2021 Annual Report

Plant Health AUSTRALIA

21 years

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Overview

From the Chair

I am pleased to present Plant Health Australia's (PHA) Annual Report for 2021. In the final year of the 2016-21 Strategic Plan, PHA has made steady progress in coordinating strong industry-government partnerships to minimise plant pest impacts, boost industry productivity and profitability while enhancing market access.

This report highlights PHA's achievements against our key performance indicators (KPIs) as set out in the 2020-21 Annual Operational Plan and Mid-year Performance Report. Activity is reported against the seven key result areas (KRAs) of partnerships, emergency response, preparedness, surveillance, diagnostics, RD&E and company health.

The past year has certainly presented unique challenges with Coronavirus (COVID-19) bringing unwelcome changes, further compounded by severe weather events. Despite these trials, PHA was quickly able to modify our approach to not only meet our KPIs but continue to bring organisations together to invest in biosecurity.

> "The increased awareness of biosecurity, complements our efforts to improve biosecurity understanding with our members and the broader community."

The increased awareness of biosecurity brought about by COVID-19, complements our continued efforts to improve biosecurity understanding with our members and the broader community.

Throughout the year, PHA fostered strong working relationships with our members. We also continued to lead and contribute to key events, providing input into strategies and solutions to improve plant biosecurity in Australia. Our targeted communications activities raised awareness of plant biosecurity issues, improved adoption of farm biosecurity management practices, and kept our members informed and involved in the setting, implementation and uptake of company activities and objectives.

As the custodian of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) we continued to administer the EPPRD, enhance policy and operations to promote early pest reporting, and manage incursions. This year, we undertook the quinquennial EPPRD review with signatories providing support for the outcomes and forward actions identified, which will be progressed in the new financial year. Despite rolling COVID-19 restrictions, PHA was able to deliver Industry Liaison and EPPRD awareness training to increase emergency response capacity and capability and we were actively involved in establishing the new Biosecurity and Agriculture Emergency Network (BAEN).

During the course of the year, PHA also undertook biosecurity planning activities to identify, prepare and manage pest threats for the cotton, grains, rice and citrus industries and developed Biosecurity Plans for the plantation forestry and tropical fruit industries.

Increasing the early detection of new exotic plant pests by developing strategies and plans, improving surveillance data collection, and facilitating regional surveillance reporting systems, remain a focus.

A key highlight was the expansion of the Botanic Gardens Surveillance Network and Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network with Australia's major botanic gardens to provide an early warning system of new and emerging pest and pathogen risks. AUSPest*Check*™, PHA's flagship system for the national collection, visualisation and reporting of plant surveillance data, continues to grow exponentially with participation by all state and territory governments and four PHA members providing data. In 2020, 2.6 million fruit fly data records were uploaded, adding to 580,000 data records.

Chair, Steve McCutcheon

Coordinating, supporting and facilitating diagnostic resources and activities for Australia's network of diagnostics is essential in enabling the fast and accurate identification of pests. PHA's ongoing participation and contribution to the strategic direction of national committees, promoting professional development opportunities, managing online plant pest and disease resources and facilitating the review of National Diagnostic Protocols for National Priority Plant Pests, supports this goal.

To ensure plant biosecurity science delivers maximum benefit, PHA coordinates the planning and implementation of plant biosecurity research, development and extension. This is achieved through collaboration and coordination of investment in high priority cross-sectoral plant biosecurity RD&E. These efforts have resulted in over 16 projects with a value of over $50 million.

Other noteworthy events and achievements from the seven KRAs from the past 12 months are presented in the timeline of events on page 18 and in the Performance section.

During the last financial year, revenue decreased by 11.7 per cent to $9,798,419. For member subscription funding of $2,660,000, the most significant areas of spending were in the Partnerships area (31.4%) and Company Health area (38.8%). The most significant areas of spending for non-subscription funds of $6,867,316 were in the Partnerships area (38.9%) and the Surveillance area (30.7%).

In May 2021, we celebrated 21 years of improving national biosecurity outcomes through partnerships achieved through system improvements, policy changes and increasing capability. This means that Australia is in a better position today to deal with plant pest incursions than we were 21 years ago.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work that Sarah Corcoran has done in her first 12 months as CEO. Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, Sarah has quickly settled into her role and readily embraced the challenges that come with running the company that brings plant biosecurity stakeholders together for the betterment of Australia's plant industries and the broader community.

