

2020 Annual Report



Plant Health
AUSTRALIA

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ISSN: 1832 7540

An electronic version of this report is available for download from the Plant Health Australia website planthealthaustralia.com.au

In referencing this document, the preferred citation is:
Plant Health Australia Annual Report 2020,
Plant Health Australia, Canberra, ACT

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Overview

Chairman and CEO's report

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Plant Health Australia Annual Report 2020

We are pleased to present PHA's Annual Report for 2020. It highlights the company's achievements against our key performance indicators set out in the 2019–20 Annual Operational Plan and the Mid-year Performance Report.

Activity is reported for the seven key result areas in PHA's Strategic Plan 2016–21 (shown on page 16) which aligns with the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy and its recommendations and actions to improve the plant biosecurity system in Australia.

This year, PHA continued to bolster its reputation for bringing partners together to invest in biosecurity initiatives and deliver outcomes for Australian plant industries, governments and the broader community. The timeline (pages 12–13) shows that the organisation has led and contributed to key gatherings around the country and helped to determine strategies and solutions to improve management of critical issues regarding plant health in Australia.

There was a further 5 per cent increase in revenue to \$10.9m this year. For member subscription funding of nearly \$3m, the most significant areas of spending were in the partnerships (31%) and emergency responses (25%) areas. Non-subscription funds of \$8m were predominantly spent on the surveillance (25%) and partnerships (levy programs, 22%) areas.

In this year's timeline, you will see a unique milestone in April that we were not able to celebrate due to COVID-19. That milestone was the 20th anniversary of the company's formation.

With so much activity and reporting, it's easy to overlook the large and meaningful changes that have occurred since PHA's inception in 2000. Taking a step back, the full breadth and reach of the company in 2020 is evident.

A timeline of 20 years of PHA on pages 14–15 remembers the Chairs and CEOs of the company, and tracks its growth as a company via an increasing number of industries that became members and joined the partnership, and signatories to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.

Major steps have been taken to improve the system as a whole, with important changes being made to legislation at Commonwealth and state and territory levels by government members.

A national surveillance and diagnostic system has been created, fostering networks of people with the capacity and capability to detect and identify pests when needed. We are also better placed to deal with plant pest incursions, not only through ongoing modifications to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed but also through training of member personnel, and by hands-on experience and lessons learnt the hard way through incursions.

The myriad of work completed by PHA during 2019–20 has, and will continue to, make an important contribution to protecting Australia from exotic plant pests and diseases. Effective responses to pest incursions, industries being more prepared to deal with these incursions, and stronger surveillance is all making a difference. Added to this is the building of new partnerships, particularly with international and environmental stakeholders.

It is also worth noting that 2020 is the International Year of Plant Health. Whilst COVID-19 has stifled efforts to promote this cause, PHA is hopeful that opportunities will arise to raise the profile of the importance of plant health to an even wider group of stakeholders.

A common theme in this annual report, and those of the last twenty years, is the commitment and drive of people to improve the plant biosecurity system for the benefit of Australia and Australians.

On behalf of the Board, we would like to express our appreciation to all members who have continued to support PHA through 2019–20. Without this ongoing support, we would not be able to deliver the range of services that strengthen Australia's plant biosecurity system and grow the number of dedicated staff who have continued to work tirelessly on your behalf.

The Farm Biosecurity Producer Survey carried out in March to June this year showed significant improvements in the number of producers who understand the term 'biosecurity' and who have implemented biosecurity practices on-farm.

The results are gratifying but there are still far too few producers protecting their properties adequately with biosecurity measures. Our survey showed that they look to industry associations and state governments for information on biosecurity. PHA members can help here, and we urge you to do what you can to improve uptake.

In April, the directors of PHA announced that Sarah Corcoran had been appointed as the company's next CEO, in what is likely to be a challenging year ahead. Sarah takes over from Greg Fraser who has served the company for 12 years, overseeing a considerable expansion in the breadth of PHA activities and the depth of our engagement with members.

Under Greg's leadership, PHA has achieved much and on behalf of the Board we convey our thanks to Greg and staff for their continued efforts. We had hoped to celebrate Greg's contribution to the company in November at the member meetings, however COVID-19 may well hamper our ability to come together for a fitting farewell.

We also congratulate our members for maintaining their focus on biosecurity in an environment of many competing issues. We very much look forward to continuing the vital partnerships forged over the years to protect and promote plant biosecurity in the coming year. Together, we have achieved much for the plant biosecurity system in Australia, of which we should collectively be proud.



Steve McCutcheon
Chairman



Greg Fraser
Executive Director and CEO



About PHA

Our role

Plant Health Australia (PHA) is the national coordinator of the government–industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia.

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PHA facilitates this partnership and drives action to improve policy, practice and performance of Australia's plant biosecurity system and to build capability to respond to plant pest emergencies.

A not-for-profit company, PHA is funded by member subscriptions from all Australian governments and all major plant industry peak bodies.

PHA independently advocates on behalf of the national plant biosecurity system to benefit plant industries and the environment.

PHA works to:

- enhance the commitment of governments and industries to work together
- enhance the operation and integrity of Australia's plant pest emergency response arrangements
- assist national management of biosecurity risks
- monitor performance and promote continual improvement of Australia's plant biosecurity system
- determine future needs of Australia's plant biosecurity system
- facilitate improved national investment in plant biosecurity.

PHA's efforts help to:

- minimise plant pest impacts
- enhance Australia's plant health status
- assist trade domestically and internationally
- safeguard the livelihood of producers
- support the sustainability and profitability of plant industries and the communities that rely upon them
- preserve environmental health and amenity.

Our purpose

The purpose of PHA is to coordinate strong industry and government partnerships that minimise plant pest impacts on Australia, boosting industry productivity and profitability and enhancing market access.

Our vision

PHA is recognised nationally and internationally as the independent and trusted coordinator of a robust, shared and integrated Australian plant biosecurity system.

Our values

- Leadership and vision
- Impartiality
- Engaging, collaborative and relationship building
- Professional and intellectually rigorous
- Connected and informed
- Respectful and trustworthy
- Innovative, action and solutions-focused.

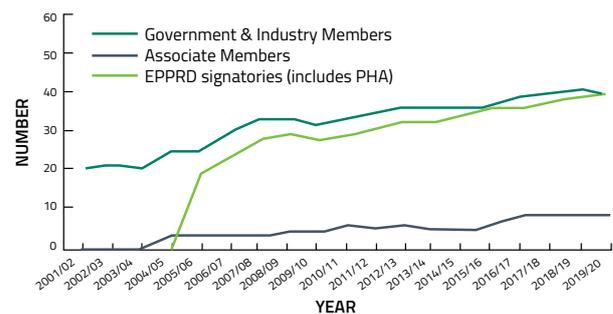
Our members

PHA members comprise all major plant industry bodies that represent Australian growers and beekeepers, plus all state and territory governments and the Australian Government.

At the end of 2019–20, PHA had 39 industry members and 10 associate members, listed on the following page. Associates include rural research and development corporations and other organisations with an interest in plant biosecurity.

During the year, PHA member Nursery and Garden Industry Australia became Greenlife Industry Australia, now the designated PHA member. PHA gained one associate member during the year, Protected Cropping Australia, while the Bendigo Kangan Institute and the Victorian Farmer's Federation discontinued membership.

Figure 1. PHA membership and Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed signatories, 2001–20



The Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) sets out how emergency plant pest responses are managed, providing significant benefits for all parties in the event of a serious exotic pest incursion. This year the number of government and industry signatories to the EPPRD remained steady at 47 (including PHA), with Greenlife Industry Australia becoming a signatory on 23 December 2019, replacing Nursery and Garden Industry Australia.

PHA members and EPPRD signatories (as of 30 June 2020) are listed on the following page. Note that associate members are not signatories to the EPPRD.

Industry members

Almond Board of Australia Inc
Apple and Pear Australia Ltd
Australian Banana Growers' Council Inc
Australian Blueberry Growers' Association Inc*
Australian Forest Products Association Ltd
Australian Ginger Industry Association Inc
Australian Grape and Wine Inc (from February 2019)
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc
Australian Lychee Growers' Association Inc
Australian Macadamia Society Ltd
Australian Mango Industry Association Ltd
Australian Melon Association Inc
Australian Olive Association Ltd
Australian Processing Tomato Research Council Inc
Australian Sweetpotato Growers Inc
Australian Table Grape Association Inc
Australian Tea Tree Industry Association Ltd
Australian Truffle Growers' Association Inc
Australian Walnut Industry Association Inc
AUSVEG Ltd
Avocados Australia Ltd
CANEGROWERS
Canned Fruit Industry Council of Australia Ltd
Cherry Growers of Australia Inc
Chestnuts Australia Inc
Citrus Australia Ltd
Cotton Australia Ltd
Dried Fruits Australia Inc
Grain Producers Australia Ltd
Greenlife Industry Australia#
GROWCOM
Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc
Onions Australia Inc
Passionfruit Australia Inc**
Pistachio Growers Association Inc
Raspberries and Blackberries Australia Inc
Ricegrowers' Association of Australia Inc
Strawberries Australia Inc
Summerfruit Australia Ltd

*not yet a signatory to the EPPRD

**commenced the process of becoming a signatory during 2019–20

in 2019–20, Nursery and Garden Industry Australia became Greenlife Industry Australia

Government members

Commonwealth of Australia
Australian Capital Territory Government
New South Wales Government
Northern Territory Government
Queensland Government
South Australian Government
Tasmanian Government
Victorian Government
Western Australian Government

Associate members

AgNova Technologies
Cotton Research and Development Corporation
CSIRO
Grains Research and Development Corporation
Hort Innovation
Northern Territory Farmers Association (NT Farmers)
Protected Cropping Australia (since 1 March 2020)
Sugar Research Australia
Vinehealth Australia
Wine Australia



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Through PHA, current and future needs of the plant biosecurity system can be mutually agreed, issues identified and solutions to problems found.

PHA's autonomy fosters an impartial approach to servicing member needs, allowing the company to put the interests of the plant biosecurity system first, as well as supporting a long-term view.

Membership of PHA ensures an organisation is linked with, and supported by, governments, industries and research organisations. This helps provide the best protection against the biosecurity challenges that lay ahead.

PHA membership allows industries and governments to stay up-to-date on plant biosecurity matters and to work together to strengthen all aspects of the system.

Membership of PHA provides:

- access to the benefits of the EPPRD, such as participation in decision-making
- assistance in the event of an incursion
- EPPRD training
- access to a secure and private online environment via the Biosecurity Portal for the development of key documents and group decision-making
- support to boost incursion response capacity and capability including planning and training
- advice on the identification, prioritisation and delivery of biosecurity investments
- access to facilitation services that can be applied to negotiate agreements between stakeholders
- advice and support on risk mitigation including the Farm Biosecurity program for producers
- involvement in national strategy development that enhances Australia's plant biosecurity system
- access to expert technical advice on biosecurity in a dynamic environment.

Our people

OUR BOARD

PHA has a skills-based Board. Further details about Directors are provided on pages 70–73.

At the Annual General Meeting in November 2019, Dr Joanne Daly, Steve McCutcheon and Robert Prince were reappointed as Directors to fill three of the four vacant positions on the Board. The Board reappointed Steve McCutcheon as Chair for a term of two years, and Liz Alexander as Deputy Chair for a 12-month period.

Malcolm Finlayson retired from being Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. Kim Halbert and Dr Prue McMichael were reappointed to the committee, while Doug Phillips was appointed as a new member. Kim Halbert was appointed as the Chair.

During the year, the Remuneration Committee was renamed the People and Culture Committee. Liz Alexander, Dr Joanne Daly and Steve McCutcheon were appointed to the renamed committee. The committee is chaired by Steve McCutcheon in his capacity as Board Chair.

- Chair – Mr Steve McCutcheon
- Deputy Chair – Ms Liz Alexander
- Director – Dr Joanne Daly
- Director – Dr Prue McMichael
- Director – Mr Doug Phillips
- Director – Mr Kim Halbert
- Director – Mr Malcolm Finlayson (until November 2019)
- Director – Mr Robert Prince
- Executive Director and CEO – Mr Greg Fraser
- Company Secretary – Mr Michael Milne



OUR STAFF

PHA has a national office located in Canberra and, as of the end of June 2020, was run by a team of 35 specialist staff members. Several staff are based in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland. There have been several staff and role changes during the year.

Executive team

Executive Director and CEO – Greg Fraser

Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary – Michael Milne

General Manager, Partnerships – Rod Turner

General Manager, Emergency Response – Dr Susanna Driessen

National Manager, Surveillance and Diagnostics – Dr Sharyn Taylor

National Manager, Preparedness and RD&E – Dr Stephen Dibley (until September 2019)

National Manager, Preparedness and RD&E – Stuart Kearns

Program team

Manager, AUSPestCheck™ – Nicholas Woods (based in Brisbane, Qld)

Manager, Biosecurity and Emergency Management Training – Matt Chifley (from November 2019)

Manager, Communication – Mandy Gyles (until March 2020)

Manager, Data Management and Surveillance Communities – David Gale

Manager, Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed – Dr Felicity Andriunas

Manager, National Fruit Fly Council – Darryl Barbour (until August 2019)

Manager, National Fruit Fly Council – Christina Cook (from August 2019) (based in Adelaide, SA)

PHA Board. Back (L to R): Malcolm Finlayson, Joanne Daly, Steve McCutcheon, Robert Prince, Greg Fraser. Front (L to R): Liz Alexander, Doug Phillips, Prue McMichael, Kim Halbert.

Manager, Northern Australia Industry Liaison – Trevor Dunmall (based in Brisbane, Qld)

Manager, Strategy – Jonathan Terlich (from August 2019)

James Walker (on secondment until December 2019) (based in Cairns, Qld)

Bee Pest Surveillance Coordinator – Dr Jenny Shanks

Biosecurity Planning Coordinator – Dr Victoria (Tory) Ludowici

Diagnostics and Surveillance Networks Coordinator – Dr Natalie O'Donnell

National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator – Francisco (Paco) Tovar (based in Bunbury, WA)

Surveillance Project Coordinator – Rohan Burgess

Project Officer – Andrew Vossen (from August 2019)

Project Officer – Dr Bosibori Bett (from January 2020)

Project Officer – Dr Daniela Carnovale (from August 2019)

Project Officer – Emma Meyers (until November 2019)

Project Officer – Emily Lamberton

Project Officer – Jess Lehmann

Project Officer – Dr Joanne Lee

Project Officer – Dr Kathleen (Kath) DeBoer

Project Officer – Lucy Aukett

Project Officer – Sally Chesworth (from August 2019)

Graduate Project Officer – Leandra Fernandes

Corporate team

Communication Officer – Dr Sharon Abrahams

Communication Officer – Alexandra Lucchetti

Graphic Designer – Georgia Garlick (until November 2019)

Graphic Designer – Monica Shanahan (from March 2020)

ICT Manager – Tony Macintyre

Assistant Accountant – Minyu (Rennie) Ding

Finance and Administration Officer – Iryna Sultani

Administrative Coordinator – Angela Ditton

Biosecurity officers

The following biosecurity officers are employed to work on industry related programs that are supported by grower levies through PHA.

Grains biosecurity officers

NSW – Bill Gordon

Queensland – Kym McIntyre

SA – Judy Bellati (until June 2020)

Victoria – Jim Moran

WA – Jeff Russell

See page 26 for information about the Grains Farm Biosecurity Program.

Bee biosecurity officers

NSW – Rod Bourke

Queensland – Rebecca Laws (since October 2019)

SA – Teagan Alexander

Tasmania – Karla Williams

Victoria – Jessica Hartland (maternity leave since July 2019), Ally Driessen (since August 2019)

WA – James Sheehan

See page 39 for information about the Honey Bee Biosecurity Program.

Vegetable and potato biosecurity officers

Callum Fletcher

Madeleine Quirk

See page 27 for information about the Vegetable and Potato Biosecurity Program.

Company trends

COMPANY INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND EQUITY

In 2019–20, there was a five per cent increase in PHA's revenue from \$10.52m to \$10.96m. PHA continues to ensure that expenditure closely matches income, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. PHA income, expenditure and closing equity 2005–20

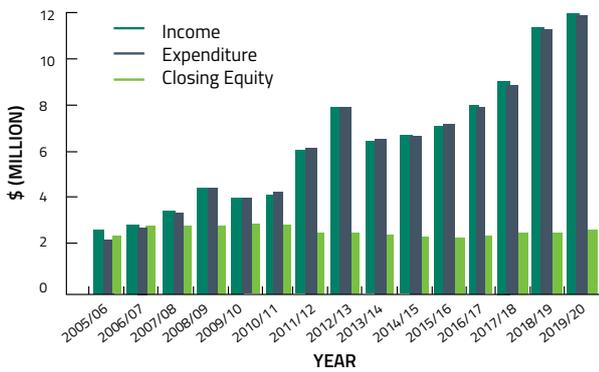
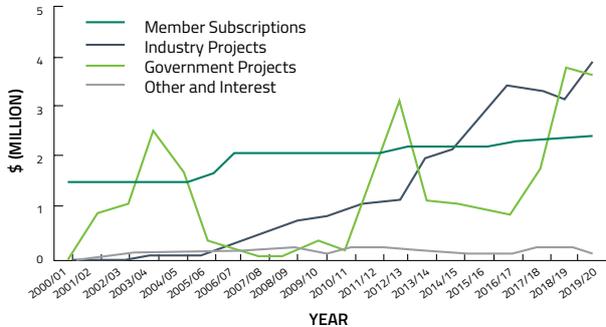


Figure 3. PHA income, 2000–20, by source



LEVY FUNDING

PHA levy

There are 22 industries with a PHA levy that is used to fund additional biosecurity preparedness activities (Figure 4). They include the grains, potato and vegetable, citrus, honey bee, nursery and garden, banana, wine grape, sweetpotato, mango, melon, apple and pear, rice, avocado, onion, cotton, olive, chestnut, cherry, summerfruit, pineapple, strawberry and forest industries.

EPPR levy

There are 10 industries with a positive Emergency Plant Pest Response (EPPR) levy, an Australian Government approved mechanism to enable repayment of any emergency plant pest response costs incurred under the EPPRD. The industries include citrus, grains, mango, honey bee, chestnut, forest, almond, apple and pear, macadamia and vegetable (including potato) industries. A nil EPPR levy rate is established for another 19 industries which can be activated if required.

10 SOURCES OF INCOME

Subscription funding

PHA's main activities are funded from annual subscriptions paid by members, who are listed on pages 6–7. In May 2019 members agreed to a subscription increase of 1.3 per cent for 2019–20. This year subscription funding was \$2.66m (Figure 3).

Non-subscription funding

In addition to subscription funded activities, PHA undertakes separately funded projects for individual members, groups of members or non-members. PHA's proven track record of bringing together partners to invest in biosecurity initiatives is resulting in more non-subscription funded plant biosecurity initiatives and projects.

This year government project funding was worth \$3.96m, and industry income \$4.27m, an increase of 21 per cent over the previous year (Figure 3).

Figure 4. Number of PHA industry members with biosecurity levies established, 1999–20



BENEFITS OF NON-SUBSCRIPTION FUNDING

PHA is receiving increasing funding for non-subscription funded projects that go beyond the services available to members via subscription funding. The company is commissioned to undertake many risk mitigation projects by individual members, groups of members in partnership, and non-members.

Many of these non-subscription funded projects and programs support or underpin the entire biosecurity system, providing benefit to all PHA members. Key examples in 2019–20 were the significant work undertaken in improving on-line digital information systems such as AUSPestCheck™, PaDIL (Pest and Disease Image Library) and the Australian Plant Pest Database (APPD). The coordination of professional development programs and networks for surveillance and diagnostics to improve Australia’s capability and capacity to detect new pests is another example.

Non-subscription projects also include those that assist and support specific industries or regions within Australia. Examples of such projects include industry funded biosecurity outreach officers, emergency plant pest response simulation exercises, development of biosecurity plans for industry and manuals to inform growers. Examples of projects with a regional or collective approach include analysis of pathways in the north of the country by which pests could enter and spread, and surveillance for pests of tropical or temperate fruits.



