Planning eradication at affected properties

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Section(s)	Details
		Amendment Details	
1.0	5 Dec 2013	All	Reformatted from Appendix 14 of PLANTPLAN (V1 Nov 2011). Internal references to Appendices in PLANTPLAN removed. SPCHQ/LPCC changed to SCC/LCC. OCPPO changed to CPPO

1.   Purpose

(to be completed)

2.   Application/Scope

(to be completed)

3.   Resource equipment

(to be completed)

4.   Warnings

(to be completed)

5.   Description of activities

5.1   Planning and approvals

The Chief Plant Health Manager (CPHM) will prepare an urgent paper for consideration by Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) on a proposed program for removal and destruction of affected plants incorporating:

- Communication protocols with growers/property owners/managers.

- Site access and movement controls.

- Justification for removal of adjacent buffer plants (where legislation allows).

- Methods of removal, destruction and disposal (on or off site).

- Resource and training requirements of Infested Premises Operations Teams (IPOTs) – including contractors.

- Special arrangements for apiarists (if applicable).

The CPPO and Plant Health Australia (PHA) will prepare a paper on owner reimbursement costs and associated budget.

5.2   Confirmation from CCEPP

The CCEPP will meet out of session to resolve and approve protocols for removal of affected plants. PHA will confirm arrangements for owner reimbursement costs under the EPPRD

5.3   Resourcing and training of IPOTs

The Planning and Operations Managers will appoint leader and members of each IPOT including contractors employed for removal and disposal of plants.

The Planning and Operations Managers will brief IPOTs on:

- Operation of mobile communication equipment.

- Process for consulting with growers/property managers to discuss the removal and disposal process and confirm locations of plants to be removed.

- Disinfestation protocols for entry and exit including dedicated on site clothing.

- Method of removing above and below ground parts of plants.

- Methods for either on site destruction or off site transportation and burial.

- Methods for fumigation of soil after removal.

- Requirement for photographic and written recording of action at site and reporting and sign off by grower/property manager.

Additional planning issues for the Planning Manager may include:

- Establishing date and time for removal.

- Identifying different requirements for households, commercial producers, parks and reserves.

- Labelling plants for removal (including buffers).

- Harvesting and marketing of any produce from affected plants (if applicable).

- Special arrangements for on site service providers such as apiarists.

- Securing enclosed trucks for any off site transportation of affected plants.

- Special arrangements for burial at approved sites which ensures effective barrier of soil over affected plant material.

- Methods for high pressure washing and steam cleaning and chemical decontamination of machinery before leaving site.

- WH&S issues, standards, training, equipment, and records.

5.4   Operational planning for removal and destruction of plants from infected properties

5.4.1   Planning plant removal and other special arrangements

The Operations Manager and SCC Director will meet with contractors to confirm:

- Date and time for removal.

- Preferred methods for killing plants prior to removal.

- Availability of equipment.

- Site entry and exit protocols including sterilisation/hygiene practices.

- Methods for removal and destruction.

- Confidentiality and security arrangements.

- Costs of work and methods of payment.

They will also need to consider special arrangements such as for on site pollination services provided by apiarists, for domestic premises, parks or reserves.

5.4.2   Planning transportation off site
The Operations Manager and SCC Director will meet with the contractor to confirm:

- Date and time for removal.

- Availability of equipment with secure enclosures.

- Site entry and exit protocols including sterilisation/hygiene practices.

- Methods for loading and selected route to burial site.

- Protocols at burial site including entry and exit arrangements (sterilisation/hygiene).

- Confidentiality and security arrangements.

- Costs of work and methods of payment.

They will also need to consider special arrangements such as for on site pollination services provided by apiarists, for domestic premises, parks or reserves

5.4.3   Planning burial either on or off site
The Operations Manager and IPOT Leader will meet with the contractor to confirm:

- Date and time for removal.

- The excavation of pit of prescribed dimensions.

- The availability of equipment.

- Requirements for covering the affected material.

- Sterilisation/hygiene protocols and entry exit arrangements for trucks transporting affected plants.

- Arrangements for quarantine of burial site.

- Confidentiality and security arrangements.

- Costs of work and methods of payment.

They will also need to consider special arrangements – for domestic premises, parks or and reserves.

5.5   Implementing removal of affected plants

5.5.1   First site visit - confirm process
The Operations Manager, SCC Director and property owner/manager will confirm:

- The area(s) within which plants are to be removed (including the buffer zone).

- An appropriate method for labelling the plants for removal.

- The method of marketing any produce for fresh markets or for processing (if applicable).

- A written agreement describing the process which is signed by stakeholders.

- Arrangements for controlled site access and media liaison (noting that any media access will need approval from the Communications Manager and that media personnel will need to abide by any relevant quarantine measures and hygiene requirements).

5.5.2   Second site visit - removal operation

The Operations Manager and SCC Director will supervise:

- Control of access to site using additional back up security if required.

- Plant removal program at infected property in accordance with previously agreed protocols (refer to pages on planning eradication).

- The burning/burial on site of affected plant material or the security of transportation of affected plant material off site and its subsequent burial.

- Any variations to operational plans.

- The official recording of operations including photographic records.

- The post operation clean up of the affected site and sign off by the property owner/manager.

5.5.3   Media liaison

The Communications Manager should be available on site to respond to clarification of operational issues from the media and should liaise with the SPCHQ Director regarding any substantial media issues.

5.6   Program to confirm eradication at infected premises

5.6.1   Planning program

The Planning and Operations Managers together with the specialist will develop a program based on the specific biology of the pest/pathogen which will incorporate:

- Compliance with specified movement controls for plants, personnel and equipment.

- Sentinel plant program to detect EPP incorporating a biometrically based deployment, monitoring and sampling strategy (refer to page on sentinels and lures), noting that special arrangements will be required for soil borne pathogens.

- Arrangements for marketing of non-host plants and products.

- The specified duration of the program and recording systems.

- A paper to the CCEPP and Subcommittee for Domestic Quarantine and Market Access seeking approval for the program.

5.6.2   Implementation

The Operations and Planning Managers will meet with the property owner/manager of the IP to explain the rationale for the program (pending necessary approvals) including:

- The significance of the program in establishing pest free status for the area.

- What can be grown and under what restrictions.

- The duration of the confirmation program (monitoring and sentinel testing).

- The sentinel program – monitoring and testing.

- The requirement for ongoing compliance with movement restrictions.

- The maintenance of records and their associated audit by CPHM.

- Written agreement by the owner/manager on the reporting of any variations to the program.

6. References

(to be completed)

7. Appendices

Nil