During the year, the PHA Board welcomed Kathy Kelly as a new Non-Executive Director. The Board now solely comprises 8 Non-Executive Directors, with the CEO position no longer classified as an Executive Director following an amendment to the company's constitution that came into effect when the new CEO joined PHA in early July 2020.

Thank you to our members for your support this past year. I look forward to our continued partnerships and commitment to improve the plant biosecurity system for the benefit of all Australians.

STEVE MCCUTCHEON
Chair

Overview

From the CEO

The 2021 Annual Report marks my first year at the helm of PHA. As I reflect on my first 12 months it has been a period characterised by ongoing fluctuations due to COVID-19 restrictions and managing the risks that go along with new strains of the virus, while maintaining business continuity in an environment that often changed at the drop of a hat. Despite these challenges, the PHA team worked diligently to not only deliver against the seven key result areas (KRAs) but continued to bring together and partner with our stakeholders to solve problems and develop solutions to achieve our collective goals.

On arriving at PHA, I shared my vision for us to be the keeper of knowledge for plant health within Australia, with strong collaboration between government, industry, peak bodies and growers the key to achieving an integrated national plant biosecurity system. To support this, I committed to four focus areas pivotal to making PHA the centre of excellence for plant health information:

- developing interconnected information systems
- facilitating alignment of agricultural and food strategies to achieve long-term growth in our plant industries
- working collaboratively to reduce duplication and fragmentation across research and development programs
- highlighting the value of the national plant biosecurity system for market advantage.

Upgrades to digital systems such as the Australian Plant Pest Database and the Pest and Disease Image Library enhanced information sharing and complemented the national surveillance efforts captured in AusPest*Check*™. Targeted training for industry liaison and investment in preparedness planning from our plant industry members also demonstrates some of the progress we've made against these focus areas.

The development of the new five-year Strategic Plan for PHA commenced earlier this year and I'm pleased to say the plan is shaping up well to position and support us to deliver on these and other priorities for plant health, manage transitions and change, and provide the foundation for long-term agricultural, economic and biosecurity outcomes for Australia.

Our achievements across the KRAs are documented in this report. In addition, some key initiatives delivered during 2020-21 include:

- Launching the 'Biosecurity in Australia' online course detailing the fundamentals of plant biosecurity to increase emergency response capacity and capability
- Facilitating an efficient response to citrus canker in the Northern Territory, over a three-year period, with Proof of Freedom declared in April 2021
- Joining the Biosecurity Collective and hosting more than 250 biosecurity champions from Australia and New Zealand at the 2020 virtual Australian Biosecurity 2030 workshop to discuss how to mobilise a 25-million-strong biosecurity mass movement in Australia
- Renewing focus on marketing and communications with a targeted multi-channel approach and increasing our reach to build awareness of biosecurity issues
- Streamlining the 2021-22 Annual Operational Plan to focus on project outcomes and achievements that related to strengthening the national biosecurity system
- Delivering a series of eight webinars for the Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network exploring plant biosecurity in botanic gardens
- Hosting the National Fruit Fly Symposium with 38 speakers and over 420 registrants across industry leaders, government representatives, researchers and growers
- Partnering with CSIRO on Australia's Biosecurity Future report presenting the need to transform our biosecurity system
- Increasing the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network to 86 plant diagnosticians located in every state and territory
- Building the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific to 163 members to strengthen surveillance capacity across Australia, New Zealand and nearby regions.

During the year we welcomed and farewelled staff. Our new executive management team appointments included Jessica Arnold as National Manager: Risk and Resilience, Mila Bristow as National Manager: Performance and Innovation and Amanda Yong as National Manager: Marketing and Communications.

> "PHA continued to bring together and partner with our stakeholders to solve problems and develop solutions to achieve our collective goals."

CEO, Sarah Corcoran

This year we celebrated our 21st birthday. From small beginnings, PHA has grown over those 21 years and established a reputation for excellence and professionalism. Now with 58 members, there are many moving parts to the business and we continue bringing together stakeholders to share biosecurity responsibility and join forces to address plant biosecurity threats and prevent their arrival. These partnerships and member support has contributed to the success of PHA.