Timeline of events 2019–20

JUL

- Plant Health Committee meeting (Perth)

AUG

- Release of National Plant Biosecurity Status Report 2018
- Exercise Blueprint (Toowoomba)
- Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium (Brisbane)
- 2019 National Priority Plant Pest list endorsed

SEP

- Citrus Surveillance and Pest Triage Workshop (Mildura)
- National Biosecurity Committee meeting (Canberra)
- National Fruit Fly Council meeting (Adelaide)

OCT

- National Biosecurity Communication and Engagement Network meeting (Brisbane)
- National Forum on Protecting Forests (Melbourne)
- Submission to inquiry into priority exotic environmental pests, weeds and diseases

NOV

- National Biosecurity Committee meeting (Perth)
- WA declared free of citrus canker
- Botanic Gardens Biosecurity network launched (Melbourne)
- Pest Reporting for Researchers BOLT course launched
- Biosecurity Innovation Exchange (Auckland, NZ)
- PHA Member Meetings held (Canberra)
- Platinum sponsor of the Australian Plant Pathology Society Conference (Melbourne)
- Submission to inquiry into growing Australian agriculture to \$100 billion by 2030
- Submission to inquiry into property identification codes

DEC

- Plant Health Committee meeting (Canberra)
- Launch of the International Year of Plant Health (Rome)
- National Xylella Action Plan 2019–29 published
- National Grain Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy 2019–29
- National Fruit Fly Council meeting (Melbourne)
- Submission to inquiry into modernising the research and development corporation system

JAN

FEB

- Launch of the International Year of Plant Health in Australia (Canberra)
- National Fruit Fly Council meeting (Bundaberg)

MAR

- Protected Cropping Australia welcomed as new associate member
- Annual Diagnostician's Workshop (Brisbane)
- Industry liaison training delivered for QDAF staff (Brisbane)
- Australian Biosecurity Awards (Canberra)
- PHA Member Meetings held (AOP webinar)
- National Fruit Fly Council meeting (Brisbane)
- National Biosecurity Committee meeting (Orange)
- 2020 Farm Biosecurity Producer Survey began
- MOU between Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative and EUPHRESKO signed
- Provided draft feedback on the National Khapra Beetle Action Plan 2020–30

APR

- New CEO for PHA announced
- PHA turned 20 (see pages 14–15)
- Spotted wing drosophila webinar



In April 2020, PHA's Board announced that Sarah Corcoran would be the new CEO. See page 60

MAY

- Plant Health Australia member meetings (webinar)
- PHA Annual Operational Plan released

JUN

- National Fruit Fly Council meeting (webinar)
- Release of National Plant Biosecurity Status Report 2019



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH

2020

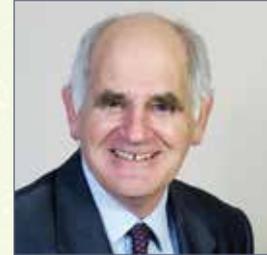
20 years of Plant Health Australia



Andrew Inglis
Chair 2000-07



\$1.6m
Income



Tony Gregson
Chair 2007-15



Neil Fisher
Executive Director & CEO
2000-05



Lindy Hyam
Executive Director & CEO
2005-08



Greg Fraser
Executive Director & CEO
2008-20

2000

2005

2010

14



23
Members

0
Signatories

6
Staff



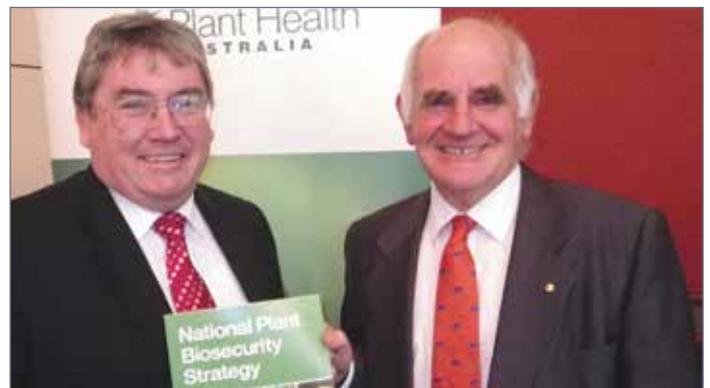
45
Members

34
Signatories

16
Staff



Warren Truss signed the EPPRD on behalf of the Australian Government on 26 May 2005. The first EPPRD signatory was Darral Ashton on behalf of Apple and Pear Australia Limited on 28 October 2004



Greg Fraser and Tony Gregson at the launch of the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy in May 2011. The company strategies for 2011–16 and 2016–21 aligned with the goals and recommendations of the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy



Darral Ashton
Chair 2015-17



Steve McCutcheon
Chair 2017-20 (current)



Sarah Corcoran
CEO, announced 2020



\$5.7m
Income



\$11m
Income

2015

2020

15



49
Members

37
Signatories

28
Staff



53
Members

43
Signatories

29
Staff



59
Members

48
Signatories

35
Staff

ABOUT PHA



Member meetings – including EPPRD signatory meetings, industry forums and member forums – are an important way in which the company brings government and industry members together to discuss aspects of the biosecurity system. Meetings can also bring together the PHA and AHA Boards or industry members to discuss topics common to the stakeholders of each company



By June 2020, the company had grown to employ 35 staff, most of whom were located in the Canberra office, but others were in WA, SA and Queensland

PHA strategy 2016–21

PHA activities are organised into seven areas, consistent with the structure of the PHA Strategic Plan for 2016–21. Each key result area, its goals and achievements against the key performance indicators set out in the Annual Operational Plan 2018–19 are presented in this annual report.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Purpose

The purpose of Plant Health Australia is to co-ordinate strong industry and government partnerships that minimise plant pest impacts on Australia, boosting industry productivity and profitability while enhancing market access

Vision

PHA is recognised nationally and internationally as the independent and trusted coordinator of a robust, shared and integrated Australian plant biosecurity system

KEY RESULT AREAS

1

PARTNERSHIPS

2

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

3

PREPAREDNESS

4

SURVEILLANCE

5

DIAGNOSTICS

6

RD&E

7

COMPANY HEALTH

STRATEGIES & KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

1 STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

- Strong working relationship with members
- Stakeholder engagement broadened along the value chain
- Established relationships with international partners
- Awareness programs expanded
- Farm Biosecurity Program strengthened



4 FACILITATE A NATIONALLY CO-ORDINATED SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

- Surveillance programs for nationally significant pests established
- Uptake of new surveillance technology
- Increased industry capacity
- Nationally coordinated data management



2 ENHANCE OPERATION AND INTEGRITY OF THE EPPRD

- Signatories comply with EPPRD obligations
- EPPRD review outcomes implemented
- Enhancement of policy and activities to promote early pest reporting
- Increased emergency response capacity and capability



5 IMPROVE THE DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM

- Nationally coordinated diagnostic network
- Increased protocol coverage for Emergency Plant Pests
- Improved diagnostician capability



3 DEVELOP PEST MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

- Improved national management of recently introduced pests
- Established framework for management of exotic weeds and pests of pastures
- Programs for management of nationally significant pests established
- Risks identified and managed



6 CO-ORDINATE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANT BIOSECURITY RD&E

- AGSOC Plant Biosecurity RD&E Plan Implemented
- Nationally agreed RD&E priorities
- Monitor RD&E activities, capability and capacity
- Increased ability to fund plant biosecurity RD&E activities



7 MANAGE THE COMPANY EFFECTIVELY

- Attract and retain key staff skills
- PHA is in a sound financial position
- Legal and regulatory compliance obligations met
- Timely and accurate reporting



OPERATIONAL PLANS

Annual Operational Plan

Guides business to achieve strategic direction

Drivers influencing PHA's strategy



National vision for plant biosecurity

The National Plant Biosecurity Strategy is Australia's first blueprint for a truly national plant biosecurity system. The strategy, and the follow up mid-life progress report, guide the activities of PHA and other stakeholders to strengthen the system.



Plant pest threats on the rise

Biosecurity planning for Australian plant industries has identified 360 pests that would have a serious impact should they make it to Australia.



Loss of plant protection products

There is a trend towards reducing the array of agricultural chemicals available to producers for the control of pests.



Plant production industries benefit the economy

Plant production in Australia remains an important contributor to the national economy. The value of national production from the plant sector has been growing steadily for the last 30 years.



Increasing trade and passenger movements

Higher cargo volume, more trading partners and increasing passenger movements combine to increase the risk of pests being introduced with people, in goods or packaging.



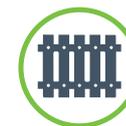
Australia's emergency plant pest response arrangements

A significant amount of PHA's resources are directed to our role as custodian of the EPPRD. The company guides Parties in applying the provisions of the EPPRD to eradicate significant pest incursions.



Gaps in biosecurity management

While plant pests and emergency animal diseases are covered by national government-industry agreements, there is no established mechanism for dealing with weeds or with pests of pasture.



Inadequate uptake of farm biosecurity

Not enough producers employ effective on-farm biosecurity measures to protect their properties from new pests and weeds. Awareness raising and behaviour change are required nationally to improve this layer of biosecurity.



Greater member expectations

Member and stakeholder expectations of PHA are increasing. PHA is required to provide national coordination in more areas to deliver better outcomes and increase efficiency and leadership.



Rising number of incidents considered by CCEPP

Since the introduction of the EPPRD in 2005, there has been a steady increase in the number of incidents reported to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests.

Partnerships



Australia is best protected from plant pests through cooperation between plant industries, governments and the community. PHA plays a key role in fostering effective partnerships to work collaboratively to strengthen Australia's biosecurity system.

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The company's independence and broad membership structure creates the ideal environment for developing collaborative solutions to identified challenges. Increasingly, PHA is being recognised for its ability to bring stakeholders together and achieve critically important outcomes for plant health in the national interest.

Partnership activities provide opportunities for members to interact and collaborate. In addition to discussing problems and developing solutions, communication and engagement allow stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of biosecurity issues, even where they hold different perspectives and have differing drivers.

Subscription-funded partnership activities benefit all members of the company or are considered by the PHA Board to be worth pursuing because they are strategically important or nationally significant.

Non-subscription funded partnership activities are undertaken by PHA through separately funded projects for individual members, groups of members or non-members. One example is the National Fruit Fly Council, which is funded by industry and government.

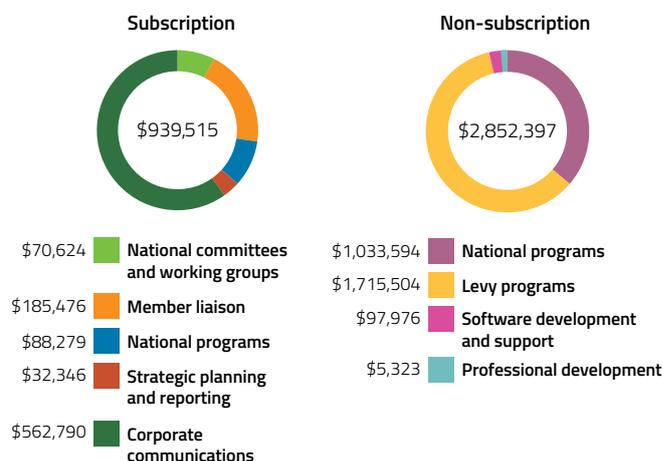
Key aims of the Partnerships area include:

- strong working relationships with members
- raising awareness of the importance of plant biosecurity

- boosting investment in farm biosecurity practices
- improving biosecurity along the value chain
- establishing relationships with international partners.

This year, PHA continued to work with a number of industries to set up and maintain biosecurity levy programs to tailor initiatives that raise awareness of biosecurity and improve surveillance and on-farm management practices to mitigate risk and improve resilience.

Figure 5. Partnerships expenditure 2019–20



Member subscription

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PHA is actively involved in government and industry committees, where they fit with PHA's strategies, are appropriately funded and will deliver benefits to most members.

National committees provide a formal mechanism for developing and coordinating key plant biosecurity policy and procedures that are nationally consistent. Australia's plant biosecurity committee structure plays a major role in facilitating partnerships between governments (see Figure 6).

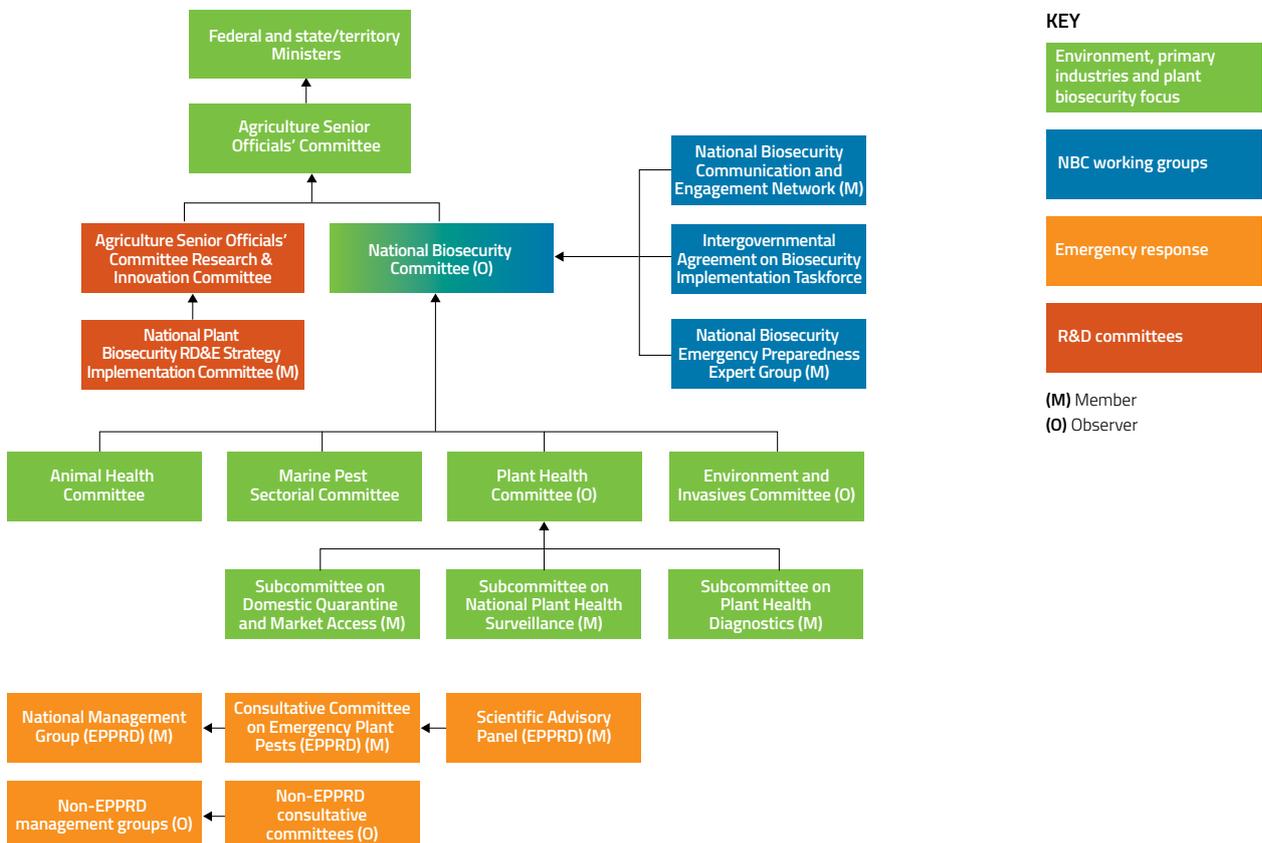
The Partnerships budget area includes PHA's engagement in the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) and its subsidiary committees, groups and taskforces including the Plant Health Committee, Environmental and Invasives Committee, Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework Reference Group and the Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access. The Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) and the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD) are covered in other sections of this report.

As an observer at the NBC and involvement in its subsidiaries, PHA contributes to the formulation of biosecurity policy at the highest level.

Staff member involvement in national committees allows the company to:

- ensure that national plant biosecurity policy issues are raised and addressed.
- facilitate national partnership approaches to solve these issues.
- lead, coordinate, or participate in projects initiated by these committees where they fit with PHA's Strategic Plan.
- contribute technical expertise, strategic insight and independent views.

Figure 6. National government biosecurity committees and working groups with plant focus



PHA had member or observer status (indicated by M or O in the diagram above) on 14 national committees to advance the plant biosecurity system during 2019–20. Reference is made to some of these national committees in other sections of the Annual Report

Achievements and highlights

- PHA contributed to Plant Health Committee and the National Biosecurity Committee meetings and led on several items including work on the interstate trade review, surveillance projects being developed under the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper and national adoption of MyPestGuide™ and AusPestCheck™
- chaired the Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access and administered the Australian Interstate Quarantine website
 - the website had 397% more sessions (a 5-fold increase to 954,595) and 423% more users (a 5.2-fold increase to 778,558)
 - the website recorded all-time highs for daily visits between March and June 2020 (up to 18,600 visits per day), corresponding with announcements about the closure of state borders due to COVID-19
 - the booklet Australian Interstate Quarantine: A Traveller's Guide was downloaded 38,795 times, an increase of 32% on the previous year.

MEMBER LIAISON

PHA places a high priority on liaison with members, consulting with them on setting program objectives. Staff meet with members to consult on proposed activities for the upcoming financial year. Twice a year, PHA hosts meetings of members to facilitate shared understandings of biosecurity issues and allow discussions that advance solutions. Every few years, PHA commissions an independent survey of member satisfaction and current biosecurity concerns to ensure that company activities are in line with member priorities.

This year, PHA held face-to-face member meetings, including industry and member forums, in November 2019, engaged with members on the Annual Operating Plan, and held webinars in March and May 2020.

PHA staff also interacted with members at industry specific meetings such as: participation in Greenlife Industry Australia meeting on BioSecure HACCP program; the National Khapra Beetle Preparedness Workshop involving government and industry; fall army worm preparedness discussions.

Significant member liaison has occurred through specific projects including Grains Producers Australia, Australian Forest Products Association, AUSVEG, Citrus Australia, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Greenlife Industry Australia and Australian Melon Association.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

Informing stakeholders about the purpose and outcomes of PHA's activity is a high priority. The corporate communication program raises awareness of biosecurity issues, facilitates the uptake of PHA project outcomes, encourages closer cooperation and coordination between national plant biosecurity stakeholders and assists corporate accountability.

Plant biosecurity information is posted on the PHA website, several program websites and the Biosecurity Portal. Plant biosecurity news is disseminated via the e-newsletters, media articles, Twitter and LinkedIn. PHA has a significant publication program with products designed and managed in-house, including annual editions of the National Plant Biosecurity Status Report, a major document that tracks the performance of the plant biosecurity system and supports market access negotiations.

This year PHA made submissions to inquiries into the priority exotic environmental pests, weeds and diseases (October 2019) growing Australian agriculture to \$100 billion by 2030 (November 2019), property identification codes (November 2019) and modernising the research and development corporation system (December 2019). PHA also provided feedback on specific topics in biosecurity such as draft feedback on the National Khapra Beetle Action Plan 2020–30 (March 2020).



International Year of Plant Health

In December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly focused global attention on plant health by declaring 2020 the International Year of Plant Health.

In Australia, there was a launch held at Parliament House, Canberra, on 6 February 2020. Government, industry, research leaders and diplomats came together to mark the commencement of the year's program of plant health events and activities.

The Director General of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, Qu Dongyu, spoke at the launch via pre-recorded video message. He said that 2020 is a unique opportunity to increase global awareness of the important role of plant health for life on earth and to promote activities in favour of preserving and sustaining global plant genetic resources.

The year presents an opportunity for innovative collaboration in plant health. Peak industry bodies, research and development corporations, botanic gardens, governments and the community have partnered with each other and with the international plant health community to find new ways of combating emerging plant pest threats.

A website planthealthyear.org.au was created by PHA for the International Year of Plant Health in Australia to encourage all Australians to get involved in the year.



Greg Fraser (Executive Director and CEO, PHA), Dr Jo Luck (Program Director, Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative), the Hon David Littleproud MP (Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management), Andrew Metcalfe (Secretary, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) (DAWE), Dr Gabrielle Vivian-Smith (Acting Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer, DAWE), Tim Lester (Executive Officer, Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations), John Woods (Chair, Rural Research and Development Corporations)

NATIONAL PLANT BIOSECURITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

PHA continues to monitor and implement aspects of the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy (2010) which runs to 2020, and all members agree there is still much to do to implement the high-level strategic priorities. A number of non-subscription funded projects have contributed to implementation of the strategy.

With the end of its life looming, it is important to update the strategy. PHA is developing new actions and activities which will be presented to members for consideration in November 2020.

The related surveillance and diagnostics sub-strategies are also being reviewed to inform the revision of the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy. Two workshops were held with the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics and another with the Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance to inform development of the respective strategies.

A working group was formed to develop the National Preparedness Strategy and an update provided to Plant Health Committee in December 2019, however further progress on the preparedness strategy has been hampered by COVID-19.

FARM BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

The Farm Biosecurity Program raises awareness and improves adoption of biosecurity management practices. The goal is to help producers identify and reduce the risks to their enterprises posed by diseases, pests and weeds. The program, run jointly by PHA and Animal Health Australia, communicates information for plant and animal producers. There are three general aspects to the projects undertaken by the program. These are the development of resources, communication of messages, and research and assessment (of the program and target audience).

Achievements and highlights

- 23 articles or media releases were published on the Farm Biosecurity website or industry magazines
- the 2020 survey of 1209 producers (crop and livestock) was conducted
- established an agreement with Nuffield Australia to support a scholar on the topic of on-farm biosecurity.

2020 Farm Biosecurity Producer Survey

According to an Australia-wide survey of both crop and livestock producers about farm biosecurity, more producers than ever before have implemented biosecurity practices to protect their properties from diseases, pests and weeds.

Conducted from March to June 2020, and undertaken by independent researchers for Farm Biosecurity, the survey was designed so that results could be compared with similar results from surveys done in 2010, 2013 and 2017.

The survey conducted phone interviews with 1,209 Australian crop and livestock producers to gain a better understanding of: current knowledge and understanding of biosecurity; what biosecurity practices are being used by producers; where and how producers like to get information about biosecurity; monitoring habits; and reporting of diseases, pests and weeds.

Without any prompting, 57 per cent of all producers surveyed said the term 'controlling diseases, pests and weeds' related to biosecurity, a stepwise increase from the 37 per cent who reported this in 2010.

The survey also indicates where producers are looking for information, what they want to know and how they like to get it. This important data will help Animal Health Australia and PHA to develop strategies that focus on biosecurity needs in areas the survey indicated might need to be improved.



Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year

Templeton Farming Enterprises was the plant winner of the 2020 Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year Award, which is part of the Australian Biosecurity Awards.

