the national plant biosecurity system. PHA's efforts help minimise plant pest impacts, enhance Australia's plant health status, assist trade, safeguard the livelihood of producers, support the sustainability and profitability of plant industries and the communities that rely upon them, and preserve environmental health and amenity.

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