Over the next 12 months, I look forward to our continued work to minimise plant pest impacts, boost productivity and profitability of our industries and enhance market access. I also look forward to delivering our 2022-2027 company strategy which is future focused and designed to improve the effectiveness of our national biosecurity system to face plant biosecurity challenges that lie ahead.

SARAH CORCORAN
CEO

Sarah holds a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Botany and Zoology, Honours in Freshwater Ecology and has completed post graduate studies in Epidemiology for Public Health.

She is passionate about preserving vital agricultural industries and Australia's unique environment from exotic pests and disease.

Sarah previously held a senior role with the Northern Territory's Department of Primary Industry and Resources heading up the Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Division working with industry, government and communities to ensure best practice biosecurity and animal welfare standards were adhered to in the NT, strengthening its reputation as a producer of clean, green produce.

During her career, Sarah has worked on a number of emergency responses to incursions of exotic pests and pathogens across the biosecurity continuum, including leading the national eradication programs for red imported fire ants, electric ants, banana freckle and citrus canker.

About PHA

Our role

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

Established in 2000, PHA facilitates and drives partnerships 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

Our objectives

Plant Health Australia's principal objectives are:

1. Provide strategic leadership in the development of a genuine industry and government partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia.
2. Improve operation of emergency plant pest response arrangements in Australia, including administration and review of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).
3. Commission, coordinate, facilitate and manage national plant biosecurity programs and services.
4. Secure agreement to a national strategy to guide improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of Australia's plant biosecurity system.
5. Lead and contribute to the development of national agreements, arrangements, infrastructure, and policy in consultation with members and other relevant organisations.
6. Bring ideas and priorities to the fore and provide effective leadership on the pest and disease incursion management framework.
7. Maintain and improve international and domestic confidence in Australia's plant health status.
8. Contribute to the sustainability of Australia's plant industries and the environment.
9. Effectively engage with members and maintain high levels of accountability and goodwill.
10. Increase PHA's capacity and scope to provide services for members and other stakeholders.
11. Facilitate industry and government capacity and capability in plant biosecurity stakeholders.
12. Deliver effective, consultative, transparent, and auditable systems for the management of the company.

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.

PHA's efforts help to:

- Minimise plant pest impacts
- Assist trade domestically and internationally
- Support the sustainability and profitability of plant industries and the communities that rely upon them
- Preserve environmental health and amenity
- Enhance Australia's plant health status
- Safeguard the livelihood of producers

Our people

OUR STAFF

PHA's national office is located in Deakin, Canberra and as of the end of June 2021, the team consisted of 35 specialist staff. Staff are also based in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.

29 full-time employees

6 part-time employees

Executive team

Chief Executive Officer – Sarah Corcoran (from July 2020)

Chief Executive Officer – Greg Fraser (until July 2020)

Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary – Michael Milne

General Manager, Partnerships – Rod Turner

General Manager, Emergency Response – Dr Susanna Driessen

National Manager, Marketing and Communications – Amanda Yong (from February 2021)

National Manager, Surveillance and Diagnostics – Dr Sharyn Taylor

National Manager, Performance and Innovation – Dr Mila Bristow (from April 2021)

National Manager, Preparedness and RD&E – Stuart Kearns

National Manager, Risk and Resilience – Jessica Arnold (from April 2021)

Program team

Manager, AUSPest*Check*™ – Nicholas Woods

(based in Brisbane, Qld)

Manager, Biosecurity and Emergency Management Training – Matt Chifley

Manager, Data Management and Surveillance Communities – David Gale

Manager, Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed – Dr Felicity Andriunas

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

Manager, Northern Australia Industry Liaison – Trevor Dunmall

Manager, Strategy – Jonathan Terlich

Manager, Bee Biosecurity and Surveillance – Dr Jenny Shanks (from December 2021)

Bee Pest Surveillance Coordinator – Dr Jenny Shanks (until December 2020)

Biosecurity Planning Coordinator – Dr Victoria (Tory) Ludowici (until February 2021)

Diagnostics and Surveillance Networks Coordinator – Dr Victoria (Tory) Ludowici (from March 2021)

Diagnostics and Surveillance Networks Coordinator – Dr Natalie O'Donnell (maternity leave from February 2021)