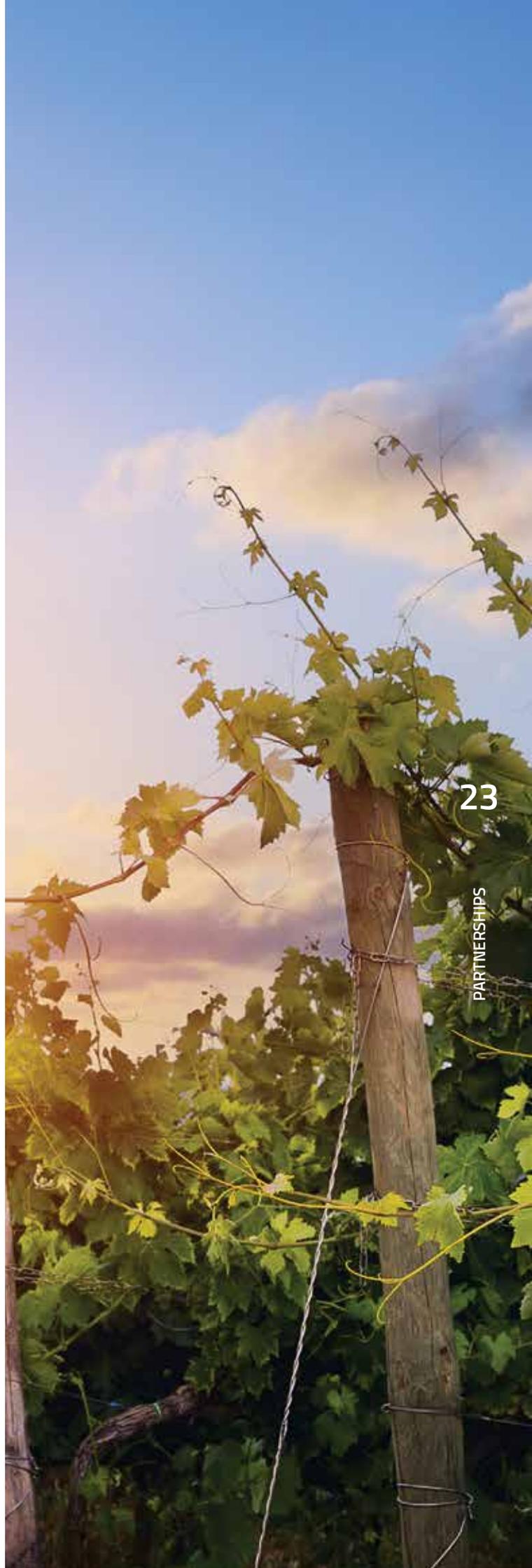
The Templeton family has been growing ginger since the 1940s and Templeton Ginger is now Australia's largest ginger producer. Given its long history, the company has experienced how detrimental pest and disease outbreaks can be for small businesses. Templeton Ginger is also aware of the importance of stringent on-farm biosecurity measures and plans.

Current directors John, Shane and Kylie Templeton have a strong focus on implementing biosecurity practices to ensure the longevity, economic viability and integrity of their business and the industry as a whole.

The company has an end-to-end biosecurity approach that helps manage biosecurity risks from purchasing farm inputs, through to processing and packaging of goods.



PHA Chairman, Steve McCutcheon, with winners of the Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year Award, Shane and Julie Templeton, at the Australian Biosecurity Awards ceremony



NATIONAL FRUIT FLY MANAGEMENT

The National Fruit Fly Council brings together representatives from industry, government, PHA and Hort Innovation to oversee implementation of the National Fruit Fly Strategy and coordinate fruit fly management activities around Australia. PHA contributes to council activities from a combination of subscription and primarily non-subscription funding.

PHA employs the Manager, National Fruit Fly Council, and delivers communication initiatives, including the preventfruitfly.com.au website that provides information for backyard growers and commercial producers, supported by a regular e-newsletter and Twitter. PHA is also a member and employs the executive officer of the council.

The council aims to help drive the delivery of a national system that prevents fruit flies being a constraint to sustainable production or a barrier to trade or market access. It focuses its efforts across four areas:

- fruit fly management systems for the prevention, detection eradication and management of fruit flies
- supporting market access, including activities that assist in securing entry for horticultural products into markets
- legislation and regulation that supports fruit fly management, is harmonised across Australia and consistent with international standards
- research and development to ensure that innovative solutions and technically justifiable approaches are available to meet the requirements of the three areas above.

The council provides a coordination role, focusing on activities of national significance and opportunities to build an effective approach to managing fruit flies which has support from all stakeholders. This includes emphasising the importance of year-round control programs across production regions, the importance of fruit fly control in urban and peri-urban areas and helping to link stakeholders with relevant information.



The National Fruit Fly Council visited the PIRSA SIT facility in September 2020

Achievements and highlights

- a revised National Fruit Fly Strategy and Implementation Plan approved by the council
- a Research Roadmap identifying several priority areas for RD&E to guide funding agreed by the council and National Biosecurity Committee
- the first regional workshop was held in Bundaberg and planning for a series of industry meetings on the East-West Protocol (to keep Mediterranean fruit fly in WA and Queensland fruit fly confined to the eastern states) is underway
- the Prevent Fruit Fly website was regularly updated with council's 2019 Annual Summary, communiques and news items, with nine issues of Prevent Fruit Fly e-newsletters issued to a 21 per cent increase in subscribers.



Strengthening Australia's defence against fruit fly threat

The national effort to manage fruit fly was bolstered in 2020 with the extension of funding for the National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC), the appointment of a new manager and an update to the National Fruit Fly Strategy.

The NFFC, funded by states and territories, the Australian Government and Hort Innovation, brings together industry and government representatives to discuss and advise on nationally significant issues related to the control of fruit flies. It oversees implementation of the National Fruit Fly Strategy that drives the delivery of a cost-effective, coordinated and sustainable approach to managing fruit flies.

The extension to funding for three years allowed for the appointment of Christina Cook by PHA as manager to engage with all the partners. In her previous role with Primary Industries and Regions South Australia, Christina helped strengthen and promote SA's fruit fly pest freedom, assisted regulators and industries to prepare for pest incursions and promoted on-farm biosecurity practices amongst growers.



Christina Cook was appointed Manager, National Fruit Fly Council

NETWORK COORDINATION

A new position in PHA was funded to help coordinate activities of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network (NPBDN) and the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia–Pacific (PSNAP). Dr Natalie O'Donnell, who has worked at PHA since 2014 as project officer, took on the role following a secondment at the office of the Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer.

The role includes responsibility for developing and maintaining content for the network websites, prioritising activities to address capability gaps, organising and delivering the annual diagnostics and surveillance workshops, and fostering membership of the networks.

The networks connect people who are integral to the plant biosecurity diagnostic and surveillance systems across Australia, New Zealand and neighbouring countries with the aim of improving technical skills, facilitating connections, and sharing knowledge and experiences.

In the coordinator role, Natalie works with members of both networks to promote and improve connections between practitioners and improve Australia's biosecurity capability.

For example, members of the networks come together regularly at the Annual Diagnosticians' Workshop and Annual Surveillance Workshop to build connections, initiate projects, share knowledge and experiences, and professional development activities to support their work.

This year, the Annual Diagnosticians' Workshop convened by PHA was held in March 2020 in Brisbane. The Annual Surveillance Workshop was planned, but the event was delayed due to COVID-19.

Achievements and highlights

- content on the NPBDN website **plantbiosecuritydiagnostics.net.au** was revised and updated, including diagnostic resources, workshop advertisements, job vacancies, funding and project opportunities
 - the PSNAP website **plantsurveillancenetwork.net.au** was developed, providing a single site for surveillance resources, advertising events, job vacancies and news articles
 - NPBDN members increased to 529 and PSNAP, which was established in 2019, has 148 members
 - PHA secured funding to deliver professional development activities for network members
 - capability and capacity gaps were identified by the NPBDN Network Implementation Working Group and PSNAP Plant Surveillance Working Group.
-



Non-subscription activities

The number of member organisations expressing interest in establishing their own industry specific biosecurity programs continues to grow. PHA works with these industries to tailor preparedness, communication and extension programs to suit their individual requirements. These programs focus on raising awareness of biosecurity and improving on farm management practices to mitigate risk and improve resilience.

This year, PHA continued to set up and maintain these biosecurity programs through the PHA levy. Three of the larger programs are the Grains Farm Biosecurity Program, the Melon Biosecurity Program and the Vegetable Potato Biosecurity Program.

GRAINS FARM BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

The Grains Farm Biosecurity Program aims to raise awareness of farm biosecurity practices among grain growers and help the industry to respond to high priority pest incursions. Funded by growers through Grain Producers Australia, the program is run as a partnership between state governments and the grains industry and is managed by PHA.

The five grains biosecurity officers based in each grain growing state coordinate and facilitate surveillance activities, raise awareness of farm biosecurity and provide information on simple steps growers can take to protect their properties from diseases, pests and weeds.

Achievements and highlights

- technical development of a website for the program completed. The focus has moved to content curation and the application of consistent style to the material
 - new fact sheets developed on priority grain pests
 - ten articles were published in six editions of GRDC's Ground Cover newspaper.
-



The Grains Biosecurity Officers met in Canberra in February 2020. L to R: Bill Gordon (NSW), Kym McIntyre (Queensland), Judy Bellati (South Australia), Jeff Russell (Western Australia) and Jim Moran (Victoria)

VEGETABLE AND POTATO BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

The PHA managed Vegetable and Potato Biosecurity Program is an extension and engagement program funded by grower levies through AUSVEG to improve the management of, and preparedness for, biosecurity risks in the vegetable and potato industries at the farm gate and industry level.

The program's two dedicated biosecurity officers delivered workshops and webinars for vegetable and potato farmers around Australia to discuss pest and diseases issues, on-farm biosecurity practices, and chemical usage and spray regimes.

Achievements and highlights

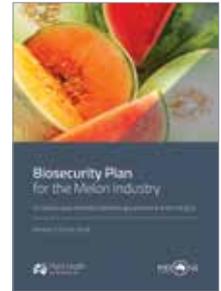
- a communication and engagement plan for the program was developed, with a shift in focus to online methods to communicate the farm biosecurity message due to COVID-19
- a Pest and Disease Management Survey was undertaken to benchmark on-farm biosecurity practices used and understanding amongst vegetable producers.



Image courtesy of Dianne Fullelove

MELON FARM BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

PHA's Melon Farm Biosecurity Program continued to engage with melon growers on their biosecurity issues through the Australian Melon Association.



The program developed and delivered information packages for growers to understand the risk of high priority pests and how to conduct surveillance for them. Throughout the year the program's officer, Dianne Fullelove, continued to engage with melon growers in biosecurity planning, developing knowledge and increasing the preparedness of industry leaders to manage a biosecurity incursion.

Achievements and highlights

- a technical advisory panel for the melon industry was established to define biosecurity threats
- a new version of the Biosecurity Plan for the Melon Industry was completed.



Vegetable and Potato Biosecurity Officer Madeleine Quirk (second from left) presenting to government and local community gardeners on vegetable leaf miner on Thursday Island, Queensland



Emergency response



PHA plays a central role in plant biosecurity as custodian of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). The agreement – between industry, government and PHA – triggers arrangements to deal with emergency plant pests immediately upon detection, boosting the chances of eradication.

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The EPPRD provides protection for Australia’s plant industries and associated rural communities, the environment and the national economy.

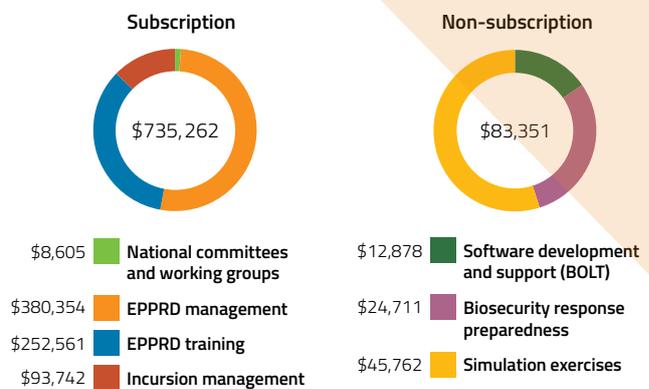
PHA provides guidance to signatories to the EPPRD (referred to as ‘the Parties’) to ensure effective operation, as well as continually evaluating and improving the agreement to ensure that it keeps pace with the needs of signatories.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response area covers all activities to do with the EPPRD, including managing emergency plant pest incursion responses, administering the agreement, and improving its provisions and operation. It also covers training stakeholders who might be involved in an incursion, boosting Australia’s capacity and capability to respond.

Key aims of this program area include:

- addressing policy issues associated with implementation of the EPPRD
- enhancing policy and operations to promote early pest reporting
- increasing emergency response capacity and capability.

Figure 7. Emergency response expenditure 2019–20



The EPPRD

The EPPRD is a formal legally binding agreement between PHA, the Australian Government, all state and territory governments and national plant industry body signatories.

The EPPRD covers the management and funding of responses to emergency plant pest incursions, including the potential for reimbursement to growers impacted by response plan actions. It also formalises the role of plant industries' participation in decision making, as well as their contribution towards the costs related to approved responses.

The key advantage of the EPPRD is more timely, effective and efficient response to emergency plant pest incursions, while minimising uncertainty over management and funding arrangements. Other significant benefits include:

- potential liabilities are known, and funding mechanisms are agreed in advance
- industry is directly involved in making decisions about mounting and managing an emergency plant pest response from the outset
- a consistent and agreed national approach for managing incursions
- wider commitment to risk mitigation by all signatories through the development and implementation of biosecurity strategies and programs
- motivation and rationale to maintain a reserve of trained personnel and technical expertise.

INCURSION MANAGEMENT

PHA has key roles and responsibilities under the EPPRD in the event of an emergency plant pest incursion. While some are mandated by the EPPRD, others result from our role as custodian and a non-funding, independent signatory.

PHA leads evaluation activities to inform continual improvement of the EPPRD and other aspects of emergency management.

Notable events during 2019–20 were the commencement of transition to management for the chestnut blight response, and the new incursion of *Varroa jacobsoni* in Queensland. Citrus canker was successfully eradicated from Western Australia, with the response remaining on track to achieve eradication from the Northern Territory at the end of 2020 (see page 30).

Achievements and highlights

- continual improvement in the operation of the EPPRD supported through debriefing activities of responses to incidents
 - support provided to signatories to the EPPRD through PHA's engagement in the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pest and National Management Group
-

EPPRD MANAGEMENT

PHA ensures that administration of the EPPRD is undertaken effectively and in accordance with both the requirements and intent of the agreement. The company ensures that the EPPRD policies and provisions continue to meet the needs and expectations of signatories. PHA progressed a number of matters this year, including:

- improvements in financial management of response plans through completion of the financial needs analysis
- further clarification on the application of the EPPRD when incidents near the border are notified, noting further work is still required
- improvements in decision-making through identification of support tools that could be applied in a response
- capture of lessons from response and training activities into PLANTPLAN through the annual review process
- improved guidance on the operation of the EPPRD and emergency responses through the development and review of specific guidance material.

This year, broad agreement was also reached by signatories on the approach to resolve vector–pathogen complexes and variations to the EPPRD were developed for engagement and negotiation later in 2020.

Validation and further refinement of an approach to improve equity for growers impacted as a result of eradication efforts was facilitated by PHA, with potential variations to the EPPRD to bring this outcome into effect identified.

The EPPRD must be formally reviewed every five years. During 2019–20 PHA prepared for the 2020 review, with support for the scope and methodology received from signatories in November 2019.

Achievements and highlights

- validation of the approach to improve equity for impacted owners
 - scope and methodology for the third formal EPPRD review supported by signatories
 - a revised PLANTPLAN to incorporate lessons identified over the previous 12 months was endorsed by Parties, and a review of the purpose, structure and content of PLANTPLAN commenced
 - development and review of CCEPP and industry liaison function job cards, and proof of freedom framework guidelines.
-

Western Australia regains freedom from citrus canker

Citrus canker (*Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*) is a tropical disease affecting commercial citrus species such as oranges, limes, lemons and mandarins. Affected plants develop lesions on the leaves, fruit and stems and will drop fruit before it has a chance to ripen, decreasing fruit yields and damaging trees.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development WA declared an emergency response on 26 April 2018 and immediately began delimiting surveys and tracing surveillance in the northern part of the state, covering an area of 360,000km² from the NT border to Exmouth in the south.

Citrus canker was detected in a plant wholesaler in the NT in April 2018 and subsequently found on three properties in northern WA in May 2018.

During the emergency response, 682 properties were inspected with seven positive samples found on three infected premises in WA. To eradicate the disease, more than 1500 plants were destroyed and three restricted areas were declared to minimise spread. Follow-up surveillance was conducted for a period of 12 months: over 5000 properties were inspected but no new cases of citrus canker were found.

In November 2019, WA was officially declared to be free of citrus canker, and restrictions on intrastate and interstate movement of citrus were lifted.

All jurisdictions except the NT have now demonstrated that they are free from citrus canker. On-the-ground response teams remain in place in the NT and are well positioned to finish eradication activities and demonstrate proof of freedom by the end of 2020.



Sampling plants for citrus canker. Image courtesy of WA DPIRD

EPPRD TRAINING

The National EPP Training Program, as a central provision of the EPPRD, supports signatories to develop and maintain appropriately skilled and prepared personnel who can effectively contribute to a response to an EPP. PHA delivers the program, using a range of approaches and support tools.

This year the National EPP Training Program had an emphasis on the detailed analysis and documentation of industry party activities and responsibilities through the delivery of tailored Biosecurity Incident Standard Operating Procedures (BISOPs), and the development and delivery of industry liaison representative training.

Industry liaison representatives situated in response control centres play an important role in effectively implementing a response to an EPP. A training package specifically for industry liaison representatives was developed to support refinements to the description of the industry liaison role.

Achievements and highlights

- general EPPRD awareness training provided for the CCEPP and NMG secretariats, PHA staff and bee biosecurity officers
 - draft BISOP developed for Australian Grape and Wine, and webinar workshop delivered for Apple and Pear Australia BISOP development
 - new BOLT course Pest Reporting and Responses for Researchers developed and released
 - two industry liaison workshops delivered in collaboration with Queensland and WA emergency management personnel, attended by over 50 participants covering 18 cropping sectors.
-

Industry liaison training delivered

PHA and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries collaborated to deliver industry liaison training to plant industry representatives in March 2020 in Brisbane.

The training focused on how a biosecurity emergency response works and the role of an industry liaison. Specific topics covered in the training included:

- the EPPRD
- the Biosecurity Incident Management System
- the response structure in Queensland
- roles and responsibilities of an industry liaison at each stage of a response
- communication during a response.

People in the industry liaison role:

- contribute to decision making by providing the affected industry position on aspects of the response
- inform the response strategy and actions by providing advice on the industry sector and potential impacts of response actions
- support industry communication and engagement activities.

Representatives from ten plant industries participated in the training. Amongst the attendees there was significant experience in biosecurity which helped generate valuable insights throughout the training.

Attendees said that, apart from learning about their role in a response, the training was an excellent opportunity to network with other industry biosecurity representatives.



Representatives from ten plant industries participated in the liaison training in March 2020 in Brisbane

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PHA works on a number of national committees to support coordination and reform of aspects of Australia's capability and capacity to respond to biosecurity incidents.

This includes participating in the National Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness Expert Group and its underpinning Specialist Task Groups. PHA also contributes to the agreed talking points provided by the National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network (NBCEN) during incursions under the EPPRD.

The national coordination achieved through participation in these committees is strengthened by other cross-sectoral engagement activities centred on the emergency response agreements and biosecurity response training.

PHA works closely with Animal Health Australia (AHA) and the Australian Government to promote consistency and a shared understanding across the EPPRD, the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA).

PHA and AHA collaboratively deliver the biosecurity online e-learning platform (BOLT), providing a centralised resource for cross-sectoral online biosecurity training. PHA is also working with AHA to enhance accreditation and issuing qualifications for training on national biosecurity emergency responses and the development of national materials for these qualifications.

Achievements and highlights

- contributed to the initial review of the Public Safety Training Package Units of Competency relevant to biosecurity
- collaborated with AHA to develop PHA's industry liaison training package, Transition to Management in the EADRA, and other response preparedness activities
- provided a submission to the draft public consultation document of NEBRA
- shared lessons identified with regards to public awareness and communication during emergency responses at NBCEN meetings in Brisbane in October 2019 and Sydney in March 2020.

Non-subscription

NATIONAL BIOSECURITY RESPONSE TEAM

PHA undertakes other initiatives to facilitate skills development in emergency responses that are funded through non-subscription funds.

The National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT) is a cohort of trained and experienced staff with recognised skills in biosecurity emergency responses. NBRT members contribute to responses in their own jurisdictions and are also available for interstate deployment to enhance national response capability and capacity across sectors (plants, animals, aquatic and environmental).

PHA jointly manages the NBRT program with AHA and the Australian Government. Through this program, members are provided with professional development and response opportunities that build on the training and experience delivered by their own jurisdiction.

Key achievements

- participated in the planning for the NBRT simulation Exercise Muster (delivery impacted by COVID-19)
- actively engaged in the recruitment process for new NBRT members and their induction.

SIMULATION EXERCISES

Practical training for members via simulation exercises is an important component of the National EPP Training Program. These exercises support other forms of training and test specific aspects of member's biosecurity emergency preparedness. Together with discussion exercises in the face-to-face training, PHA works with members to deliver larger-scale functional exercises.



Exercise Blueprint for the cotton industry

The enthusiasm of the participants at Exercise Blueprint held in Toowoomba in August 2019 highlights the desire of the cotton industry to be ready for a real-life exotic pest incursion.

