

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FOREST BIOSECURITY SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM PROGRESS SUMMARY

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BACKGROUND

Funding from the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper (ACWP) has enabled stakeholders to identify forest biosecurity surveillance capacity and capability gaps and develop strategic plans to fill these gaps. This work has been captured in the following documents.

- *Framework for National Biosecurity Surveillance of Exotics Forest Pests*
- *National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy 2018-2023 (NFBSS)*
- *National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy Implementation Plan 2018-2023*

For more information visit:

<http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/strategies/national-forest-biosecurity-surveillance-strategy>

The following report outlines progress made towards the completion of the project - *Establishing a National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Program, PIN 27399*. The project is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) from funds available through the ACWP and is managed by Plant Health Australia (PHA).

The project aims to implement core recommendations of the NFBSS by establishing the founding components of a National Forest Pest Surveillance Program (NFPSP).

PROGRESS

Technical and operational issues have led to delays in the timing of activities. Revised methods and deadlines have been agreed to with DAWR (see **Figure 1, Timeline**). The project's budget and milestone outputs remain unchanged.

Co-funding from the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has been secured to enable the employment of a National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator until April 2020.

MILESTONES ACHIEVED

- A **Project Plan** was developed and delivered to DAWR (Milestone 2)
- A **National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator** (NFBC) was appointed in April 2018 (Milestone 3)
- A **National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Group** (NFBSG) gathering strategic stakeholders in forest biosecurity has been set up and met in August 2018 (Milestone 3).
- A draft **Engagement Plan** has been developed that outlines methods, messages and tools necessary for strategic and operational engagement of stakeholders (Milestone 5, **Table 1**).

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- A **Pathways Risk Analysis** project is underway that will identify areas of highest risk for entry and establishment of exotic forest pests (Milestone 6).
- **Pilot High Risk Site Surveillance** (HRSS) projects are underway in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. These projects will provide information on effective surveillance methods and quantify the resource requirements for surveillance and diagnostics.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- A **National Forest Pest Biosecurity Surveillance Program** (NFPSP). Information from the pathways and pilot HRSS projects and stakeholder feedback will be used to develop a risk-based optimised NFPSP in early 2019 (Milestone 7).
- A **Draft Governance and Funding Agreement** to support a future NFPSP will be presented and discussed with forest biosecurity stakeholders through 2019 (Milestone 8).