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

Surveillance Project Coordinator – Rohan Burgess

Project Officer – Andrew Vossen

Project Officer – Dr Bosibori Bett (until February 2021)

Project Officer – Dr Daniela Carnovale (until February 2020)

Project Officer – Emily Lamberton (until March 2021)

Project Officer – Jess Lehmann

Project Officer – Dr Joanne Lee

Project Officer – Dr Kathleen (Kath) DeBoer

Project Officer – Lucy Aukett (until June 2021)

Project Officer – Sally Chesworth

Project Officer – Kathryn Pagler (from May 2021)

Graduate Project Officer – Leandra Fernandes

OUR STAFF

Corporate team

Communication Officer – Dr Sharon Abrahams

Communication Officer – Alexandra Lucchetti (until March 2021)

Senior Communications Officer – Karin Steenkamp (from June 2021)

Graphic Designer – Monica Shanahan

ICT Manager – Tony Macintyre

Assistant Accountant – Minyu (Rennie) Ding

Finance and Administration Officer – Evelina Zakaryan

Finance Officer – Iryna Sultani (until November 2020)

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

Victoria – Jim Moran

WA – Jeff Russell

See page 29 for information about the Grains Farm Biosecurity Program.

Bee biosecurity officers

NSW – Rod Bourke

Queensland – Rebecca Laws

SA – vacant

Tasmania – Karla Williams

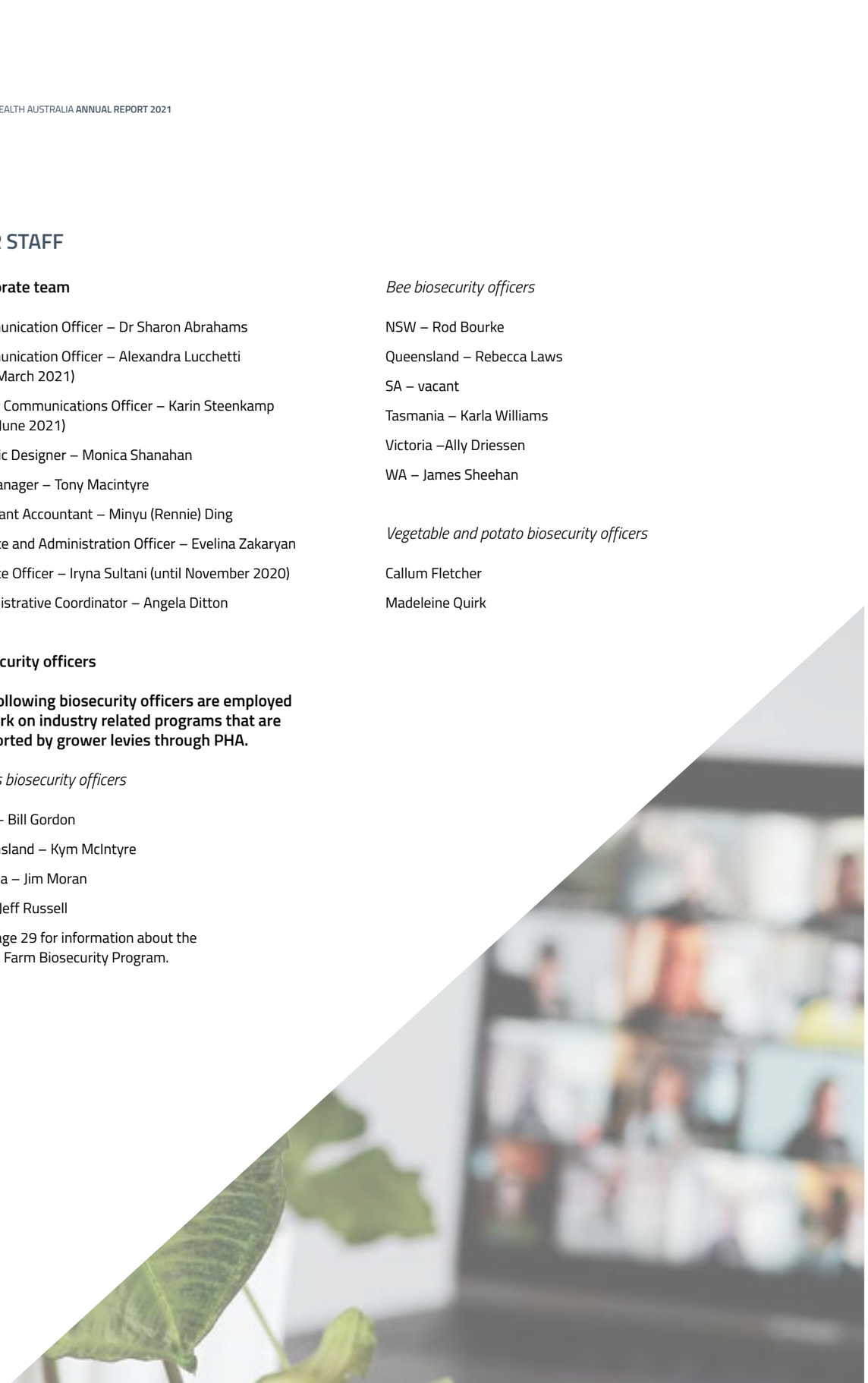
Victoria –Ally Driessen

WA – James Sheehan

Vegetable and potato biosecurity officers

Callum Fletcher

Madeleine Quirk



Our members

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

INDUSTRY MEMBERS

Almond Board of Australia
APAL
Australian Banana Growers' Council
Australian Blueberry Growers' Association
Australian Forest Products Association
Australian Ginger
Australian Grape & Wine
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
ALGA
Australian Macadamia Society
Australian Mangoes
Melons Australia
Australian Olive Association
Australian Table Grape Association
Australian Truffle Growers Association
Australian Walnut Industry Association
AUSVEG
Avocados Australia
Canegrowers
Canned Fruits Industry Council of Australia
Cherry Growers Australia Inc
Chestnuts Australia Inc
Citrus Australia
Cotton Australia
Dried Fruits Australia
GPA Grain Producers Australia
growcom
Hazelnut Growers of Australia
Nursery & Garden Industry Australia
Onions Australia
Passion Fruit Australia Inc
Pistachio Growers Association
raba
Ricegrowers' Association of Australia Inc
Strawberries Australia
Summerfruit Australia

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Australian Government
ACT Government
NSW Government
Northern Territory Government
Queensland Government
Government of South Australia
Tasmanian Government
Victoria State Government
Government of Western Australia

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

AgNova
PCA
CRDC
CSIRO
NT Farmers
Hort Innovation