Exercise Blueprint used a fictional detection of cotton blue disease on a cotton farm near Dalby, Queensland, in a range of discussions and activities to find out how the cotton industry would respond to an incursion of this exotic pest.

The main aims of the exercise were to identify:

- how the industry would be engaged in a response
- the communication channels industry would use to ensure the right messages would reach their stakeholders.

Attendees came from a wide range of cotton industry sectors including Cotton Australia, CottonInfo, Cotton Research Development Corporations (CRDC), growers, agronomists, gin operators, researchers, extension officers, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The exercise was funded by CRDC to improve the biosecurity preparedness of the cotton industry.



Exercise Blueprint participants attempt to identify cotton blue disease

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

PHA provides low-cost access to the Biosecurity Online Training (BOLT) platform's functionality and administration support for related e-learning courses developed by industry and government members.

This year, the BOLT platform continued to grow and be used by the biosecurity community. The Biosecurity for Beekeepers course continued to be very popular, largely driven by the requirement for training in the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice.

New pest reporting and responses course for researchers

A new course called Researchers – Pest Reporting and Responses was launched in November 2019 on PHA's Biosecurity Online Training (BOLT) platform, which provides free access to plant biosecurity e-learning courses.

The course is for researchers who might come across new or unusual plant pests in the course of their work and was developed to fill a gap in biosecurity training for this audience.

It aims to provide researchers with a better understanding of reporting and responding to plant pests that may be a biosecurity threat and covers information including:

- the benefits of biosecurity
- how to implement biosecurity practices
- why and how to report a new or unusual pest or symptom of disease.

The course is available from the PHA website at planthealthaustralia.com.au/BOLT



Preparedness



PHA supports the national plant biosecurity system by coordinating and assisting efforts to reduce the risks posed by emergency plant pests.

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The Preparedness budget area covers activities that help identify, prepare for and manage threats to plant-based agriculture and the environment, as well as management of endemic or regionalised pests.

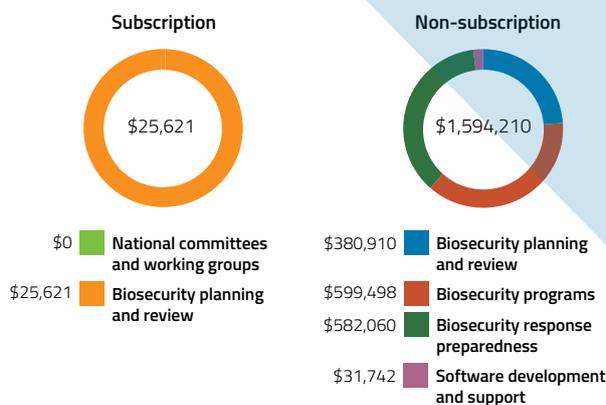
This is achieved by supporting industries and governments to develop strategies and plans that improve biosecurity standards and the implementation of risk mitigation measures.

Most of the budget for this area is non-subscription funded. PHA is commissioned to undertake many risk mitigation projects by individual members, groups of members in partnership or non-members to boost biosecurity for particular industries.

Key aims of the preparedness program include:

- identifying pest risks and corresponding risk mitigation activities
- improving the national management of establishing pests
- managing nationally significant pests
- developing a framework for the management of exotic weeds and pests of pastures.

Figure 8. Preparedness expenditure 2019–20



Member subscription

BIOSECURITY PLANNING

While industry-specific biosecurity plans are funded by the relevant research and development corporation, a small amount of PHA subscription funding is also assigned to progress planning. This includes time working with the Plant Health Committee (PHC) and other groups to ensure plans meet the needs of both industry and government. Subscription funding also enables PHA staff to negotiate new and revised plans with industries and funding agencies.

Non-subscription

BIOSECURITY PLANNING



PHA works with industry and government members to develop biosecurity plans. These crop-specific plans identify, assess and prioritise biosecurity risks and provide a framework for biosecurity risk mitigation and preparedness.



All plans are jointly endorsed by governments and the respective peak industry body(s) and guide industry and government members in risk mitigation measures to be implemented over the life of the plans.

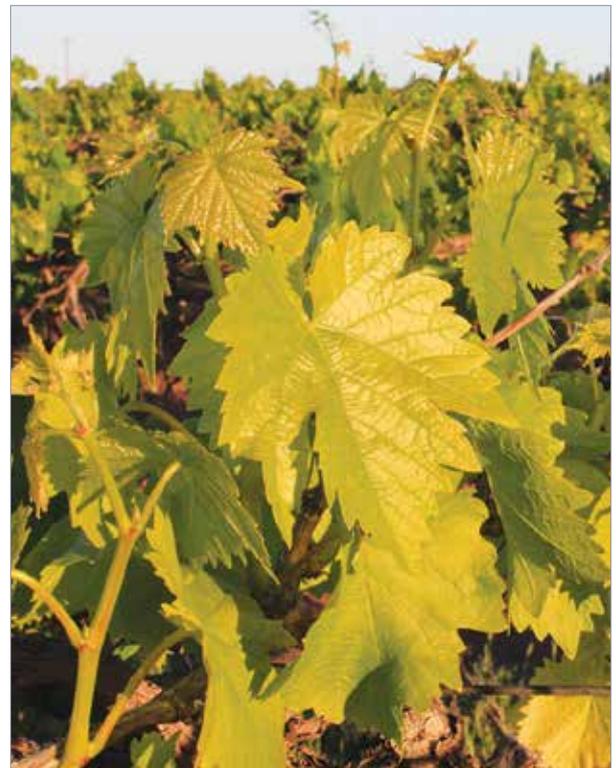
Biosecurity plans developed by PHA undergo formal reviews every four to five years to ensure

they remain up to date, taking into consideration new research, incursions overseas and changes to potential entry pathways. New biosecurity plans also have an annual mini review by biosecurity reference panels to help drive implementation of preparedness activities.

PHA, in partnership with plant production industries and governments, produces crop-specific biosecurity manuals. They are written for growers and consultants, explaining effective measures that can be incorporated into day-to-day operations to improve biosecurity and help protect farms from both exotic and established pests.

Achievements and highlights

- biosecurity plans for sweetpotato and tea tree were released
- biosecurity plans for the avocado, ginger, melon and viticulture industries were completed and await endorsement
- reviews of biosecurity plans for berries (rubus and strawberries) and plantation forestry underway
- biosecurity plan for the summerfruit industry near completion
- reference panels held for bananas, cherries, cotton, mangoes, summerfruit, sweetpotatoes and vegetables
- the capability index successfully tested with the avocado, banana, cherry, mango, melon, onion, summerfruit, tea tree and vegetable industries
- proposals submitted to develop or review biosecurity plans for the honey bee, production nursery, mushroom, lychee, papaya and passionfruit industries
- a biosecurity plan project for plantation forestry contracted.
- the biosecurity manual for the viticulture industries (table, wine and dried grapes) is drafted and on track for completion.



Biosecurity planning for mangroves and associated communities



PHA is working with the Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer to map and engage with a wide range of stakeholders to identify the potential biosecurity risks and pathways to selected mangrove ecosystems.

The intention is to develop a risk mitigation plan that outlines actions and priorities to improve biosecurity preparedness for mangrove ecosystems. The need for a mangrove biosecurity threat abatement plan, an environmental biosecurity plan for mangrove ecosystems or similar document will also be ascertained.

Achievements and highlights

- stakeholder consultations were held in Cairns, East Trinity Inlet and the Newcastle region of NSW
- a stakeholder map has been developed and the main activities, interest in and barriers to involvement in biosecurity activities identified
- completed a review of the pest threats to mangroves overseas, and analysed the risks posed by potential entry pathways and a draft report provided to DAWE.

Biosecurity Preparedness Portal

The Biosecurity Preparedness Portal is a repository for information for biosecurity reference panels as a part of the biosecurity planning process. With funding from the DAWE, PHA created pages on the portal for each of PHA's member industries. The pages house preparedness information available for each of the high priority pests for the industry, the biosecurity plan, biosecurity manual and other relevant documents.

A cross industry page provides the high priority pest list for all of PHA's member industries, the capability index and a consolidated implementation table. The Biosecurity Preparedness Portal will be made available to government, peak industry bodies and biosecurity reference panels.

Achievements and highlights

- sites were set up for all PHA industry members and the eight key documents have been uploaded, which in some cases cover multiple related industries
- a page has been developed and populated for cross-industry information including the high priority pest list, and consolidated biosecurity implementation tables, established pests of biosecurity significance tables and capability indexes.

Risk mitigation plan for acacias

PHA developed an Environmental Risk Mitigation Plan for Australian Acacia Species which identified biosecurity risks and gaps related to acacias and investigated mechanisms to address these risks.

Extensive engagement with the stakeholders was undertaken to assess the awareness, interest and capacity to contribute to biosecurity activities and what support they would require to do so.

Stakeholders included commercial forestry and many new and emerging commercial industries such as cut flowers, bush foods and mining rehabilitation. A broad range of industries and biosecurity experts recommended actions to improve acacia biosecurity in the future. A significant number of environmental groups with an interest in acacia were also identified.

The plan has been provided to the office of the Australian Chief Environmental Officer which funded the activity.



BIOSECURITY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

PHA helps stakeholders to find solutions to a wide range of nationally significant biosecurity issues, including preparedness for pests and diseases of high concern. Through partnerships, PHA identifies and leads initiatives to improve the biosecurity preparedness of growers, industries and government agencies.

This year, PHA contributed to programs for exotic pests of concern including spotted wing drosophila, vegetable leafminers, and tailored programs for the citrus and honey bee industries.

Pre-emptive minor use permits for chemicals were also secured, which cover exotic pests of the honey bee, grains and citrus industries. The work on emergency permits for the citrus industry is covered in the Surveillance section on page 43.



Vegetable leaf miner damage to sirato leaf on Thursday Island.
Image courtesy of Dr Elia Pirtle, cesar

Spotted wing drosophila webinar

The fly called spotted wing drosophila (SWD, *Drosophila suzukii*) is emerging as a global plant pest of significance. It attacks a range of soft skinned fruit and reduces crop yield and quality through direct feeding damage and secondary infection of the fruit.

Although it has never been found in Australia, recent incursions in the United States and Europe have raised concerns about the impact if this fly were to breach Australian borders. It's number three on Australia's list of National Priority Plant Pests.

The adult is similar in size and appearance to the common vinegar fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*), to which it is related. Unlike other vinegar flies though, the larvae of SWD feed on maturing fruit, not just over-ripe or decaying fruit.

The preferred hosts include berries, cherries, grapes, nectarines and plums. Apples, pears and other fruit with thicker skins are also hosts when fruit is damaged or begins to rot.

An SWD preparedness project running since 2018 revealed insights about this pest, and its potential impacts on Australian and New Zealand producers. Topics included predictions of SWD spread and establishment in Australia, tips for early detection, surveillance options, and management practices used overseas.

This project was funded by Hort Innovation and identified gaps in preparedness for an incursion of SWD and recommended actions to address the gaps. Communication material was developed for growers and industry consultants, and on 30 April, PHA, cesar, and Plant and Food Research NZ held a webinar, attended by over 90 people from industry, biosecurity policy and research backgrounds.



Spotted wing drosophila female (top) and male (bottom).
Image courtesy of Dr Elia Pirtle, cesar



Program for control, eradication and preparedness for vegetable leaf miner

A Hort Innovation funded project is being led by the Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research (cesar) in partnership with PHA, AUSVEG, the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy and the University of Melbourne. PHA is contributing to a review of the appropriate use of chemicals to support applications for emergency permits as well as development of a contingency plan for vegetable leaf miners.

Achievements and highlights

- a draft contingency plan was developed to provide information on aspects of the biology of vegetable leafminers to prepare for an incursion into production regions
- a chemical review of chemicals for the control of vegetable leafminer was completed
- three minor use applications were approved by APVMA for conversion to emergency permits to control *Liriomyza* species.

Emergency permits for grains industry

In a separate program made possible by the significant contributions of growers through the GRDC, PHA submitted pre-emptive minor use permits applications to the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to cover potential exotic grains pests.

This year, applications for two permits were submitted to provide pesticide management options in the event of an incursion of the pests hessian fly, barley stem gall midge and wheat bug.

Achievements and highlights

- multiple permits obtained, covering 27 pests of the grains industry
 - a review of chemical control options for 100 exotic pests was completed
 - 10 existing permits were extended until 31 March 2025 and another one until 30 April 2026
-

HONEY BEE INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY

PHA continued to work with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), pollination reliant industries, Agrifutures Australia and governments on a range of bee related activities that are coordinated by the company.

These biosecurity activities enhance preparedness of the honey bee industry for exotic bee pests, provide support for international trade and protect the pollination reliant plant industries from the impacts of an exotic bee pest incursion.

The components of PHA's work are the National Bee Biosecurity Program and the Bee Health and Resources Program (managed under the Preparedness area), and the Biosecurity for Beekeepers BOLT course (under the Emergency Response area). The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program is described in the Surveillance section of the report on page 44.

National Bee Biosecurity Program

This year six bee biosecurity officers in Victoria, Tasmania, NSW, SA and WA and Queensland were engaged in the program to help commercial and amateur beekeepers implement the Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice which is now legislated in several jurisdictions. The Code of Practice aims to build beekeeper skills in hive management and recognising exotic bee pests and exotic bees.

The biosecurity officers work within state government agricultural agencies and are assisted by the apiary officers in their jurisdiction. Funding for this program primarily comes from industry, with in-kind support provided by each agency.

This year PHA, in collaboration with AHBIC, reviewed the National Bee Biosecurity Program to help frame the priorities for the next phase of the program from July 2020.

The Biosecurity for Beekeepers online training course, developed by PHA in consultation with AHBIC to enable beekeepers to meet requirements under the Code of Practice, is promoted by the biosecurity officers. A review of Version 1 of the course, which has been completed by over 500 people, began this year to ensure it continued to meet the needs of the beekeeping community.

Bee health and resources

The key outputs of the Bee Health and Resources Program, which has run over several years with funding from Agrifutures Australia, are an annual online survey of beekeepers, the development and maintenance of the BeeAware website, and delivery of the BeeAware e-newsletter.

Achievements and highlights

- analysis of the 2018 Honey Bee Health Survey was completed. A report was published and three videos of the main results created for use on social media
- completed the 2019 Honey Bee Health Survey which examined biosecurity knowledge of Australian beekeepers
- progressed the development of a BeeAware pest ID app for use by professional and hobby beekeepers
- BeeAware website users and visits (sessions) increased by 15 per cent and 16 per cent respectively, and 10 issues of the BeeAware e-newsletter were sent to 23 per cent more subscribers.



The Queensland bee biosecurity officer, Rebecca Laws, demonstrating to beekeepers how to inspect a hive for pests and diseases. Image courtesy of Linda Blackwell



Surveillance



Plant pest surveillance is a vital part of the plant biosecurity system. The main benefits of surveillance are twofold: it increases the likelihood of detecting a new exotic pest early, and it provides evidence that key pests are absent, which can support market access negotiations.

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Through its engagement with stakeholders from plant industries, government members and the research community, PHA helps coordinate all components that make up our surveillance system.

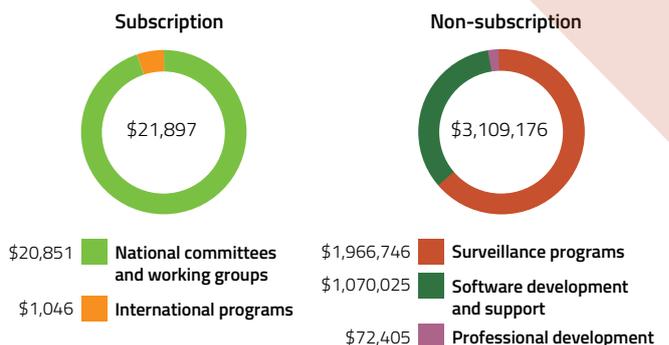
Key aims of this area include:

- development of surveillance strategies and plans
- expanding and improving surveillance data collection
- establishing surveillance programs for high priority pests
- building partnerships that support data collection from industry and the community
- facilitating farm or regional surveillance reporting systems
- supporting work undertaken by the Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance.

This year, PHA took a lead in managing or developing several surveillance programs or strategies for exotic pests of citrus, forestry, grains, temperate fruits, potatoes, honey bees and plant industries in the north of Australia. Some of this work is covered in the previous chapter on Preparedness.

Funding for several initiatives was provided from the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the government's plan for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.

Figure 9. Surveillance expenditure 2019–20



Member subscription

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PHA contributes to the activities of the Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) which provides coordination and leadership for plant pest surveillance in Australia. It comprises representatives from the Australian Government, state and territory governments, PHA and CSIRO.

This year, the key roles of the subcommittee were:

- developing the Reference Standard for National Surveillance Protocols for Plant Pests
- establishing the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific to improve connections between surveillance practitioners and build capacity and capability for surveillance
- coordinating and overseeing the development of a website to support the network
- developing surveillance design processes to prioritise national surveillance efforts
- reviewing and providing recommendations for the redesign of exotic fruit fly trapping programs
- reviewing the collection and use of information from general surveillance programs to provide evidence of pest status
- enhancing the collaboration, coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of surveillance efforts nationally.

PHA is a member on the Plant Health Surveillance Consultative Committee which helps guide investment in the national plant biosecurity surveillance system, including projects funded through the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

The committee also includes members from the DAWE, Plant Health Committee, Grains Research and Development Corporation, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis, Hort Innovation, AUSVEG, Summerfruit Australia, Growcom and National Resource Management Regions Australia.

Achievements and highlights

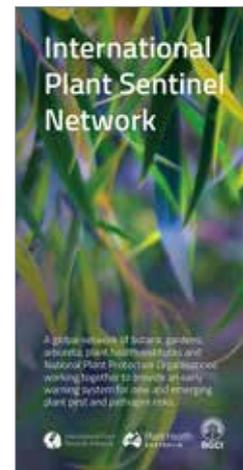
- as deputy Chair, provided leadership on the strategic direction for the work of SNPHS.
 - helped to guide investment and monitor activities related to the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.
-

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN, plantsentinel.org) has been developed to link botanic gardens and arboreta, National Plant Protection Organisations and plant health scientists around the world.

The network aims to provide an early warning system of new and emerging pest and pathogen risks. Member gardens contribute scientific evidence regarding known quarantine organisms and potential new risks to inform plant health activities. Surveillance focuses on Australian native flora and plants important for agricultural production.

PHA coordinated Australian engagement with the IPSN and with New Zealand Better Border Biosecurity (B3), creating a joint Australia–NZ network. PHA's expertise and experience with pest surveillance data sharing platform, *AUSPestCheck™*, is the foundation of PHA input for this project.



Achievements and highlights

- supported visit by Euphresco research coordinator
 - maintained contact with BGCI which coordinates the International Plant Sentinel Network
 - attended meetings with B3 NZ and the IPPC Symposium on Preparedness and Surveillance
 - developed a surveillance network with Australia's major botanic gardens
 - linkages with Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens and Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) maintained
 - attended Biennial BGANZ Conference.
-

Non-subscription funding

SURVEILLANCE PROTOCOLS AND PROGRAMS

Through its engagement with stakeholders from the research community as well as plant industry and government members, PHA assists the coordination of components that make up our surveillance system. PHA is managing or developing surveillance programs for exotic pests of citrus, forestry, grains, temperate fruits, honey bees and pests that pose a risk for production in the north of Australia.

National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Program

With 134 million hectares of forest and woodlands, Australia has the seventh largest forest estate in the world. Forests, woodlands and trees are an intrinsic part of Australia's unique environment. Forest assets – from modest urban parklands to internationally significant World Heritage listed areas – are managed to provide multiple environmental, heritage, amenity and economic benefits.

Many pests threaten Australian forests, and global travel and trade have led to the increased spread of overseas pests that have the potential to cause significant impacts on native, plantation and urban forests. PHA is leading a project to establish a National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Program to safeguard forests through a funding partnership between the DAWE and the Australian Forest Products Association.

The program has used a coordinated risk-based approach to identify biosecurity threats, with data used to model and identify points of highest risk for the entry and establishment of exotic pests. By targeting surveillance at high-risk sites such as sea and airports, import facilities, botanic gardens and tourist attractions, the chance of detecting the exotic pests before they become widely established will be maximised.

The program will also help to show that specific areas are free of target pests and make sure that diagnostic support to identify the surveillance samples is available.

Achievements and highlights

- a pilot high-risk site surveillance program undertaken in Queensland, Victoria and NSW detected no exotic pests, informing activities and resources for a national program
- pathway risk analysis finalised, with a statistical model developed to help identify high-risk pathways for the entry of forest pests
- a draft partnership between industry and government has been developed and significant consultation has occurred within the plantation timber industry to discuss funding arrangements and governance of a National Forest Pest Surveillance Program.

National forum focuses on protecting forests

In October 2019, senior representatives from the Australian Government, state governments, and forest sector met in Melbourne to discuss a proposed National Forest Pest Surveillance Program.

All parties attending supported the need for a national program to mitigate the risks posed by exotic forest pests to Australia's native forests, plantations and urban trees.

The program proposes a comprehensive set of coordinated post-border surveillance activities including high-risk site surveillance at points of entry. It also includes stakeholder surveillance in urban and peri-urban areas where exotic forest pests are likely to first enter and establish.

Attendees agreed to work with the National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Group and PHA's National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator, Paco Tovar, to finalise details of the program and its agreed partnership arrangements.



The national forum on forest pest surveillance was preceded by forums in each state and territory. (L-R): Chief Environmental Protection Officer, Ian Thompson, and PHA's National Forest Biosecurity Coordinator, Paco Tovar, at the ACT forum

Coordinated surveillance to strengthen grain

The Australian grains industry is better protected from exotic pests and diseases with the development of a National Grain Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy.



