



Acknowledgements

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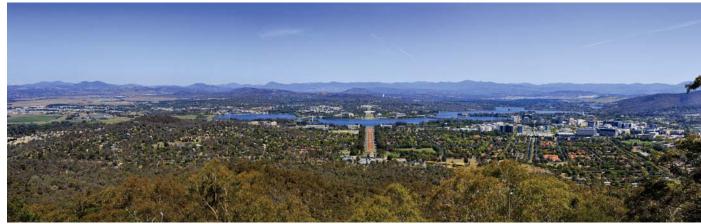
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Background

In August of 2015 the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) funded a forum bringing together forest health and biosecurity experts from around Australia that led to the development of the Framework for National Biosecurity Surveillance of Exotic Forest Pests. The Framework highlighted potential gaps in Australia's biosecurity arrangements and made recommendations for improvement.

Following publication of the Framework a further workshop was held in August 2016. At the workshop representatives of the major forest growers, state and Australian Government agencies and forest health experts were brought together to discuss forest biosecurity surveillance. Feedback obtained from the Framework document and the workshops has led to the development of a National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy and this Implementation Plan.

The workshop and development of these documents were funded as part of the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the Australian government's plan for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.

Acknowledgements

The National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy and this Implementation Plan were prepared by the Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy Working Group made up of Francisco Tovar (Industry Plantation Management Group), Angus Carnegie (NSW Department of Primary Industries), Sharyn Taylor (Plant Health Australia), Tim Wardlaw (Forestry Tasmania), Simon Lawson (University of the Sunshine Coast), Geoff Pegg (Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries), David Smith (Agriculture Victoria), Ranjith Subasinghe (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) and Susie Collins (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources).

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The National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy

The National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy (NFBSS) provides a vision towards the establishment of a coordinated National Forest Pest Surveillance Program. The three overarching objectives of the NFBSS are to:

- > Improve forest and timber pest surveillance coordination, capacity and capability across stakeholders.
- > Maximise resource efficiency through stakeholder partnerships.
- > Optimise forest surveillance efforts using a risk-based approach.

To achieve these objectives the NFBSS outlines four goals for improvement in forest biosecurity surveillance:

- 1. Provide forest biosecurity leadership and coordination.
- 2. Engage with stakeholders in forest biosecurity.
- 3. Improve forest biosecurity capacity and capability.
- 4. Reduce the risk of establishment of exotic forest pests.



The National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy Implementation Plan

To achieve the objectives, goals and outcomes outlined in the NFBSS the following implementation plan suggests ten major actions with a total of 30 associated tasks, undertaken over five years, for consideration by forest stakeholders and governments (Table 1).

This represents an economically beneficial investment to protect a forest products sector that in 2014–15 contributed \$2.8 billion worth of exports and over

\$22 billion worth of sales and services domestically to the Australian economy. This figure excludes the value of forests to biodiversity, tourism, recreation, amenity and ecosystem services.

Implementation of the NFBSS will support the sustainability of Australia's forests and provide information on pest status that underpins market access for forest derived products.

Goals	Actions	Potential partners
Goal 1 Provide forest biosecurity	1.1 Establish national forest biosecurity leadership that includes major forest stakeholders	 DAWR, DEE, PHA, state biosecurity and environment agencies, AFPA, AFG, FWPA, ALGA, SNPHS
leadership and coordination	1.2 Develop sustainable funding mechanisms for surveillance that are equitable for all forest stakeholders	 FWPA, DAWR, PHA, AFPA, ALGA, state biosecurity and environment agencies
Goal 2 Engage with stakeholders in forest biosecurity	2.1 Implement an engagement plan to broaden the range of forest stakeholders supporting forest biosecurity surveillance	 FWPA, DAWR, PHA, AFPA, ALGA, SNPHS, state biosecurity and environment agencies
Goal 3 Improve forest biosecurity capacity	3.1 Update and review forest pest knowledge	 DAWR, PHA, AFPA, state biosecurity and environment agencies, ARC, ALA, Bioplatforms Australia, universities
and capability	3.2 Improve diagnostic capacity and capability to support forest biosecurity surveillance	 DAWR, FWPA, SPHD, state diagnostic labs, CSIRO
	3.3 Improve surveillance capacity and capability across all forest stakeholders	 DAWR, FWPA, PHA, AFPA, ALGA, state biosecurity and environment agencies
	3.4 Identify, enhance and establish opportunities for integration of surveillance efforts, information and training across forest stakeholders to support forest biosecurity	 PHA, FHaB, AFPA, state biosecurity and environment agencies
Goal 4 Reduce the risk of	4.1 Improve risk mitigation of exotic forest pests along the biosecurity continuum	 DAWR, state agencies, FWPA, AFPA, AFG
establishment of exotic forest pests in	4.2 Establish a National Forest Pest High Risk Site Surveillance Program	 DAWR, state biosecurity and environment agencies, FHaB
Australia	4.3 Develop incursion preparedness plans for key forest pests	 DAWR, FWPA, APVMA, SPHD, SNPHS, PHA, IUFRO, agrochemical companies

