

CHAIRPERSON ADDRESS

PHA 21st General Meeting

24 May 2022

Welcome everyone to the 21st hybrid General Meeting of Plant Health Australia being held in person in Sydney and virtually.

Before we begin, I'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of our country. We pay our respect to their elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

On the agenda for today is the 2021/22 Year to Date Performance Report, the 2022/23 Annual Operational Plan and the 2022/23 Member subscriptions for ordinary resolution.

The 2022/23 Annual Operational Plan presents PHA's key activities and targets for the next financial year. Most of you would have seen the draft AOP at the March webinar and received an electronic copy of the draft AOP. As the first AOP under the new Strategic Plan 2022-27, the plan outlines the actions required to support PHA's vision of being a valued leader of a strong, integrated plant biosecurity system. This portfolio of work and budget is categorised under each of the three strategic priorities and two operational priorities.

As an organisation, we are all too aware of the growing burden from the changing nature of biosecurity threats and cumulative effects of multiple incursions and that in order to meet these challenges, our biosecurity system needs to evolve. A strong and resilient plant biosecurity system is built on connected strategies and partnerships, effective and efficient responses, and leveraged data for improved decision-making. PHA's planned activities reflect our focus on strengthening the plant biosecurity system for the benefit of the economy, environment and community.

For the coming year, subject to a member vote, PHA subscriptions are set to increase by 3.5 per cent. This means that core funding through subscriptions from our government, industry and associate members will be \$2.752 million. In addition, PHA expects to receive \$11.017 million in non-subscription funding. A breakdown of these figures is provided in the AOP.

Turning now to other business, the Board Selection Committee reconvened earlier this year to identify candidates for a vacant director position. Interviews were conducted and following normal processes, the Board Selection Committee unanimously agreed to recommend Susan Petrellis to fill the vacant position. Further details are provided in the Notice of Meeting and a vote will be held at agenda item 2.5 of this meeting.

As we adjust to life with COVID-19 as an ever-present factor, it has been great to see face-to-face activities resume. In the past month alone PHA as part of the Biosecurity Collective, co-hosted the 2nd Australian Biosecurity Symposium and assisted with the delivery of the PBRI Symposium. The Australian Biosecurity Symposium saw over 400 of Australia's key agricultural, government, research and community sectors come together while the PBRI Symposium which attracted local and international pest and disease experts to share information on the latest research and developments in preparedness, diagnostics, surveillance, pest management, capacity building and industry resilience.

We also launched the 'Decade of Biosecurity' that seeks to engage all Australian's and mobilise a 25 million strong mass movement to encourage sustainable investment and build strong partnerships with non-traditional partners. If you haven't already, you're invited to join the movement online to help us amplify our message and make noise in cementing 2021-30 as the 'Decade of Biosecurity'.

Finally, I would like to thank the PHA team for not only preparing an AOP that continues to maximise outcomes for members but for the time and effort in arranging the Plant Industry Forum, General Meeting and Members Forum.

Thank you for your attendance today and for your support over the past 12 months. I look forward to seeing you all our AGM later this year.