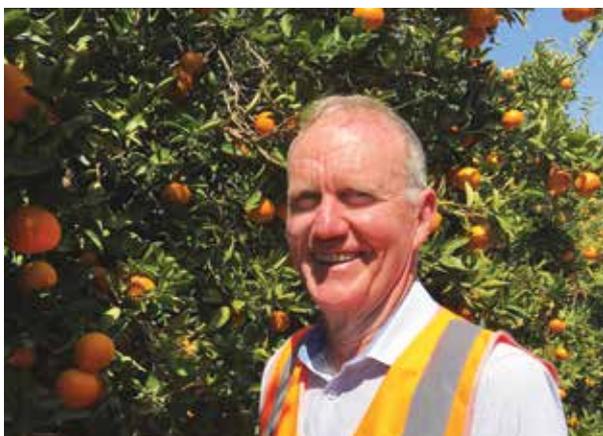
Stuart Kearns, National Manager Preparedness and RD&E at PHA, led the development of the strategy, along with Grain Producers Australia.

While there are many important surveillance activities occurring for and by the grain industry, gap analysis revealed that they are inconsistent and uncoordinated.

There's also an increasing proportion of surveillance being done by industry, agribusiness and the science and research community that sits outside of governments. In fact, in the grain industry, surveillance activities are made up almost entirely of industry programs.

The National Grain Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy was developed to guide coordination and integration of surveillance efforts by the multiple players. It was designed to fit within existing national strategies and programs, but also looked at the specific needs of the grain industry.

The strategy's implementation will require strong stakeholder partnerships, robust governance and a sustainable and equitable funding model, issues that should be addressed in the implementation plan.



Jeff Milne, the National Citrus Surveillance Coordinator

National Citrus Biosecurity Program

The Australian citrus industry provides significant value to rural communities and the economy, given the value of annual production in 2018–19 reached \$829 million (LVP), with over half exported.

The industry faces several significant exotic pest threats and, as a result, has been strongly engaged in biosecurity for some time.

To improve biosecurity preparedness the citrus industry, through Hort Innovation, invested in a biosecurity preparedness project. To complement this, the Australian Government through the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper invested in a National Citrus Biosecurity Surveillance project. Together, these projects make up the National Citrus Biosecurity Program (NCBP).

The National Citrus Surveillance Steering Committee, comprising industry and government representatives, provides overarching governance to the NCBP.

As part of these projects, the National Citrus Surveillance Coordinator, Jeff Milne, is employed by Citrus Australia. His work focuses on surveillance, awareness, capacity building, emergency response and preparedness activities. The aim is to develop a nationally coordinated program for surveillance activities for its High Priority Pests.

Achievements and highlights

- a surveillance guide on Asian citrus psyllid was developed to support surveillance undertaken by citrus consultants and growers
- surveillance data was captured using MyPestGuide™ and the collation of data in AUSPestCheck™ commenced
- data from surveillance undertaken for export protocols was collected from several commercial production areas for four High Priority Pests of citrus
- the citrus industry continued monitoring and governance of citrus biosecurity activities through its Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
- information packages were completed for emergency permits for pesticides for use against five High Priority Pests (Asiatic citrus psyllid, African citrus psyllid, glassy winged sharpshooter, brevipalpus mites and exotic thrips) which can be used to rapidly submit applications if needed.

New tool to strengthen bee surveillance

State and territory apiary and biosecurity officers had their first look at a new tool to streamline the collection of bee pest surveillance data in March 2020.

The Bee Surveillance Portal is an online application which has been developed to manage the data collected by the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) field activities.

Over 20 officers were introduced to the Portal via a series of virtual training sessions, hosted by PHA's Bee Pest Surveillance Coordinator, Dr Jenny Shanks, who led the development of the application.

The Bee Surveillance Portal streamlines the collection of bee pest surveillance data, with an easy to follow workflow to enter surveillance data for at least nine different types of exotic bee pests. It also includes an interactive map showing key locations such as target ports, sentinel hives and catch boxes.

Using the Portal will improve the overall management of the NBPSP for all jurisdictions and the national coordinator, PHA, by providing a central online space for surveillance data to be collated.

While the application is only accessible by officers directly involved in the NBPSP, the data collated using the Portal will support Australia's pest free status and reporting obligations nationally and internationally.



The Bee Surveillance Portal is an online application which has been developed to manage the data collected by the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program

National Bee Pest Surveillance Program

The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) is an early warning system to detect new incursions of a wide range of pests. Surveillance is conducted at sea and airports throughout Australia considered to be the most likely entry points for bee pests and pest bees.

The program is funded predominantly through pollination-reliant industries (Hort Innovation and Grain Producers Australia), with further funding support from AHBIC and the Australian Government.

This year PHA, in collaboration with the NBPSP Steering Committee, coordinated a review of the program by an independent consultant. This review will provide recommendations for the design and management structure of the future program.

With additional funding from the Australian Competitiveness White Paper, significant enhancements to key areas in the program have also been made. These areas include virus diagnostics, Asian honey bee surveillance, updating the program's operations manual, improving data capture arrangements, enhancing the function of and providing additional remote catch boxes, and trials of Asian hornet traps.

The program conducts surveillance activities for 19 pests of concern to the Australian honey bee industry.

Achievements and highlights

- surveillance activities began on Norfolk Island in December 2019
- inspections for internal and external mites, bee viruses, pests such as braula fly and large African hive beetle, and exotic pest bees have been done, totaling over 5,000 surveillance activities
- three consolidated permits for use of chemicals for surveillance, eradication and management have been submitted to APVMA
- a literature review on surveillance techniques for Asian honey bee has been completed
- virus diagnostic capacity has been established in two laboratories
- development of a National Diagnostic Protocol for exotic bee viruses has been undertaken
- an online data management tool – the Bee Surveillance Portal – has been finalised and system users have been trained
- standard operating procedures have been revised
- floral resources at high-risk ports have been mapped
- a trial of Asian hornet traps and lures was completed, with information and recommendations provided
- 40 remote catch boxes have been developed.



Apiary officers in Victoria sweep netting to capture bees for bee-lining back to colonies. Image courtesy of Jenny Shanks

Northern Australia Industry Liaison Officer

The Australian Government, through the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, funded the position of a Northern Australian Industry Liaison Officer to develop and strengthen links between northern Australia's plant industries and all tiers of government.

During the year the liaison officer, Trevor Dunmall, who is employed by PHA, assisted industry engagement and participation in surveillance initiatives across northern Australia by disseminating information and taking part in developing surveillance protocols. He also engaged with plant industries to implement biosecurity preparedness initiatives.

Achievements and highlights

- completed extensive consultation with representatives from industries and governments to support a range of projects to improve surveillance
- following a workshop with industry and government stakeholders, the Northern Plant Industries Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy was developed
- training material to support crop pest surveillance in northern Australia developed.

Surveillance in northern Australia



Development of a Northern Plant Industries Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy was undertaken through funding provided from the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. Development of the strategy involved consultation with key stakeholders on the requirements for surveillance for plant pests in northern

Australia. The strategy provides a roadmap and investment plan for a surveillance program.

To help develop the strategy, separate projects were undertaken to communicate the importance of pest pathways into and within northern Australia and to understand and profile smaller tropical fruit crops.

A Steering Committee was also established to guide potential implementation.

Achievements and highlights

- material for communication on pest pathways in northern Australia developed, including:
 - an animated video for workers on the importance of reducing movement of pests via people, equipment and vehicles. The video has voice over and subtitle translations in Bislama, French, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin (simplified), Tetum, Tongan and Vietnamese
 - a fact sheet and pamphlet, also in multiple languages
- information gathered and a report provided on tropical fruit crops grown in small volumes northern Australia.

National Temperate Fruit Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy

This year, work continued on the development of a Temperate Fruit Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy. The diverse range of crops being considered included pome fruit (apples and pears), grapes (table, wine and dried), cherries, stone fruit (apricots, nectarines, peaches and plums), berries and almonds.

These industries face a range of exotic pest threats which could significantly impact production systems through a combination of yield loss, reduced quality and increased need for chemicals to be applied to manage pests, or changes in the complexity of management systems.

For industries interested in expanding their export markets, biosecurity practices and pest surveillance are a priority to ensure retention of current markets and to gain access to new ones.

Achievements and highlights

- consulted with representatives from temperate fruit industries and WA, SA, Victoria, Tasmania, NSW and Queensland governments
- National Temperate Fruit Surveillance Strategy developed in consultation with relevant industries and jurisdictions
- potential mechanisms for proposed governance of a National Temperate Fruit Surveillance Program identified.



Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network

A new hub of biosecurity information for botanic gardens was launched in 2019 to build biosecurity knowledge and capacity to protect botanic gardens from plant pests and diseases.

Botanic Gardens are the most visited destinations by overseas tourists in Australia, with a higher likelihood that exotic pests and diseases will establish there.

The Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network is a community of practice bringing together botanic gardens staff, friends and volunteers and biosecurity experts. The aim is to empower people working in botanic gardens to help spread knowledge about biosecurity through communications and surveillance activities.

The network published practical information and advice on a website for staff of botanic gardens, community interest groups and members of the public to develop their knowledge and skills. The information will enable people to look out for and protect their botanic and home gardens from exotic plant pests and diseases.



Members of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne learning about surveillance for plants pests in November 2019

Establishing plant pest surveillance networks in botanic gardens

Australia has over 150 botanic gardens and arboreta that hold a range of native and introduced plant species. They are visited by millions of people each year and can be the one of the first sites visited by overseas travellers.



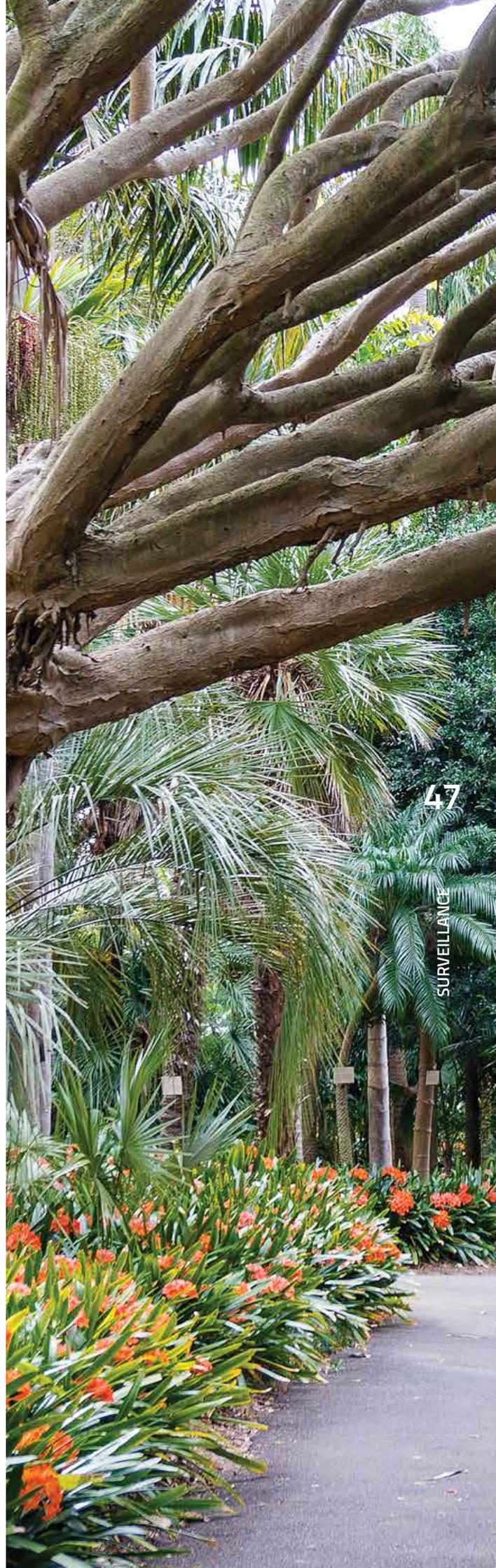
As a result, botanic gardens represent both a risk for establishment of new pests or diseases entering on the clothing or footwear of travellers, and an opportunity for the early detection of exotic pests and diseases before they become widely established.

PHA coordinated two initiatives to engage with botanic gardens to build pest surveillance capacity and data collection.

The first engaged staff of botanic gardens to undertake surveillance and provide data on pest absence (or any potential suspected presence). The second established links with 'friends of botanic gardens', providing hands-on help with horticultural care, research, outreach, advocacy and fundraising.

Achievements and highlights

- coordinated botanic gardens in WA, SA, Victoria, Tasmania, NSW and the ACT to undertake surveillance and provide data
 - in consultation with the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia–Pacific, training needs identified for surveillance in botanic gardens
 - five target pests selected for surveillance, based on being highly visible, either exotic or confined to localised areas in Australia, and host plants growing in the gardens
 - a training session held with botanic gardens staff, providing information on how to look for and collect data on the five target pests
 - a webinar series held, with presentations by a range of guest experts.
-



Citrus pest surveillance and triage workshop Mildura

A citrus surveillance workshop in Mildura in September 2019 built the skills of 52 industry and government personnel in triaging priority pests and diseases and providing samples to diagnostic laboratories.

Attendees from all Australian states and territories, the citrus industry and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries took part in the workshop run by PHA. It was supported with funding from the Australian Government through DAWE and with assistance from Citrus Australia, Agriculture Victoria and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Participants put their training into practice and conducted surveillance for pests and diseases in two orchards at Trentham Cliffs in NSW. They were also given a demonstration of the loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) diagnostic technique and visited a fruit packing shed in Mildura.

The workshop facilitated sharing of knowledge and information between industry and government personnel on techniques to improve surveillance for citrus pests and sample collection for pest identification, while also increasing the understanding of the importance of surveillance for early detection and determining pest status.



Participants at the workshop donned full protective gear to practice in-field surveillance sampling techniques

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific was formed in 2017 to provide a platform for communication about plant pest surveillance and act as a coordination point for surveillance professionals and practitioners to strengthen surveillance capacity and capability across Australia and New Zealand.

The Annual Surveillance Workshop 2020 – usually attended by network members from several plant industries, the Australian Government, state governments, research agencies and New Zealand – was deferred until December 2020 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Achievements and highlights

- the Citrus Surveillance and Pest Triage workshop was held in September 2019, attended by 52 representatives from industry and government
- training checklists developed and recommendations provided to improve triage of pests
- initiation of the program of professional development to build surveillance capacity and capability.



SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

AUSPestCheck™

PHA implemented improvements to AUSPestCheck™ to provide an accessible national repository of plant biosecurity surveillance data, and a new, operational version of AUSPestCheck™ was finalised in June 2020 with funding from the Australian Government. Work is also being undertaken to consult with the animal sector to identify requirements and develop AUSPestCheck™ to determine its ability to include animal health data records. The work in the plant and animal sectors will ensure data are provided to nationally agreed standards, with a user-tailored data interrogation and reporting capability that meets plant health and pest status information needs at a domestic and international level.

PHA is improving data capture and expanding the number of target pests for the stakeholders entering data.

Achievements and highlights

- extensive consultation undertaken with plant and animal health surveillance stakeholders to determine national and jurisdictional data aggregation requirements
 - an upgraded version of AUSPestCheck™ with significant architectural improvements and features was released
 - the upgraded AUSPestCheck™ made ready to receive data in 2020–21 from surveillance programs including the National Plant Health Surveillance Program and industry-led surveillance initiatives.
-



Diagnostics



Australia's biosecurity system relies on fast and accurate identification of pests, especially when they may be exotic species.

50

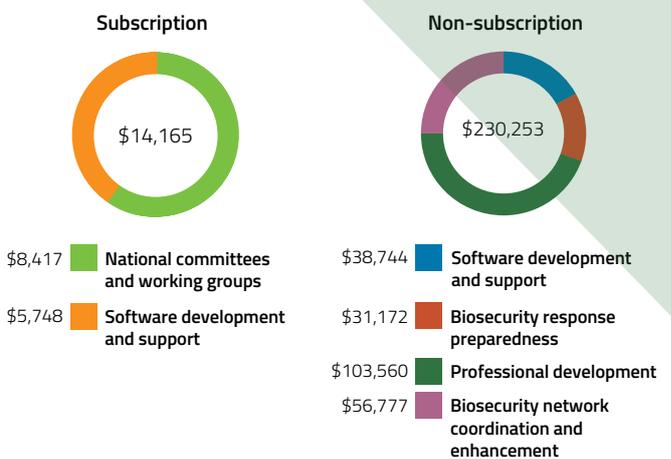
Efforts are being made to increase diagnostic preparedness for priority plant pests through the delivery of professional development activities and by supporting the network of Australian diagnosticians to improve the sharing of skills and knowledge and drive ongoing collaborations.

The identification of key exotic pests is being facilitated through the development of diagnostic tools such as lucid keys and diagnostic protocols.

Key aims of this area include:

- more diagnostic protocols developed and reviewed for Australia's priority plant pest threats
- Australia's diagnostic network enhanced
- diagnostician capability improved
- Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics work supported.

Figure 10. Diagnostics expenditure 2019–20



Member subscription

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

As a member on the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD), PHA supports the implementation of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy, which ensures the ongoing delivery of effective and accurate plant pest diagnostics to support responses to emergency plant pests. PHA also worked with the subcommittee to review implementation of the strategy and to set the vision for 2020–30 in its second edition.

As coordinator of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network (NPBDN), PHA helps to strengthen connections between diagnosticians. The network also provides professional development opportunities to build national diagnostic capability and capacity.

SPHD provides national leadership in delivering agreed diagnostic standards for the definitive identification of plant pests and to support surveillance activities, investigating laboratory capacity, coordinating the National Plant Health Proficiency Testing Program and progressing the implementation of the National Plant Pest Reference Collections Strategy.

Achievements and highlights

- contributed to SPHD and associated Network Implementation Working Group meetings
- contributed to the strategic direction of SPHD including:
 - the review of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics Strategy
 - working with the SPHD executive to identify and develop a suite of projects to address critical gaps in diagnostic capability.



Non-subscription

REDEVELOPMENT OF PADIL

PaDIL (Pest and Disease Image Library) padil.gov.au is a valuable tool that provides high quality images of plant pests to support diagnostics. PHA is one of the four owners of PaDIL intellectual property and is working with the other PaDIL owners to ensure its ongoing availability, including moving PaDIL to PHA servers and implementation of appropriate image standards to manage content in the system. Enhancements to the system are also in preparation.

Achievements and highlights

- the PaDIL site was transferred into the PHA hosting servers and its redevelopment initiated
- steering committee established to provide governance to improve the PaDIL site and develop image standards.

BIOSECURITY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

Development of National Diagnostic Protocols

National Diagnostic Protocols (NDPs) provide instructions for the definitive taxonomic identification of plant pests and are the agreed procedures to use in the event of a suspect emergency plant pest detection. Specific surveillance information required to support submission of high-quality samples for diagnostics is now included in the protocols. The protocols are developed by experts from the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network and endorsed by SPHD.

This year, PHA worked with SPHD to facilitate the development of new national diagnostic protocols for pests on the National Priority Plant Pest list, including updating existing documents where required.

Achievements and highlights

- review of the Texas root rot NDP completed
- development of three new NDPs initiated:
 - Xylella vectors
 - termites in the genus *Coptotermes*
 - *Ceratocystis fimbriata* and related taxa
- co-funding secured for the development of an NDP for a pest which would have significant environmental impacts.



Proficiency testing of diagnostic laboratories

Verification of the Australian diagnostic system's reliability occurs through the delivery of the National Plant Health Proficiency Testing Program, which is run by the Australian National Quality Assurance Program under the guidance of SPHD. Proficiency testing assesses the ability of Australian diagnostic laboratories to correctly identify plant pests in blind testing. PHA supports this program by facilitating the provision of verified plant pest samples prior to distribution to laboratories.

Implementation of the National Plant Pest Reference Collections Strategy

The National Plant Pest Reference Collections Strategy 2018 provides direction for the enhancement of biological reference collections to ensure that they support trade and biosecurity needs. PHA is working with the Reference Collections Implementation Plan Working Group of SPHD to coordinate the analysis of available reference collection specimens for National Priority Plant Pests (NPPPs) and providing guidance on the development of standards for curation and vouchering of specimens in collections.

Achievements and highlights

- facilitated the analysis of reference sample coverage and needs for NPPPs by running a tender process and appointing a service provider
 - developed a strategy for the development of curation and vouchering standards
 - initiated a project to assess whether NPPPs are present in reference collections.
-

BUILDING DIAGNOSTIC CAPABILITY

PHA continues to boost Australia's diagnostic capability by supporting a coordinated network of experts that comprehensively covers national expertise.

The National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network Professional Development Framework, which is endorsed by SPHD, describes specific activities that target identified gaps in diagnostic capability and capacity.

Under this framework, PHA facilitates the delivery and evaluation of activities, including the Diagnostic Residential Program, pest- or technique-specific training workshops, and the well-regarded Annual Diagnosticians' Workshop.

Achievements and highlights

The following professional development activities were delivered under the NPBDN:

- the Annual Diagnosticians' Workshop 2020
 - two projects in the diagnostic residential program, with three additional projects delayed due to COVID-19
 - the Khapra Beetle and Related Dermestid Beetle Identification workshop
 - the Miridae and Lygaeoidea training workshop
 - advertising, planning and/or logistics of various diagnostic workshops delivered by NPBDN members.
-

Annual Diagnostician's Workshop 2020

The ninth Annual Diagnostician's Workshop held in Brisbane in March 2020 brought together diagnosticians from Australia and New Zealand to share their current diagnostic activities and experiences.

