

Proof of freedom framework

Acknowledgement: The proof of freedom framework was developed by the Northern Territory and has been captured as a supporting document to PLANTPLAN to support a standard approach for documenting evidence of successful eradication of an Emergency Plant Pest.

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Amendment Details	
		Section(s)	Details
1.0	26 Nov 2019	All	New document drafted from the proof of freedom framework developed by the Northern Territory. Endorsed by Parties November 2019.

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for completing the proof of freedom framework for demonstrating evidence that an Emergency Plant Pest (EPP) has been eradicated following a response under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).

2. Purpose of the proof of freedom framework

The aim of the proof of freedom framework is to facilitate the documentation of evidence to support proof of freedom from an EPP. The framework is structured to enable reporting against key activities implemented under a Response Plan to be summarised in one or more tables.

The framework can be populated when nearing the completion of a Response Plan and used together with other supporting documentation to support claims an EPP has been eradicated. It could also be utilised during response strategy development/review to demonstrate the proposed activities under the Response Plan that, when successfully implemented, will together achieve eradication.

3. Guidance for completing the framework

An example proof of freedom framework is provided in Appendix 1. This can be used as a template and tailored for each EPP response by specifying the phases in columns across the table and listing each response strategy area identified in the Response Plan as separate table rows (under the 'Action' column).

All relevant response activities should be documented in the framework in summary form, including those undertaken by the Lead Agency, Affected Industry Parties and state/territory or Australian governments.

A separate table can be completed for each risk/response area (e.g. Restricted Area, Control Area, jurisdictions) for which specific response activities differ.

Examples of the type of summary information that may be collated for a hypothetical response are presented in Appendix 2. Cells can be merged to highlight activities undertaken across multiple response phases. Action areas may also be left blank if there are no specific activities undertaken.

Appendix 1 Proof of freedom framework template

Table XX. Response activities proposed/undertaken in [risk/response area or jurisdiction] to demonstrate proof of freedom

Risk/ response area	Area risk rating	Action	Phase 1: Delimitation and eradication	Phase 2: Verify containment	Phase 3: Evidence of absence	Phase 4: Freedom determined and eradication declared	Phase 5: Maintain and verify freedom
[Risk/response area or jurisdiction]	[Area risk rating (e.g. low, medium, high)]	Community Engagement					
		Compliance					
		Movement controls					
		Treatment					
		Tracing					
		Surveillance					
		Epidemiology, diagnostics & science					
		Recovery					
		Industry lead activities					

Appendix 2 Example proof of freedom framework for a response

Table 1. Response activities undertaken in the Restricted Area to demonstrate proof of freedom

Risk area	Area risk rating	Action	Phase 1: Delimitation and eradication	Phase 2: Verify containment	Phase 3: Evidence of absence	Phase 4: Freedom determined and eradication declared	Phase 5: Maintain and verify freedom	
Restricted Area	Very high	Community Engagement	Targeted communication to public on detection and related restrictions. Encourage reporting.	Targeted communication to reinforce messaging about reporting and reintroduction through media releases, radio interviews, digital and social media campaigns, TV advertising and other. Community engagement events.		Communication to inform areas declared pest free. Awareness of public reporting requirements.	Continued awareness of biosecurity and farm practices. Factsheets for general biosecurity messaging.	
		Compliance	Surveillance of residential and other properties to ensure RAs remain host free		Compliance data collated and analysed to demonstrate adherence to conditions		Business as usual	
		Movement controls	Risk assessments to determine current/future risks. Movement restrictions in place. Review/refine movement restrictions to manage risk of spread and minimise economic/social impacts.			Movement restrictions lifted	General surveillance Business as usual	
		Treatment	Host removal and destruction	Treatment for regrowth	Regrowth surveillance	Data collection and analysed for evidence of freedom		
		Tracing	Complete tracing of high-risk plants	Complete tracing of other trace plants (as information becomes available)		Data collection and analysed for evidence of freedom		
		Surveillance	Targeted surveillance for trace plants. Delimitation in close proximity to known IPs.	Continued targeted surveillance in high risk locations	Sentinel program establishment and surveillance	Data collected and analysed from response activities. Re-introduction of host plants if permitted.	General surveillance Business as usual	
			General surveillance					
		Epidemiology, diagnostics & science	Diagnostics undertaken to confirm detection Scientific studies if required as detailed in the Response Plan Recommendations to inform declaration of freedom					
		Recovery	ORCs implemented and actioned	Reimbursement programs implemented as required	Update farm biosecurity practices		Business continuity planning	
Industry lead activities								

Table 2. Response activities undertaken in the Control Area to demonstrate proof of freedom

Risk area	Area risk rating	Action	Phase 1: Delimitation and eradication	Phase 2: Verify containment	Phase 3: Evidence of absence	Phase 4: Freedom determined and eradication declared	Phase 5: Maintain and verify freedom	
Control Area	Moderate to high	Community Engagement	Targeted community engagement for identified risk areas	General engagement/education to encourage reporting of any suspect symptoms		Communication to inform areas declared pest free	General biosecurity messaging	
		Compliance	N/A					
		Movement controls	Risk assessments undertaken Movement restrictions in place Movement protocols developed				Movement restrictions lifted	Business as usual
		Treatment	N/A					
		Tracing	N/A					
		Surveillance	Targeted surveillance on all host premises	Surveillance data analysed to quantify proof of freedom	Data collected and analysed from response provides evidence of freedom	General surveillance Business as usual		
		Epidemiology, diagnostics & science	N/A					
		Recovery	N/A					
		Industry lead activities						