Table 1: Summary of Goals and Actions recommended for implementation of the NFBSS, including potential stakeholder partners.

Governance and potential partners

The implementation of the NFBSS will involve the formation of a National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Group (NFBSG). The NFBSG will be made up of representatives of the major stakeholders in forest biosecurity (Action 1.1).

The NFBSG will provide guidance and support to the National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator (NFBC) tasked with the day-to-day rolling-out of the NFBSS (Action 1.1).

Working together to provide a leadership, coordination and communication hub the NFBSG and the NFBC will aim to (Figure 1):

- Achieve adequate funding and operational support for implementation of the NFBSS by engaging with stakeholder groups and relevant research and development (R&D) corporations to reach an agreement on sustainable levels of funding and surveillance activities.
- 2. Provide efficient research and training activities that support the outcomes of the NFBSS by engaging with the National Plant Biosecurity R&D Coordinator and research, development and extension (R,D&E) providers to avoid any duplication of effort.
- 3. Foster collaboration across forest stakeholder groups, biosecurity groups and R&D partners to ensure that the NFBSS implementation is meeting the forest biosecurity surveillance needs of stakeholders.

Funding

It is envisaged that implementation of the NFBSS will initially be funded through a partnership of governments (Commonwealth and state) and forest industry stakeholders (forest growers and processors). Individual contributions to various actions and tasks proposed in the NFBSS are likely to involve a mix of cash and in-kind support from various funding bodies and stakeholder partnerships.

Long-term sustainable funding of the NFBSS will necessitate all major stakeholders engaging with the NFBSS and agreeing on arrangements that are fair and equitable to all stakeholders (Action 1.2 and Action 2.1).

Actions and tasks

All actions in this implementation plan are briefly described along with the NFBSS outcomes they help to achieve and potential stakeholder partners that may benefit.

Individual actions are broken down into defined tasks that are prioritised to indicate their relative importance and the timeframe taken to complete a task is estimated.

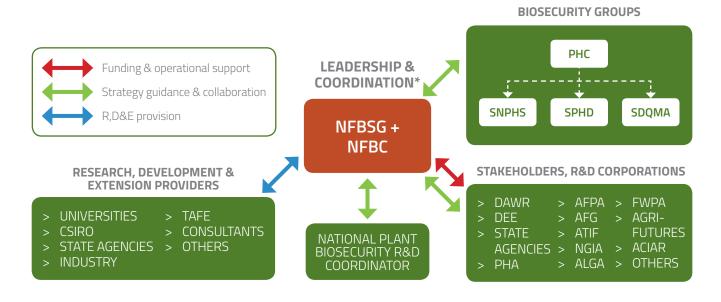


Figure 1: Governance of the National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy (NFBSS) will rest with National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Group (NFBSG, representing major stakeholders) and the National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator (NFBC). Together they will form a leadership, coordination and communication hub linking existing biosecurity groups, the National Plant Biosecurity R&D coordinator, stakeholders and research, development and extension providers.





Provide forest biosecurity leadership and coordination

ACTION 1.1

DESCRIPTION

Establish national forest biosecurity leadership that includes major forest stakeholders. National leadership established through the National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Group (NFBSG) will assist and guide the National Forest Pest Surveillance Strategy (NFBSS) and its Implementation Plan. The NFBSG will aim to include all major forest stakeholders in government, industry and the community in order to facilitate a partnership approach in regards to forest biosecurity.

A National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator (NFBC) will be appointed to support and coordinate the activities of the NFBSG and work on behalf of forest stakeholders to implement the NFBSS and this Implementation Plan.