The 84 attendees represented 19 organisations including all jurisdictions, the Australian Government, the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, Scion Research, CSIRO, Sugar Research Australia, multiple universities and museums, and PHA.

The annual event plays an important role in strengthening the capability of and connection between members of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network. The theme was 'Over the Horizon – pests and tests', reflected in member talks, diagnostic residential reports, and panel and workshop sessions.

Attendees were provided with updates on activities such as the review of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy and the priority list of exotic environmental pests. They also learnt about protocols and standards being developed by members of the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific.

The Australian Government DAWE provided funding for the workshop. Multiple organisations provided added financial support to allow more of their staff to attend this year's workshop.



Participants of the Annual Diagnostician's Workshop in March 2020



RD&E



PHA invests in the coordination, planning and implementation of plant biosecurity research, development and extension (RD&E). This ensures that plant biosecurity science carried out in Australia delivers maximum benefit.

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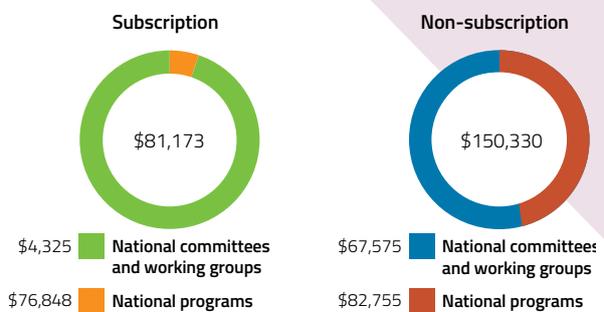
This year, PHA continued to ensure that scientists tackle research issues that matter most to the Australian plant biosecurity system through the work of the Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI).

PHA contributes some funds to coordinate RD&E from subscriptions in addition to non-subscription funding, so they are reported together here.

Key aims of the RD&E area include:

- facilitating the implementation of the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy
- holding workshops to agree on RD&E priorities
- monitoring RD&E activities, capability and capacity.

Figure 11. RD&E expenditure 2019–20



Member subscription and non-subscription

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PHA provides the Chair, strategy leader and an executive officer to support the AGSOC National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy.

The AGSOC National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee is sponsored by Hort Innovation and Agriculture Victoria. Strengthening biosecurity RD&E enables effective management of economic, environmental and social risks posed by pests that may enter, emerge, establish or spread within Australia.

One chapter of the annual National Plant Biosecurity Status Report produced by PHA contains a list of all plant biosecurity RD&E projects underway in Australia, categorised by crop type and pest type. This annual audit informs implementation of the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy.

PHA is also part of the Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI), a collaboration between the seven plant RDCs and the DAWE which provides a conduit for the work of the RD&E strategy to be discussed and potentially funded as cross-sectoral projects.

Achievements and highlights

- PHA was a platinum sponsor of the Australasian Plant Pathology Conference in November 2019
 - facilitated a workshop on Fusarium that highlighted RD&E gaps
 - audits of viticulture, nematology and cross sectoral RD&E opportunities were completed and a review on bacteriology began
 - PHA ensured there were connections between the NBC RD&E committee, the environmental and animal biosecurity RD&E strategies:
 - Executive Director and CEO sat on NBC as an observer and Chaired the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee meetings
 - the strategy leader and executive officer regularly met with representatives from the environmental and animal biosecurity RD&E strategies
 - the executive officer was on the National Environment and Community RD&E Strategy Implementation Task Group.
 - although the CEO met with the Chair of the AGSOC R&I committee to discuss the role of the strategy, its redevelopment was put on hold pending a decision about its future.
-

Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative Symposium

The inaugural Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium held in Brisbane in August 2019 was an opportunity to share plant biosecurity RD&E in Australia and New Zealand.

The symposium, attended by 220 delegates, showcased research on pests, diseases and weeds affecting plant production systems and surrounding environments.

The focus was research by the seven plant R&D corporations that are members of the Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative and members of Better Border Biosecurity (B3) New Zealand.

One of the highlights of the symposium was a presentation by growers and industry representatives on lessons learnt during biosecurity incursions, what the impacts are and how to better prepare using the best available knowledge.



Image: courtesy of Tony Steeper

THE PLANT BIOSECURITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The PBRI is a partnership between Australia's seven plant industry R&D corporations, PHA and the DAWE which encourages collaboration and investment in research, with a focus on managing biosecurity threats to Australia's plant industries and the environment.

The RDC members of the PBRI are Agrifutures Australia, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Forest and Wood Products Australia, Grains Research and Development Corporation, Hort Innovation, Sugar Research Australia and Wine Australia, along with the Council of Rural R&D Corporations.

The national value of plant industries involved in the PBRI is almost \$30b per annum across the horticulture, wine, broadacre cropping and forestry industries.

PHA's Executive Director and CEO is Chair of the PBRI and worked closely with the initiative directly and through its work on the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy.

In March 2020, an MOU between the PBRI and the European Phytosanitary Research Coordination (Euphresco) was signed promoting greater collaboration for international efforts in plant health.

Achievements and highlights

- ensured PBRI work aligned with national priorities identified through the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy
- PBRI allocated \$47.3 million in funding to cross-sectoral plant biosecurity RD&E projects
- a \$15.7 M PBRI project was funded under the Rural R&D for Profit scheme. The project includes all plant RDCs, PHA, all states and territories and B3NZ, and aims to integrate industry networks into the NPBDN and build capability for the early detection and accurate identification of pests and diseases
- hosted the Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium in Brisbane in August 2019, with 220 researchers, industry and state and federal government plant biosecurity practitioners attending (see page 55).

Australia joins international plant health research network

Australia's Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI) signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Phytosanitary Research and Coordination Network (Euphresco) in March 2020.

Euphresco is a network of organisations that funds research projects and coordinates national research in plant health to optimise limited research resources and avoid duplication.

The signing of this MOU signals the sharing of knowledge between countries on common threats to agriculture and native environments, and it creates efficiencies in research investment.

Euphresco projects start as ideas, based on national priorities and are proposed by each Euphresco member. Then, through discussions, exchange and networking, the suggestions become projects.



Dr Baldissera Giovani from Euphresco and Dr Jo Luck, Program Director, Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative. Image courtesy of Tony Steeper



Company health



Sound management of PHA entails running the organisation with probity and in the interests of members.

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The Company Health area encompasses the systems of governance, financial control and risk management, plus the business processes and people that combine to enable PHA to fulfil its commitments to members.

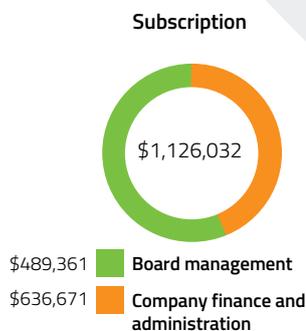
Transparent operating procedures, efficient business systems and maintaining expert and professional staff are major components in successful company management.

All company management activities are funded from member subscriptions.

PHA's key goals in this area are:

- attracting and retaining key staff skills
- maintaining PHA in a sound financial position
- meeting legal and regulatory compliance obligations
- timely and accurate reporting.

Figure 12. Company health expenditure 2019–20



Member subscription

BOARD MANAGEMENT

PHA had a skills-based board comprised of eight directors on 30 June 2020. One of those directors is the company Executive Director and CEO, and there was one director vacancy.

The Board has two formal subcommittees: the Finance and Audit Committee and the People and Culture Committee. A Board Selection Committee is established when necessary, usually every two years.

The Board Management budget area covers expenses associated with directors complying with company duties. This includes travel and accommodation, the Board selection process, operating Board committees and management and administration costs of arranging, supporting, and attending meetings.

A key performance indicator of this area is that the performance of PHA meets members' requirements as measured through an independent survey every three years (last done in 2018–19) and through other member consultation processes.

Achievements and highlights

- all legal and constitutional compliance requirements were met
- director attendance at relevant meetings exceeded 80 per cent
- Board selection process for one vacancy expected to conclude in November 2020.



COMPANY FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Company Finance and Administration area encompasses activities devoted to managing and maintaining PHA's capabilities to meet the business objectives outlined in the Annual Operational Plan.

Expenditure in this area is not directly associated with the management of specific budgeted programs. Expenditure in this area includes financial management and administration, internal and external audits, company performance reporting, human resource management (including the development of policies and procedures), staff development and training, information services and business development, as well as aspects of servicing and supporting the PHA Board.

Other activities include consultancies on issues specific to corporate management, travel costs of staff representing PHA that are not attributable to specific programs, regulatory compliance, and legal and other professional advice on matters of corporate management.

PHA CEO succession planning was discussed by the Board throughout the year and in April 2020 the Board announced the next CEO.

Achievements and highlights

- worked with various industry members and the Australian Government to establish and activate various statutory biosecurity levies
- company human resources plan was reviewed and updated
- risk management plan regularly updated and reviewed.
- successfully managed the change of external auditor
- managed COVID-19 consequences with no adverse financial effect to the company.

Next Plant Health Australia CEO announced

In April 2020, the Board of PHA announced that Sarah Corcoran had been appointed as the company's next Chief Executive Officer, following a rigorous recruitment process over a number of months.

Sarah has over 20 years' experience in biosecurity and leading responses to exotic pest and disease incursions. She was the Executive Director, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare; Infrastructure and Major Projects with the NT Government and has been at the forefront in leading the response to the citrus canker outbreak. Prior to that, Sarah held senior plant biosecurity positions with the Queensland Government and led the largest invasive ant eradication program ever undertaken in Australia.

Throughout her career, Sarah has been an active participant in Australia's national biosecurity preparedness and response arrangements and was the NT Government's representative on the National Biosecurity Committee. She is also a Member of the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis Advisory Board.

Sarah takes over the role currently held by long-serving Executive Director and CEO, Greg Fraser, who finished his term at PHA on 8 July 2020.

COOPERATION WITH ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

PHA and Animal Health Australia collaborate on several initiatives, some of which have been covered earlier in the Annual Report. These initiatives include:

- management of the Farm Biosecurity Program
- collaboration between the communication teams
- collaboration on training programs
- management of the National Biosecurity Response Team
- management of cross sectoral issues such as weeds and pastures
- harmonisation of policy issues relating to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed
- drafting the Aquatic Deed
- collaboration on the implementation of the relevant AGSOC RD&E cross-sectoral biosecurity strategies.

Each year, the boards of both organisations endeavour to hold a joint meeting, the most recent of which took place in July 2019.



Corporate governance



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Plant Health Australia Annual Report 2020

The PHA Board

PHA strives for a system of corporate governance that allows the Board and management enough freedom to drive the organisation forward, with an effective framework of accountability.

Information on the experience and expertise of PHA's Directors is provided on pages 70–73.

The PHA Constitution stipulates that the PHA Board is skills-based, with between five and nine directors.

Where positions become vacant, Directors are appointed after a selection process. A Board Selection Committee convened for that purpose considers all candidates and puts forward recommendations to members for voting and approval at an Annual General Meeting.

FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

Responsibility for the operation and administration of the company is delegated by the Board to the CEO and the executive management team.

The Board ensures that this team is appropriately qualified and experienced to discharge their responsibilities and that the performance of the CEO and the executive management team is monitored.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that management's objectives and activities are aligned with the expectations and risks identified by the Board.

The Board has several mechanisms in place to ensure this is achieved including:

- approving the strategic direction and Strategic Plan for PHA
- reviewing the external strategic environment continually
- approving Annual Operational Plans designed to meet stakeholders' needs
- monitoring the implementation of budgets by management and progress against agreed plans via the establishment and reporting of financial and non-financial key performance indicators
- reviewing the company's performance in implementing the Strategic Plan against agreed key performance indicators annually
- approving the Annual Report and other periodic performance reports
- approving and monitoring the progress of capital expenditure, capital management and acquisitions and divestitures
- overseeing and approving appropriate company policies

- ensuring that any significant risks that arise are identified, assessed, appropriately managed and monitored
- reporting to members
- reviewing the PHA staff succession plan annually.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Board has developed a rolling four-year program to evaluate its performance. Review involves a mix of internal and external review processes, training, and workshops. Each year, the directors of PHA evaluate the performance of the CEO and review staff succession planning.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any actual or potential conflict of interest pertaining to a director is fully disclosed to the Board and is dealt with as a standing item at each Board meeting.

BOARD MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES

The PHA Board meets formally at least four times during the year, holds a separate strategy meeting, and additional meetings are scheduled as required. Board committees are responsible for considering detailed issues and making recommendations to the Board.

Participation

Directors are encouraged to be actively involved at all meetings and to ensure that their views are expressed and considered. They are required to bring an independent judgement to bear in decision making. Management provides the Board and its committees with information in a form and quality that enables the Board to effectively discharge its duties in a timely manner.

Finance and Audit Committee

It is the Board's responsibility to ensure that an effective internal control framework exists within the company. This includes controls to deal with the effectiveness and efficiency of significant business processes, the safeguarding of assets, the maintenance of proper accounting records, and the reliability of financial information as well as non-financial considerations such as the benchmarking of operational key performance indicators.

The Finance and Audit Committee operates under terms of reference reviewed and approved annually by the Board. The committee provides the Board with additional assurance regarding the reliability of financial information and risk for inclusion in the financial reports. All members of the committee are non-executive Directors and meet at least four times a year.

People and Culture Committee

During the year, the Board established a new People and Culture Committee to replace and expand on the functions of the previous Remuneration Committee.

The principle roles of this committee are to:

- assist and advise the Board on matters relating to the performance, remuneration and recruitment of the CEO
- review all PHA Human Resource policies and make recommendations to the Board
- review minutes of the Workplace Health and Safety Committee
- manage Board performance reviews.

Other committees

As required, the Board establishes a selection committee for recommending candidates to members for election as directors of the company.

Financial management

PHA received an unqualified independent audit opinion for the 2019–20 financial statements (see pages 98–99).

AUDIT

As a matter of good governance, the Board requested tenders during the year for the external audit of the Company. The incumbent external auditor, EY, chose not to tender for the work and Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd was successful from a field of five candidates.

The Finance and Audit Committee is satisfied as to the independence of the external auditor, Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd, which has acted in the capacity of external auditor for the year end audit.

CFO CERTIFICATION

In accordance with section 295A of the *Corporations Act 2001*, the CFO has provided a written statement to auditors that:

- their view provided on the company's financial report is founded on a sound system of risk management and internal compliance and control which implements the financial policies adopted by the Board
- the company's risk management and internal compliance and control system is operating effectively in all material respects.

The Board noted that due to its nature, internal control assurance from the CFO can only be reasonable rather than absolute. This is due to such factors as the need for judgement, the use of testing on a sample basis, the inherent limitations in internal control and because much of the evidence available is persuasive rather than conclusive and therefore is not and cannot be designed to detect all weaknesses in control procedures.

Risk management

The PHA Board is responsible for identifying areas of significant risk to the business and for ensuring that arrangements are in place to adequately manage those risks. The Board determines the company's risk profile and is responsible for overseeing risk management strategy, policy and compliance. Since the Board takes the view that it is crucial for all Board members to be a part of this process, it has not established a separate risk management committee.

Management is required by the Board to continually monitor risks and associated internal compliance and control procedures. At each Board meeting, management is also required to report on the company's key risks, and the extent to which these risks are being adequately managed. The responsibility of undertaking and assessing risk management and internal control effectiveness on a day-to-day basis is delegated to management through the CEO.

Decisions of the Board are made with reference to legal, financial, political, reputation and relationship risks to the company. The PHA Risk Management Plan provides a framework for the identification, analysis, evaluation and management of risks that could affect the ongoing operation and viability of PHA both at a corporate and program level.

The company's process of risk management and internal compliance and control includes:

- implementing and monitoring strategies and policies to achieve the company's goals and objectives
- continuous monitoring of risks that might impact upon the achievement of the company's goals and objectives
- internal auditing
- ongoing environmental scanning that contributes to a rolling situational analysis of present and future threats and opportunities
- formulating risk management strategies to manage identified risks, and designing and implementing appropriate risk management policies and internal controls
- monitoring the performance of, and continuously improving the effectiveness of, risk management systems
- working to preserve PHA's reputation
- complying with applicable laws and regulations
- preparing and delivering ongoing induction training on company policies and procedures for new staff
- using company resources efficiently.

Corporate responsibilities

The company presented its Annual Report, including performance against indicators for the 2018–19 year, to members at the Annual General Meeting in Canberra in November 2019. A Mid-year Performance Report was distributed to members in the first quarter of 2020.

All obligations to lodge company returns were met, and PHA discharged all its corporate responsibilities under the *Corporations Act 2001*, other laws and legislation, and under the company's constitution.

A draft Annual Operational Plan for 2020–21 was discussed with members in March 2020. Taking account of feedback from members, a final Annual Operational Plan was presented to members at the General Meeting of the company in May 2020.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

PHA staff are conscious that they need to actively consider more than just members' interests and the financial bottom line – the social and environmental impacts of business decisions are also important.

Given the nature of what PHA does – working to minimise the impact of plant pests on production and ecosystems – it is easy to keep broader social responsibility in sight. All employees and Directors are keenly aware that the company's activities are important to the productivity and livelihood of growers, the environment, the sustainability of rural and regional Australia, the economy and the broader community. The company supports the health and wellbeing of staff members, appreciating that people are PHA's main resource.



People management

PHA pursues ways of supporting, engaging and challenging our staff through recognition, development and performance planning and assessment.

PHA regularly conducts an independent staff survey (last done in 2018–19) to assess ratings of conditions and give staff the chance to provide feedback on conditions and workplace morale.

REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

PHA endeavours to retain a high-quality Board and management team by remunerating Directors and staff fairly and appropriately within budget constraints and with reference to relevant employment market conditions. Market conditions are monitored through subscription to independent salary reviews.

Staff at PHA are on individual employment agreements and are afforded a certain amount of flexibility to facilitate work-life balance. Where possible, some flexibility in hours, including part time arrangements, is provided to allow staff to combine the requirements of their roles with the demands of family life.

All staff members have access to the Employee Assistance Program run by SMG Health, which provides assistance to managers and counselling for anyone who needs help with any work or personal issues at no cost. Another benefit appreciated by staff at PHA is free vaccination against influenza for all staff members and their partners each autumn.

DEVELOPING OUR STAFF

PHA is committed to providing ongoing development opportunities for all staff to ensure that the workforce remains skilled and engaged.

Each year, PHA personnel undergo a performance review to assess their strengths and any areas for future development. Where appropriate, reviews are followed by access to training or experiences that allow staff to extend their skills and knowledge base. In recent years, staff have been seconded to, and from, the DAWE for staff development and to build mutual understanding and cooperation between the organisations.

ENSURING A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT

PHA has a standing Workplace Health and Safety Committee that meets a minimum of four times a year to actively seek out any risks to the health, safety and wellbeing of staff. The committee ensures compliance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (Commonwealth) and state legislation.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Staff members are employed under terms and conditions consistent with equal employment opportunity principles and legislation. PHA welcomes new members of staff from within Australia and from around the world and is proud that its workforce enjoys cultural diversity while remaining a cohesive team.