GRDC Grains Research & Development Corporation
sra 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 assists in providing the best protection against the biosecurity challenges that lie 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.

PHA strategy

PHA's activities are organised into seven areas, consistent with the structure of our five-year strategic plan (2016-21). Each key result area's goals and achievements against key performance indicators are set out in the Annual Operational Plan and presented in this annual report.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Purpose

The purpose of Plant Health Australia is to coordinate 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

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

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

4 FACILITATE A NATIONALLY COORDINATED SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

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

5 IMPROVE THE DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM

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

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 of PHA 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.

Year in review

Timeline of events **2020–2021**

2020

JUL

New CEO, Sarah Corcoran commenced

2019 National Plant Biosecurity Status Report released

Seasonal worker farm biosecurity tools published

Phosphine resistance in grain storage survey launched

Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network Webinar 4: Looking out for pests in an urban garden

AUG

Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network Webinar 7: Living with Armillaria

Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network Webinar 5: When will we have another world first?

Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network Webinar 6: Watch out for environmental pests

Plant Health Committee meeting (virtual)

National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) interim meeting (virtual)

SEP

National Fruit Fly Council webinar

Applications for Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific (PSNAP) Surveillance Residential project opened

Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network Webinar 8: Myrtle rust

National Fall Armyworm Forum

OCT

National Fruit Fly Council webinar

First Farm Biosecurity Nuffield Scholar announced

Fall armyworm podcasts and resources published

National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) meeting (virtual)

NOV

Australian Biosecurity 2030 Workshop (virtual)

2020-25 National Fruit Fly Strategy released

2020 National Biosecurity Forum (virtual)

PHA Member Meeting (Canberra)

PHA Members Forum (virtual)

Plant Industry Forum (virtual)

PHA Annual General Meeting (virtual)

Plant Health Committee meeting (virtual)