OUTCOMES

- National coordination of forest biosecurity surveillance.
- Equitable and sustainable funding arrangements for forest biosecurity activities.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DAWR, PHA, DEE, , state biosecurity and environment agencies, AFPA, AFG, FWPA, ATIF, NGIA, AgriFutures Australia, ALGA, Arboriculture Australia, Invasive Species Council, ALCA.

TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
1.1.1 Identify major forest stakeholders to represent and establish the NFBSG, with agreed terms of reference and governance and reporting arrangements.	Very high	Three months (ongoing over five years)
1.1.2 Determine and agree on scope and objectives of the role a National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator.	Very high	Three months
1.1.3 Appoint a National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator position.	Very high	Five years

ACTION 1.2

DESCRIPTION

Develop sustainable funding mechanisms for surveillance that are equitable for all forest stakeholders. A funding model is required to identify long term funding mechanisms for implementation of a risk-based forest biosecurity surveillance program, in which all major stakeholders contribute equitably.

It is envisaged that implementation of the NFBSS will initially be funded through a partnership of governments (Commonwealth and state) and forest industry stakeholders (forest growers and processors), but over time will encompass all major forest stakeholders.

OUTCOMES

- Equitable and sustainable funding arrangements for forest biosecurity activities.
- Partnerships that build capacity and capability.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

FWPA, DAWR, PHA, AFPA, ALGA, state biosecurity and environment agencies.

TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
1.2.1 Obtain key stakeholder agreement to establish funding mechanisms that support a National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Program.	High	18 months



Engage with stakeholders in forest biosecurity

ACTION 2.1

DESCRIPTION

Implement an engagement plan to broaden the range of forest stakeholders supporting forest biosecurity surveillance.

An engagement plan will be required to increase awareness of forest biosecurity issues among forest stakeholders including the broader community.

Development of the engagement plan will include identification of the main stakeholders and beneficiaries of Australian forest products, as well as identification and implementation of mechanisms and material to build stakeholder partnerships to implement a National Forest Pest Surveillance Program.

OUTCOMES

- Partnerships that build capacity and capability.
- Improved awareness of forest biosecurity issues and risks.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DAWR, PHA, DEE, , state biosecurity and environment agencies, AFPA, AFG, FWPA, ATIF, NGIA, AgriFutures Australia, ALGA, Arboriculture Australia, Invasive Species Council, ALCA.

TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
2.1.1 Develop an engagement plan that identifies activities, tools and biosecurity engagement materials that enables key stakeholder groups to support outcomes of NFBSS.	Very high	Three months (ongoing over five years)
2.1.2 Develop a web portal to provide a central, easily accessible point for information to support forest biosecurity surveillance and biosecurity awareness.	Medium	12 months
2.1.3 Develop awareness material for forest biosecurity and surveillance for key stakeholders.	Medium	Four years





Improve forest biosecurity capability and capacity

ACTION 3.1

DESCRIPTION

Update and review forest pest knowledge to support forest biosecurity.

A comprehensive and accurate inventory of native and naturalised pest distribution records is required to provide baseline information to improve our understanding of forest pest status in Australia and to support pest area freedom claims.

Information on forest pests will be enhanced through annual 'Blitz' surveys that include alternative pest monitoring sources such as arborists, urban or peri-urban communities and environmental groups.

Given that improvements to surveillance activities are likely to result in new pest detections of unknown status (i.e. native or exotic), there will be a need to develop guidelines for the appropriate actions necessary to determine if a pest detection represents a native or exotic species.

OUTCOMES

- Improved forest pest knowledge.
- Improved surveillance capability and capacity.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DAWR, PHA, DEE, state biosecurity and environment agencies, AFPA, AFG, FWPA, ATIF, NGIA, AgriFutures Australia, ALGA, Arboriculture Australia, Invasive Species Council, ALCA, ALA.

TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
3.1.1 Collate available historical forest pest data (grey and published literature, Forest Health Surveillance (FHS) databases, trapping data).	Medium	12 months
3.1.2 Develop guidelines for formulating appropriate actions in response to detection of new pests of unknown origin (native or exotic).	Medium	Nine months
3.1.3 Conduct forest specific national blitz surveillance.	Medium	24 months

ACTION 3.2

DESCRIPTION

Improve diagnostic capacity and capability to support forest biosecurity surveillance.

To maintain a national forest biosecurity surveillance program diagnostic support is required. This includes establishment of a forest diagnostic node within the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network to assist with sample diagnostics of suspected exotic forest pests.