Corporate information

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DIRECTORS

S. D. McCutcheon (Chairman)
E. K. Alexander (Deputy Chairman)
J. C. Daly
M. A. Finlayson
G. S. Fraser (Chief Executive Officer)
K. G. Halbert
P. A. McMichael
D. J. Phillips
R. W. Prince

COMPANY SECRETARY

M. J. Milne

REGISTERED OFFICE

Level 1, 1 Phipps Close, Deakin, ACT 2600

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

Level 1, 1 Phipps Close, Deakin, ACT 2600

SOLICITORS

Maddocks Lawyers
Level 1, 40 Macquarie Street, Barton, ACT 2600

BANKERS

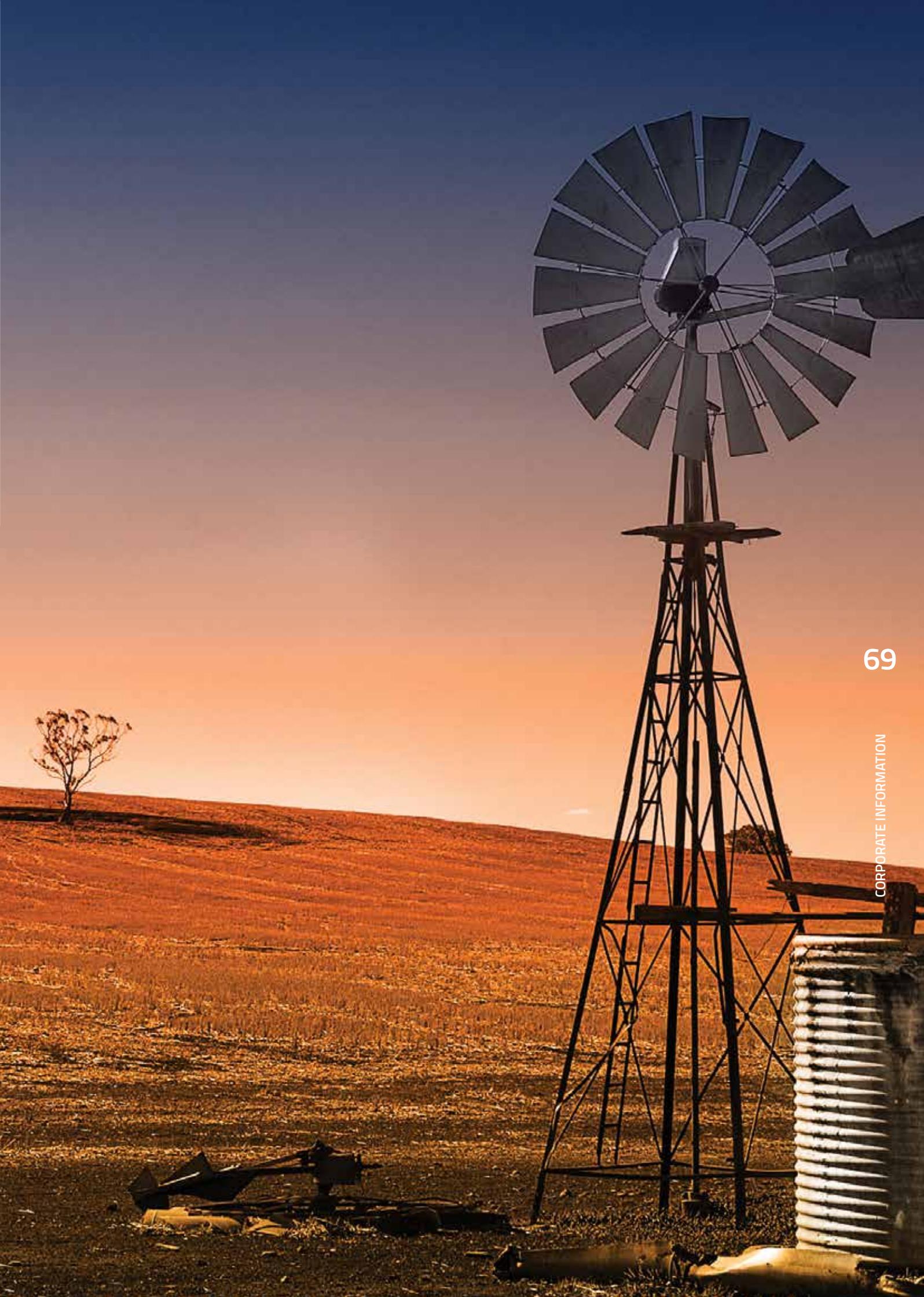
National Australia Bank Limited
39 Wollongong Street, Fyshwick, ACT 2609

AUDITORS

Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd
Ground Floor, 15 National Circuit, Barton ACT

ABN

ABN 97 092 607 997



Directors' report

Board of Directors

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Your Directors submit their report on Plant Health Australia Limited (PHA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

Unless otherwise stated, the names and details of the company's Directors in office during the whole financial year and until the date of this report are as follows:

Steve McCutcheon

Appointed Director on 25 November 2015
Appointed Chair on 23 November 2017



Steve has a Bachelor of Economics degree from Sydney University and a Graduate Diploma in Public Law from the Australian National University. He has extensive experience in working with the primary production sector in private and public sector settings.

From 1980–87, Steve worked in a number of positions in the banking sector related to rural lending. He then spent 20 years with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture working initially with the grains, industrial crops and horticulture sectors to implement government economic reforms. Later, as Executive Manager of the Department's Product Integrity Animal and Plant Health Division, he administered the Australian Government's role in national biosecurity arrangements and its participation in the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

In 2007, Steve was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). He held this position until his retirement in 2017 and during his tenure led the development of a range of new food standards, including a number of primary production and processing standards.

Steve has held a number of board positions, including the Dried Fruits Research and Development Council, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, Australian Plague Locust Commission, FSANZ, and was appointed to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment's Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) in 2017. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Liz Alexander

Appointed Director on 27 November 2013
Appointed Deputy Chair 29 November 2018

Based in Emerald, Queensland, Liz Alexander is the Agribusiness Development Coordinator for the Central Highlands Development Corporation (CHDC). She leads CHDC's Central Highlands Accelerate Agribusiness (CHAA) initiative, working with stakeholders to grow productivity and profitability for all agribusiness within the region. In her role, Liz founded the AgFrontier Regional Agtech Incubator and developed and facilitates the AgTeCH events held annually in Emerald and Mungindi, NSW.

She has extensive knowledge of dryland and irrigated cropping industries, and experience across natural resource management, agricultural extension and water policy.

Liz obtained a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Rural Systems Management from the University of Queensland. She is a non-executive Director for the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, for which she chairs the Intellectual Property and Commercialization Committee.

Previously, Liz was a Director of Cotton Australia and the Chair of Theodore Water, the Theodore Irrigation LMA Interim Board and Glencore's Clermont Open Cut Mine Groundwater and Environmental Reference Group. She is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Joanne Daly

Appointed Director on 25 November 2015



Dr Joanne Daly is a consultant in agricultural sciences and a CSIRO Honorary Fellow. She has extensive experience in research, research management and governance in the area of agriculture and biosecurity. She retired from CSIRO in December 2015.

Joanne has a PhD from the Department of Population Biology at the Australian National University, and 35 years of experience as an evolutionary biologist and entomologist, working in the areas of agricultural and environmental science.

Joanne has held a wide range of senior and executive leadership roles at CSIRO in agricultural sciences. Currently, she is Chair of the Scientific Advisory Group (biosecurity) to the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, a member of the Advisory

Committee on Chemical Scheduling for the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and was engaged by the Atlas of Living Australia to lead national consultations for their new strategic plan.

Previously, she has been a member of a range of government advisory bodies in agriculture and biosecurity, including the Biosecurity Advisory Council, ACIAR Commission, Chair of Science Reference Panel for Yellow Canopy Syndrome in Sugar Cane, Chair of the international Global Biodiversity Information Facility, and Chair of Science Advisory Panel for Landcare New Zealand's National Collections. She has been awarded the Public Service Medal, is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.



Greg Fraser

Appointed Director on 17 November 2008
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer until July 2020

Greg Fraser has a diverse background in Australian agriculture having worked in tropical and temperate horticulture, broadacre agriculture, sugarcane, cotton, and forestry industries. Greg holds degrees in science and management and is a Fellow of Ag Institute Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Previous positions have included commercial responsibilities across Australia, New Zealand and in Asia, leading roles in crop biotechnology as inaugural Chairman of Agrifood Awareness, Chairman of the Biotechnology Industry Group at Avcare and establishing Australia's

first commercial genetically modified canola breeding operation. Greg also played a significant role in restructuring of Australia's wheat breeding landscape as Director of Enterprise Grains Australia prior to joining the Grains Research and Development Corporation as an Executive.

He has held membership on several boards since 1993 and managed various enterprises in the agricultural, chemical and biotechnology industries. Greg was recently appointed a Director of Citrus Australia Ltd and the New Zealand Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) College of Assessors.



Kim Halbert

Appointed Director on 22 November 2017

Appointed Chair of Finance and Audit Committee on 19 November 2019

Kim Halbert was a grain grower from the mid-west of Western Australia for the past 36 years. Currently he is running a livestock enterprise just east of Perth. He has a combination of skills and experience from grain and livestock production, government policy, corporate leadership through to finance, risk and auditing.

Kim spent six years as Deputy Chair of the Grains Research and Development Corporation, and understands production issues, industry operations and planning for pest incursions. He has served as a Director of Wheat Exports Australia, the Grain Licensing Authority in Western Australia, and the Mid-West Ports Authority.

Kim is currently a Director of PHA, Animark Ltd and Wheat Quality Australia.

He has undertaken large strategic planning processes while on the Board of GRDC and Mid-West Ports, chairing the GRDC and the Mid-West Ports Authority Finance Risk and Audit committees, and the Commercialisation Committee at GRDC. Kim has a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a double major in finance and economics from Curtin University and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Prue McMichael

Appointed Director on 22 November 2017

Dr Prue McMichael is a career plant pathologist operating predominantly in horticulture and viticulture. She has had broad exposure to southern Australian production regions and industries, including grapes, almonds, pistachios, citrus, nursery, vegetables, and potatoes.

Prue's technical skills in plant health management, industry development, biosecurity, diagnostics and risk assessment, have been applied across Australia and California on-farm, and in research and extension roles. She has extensive experience with practical biosecurity initiatives and on-farm activities that minimise pest and business impact. Of particular interest to her are planting material schemes and the determination of 'high health' parameters and 'quality' assurances.

Prue is a Fellow of the Ag Institute Australia, Chair of Vinehealth Australia, and serves in SA branches of the GM Crop Advisory Committee, Australasian Plant Pathology Society, and Ag Institute Australia. She graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from the University of Adelaide, and from the University of California, Davis with MSc and PhD degrees in Plant Pathology.



Doug Phillips

Appointed Director on 22 November 2017

Doug Phillips served as a Director and Chairman of the Australian Banana Growers' Council during two separate exotic disease incursions: banana freckle and Panama tropical race 4. He understands plant health policy and government policy processes, plant health management and international trends in plant health practices from the unique perspective of an affected industry.

He has sound business and financial management skills and was involved in strategic planning processes for the banana and horticulture industries, and the development of strategic investment plans for the banana industry.

Doug has a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) from the University of Queensland and a Master of Business Administration from Deakin University. He is a Director of the Voice of Horticulture, and is co-owner and manager of Johnstone River Produce, producing banana, papaya and passionfruit in Far North Queensland.

He has received a number of awards including Banana Industry Award of Honour in 2017, the Department of Agricultural and Fisheries Queensland's Excellence in Industry Leadership Award in 2016, and was a finalist in the Peter Kenny Medal in 2016.



Robert Prince

Appointed Director on 25 November 2015

Robert Prince has experience of the horticulture industry in New Zealand, South Africa and Australia with broad experience with vegetable and fruit crops, specialty forestry, urban green infrastructure and the amenity plant market.

Robert has a Bachelor of Science degree and has held senior roles with Yates and Nursery and Garden Industry Australia as Chief Executive Officer, which has given him years of direct experience with incursions managed under the EPPRD and as a member of the National Management Group.

He has been involved with industry representative committees such as the Horticulture Water Initiative, Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL) Horticulture and Climate

Change Committee, HAL Leadership Development program, and for two years was Chair of HAL Members Representative Committee. He was also involved in the industry review committee for the new Biosecurity Bill and has been industry representative on the BICON (Biosecurity Import Conditions) working committee.

Robert is involved with the Association of International Production Horticulture and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Robert has served as Deputy Chair of PHA and been a member of the Finance and Audit Committee.

DIRECTORS WHO RETIRED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

Malcolm Finlayson

Appointed Director on 16 November 2011

Chair of Finance and Audit Committee from 16 November 2011 to 19 November 2019 when he retired as a Director



Malcolm Finlayson is a finance specialist with over thirty years' experience steering the financial management and strategies of businesses both large and small in the agricultural industry. He has a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) and an MBA. He is a CPA and a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Malcolm is an experienced Director with over 15 years on the boards of not-for-profit and commercial companies. He is currently a Director of Grain Trade Australia Ltd (GTA), Wheat Quality Australia Ltd, TurfBreed Pty Ltd and is Chair of Theodore Water Pty Ltd. He has previously chaired the Audit

and Finance Subcommittees for Grain Trade Australia and PHA. He runs his own consultancy firm, Finesse Solutions Pty Ltd, through which he assists many clients in the agricultural industry.

Previously, Malcolm was a Director of PentAG Nidera Pty Ltd and the Jossco Group entities. He has been a CFO for over twenty-five years and has had experience in the Angliss group, DR Johnston (now part of Graincorp), Jossco and ABB Grain (now part of Glencore). He has been responsible for group-wide reporting and administration, as well as finance and strategy.

COMPANY SECRETARY



Michael Milne

Appointed Company Secretary on 31 March 2006

Michael Milne has a National Diploma in Accounting (NZ) and a National Certificate in Business Studies (NZ). He has been a Chartered Accountant since 1991 and is a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Michael has been Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary at PHA since March 2006 and is responsible for company health which includes the administration and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) functions.

Michael has applied his financial experience across numerous businesses including cattle feedlots, abattoirs, fuel distribution and pharmaceuticals.

Prior to joining PHA Michael was Financial Controller for the Security Network Group Ltd, Financial Controller for Westoil Petroleum Pty Ltd, Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary for ANZCO Australia Pty Ltd and Director of several subsidiary companies.

Directors' meetings

Directors meetings are typically held to align with company events, particularly General Meetings. The number of meetings attended, and number of meetings held that each director was eligible to attend during the financial year was:

Director	Board of Directors		Finance & Audit committee		Remuneration committee	
	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend
Ms E. K. Alexander	4	5			2	2
Dr J. C. Daly	5	5			2	2
Mr M. A. Finlayson	1	1	2	2		
Mr G. S. Fraser	5	5	4	4		
Mr K. G. Halbert	5	5	4	4		
Mr S. D. McCutcheon	5	5	1	1	2	2
Dr P. A. McMichael	5	5	4	4		
Mr D. J. Phillips	4	5	2	2		
Mr R. W. Prince	5	5				

Notes

- In addition to Board meetings, there is a specific two-day Board strategy meeting each year. The meeting for 2019–20 was held in July 2019.
- Directors also attended a joint Board meeting with Animal Health Australia during the year to facilitate a closer working relationship between the two companies.
- Although the Chairman is not a member of the Finance and Audit Committee, he is invited to attend a meeting during the year.
- The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Fraser, is not a member of the Finance and Audit Committee but attended meetings during the reporting period as an observer.
- An unscheduled Board meeting was held in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic: Mr Phillips was unable to attend because of prior commitments.
- In previous years, the People and Culture Committee was referred to as the Remuneration Committee.



The PHA Board visited Sydney International Mail Centre in Sydney February 2019. Image courtesy of Liz Alexander

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of Plant Health Australia Limited during the financial year was to function as the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia.

No significant changes in the nature of activities occurred during the financial year.

OBJECTIVES

Consistent with the Objects for which the Company is established described in the Company's Constitution, Plant Health Australia Limited's principal objectives are as follows:

- provide strategic leadership in the development of a genuine industry and government partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia
- improve operation of emergency plant pest response arrangements in Australia, including administration and review of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed
- commission, coordinate, facilitate and manage national plant biosecurity programs and services
- secure agreement to a national strategy to guide improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of Australia's plant biosecurity system
- lead and contribute to the development of national agreements, arrangements, infrastructure, and policy in consultation with members and other relevant organisations
- bring ideas and priorities to the fore and provide effective leadership on the pest and disease incursion management framework
- maintain and improve international and domestic confidence in Australia's plant health status
- contribute to the sustainability of Australia's plant industries and the environment
- effectively engage with members and maintain high levels of accountability and goodwill
- increase PHA's capacity and scope to provide services for members and other stakeholders
- facilitate industry and government capacity and capability in plant biosecurity
- deliver effective, consultative, transparent, and auditable systems for the management of the company.

STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES

To achieve our objectives, Plant Health Australia Limited has adopted the following strategies:

- strengthen partnerships
- enhance national biosecurity response arrangements and implementation
- develop pest management and preparedness programs
- facilitate nationally coordinated surveillance program
- improve the diagnostic system
- coordinate planning and implementation of plant biosecurity RD&E
- manage the company effectively.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

Whilst all businesses are affected in some way by COVID-19, the financial effect on the Company to date has been relatively small and in no way alters the ability of the Company to continue as a going concern.

At various times, staff of the Company were offered the option to work from home as a consequence of the virus.

OPERATING RESULT FOR THE YEAR

The operating surplus for the year ended 30 June 2020 was \$131,870 (2019: \$23,166 surplus). The operating surplus was an improvement on the budgeted deficit of \$20,026 approved by members for the financial year.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

PHA fulfilled the majority of its operational objectives and performance measures in 2019–20 as well as significantly growing the scope of operational activity through non-subscription funded project work.

Main highlights and achievements appear within the Annual Report.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Board and management regularly review strategic key performance indicators (KPIs) and measures in relation to the 2016–21 Strategic Plan. KPIs are as follows:

- strong working relationship with members
- stakeholder engagement broadened along the value chain
- established relationships with international partners
- awareness programs expanded
- Farm Biosecurity program strengthened
- Signatories comply with EPPRD
- EPPRD review outcomes implemented
- enhancement of policy and activities to promote early pest reporting
- increased emergency response capacity and capability
- improved national management of establishing pests
- established framework for management of exotic weeds and pests of pastures
- programs for management of nationally significant pests established
- risks identified and managed
- national surveillance program for HPPs established
- increased industry capacity
- nationally coordinated data management
- nationally coordinated diagnostic network
- increased protocol coverage for EPPs
- improved diagnostician capability
- AGSOC Plant Biosecurity RD&E Plan Implemented
- nationally agreed RD&E priorities
- monitor RD&E activities, capability and capacity
- increased ability to fund plant biosecurity RD&E activities
- attract and retain key staff skills
- PHA is in a sound financial position
- legal and regulatory compliance obligations met
- timely and accurate reporting.

CHANGES IN STATE OF AFFAIRS

There was no significant change in the state of affairs of the company during the financial year.

Due to COVID-19, savings in areas such as travel costs and coordinating conferences were achieved and contributed to the positive financial result for the year.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In the opinion of the Directors, there has not been any matter or circumstance occurring subsequent to the end of the financial year that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Your Directors are not aware of any future developments in the operations of the Company that will have a material effect on future results.

INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

During the financial year, the company has renewed contracts insuring the Directors and Officers of Plant Health Australia against legal proceedings, including defence costs incurred in relation to proceedings involving alleged:

- (a) wilful breach of duty; or
- (b) contravention of sections 182 or 183 of the *Corporations Act 2001*, as permitted by section 199B of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

INDEMNIFICATION OF AUDITORS

To the extent permitted by law, the Company has agreed to indemnify its auditors, Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd, as part of the terms of its audit engagement agreement against claims by third parties arising from the audit (for an unspecified amount). No payment has been made to indemnify Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd or Ernst & Young during or since the financial year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Company takes a proactive approach to risk management through all levels of the organisation. The Board is responsible for ensuring that risks, and also opportunities, are identified on a timely basis and that the Company's objectives and activities are aligned with the risks and opportunities identified by the Board.

Directors consider company risks at strategic and operational levels. Directors critically review a risk management report at each Board Meeting and Finance and Audit Committee meeting which includes analysis by PHA management of risk ratings and reporting of risk mitigation actions and their effect.

PHA measures performance against the 2016–21 Strategic Plan which was finalised and adopted during the 2016–17 year.

MEMBER COMMITMENT ON WINDING UP

Plant Health Australia Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Australia. At balance date, there were 58 (2019: 59) members guaranteeing to contribute up to \$2.00 each to the property of the Company in the event of it being wound up.

AUDITOR

As a matter of good governance, during the year your Directors requested tenders for the audit of the Company. The incumbent auditor, Ernst and Young, decided not to tender.

A comprehensive review of tenders from five audit firms resulted in Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd being appointed to audit the 2020 financial statements effective until the 2020 annual general meeting of the Company. A vote to appoint the successful tenderer will be held at the 2020 annual general meeting of the Company.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The Directors received a declaration from the auditors of Plant Health Australia Limited in relation to audit independence. A copy of this declaration is included in this report.

NON-AUDIT SERVICES

The Company's auditor, Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd, have not performed certain other services in addition to their statutory duties during the year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



S. D. McCutcheon
Director
17 September 2020

Auditor's independence declaration



AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE DIRECTORS OF PLANT HEALTH AUSTRALIA

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020 there have been no contraventions of:

1. the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
2. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hummer", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Eric Hummer
Audit Director

ehummer@synergygroup.net.au
17 September 2020

Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd

t. (02) 6260 7477 w. synergygroup.net.au a. Ground Floor, 15 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600
PO Box 3789 Kingston ACT 2600 ABN 45 104 227 063 AUTHORISED AUDIT COMPANY NO. 301280

A Correspondent member of the Bentleys Network. Bentleys is a network of independent accounting firms located throughout Australia, New Zealand and China that trade as Bentleys. All members of the Bentleys Network are affiliated only and are separate legal entities and not in Partnership. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.





Financial statements

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Statement of comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	\$	\$
Revenue			
Revenue from operating activities	4	10,881,105	10,253,092
Revenue from non-operating activities	4	214,147	263,569
Total revenue		11,095,252	10,516,661
Expenses			
Assist members to manage biosecurity risks		3,370,542	3,482,830
Enhance national biosecurity response agreements and implementation		1,580,125	1,648,470
National strategies and policy coordination		3,366,167	2,771,278
Building capacity and capability		474,215	431,827
Board and governance		489,361	518,821
Effective partnerships		725,845	652,204
Company management		636,671	604,968
Corporate communications		320,456	383,097
Total expenses	2.16	10,963,382	10,493,495
Surplus before tax		131,870	23,166
Income tax expense	2.9	-	-
Surplus for the year from continuing operations		131,870	23,166
Other comprehensive income		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		131,870	23,166

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes pages 84–96.

Statement of financial position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

		2020	2019
	Notes	\$	\$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	9,955,200	10,439,647
Investments	10	10,921,475	11,356,610
Trade and other receivables	5	564,675	275,824
Prepayments		5,292	44,545
Total current assets		<u>21,446,642</u>	<u>22,116,626</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	238,550	205,561
Right of use assets	9	897,281	-
Total non-current assets		<u>1,135,831</u>	<u>205,561</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>22,582,473</u>	<u>22,322,187</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	862,638	1,766,929
Unexpended funding	11	17,289,039	17,331,434
Provisions	8	769,229	628,583
Total current liabilities		<u>18,920,906</u>	<u>19,726,946</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	8	115,909	135,527
Right of use lease liability	9	954,074	-
Total non-current liabilities		<u>1,069,983</u>	<u>135,527</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>19,990,889</u>	<u>19,862,473</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>2,591,584</u>	<u>2,459,714</u>
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		2,591,584	2,459,714
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>2,591,584</u>	<u>2,459,714</u>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes pages 84–96.

