

National Plant Biosecurity Strategy

2015–2020 Implementation Plan



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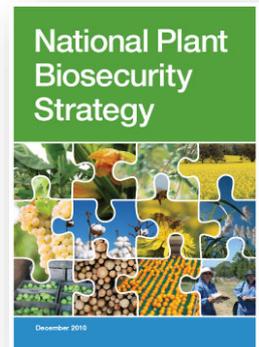
National Plant Biosecurity Strategy 2015–2020 Implementation Plan

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.

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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	
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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	
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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.							
<i>Recommendation 1</i>		<i>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.</i>							
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).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision for an online training framework. 	Australian Government					
				PHA					
				States & territories					
<i>Recommendation 2 Provide resources and appropriate processes to ensure the development and implementation of nationally consistent plant biosecurity legislation and regulations.</i>									
2	2.1	State and territory governments commit sufficient resources to implement the actions recommended under this strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.							
<i>Recommendation 3</i>		<i>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.</i>							
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 to ensure broader recognition of the importance of surveillance and collection of surveillance data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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					
4	3.4	National surveillance protocols should be developed and linked with Quality Assurance systems and accreditation to act as a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.							
<i>Recommendation 4</i>		<i>Continue to review and improve emergency response efficiency and effectiveness through improved processes, decision making, education, training and accreditation of personnel.</i>							
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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					
<i>Recommendation 5</i>		<i>Develop contingency plans or business continuity plans covering all High Priority Pests.</i>							
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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					
<i>Recommendation 6</i>		<i>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.</i>							
Strategy 4		EXPAND AUSTRALIA'S PLANT BIOSECURITY TRAINING CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY.							
<i>Recommendation 7</i>		<i>Maintain and enhance Australia's plant biosecurity training capability and capacity to underpin the ongoing needs of the national plant biosecurity system.</i>							
6	7.1	Develop a national training framework (at both tertiary and vocational levels) to fill existing and anticipated future skill gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.				
<i>Recommendation 8</i>					<i>Develop a nationally integrated plant biosecurity diagnostic network that underpins Australia's plant biosecurity system.</i>				
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<i>Recommendation 9</i>					<i>Implement and maintain appropriate quality management systems in diagnostic laboratories.</i>				
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.							
<i>Recommendation 10</i>					<i>Diagnostic capability and capacity for all HPPs to be developed and maintained.</i>				
4	10.1	Regularly prioritise diagnostic protocols for development and review using a contemporary risk based approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.							
<i>Recommendation 12</i>		<i>Develop an integrated national approach to plant biosecurity communication between all key stakeholders.</i>							
6	12.1	Use Industry Biosecurity Plans and other relevant documents as a base to establish and develop specific sectoral awareness packages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.							
<i>Recommendation 13</i>		<i>Processes need to be defined that identify, engage, evaluate and sustain community engagement and capture plant biosecurity information.</i>							
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and Implementation of a National Virtual Surveillance Coordination Centre (VCC). 	Australian Government					
				States & territories					
				Industry					
				PHA					
	13.2	Develop processes that support the identification and characterisation of small and large agricultural enterprises in Australia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of a national coherent PIC approach. Comprehensiveness of the legislative requirement to have a PIC. Complete map of all Industry members. 	PBCRC					
States & territories									
Industry									
				PHA					

Strategy 8		DEVELOP A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PLANT BIOSECURITY RESEARCH.							
<i>Recommendation 14</i>		<i>Establish a national framework for plant biosecurity research.</i>							
7	14.1	Conduct a national plant industries research and development stocktake on a regular basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.							
<i>Recommendation 15</i>		<i>Establish a national plant biosecurity information management framework to optimise data sharing.</i>							
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.				
<i>Recommendation 16</i>					<i>Monitor the integrity of the plant biosecurity system in conjunction with, and on behalf of, all stakeholders, through Plant Health Australia.</i>				
No actions identified				PHA					
<i>Recommendation 17</i>					<i>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.</i>				
	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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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