There will be a need to increase efficiency and improve detection of new forest pests from the surveillance activities undertaken across stakeholders within urban, peri-urban and forested areas. These improvements will be driven by the development or customisation of current or emerging diagnostic protocols, methods and tools.

OUTCOMES

- Improved diagnostics capability and capacity.
- Integrated forest biosecurity surveillance activities, data and training.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DAWR, FWPA, ANIC, state diagnostic labs, CSIRO, state biosecurity and environment agencies.

ACTION 3.2	TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
Improve diagnostic capacity and capability to support forest biosecurity surveillance.	3.2.1 Review current forest pest diagnostic capability and capacity across stakeholders and identify opportunities for integration with available or emerging diagnostic networks, methods or digital identification tools.	High	Six months
	3.2.2 Establish and maintain a forest diagnostic node within the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network that integrates forest pest diagnostics with currently available diagnostic processes and networks in state or national diagnostic laboratories.	Medium	12 months
	3.2.3 Develop national diagnostic protocols for forest High Priority Pests.	Medium	Three years
	3.2.4 Develop or adapt available diagnostic methods and tools to support forest biosecurity across stakeholders.	Medium	Two years

ACTION 3.3

DESCRIPTION

Improve surveillance capacity and capability across all forest stakeholders. To establish a national forest biosecurity surveillance program capacity and capability gaps in specific and general forest biosecurity surveillance across stakeholders need to be identified.

Identified capacity or capability gaps will be addressed through the development or customisation of surveillance networks, methods or tools to support the specific needs of forest biosecurity surveillance across stakeholders.

OUTCOMES

- Improved surveillance capability and capacity.
- Integrated forest biosecurity surveillance activities, data and training.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DAWR, FWPA, PHA, AFPA, ALGA, state biosecurity and environment agencies.

TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
3.3.1 Review current forest surveillance capability and capacity across stakeholders including specific and general surveillance.	High	Nine months
3.3.2 Develop National Surveillance Protocols for forest High Priority Pests.	High	Two years
3.3.3 Develop or adapt available methods and tools to support specific or general forest biosecurity surveillance across stakeholders.	Medium	Three years

ACTION 3.4

Identify, enhance and establish opportunities for integration of surveillance efforts, information and training across forest stakeholders to support forest biosecurity.

DESCRIPTION

Current surveillance efforts across forest stakeholders vary in intensity and lack integration. Determining data sharing arrangements and implementing platforms and tools to enable diagnostic and surveillance data-sharing across stakeholders will improve data aggregation, analysis and reporting at a national level.

Improvements in surveillance, diagnostics and data collection will need to be supported by a training framework that addresses and maintains forest capabilities across all stakeholders. Integration of surveillance efforts across stakeholders will increase the chances of forest pest detection along the biosecurity continuum.

OUTCOMES

- Integrated forest biosecurity surveillance activities, data and training.
- Improved surveillance capability and capacity.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

PHA, FHaB, AFPA, state biosecurity and environment agencies.

TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
3.4.1 Develop data-sharing arrangements and methods to integrate pest records from surveillance efforts across different stakeholders with existing pest collection records.	Medium	12 months
3.4.2 Develop or adapt available networks or tools to enable collation and sharing of forest diagnostic and general and specific surveillance data across stakeholders.	Medium	Two years
3.4.3 Negotiate and implement data sharing agreements among stakeholders that include general and specific surveillance information.	Medium	Nine months
3.4.4 Develop and implement a forest biosecurity training framework to address diagnostic and surveillance capability gaps and to ensure competencies are maintained across forest stakeholders.	Medium	Two years



Reduce the risk of establishment of exotic forest pests

ACTION 4.1

DESCRIPTION

Improve risk mitigation of exotic forest pests along the biosecurity continuum.

An analysis of forest and plant biosecurity activities across the current biosecurity continuum is required to identify potential risk pathways for exotic forest pests.

Pathway risk assessments to determine the points of highest risk of entry or establishment will enable improvements through optimisation of surveillance and other risk mitigation activities into areas providing the greatest return for effort.

OUTCOMES

- Risk-based resource optimisation for forest biosecurity surveillance.
- Improved forest pest detection along the biosecurity continuum.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DAWR, state agencies, FWPA, AFPA, AFG, state biosecurity and environment agencies.

TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
4.1.1 Conduct pest and pathway risk analyses for forest High Priority Pests and identify surveillance gaps based on existing surveillance activities across the biosecurity continuum.	Very high	12 months

ACTION 4.2

DESCRIPTION

Establish a National Forest Pest High Risk Site Surveillance Program. The establishment of a national High Risk Site Surveillance (HRSS) program will be an essential component of a coordinated national forest biosecurity surveillance program designed to improve the chances of early detection of potential forest pest incursions.

Initially, a pilot HRSS program will be undertaken which in conjunction with the results of the pathway risk analysis (Action 4.1) will be used to develop a national forest pest HRSS program. This staged approach will enable the optimisation of diagnostic and surveillance resources and maximise the chances of early detection of forest pests at points of highest risk and greatest return.

OUTCOMES

- Risk-based resource optimisation for forest biosecurity surveillance.
- Improved forest pest detection along the biosecurity continuum.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

DAWR, state biosecurity and environment agencies, FHaB, SNPHS.

TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
4.2.1 Establish Forest HRSS Working Group.	High	Six months
4.2.2 Review, analyse and report on current state- based HRSS surveillance programs.	High	Six months
4.2.3 Design and implement pilot Forest Pest HRSS Program.	High	Two years
4.2.4 Design an optimised National Forest Pest HRSS Program.	High	12 months
4.2.5 Conduct stakeholder consultation workshop to obtain a national agreement for the National Forest Pest HRSS Program.	High	Three months
4.2.6 Implement National Forest Pest HRSS Program.	High	Two years (ongoing)

ACTION 4.3

DESCRIPTION

Develop Incursion Preparedness Plans for high priority forest pests. Development of incursion preparedness plans for forest High Priority Pests will ensure timely response activities following exotic pest detections.

These plans will include information on surveillance (techniques, lures and traps), control methods for pests (chemical, tree destruction) and domestic/international quarantine implications.

OUTCOMES

• Improved incursion responses to the detection of exotic forest pests.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

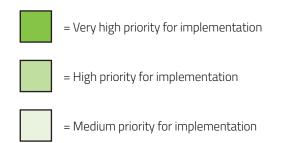
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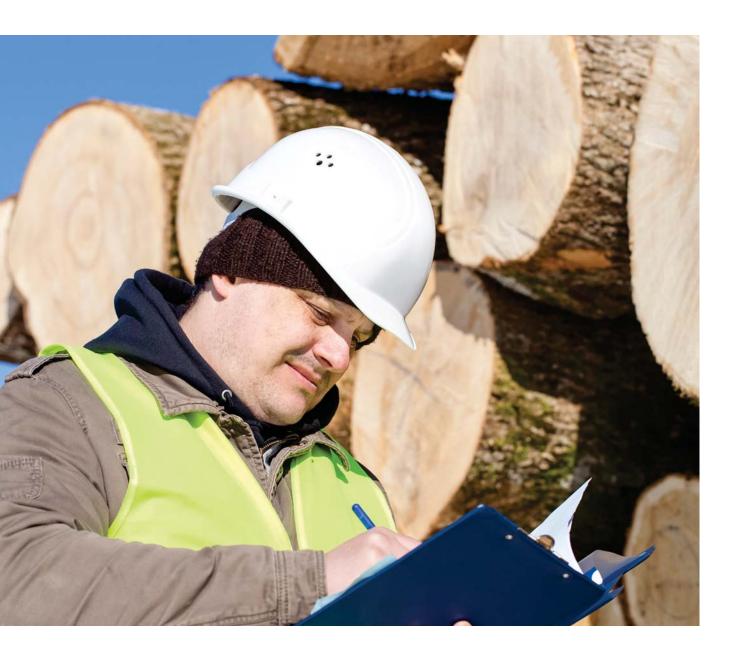
TASKS	PRIORITY	DURATION
4.3.1 Review and prioritise current forest High Priority Pests.	Very high	Six months
4.3.2 Develop Incursion Preparedness Plans for High Priority Pests.	High	Two years



Timelines and priorities

Outlined over the following pages are suggested timelines for completion of goals, actions and tasks designed to achieve the outcomes of the National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy. Different colours denote priority, indicating how urgently the work needs to be undertaken.