Statement of changes in equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Accumulated surplus	Total equity
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2018	2,436,548	2,436,548
Operating surplus for the year	23,166	23,166
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at 1 July 2019	2,459,714	2,459,714
Operating surplus for the year	131,870	131,870
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2020	2,591,584	2,591,584

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes pages 84–96.

Statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
Notes	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from member subscriptions and project funding	11,088,194	13,739,244
Payments to suppliers and employees	(11,911,685)	(11,945,838)
Interest received	245,690	243,345
Net cash flows from operating activities	(577,801)	2,036,751
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	709	-
Sale of property, plant and equipment	(123,470)	(104,744)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(122,761)	(104,744)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Principal repayment of capital lease obligation	(219,020)	-
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(219,020)	-
Net (decrease)increase in cash and cash equivalents	(919,582)	1,932,007
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	21,796,257	19,864,250
Cash and cash equivalents the end of the financial year	20,876,675	21,796,257

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes pages 84–96.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

1. Corporate information

The financial report for Plant Health Australia Limited for the year ended 30 June 2020 was authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 17 September 2020.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:

2.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*, Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise stated.

2.2 Statement of Compliance

The Company is a not for-profit, private sector entity which is not publicly accountable. Therefore, the financial statements of the Company are tier 2 general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (AASB – RDRs) (including Australian Interpretations) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

2.3 New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

2.3.1 Changes in accounting policy, new and amended accounting standards and interpretations

All new/ revised/ amending standards and/or interpretations that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the current reporting period have been adopted and did not have a material effect on the Company's financial statements.

The Company has adopted the new accounting pronouncements which have become effective this year, the nature and effect of these changes are disclosed below.

2.3.2 AASB 16 Leases

AASB 16 supersedes AASB 117 'Leases' along with three Interpretations ('Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease', 'Operating Leases-Incentives' and 'Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease'). The standard sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of leases and requires lessees to account for most leases under a single on-balance sheet model.

The new standard has been applied using modified retrospective approach with the date of initial application of 1 July 2019. Prior periods information has not been restated. PHA elected to use the transition practical expedient allowing the standard to be applied only to contracts that were previously identified as leases applying AASB 117 and AASB Interpretation 4 at the date of initial application.

The adoption of AASB 16 has resulted in the recognition of right-of-use assets totalling \$1,107,488 and lease liabilities totalling \$1,153,343 and the de-recognition of lease incentive liabilities totalling \$45,855 as at 1 July 2019. There has been no adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings at 1 July 2019 as a consequence of the adoption of this standard.

2.3.3 AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

AASB 15 replaces AASB 118 Revenue, AASB 111 Construction Contracts and several revenue-related Interpretations. The new Standard has been applied as at 1 July 2019 using the modified retrospective approach.

Under this method, any cumulative effect of initial application is recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings at 1 July 2019 and comparatives are not restated.

AASB 15 establishes a five-step model to account for revenue arising from contracts with customers and requires that revenue be recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

AASB 15 requires entities to exercise judgement, taking into consideration all the relevant facts and circumstances when applying each step of the model to contracts with their customers. The standard also specifies the accounting for the incremental costs of obtaining a contract and the costs directly related to fulfilling a contract. In addition, the standard requires extensive disclosures.

In accordance with the transition guidance, AASB 15 has only been applied to contracts that are incomplete as at 1 July 2019. The adoption of AASB 15 has not had a material impact on the Companies' financial position or performance and there has been no adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings at 1 July 2019 as a consequence of the adoption of this standard.

2.3.4 AASB 1058 Accounting for Income for Not for Profit Entities

The impact of AASB 1058 was assessed as having no impact for the 2020 financial year.

2.4 Current vs non-current classification

The Company presents assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position based on current/non-current classification. An asset is current when it is:

- expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the normal operating cycle
- held primarily for the purpose of trading
- expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period

Or

- cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is current when:

- it is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle
- it is held primarily for the purpose of trading
- it is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period.

The Company classifies all other liabilities as non-current.

2.5 Revenue recognition

The Company has applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effective method. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be presented under AASB 118: Revenue and AASB 1004: Contributions. The timing and quantification of revenue recognition under AASB 15 and AASB 1058 was found to be substantially consistent with the requirements under AASB 118 and AASB 1004 so the accounting policies under AASB 118 and AASB 1004 have not been disclosed separately since they are different from those under AASB 15 and AASB 1058, and the impact of changes is disclosed in Note 1.

2.5.1 Revenue from contracts with customers

When the Company receives monies under a contract, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Company:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the contract;
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement; and
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Company:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (for example AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138);
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue, or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Company recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

2.5.2 Revenue from membership subscriptions

Revenue is recognised on a straight-line basis over the period to which the membership relates reflecting the progressive satisfaction of performance obligations.

2.5.3 Federal/state and industry project income and government grants

Revenue is recognised over the periods necessary to match the costs that it is intended to compensate provided all attaching conditions have been complied with and the performance obligations under the contract are sufficiently specific. Revenue received where the cost to which it relates has not yet been incurred is reflected as Unexpended Funding in the statement of financial position.

Where performance obligations under the contract are not sufficiently specific the Company recognises revenue when it gains control of (or has the right to receive) the asset (cash).

2.5.4 Interest

Revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

2.5.5 Emergency Plant Pest Response (EPPR) Funds

The Company has assessed that it is acting as an agent in respect to most EPPR Levy Funds as statutory and contractual restrictions mean that the economic benefits associated with the funds will not flow to the Company unless those benefits are received under Part 3 section 10C(3) or 10C(6) of the *Plant Health Australia* (Plant Industries) *Funding Act 2002* (The Act) (PHA's reimbursable costs).

The EPPR Levy Funds (excluding PHA's reimbursable costs) are restricted to be used to cover a Plant Industry Member's obligations under the EPPR Deed and cannot be used to meet any of the Company's obligations or further its objectives unless specified in The Act. These funds are therefore recognised as a liability and separately disclosed from the Company's cash and cash equivalents in Note 10. Movements in the EPPR Funds are not recognised in the Company's Statement of Comprehensive Income.

2.6 Leases

Set out below are the new accounting policies of PHA upon adoption of AASB 16:

Right-of-use assets

The Company recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e., the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Unless the Company is reasonably certain to obtain ownership of the leased asset at the end of the lease term, the recognised right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of its estimated useful life and the lease term. Right-of-use assets are subject to impairment.

Lease liabilities

At the commencement date, the Company measures lease liabilities measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at that date. The lease payments include fixed payments (including in substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Company uses the incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date if the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the in-substance fixed lease payments or a change in the assessment to purchase the underlying asset. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or profit and loss if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

Significant judgement in determining the lease term of contracts with renewal options

The Company determines the lease term as the non-cancellable term of the lease, together with any periods covered by an option to extend the lease if it is reasonably certain to be exercised, or any periods covered by an option to terminate the lease, if it is reasonably certain not to be exercised.

The Company applies judgement in evaluating whether it is reasonably certain to exercise the option to renew. That is, it considers all relevant factors that create an economic incentive for it to exercise the renewal. After the commencement date, the Company reassesses the lease term if there is a significant event or change in circumstances that is within its control and affects its ability to exercise (or not to exercise) the option to renew.

2.7 Employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date. They are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Expenses for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when the leave is taken and are measured at the rates paid or payable.

Liabilities recognised in respect of long-term employee benefits are measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service.

Contributions are made by the Company to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

2.8 Taxation

No provision has been made for income tax at balance date.

Pursuant to Section 50-40 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, as amended, the Australian Taxation Office has issued a Private Binding Ruling exempting Plant Health Australia Limited from income tax as an association established for the purpose of promoting the development of agricultural and horticultural resources in Australia, and not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

2.9 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located where a present obligation to do so exists.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives, using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each reporting period, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis. Useful lives are as follows:

Category of Property, plant and equipment	Useful life
Leasehold improvements	To end of current office lease
Computer equipment	Between 3 and 5 years
Office equipment	Between 4 and 10 years
Furniture and fittings	Between 5 and 10 years

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in profit or loss.

The cost of improvements to or on leasehold property is capitalised, disclosed as leasehold improvements, and depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements, whichever is the shorter.

2.10 Goods and Services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified within operating cash flows.

Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

2.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and short-term deposits in the statement of financial position comprise cash at bank, in hand and short-term deposits that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash within three months and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents and investments.

2.12 Unexpended funding

The Company receives grant monies and other funding to fund projects either for contracted periods of time or for specific projects irrespective of the period of time required to complete those projects. It is the policy of the Company to treat these amounts as unexpended funding in the statement of financial position where the Company has not satisfied its obligations under the contract.

2.13 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

When the Company expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. The expense relating to any provision is presented in the statement of comprehensive income net of any reimbursement.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision resulting from the passage of time is recognised within finance costs.

2.14 Financial instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Financial assets

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, as subsequently measured at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI), or fair value through profit or loss. The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the Company's business model for managing them. The Company's financial assets are all classified at amortised cost and there was no change in this classification as a result of the transition to AASB 9: Financial Instruments. The Company measures financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met:

- the financial asset is held within a business model with the objective to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows, and;
- the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest (EIR) method and are subject to impairment. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised, modified or impaired.

Impairment of financial assets

The Company recognises an allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) for all debt instruments not held at fair value through profit or loss. For trade receivables, the Company applies a simplified approach in calculating ECLs. Therefore, the Company does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Company has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment. The Company considers a financial asset in default when internal or external information indicates that the Company is unlikely to receive the outstanding contractual amounts in full before taking into account any credit enhancements held by the Company. A financial asset is written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovering the contractual cash flows.

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost or at fair value through profit or loss, as appropriate. All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and, in the case of loans and borrowings and payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs. The Company has no financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss or derivatives designated as hedging instruments in an effective hedge.

Loans and borrowings

After initial recognition, interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the EIR method. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the EIR amortisation process. Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees or costs that are an integral part of the EIR. The EIR amortisation is included as finance costs in the statement of profit or loss.

2.15 Total expenses

Total expenses include defined contribution plan costs totalling \$361,443 (2019: \$344,332).

3. Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenues and expenses. Management bases its judgements and estimates on historical experience and on other factors it believes to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions and conditions.

Management has identified the following critical accounting policies for which significant judgements, estimates and assumptions are made. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions and conditions and may materially affect financial results or the financial position reported in future periods.

3.1 Make good provisions

A provision has been made for the present value of anticipated costs of future restoration of leased premises. The provision includes future cost estimates of restoring the premise to its original state. Uncertainties may result in future actual expenditure differing from the amounts currently provided. The provision recognised is periodically reviewed and based on the facts and circumstances available at that time.

3.2 Estimation of useful lives of assets

The estimation of the useful lives of assets has been based on historical experience. In addition, the condition of the assets is assessed at least once per year and considered against the remaining useful life. Adjustments to useful lives are made when considered necessary.

3.3 Long service leave provisions

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at balance date. In determining the present value of the liability, attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

3.4 Revenue recognition

The Company has applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effective method. Refer to Note 2.4 for further information.

An assessment of the impact of COVID-19 indicates that the timing of project delivery may be adversely impacted in some cases. At present, the impact is considered minimal. It is too early to consider the consequences of COVID-19 on our Members and any flow-on effect to the Company.

4. Revenue

The following is an analysis of the Company's revenue for the year from continuing operations.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Revenues from operating activities		
Revenue from member subscriptions	2,656,667	2,628,100
Federal/State government project income	3,955,984	4,104,918
Industry project income	4,268,454	3,520,074
Total revenues from operating activities	10,881,105	10,253,092
Revenues from non-operating activities		
Interest income	214,147	263,569
Total revenues from non-operating activities	214,147	263,569
Total revenues from ordinary activities	11,095,252	10,516,661

All revenues from contracts with customers is recognised over time.

The Company also makes payments to the Commonwealth on behalf of Members in relation to agreed cost-sharing arrangements as part of various emergency responses. These payments are made from funds received by PHA from Statutory Levies and are not included in Revenue. In the 2020 financial year these payments totalled \$2,729,933 (2019: \$6,599,778).

5. Trade and other receivables

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current trade and other receivables		
Trade receivables from customer contracts	514,442	194,048
Interest receivable	50,233	81,776
Total Trade and other receivables	564,675	275,824

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are generally on terms of 30 days.
No receivables are impaired (2019: \$nil)

6. Property, plant and equipment

	<u>2020</u>
	\$
Leasehold improvements	
At cost	193,289
Accumulated amortisation	(187,967)
	<u>5,322</u>
Computer equipment	
At cost	334,129
Accumulated depreciation	(262,157)
	<u>71,972</u>
Office equipment	
At cost	71,775
Accumulated depreciation	(61,835)
	<u>9,940</u>
Furniture and fittings	
At cost	228,744
Accumulated depreciation	(77,428)
	<u>151,317</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	
At cost	827,937
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(589,387)
Total written down amount	<u><u>238,550</u></u>

6. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year follows:

	2020
	\$
Leasehold improvements	
Carrying amount at beginning	11,352
Additions	-
Depreciation expense	(6,030)
	<u>5,322</u>
Computer equipment	
Carrying amount at beginning	109,692
Additions	24,899
Disposals	(345)
Depreciation written back	86
Depreciation expense	(62,360)
	<u>71,972</u>
Office equipment	
Carrying amount at beginning	16,925
Additions	-
Disposals	(981)
Depreciation written back	854
Depreciation expense	(6,859)
	<u>9,939</u>
Furniture and fittings	
Carrying amount at beginning	67,592
Additions	98,571
Disposals	(1,037)
Depreciation written back	115
Depreciation expense	(13,924)
	<u>151,317</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	
Carrying amount at beginning	205,561
Additions	123,470
Disposals	(2,363)
Depreciation written back	1,055
Depreciation expense	(89,173)
	<u>238,550</u>

7. Trade and other payables

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	699,267	1,436,200
Goods and Services Tax	35,635	202,933
Fringe Benefits Tax	14,783	16,927
Salaries and wages	112,953	65,014
Lease incentive liabilities	-	45,855
Total current liabilities	862,638	1,766,929

8. Provisions

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Provisions		
Employee benefits	846,972	725,944
Make good provision	38,166	38,166
Total provisions	885,138	764,110
Carrying amount at end of financial year - Current	769,229	628,583
Carrying amount at end of financial year - Non-Current	115,909	135,527
Total provisions	885,138	764,110

9. Right of use asset and liability

In preparation of Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 Plant Health Australia applied AASB 16 for the first time using modified retrospective approach. The date of initial application is 1 July 2019. On transition to the new standard the weighted average incremental borrowing rate applied to lease liabilities was 4.58%.

The Company has an office lease contract, which was classified as operating lease under the preceding AASB 117. Total operating lease commitments reported as at 30 June 2019 totalled \$412,698. Under this standard the right to use the asset was not capitalised and lease payments were recognised as expense in the statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

The effect of transition to the new standard is that the Company recognised lease liability (\$1,153,343), which is measured at the present value of remaining lease payments discounted using incremental borrowing rate at the date of initial application (DIA). The lease term (58 months in total) was determined as the remaining non-cancellable period together with the option to extend for further 3 years, as the Company is reasonably certain to exercise an option to extend. Lease payments were apportioned between interest (\$47,205 - recognised as finance expenses) and principal portion, which reduced remaining lease liability balance by \$219,020.

The right-of-use (RoU) asset is recognised as at DIA and measured at amount equal to lease liability. The Company reduced the value of RoU asset on transition by the remaining balance of lease incentive straight-lining account (\$45,855) without any adjustment to opening retained earnings. CPI adjustment to RoU asset on 1st of May 2020 increased values of lease liability and corresponding RoU asset by \$19,752. The RoU asset is being depreciated on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Depreciation charge of RoU asset in 2020 financial year was \$229,958. The carrying amount of RoU asset as at 30 June 2020 was \$897,281.

The total cash outflow for leases in 2020 was \$266,225.

10. Cash and cash equivalents

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalent balance comprises:		
Cash on hand	350	350
Cash at bank	362,006	29,822
Short term deposits	2,237,771	3,577,705
Cash at bank and short-term deposits (EPPR)	7,355,073	6,831,770
Closing cash balance	9,955,200	10,439,647
Investments	10,921,475	11,356,610
	20,876,675	21,796,257

Cash at bank earns interest at floating rates depending on daily bank deposit rates.
Short term deposits are made for varying periods between one and three months.

11. Unexpended funding

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
EPPR Levy related	7,380,158	6,843,786
Membership subscriptions received in advance (contract liabilities)	217,348	313,392
Project income received in advance (contract liabilities)	9,691,533	10,174,256
Total Unexpended funding	17,289,039	17,331,434

12. Related party transactions

Because of the nature of the skills and other interests related to agriculture there is potential for a Director to have a conflict of interest given the range of projects undertaken by the Company. The Company keeps a register of Directors' declared conflict of interest with Directors' declaring at the start of each Board meeting any possible conflict that has not been previously disclosed.

All transactions are conducted using commercial arms-length principles and made under normal terms and conditions. There were two related party transaction during the year as follows:

Income from related parties

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cotton Research Development Corporation (Associate Member)	36,389	61,288
Vinehealth Australia (Associate Member)	2,000	2,000
Total Income from related parties	38,389	63,288

No amounts were owed by Plant Health Australia Limited to related parties and no amounts were owed by related parties to Plant Health Australia Limited as at 30 June 2020.

13. Key Management Personnel Compensation

The aggregate compensation made to directors and four key management personnel of the Company is set out below.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	\$	\$
Compensation to directors and key management personnel of the Company	<u>1,299,273</u>	<u>1,243,774</u>

14. Events after the reporting date

In the opinion of the Directors, there has not been any matter or circumstance occurring subsequent to the end of the financial year that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years

Directors' Declaration

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Plant Health Australia Limited, I state that:

In the opinion of the Directors

- a) The financial statements and notes of the Company are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and *Corporations Regulations 2001*; and
- b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed on behalf of the Board



S.D. McCutcheon

Director

17 September 2020

Independent auditor's report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Plant Health Australia Limited



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PLANT HEALTH AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Plant Health Australia Limited (the entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the statement of profit or loss, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the entity is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the entity, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd

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Independent auditor's report (continued)



In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the entity to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the entity audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hummer".

Eric Hummer
Audit Director, Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd
ehummer@synergygroup.net.au
22 September 2020



Acronyms

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AGSOC	Agriculture Senior Officials Committee	NMG	National Management Group
AHA	Animal Health Australia	NPBDN	National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network
AHBIC	Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	NRBT	National Biosecurity Response Team
AOP	Annual Operational Plan	PBRI	Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative
APVMA	Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority	PHA	Plant Health Australia
AUSPestCheck™	Plant Pest Surveillance Virtual Coordination Centre	PHC	Plant Health Committee
AUSVEG	Industry representative body for vegetable and potato growers	RDC	research and development corporation
B3 NZ	Better Border Biosecurity New Zealand	RD&E	research, development and extension
BISOP	Biosecurity Incident Standard Operating Procedures	SNPHS	Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance
BOLT	Biosecurity Online Training	SPHD	Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics
CCEPP	Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests	SQDMA	Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access
cesar	Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research		
EPPR Levy	Emergency Plant Pest Response Levy		
EPPRD	Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed		
IGAB	Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity		
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention		
IPSN	International Plant Sentinel Network		
NBC	National Biosecurity Committee		
NBCEN	National Biosecurity Communication and Engagement Network		
NBPSP	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program		
NDP	National Diagnostic Protocols		
NEBRA	National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement		
NFFC	National Fruit Fly Council		



**Improving national biosecurity
outcomes through partnerships**

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Government Members

Commonwealth of Australia
Australian Capital Territory Government
New South Wales Government
Northern Territory Government
Queensland Government
South Australian Government
Tasmanian Government
Victorian Government
Western Australian Government

Industry Members

Almond Board of Australia Inc
Apple and Pear Australia Ltd
Australian Banana Growers' Council Inc
Australian Blueberry Growers' Association Inc
Australian Forest Products Association Ltd
Australian Ginger Industry Association Inc
Australian Grape and Wine Inc
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc
Australian Lychee Growers' Association Inc
Australian Macadamia Society Ltd
Australian Mango Industry Association Ltd
Australian Melon Association Inc
Australian Olive Association Ltd
Australian Processing Tomato Research Council Inc
Australian Sweetpotato Growers Inc
Australian Table Grape Association Inc
Australian Tea Tree Industry Association Ltd
Australian Truffle Growers' Association Inc
Australian Walnut Industry Association Inc
AUSVEG Ltd
Avocados Australia Ltd
CANEGROWERS
Canned Fruit Industry Council of Australia Ltd
Cherry Growers of Australia Inc
Chestnuts Australia Inc
Citrus Australia Ltd
Cotton Australia Ltd
Dried Fruits Australia Inc
Grain Producers Australia Ltd
GROWCOM
Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc
Nursery and Garden Industry Australia Ltd
Onions Australia Inc
Passionfruit Australia Inc
Pistachio Growers' Association Inc
Raspberries and Blackberries Australia Inc
Ricegrowers' Association of Australia Inc
Strawberries Australia Inc
Summerfruit Australia Ltd

Associate Members

AgNova Technologies
Bendigo Kangan Institute
Cotton Research and Development Corporation
CSIRO
Grains Research and Development Corporation
Hort Innovation
Northern Territory Farmers Association (NT Farmers)
Sugar Research Australia
Victorian Farmers Federation
Vinehealth Australia
Wine Australia