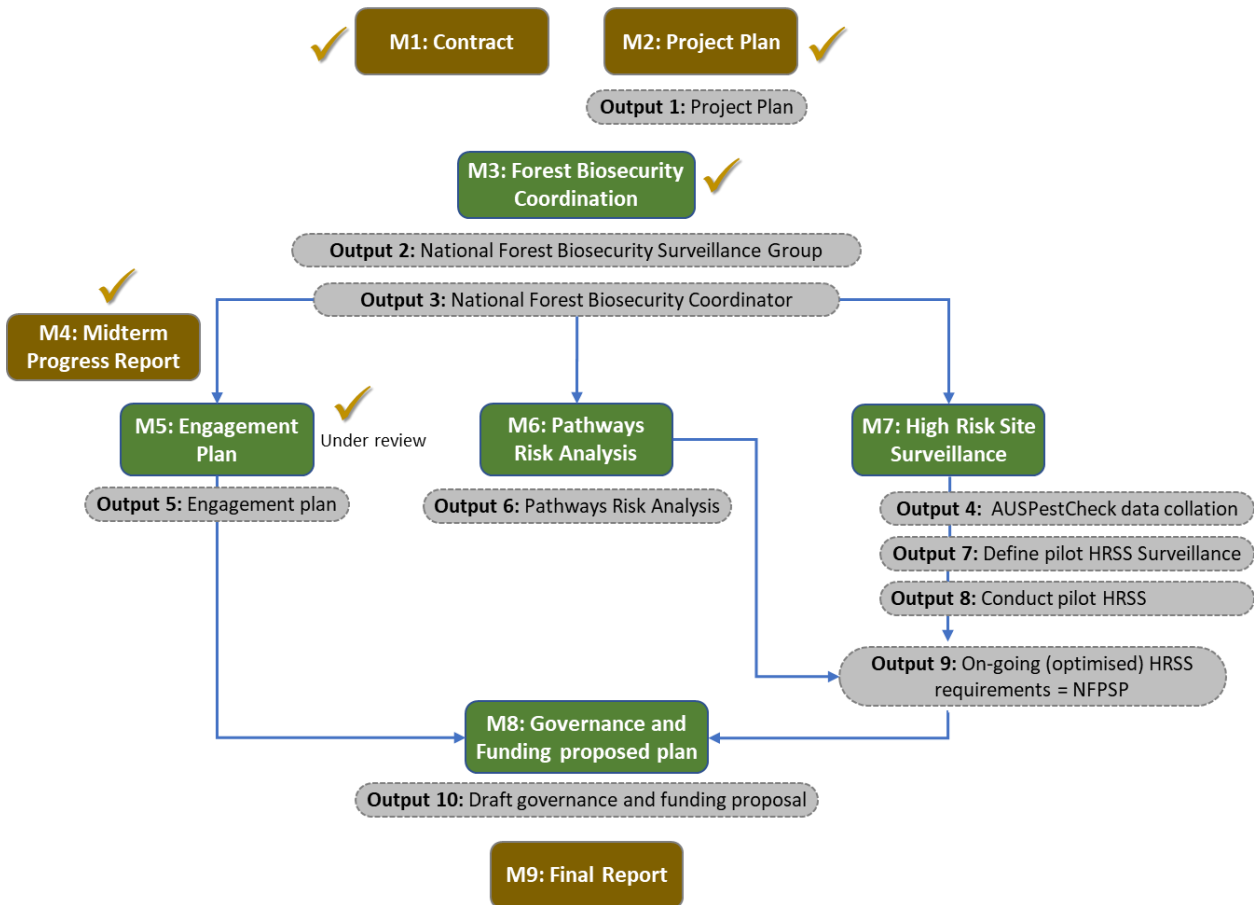


Figure 1: Milestones designed to deliver National Forest Pest Surveillance Program (NFPSP). Brown= administrative milestones; green = surveillance program milestones and, grey= outputs under milestone. Ticks indicate completed milestones.

Table 1: Stakeholder engagement activities that have already taken place.

| STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT | OPERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT |
|--|--|
| <p>AFPA Chamber, Canberra, June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of NFBC, NFBSS and DAWR project | <p>IFA/AFG joint Conference, Canberra, September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Biosecurity special session |
| <p>Environment and Invasives Committee, Perth, August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of NFBSS • Opportunities for engagement and collaboration | <p>Forest Biosecurity R&D Workshop, Melbourne, September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Health and Biosecurity across Australia. • Review R&D activities proposed in the NFBSS |
| <p>NFBSG Meeting, Sydney, August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of NFBC, NFBSS and DAWR project • Terms of Reference | <p>Botanic Gardens Workshop, Melbourne, October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanic Gardens Sentinel Program • Opportunities for engagement and collaboration |
| <p>TAS Biosecurity & Forest Industry, Telecon., October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of how to implement NFBSS in Tasmania | <p>Aus. Network Plant Conservation Conference, Canberra, November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of NFBSS • Opportunities for engagement and collaboration |

TIMELINE

Completion dates for milestones and outputs agreed to with DAWR are indicated below. Except for outputs 9 and 10 all outputs will be delivered on budget and within the initially planned timeframe (end May 2019). Submission of a final project report to DAWR has been agreed to in October 2019 (indicated in yellow). The term of the national forest biosecurity coordinator ends in April 2020 (indicated in orange). Favourable weather conditions for ongoing high-risk site surveillance will occur Oct 2019-May 2020 (indicated in red). Currently there is no funding for this surveillance to occur.