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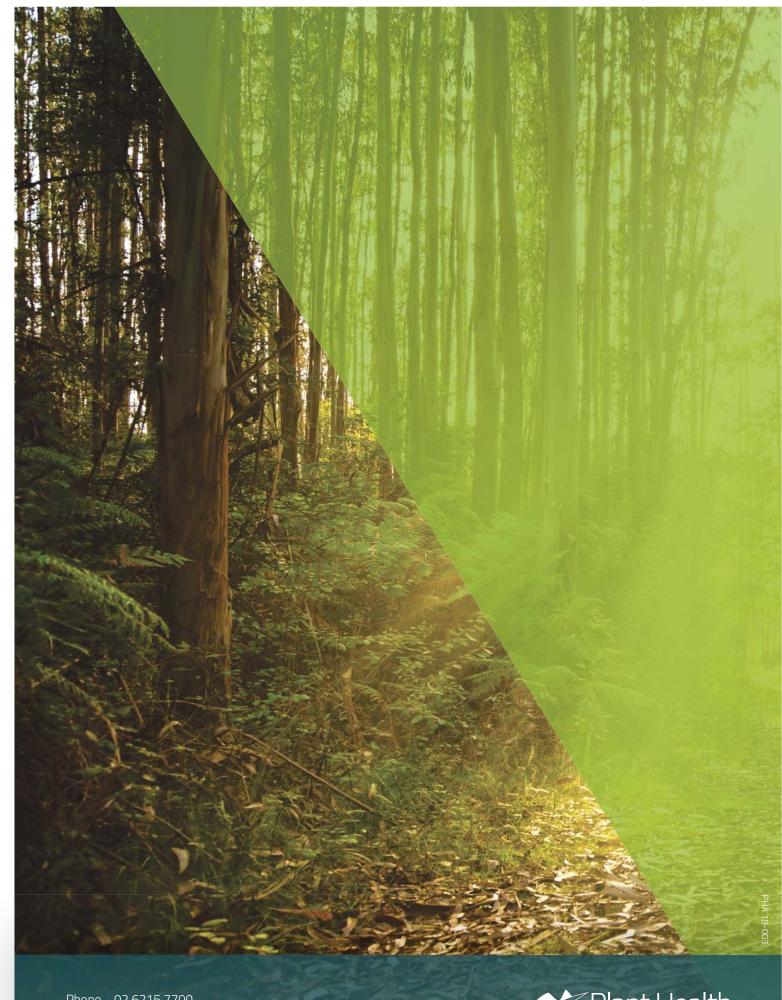
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	b Eb	4.1.1 Conduct pest and paranalyses for forest HPPs	4.2.1 Establish Forest HRSS Working Group	4.2. HR	4.2.				and	.2 Develop	
YEAR 1	05 0	4.1 and	H.2 Fon Wo						4.3.1 Review and prioritise current forest HPPs		
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	ACTION	Account of the boasts of the section of exotic forest peets also security continuum	dgiH J≥9'	4 Jearo4	lational merge	A s Azilda Iance Pro	5,2 - Esta Jievru2 e:	Action - Risk Sit	lans for key	Preparedness P	
	GOAL AC	into Australia Action 4.1 - Improve risk		_	_		_	_		V9Cl - E.A noitaA	

Acronyms

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AFPA	Australian Forest Products Association
AFG	Australian Forest Growers
ALA	Atlas of Living Australia
ALCA	Australian Land Conservation Alliance
ALGA	Australian Local Government Association
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
ARC	Australian Research Council
ATIF	Australian Timber Importers Federation
CSIRO	Commonwealth Science and Industry Research Organisation
DAWR	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
DEE	Department of the Environment and Energy
EPPRD	Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed
FHaB	Forest Health and Biosecurity Subcommittee
FWPA	Forest and Wood Products Australia
НРР	High Priority Pest
HRSS	High Risk Site Surveillance
ISP	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
IURFO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations

NFBC	National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator
NFBSG	National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Group
NFPSP	National Forest Pest Surveillance Program
NFBSS	National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy
NGIA	Nursery and Garden Industry Australia
NPBDS	National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy
NPBS	National Plant Biosecurity Strategy
NPBSS	National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy
NPHSP	National Plant Health Surveillance Program
PaDIL	Pest and Disease Image Library
PestPoint	Web-based diagnostics network
РНА	Plant Health Australia
PHC	Plant Health Committee
PLANTPLAN	Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan
SDQMA	Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access
SNPHS	Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance
SPHD	Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics





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