Australia's Biosecurity Future report published by CSIRO

Australian Biosecurity Awards (virtual)

DEC

Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific (PSNAP) website launched

Annual Surveillance Workshop (virtual)

Biosecurity Plan for Berry Sector finalised

Refreshed PaDIL site launched

2021

JAN

Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) meeting

FEB

Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD) meeting

Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) meeting

MAR

Northern Australia Food Futures Conference (Darwin)

Mangrove biosecurity workshop (Cairns)

PHA Board Meeting 102 and strategic workshop

Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and industry liaison training (Hobart and Campbell Town)

Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) meeting

Plant Health Committee (PHC) meeting

National Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Network (NBCEN) meeting

APR

PHA's 21st birthday

Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) meeting

Australian Fruit Fly Technical Advisory Committee (AFFTAC) meeting

Australia's Biosecurity Future report published

Biosecurity and Agricultural Emergency Network (BAEN) meeting (virtual)

Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework (NABF) Reference Group (Darwin)

National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) meeting (hybrid)

MAY

National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC) Symposium (virtual)

Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD) meeting

Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) meeting

PHA Member Meeting and Forum (Sydney)

Plant Industry Forum (hybrid)

PHA General Meeting (hybrid)

PHA Annual Operational Plan released

JUN

Hort Connections (Brisbane)

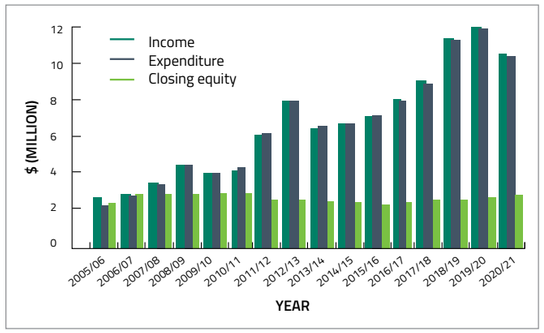
Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) meeting

Company trends

COMPANY INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND EQUITY

In 2020–21, there was a 11.7% decrease in PHA's revenue from $11.10m to $9.79m. The decrease was due to the delay on project completion as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. PHA continues to ensure that expenditure closely matches income, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. PHA income, expenditure and closing equity 2005–21



SOURCES OF INCOME

Subscription funding

PHA's main activities are funded from annual subscriptions paid by members, who are listed on pages 13-14. In May 2020 it was agreed that there would be no subscription increase for 2020–21 due to pressure on members caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This year subscription funding was $2.66m (last year: $2.66m), (Figure 2).

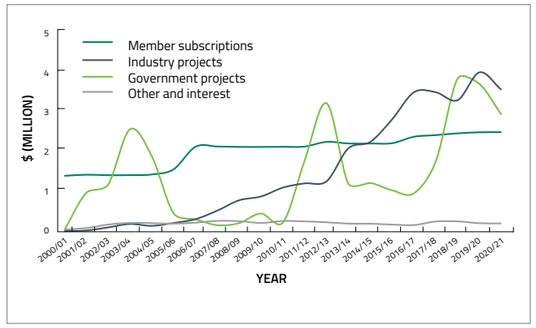
Non-subscription funding

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 $3.1m (last year: $3.96m), and industry income $3.8m (last year: $4.27m), (Figure 2).

Figure 2. PHA income, 2000–21, by source



LEVY FUNDING

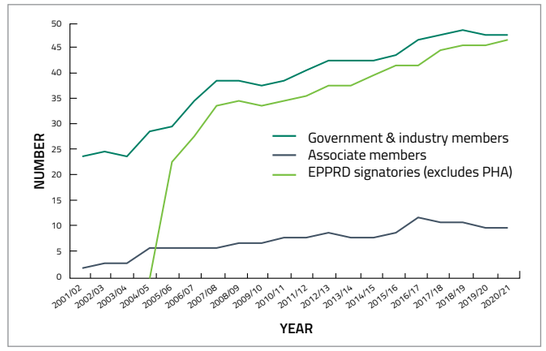
PHA levy

There are 23 industries with a PHA levy that is used to fund additional biosecurity preparedness activities (Figure 3). They include the grains, potato and vegetable, citrus, honey bee, nursery and garden, banana, wine grape, sweet potato, mango, melon, apple and pear, rice, avocado, onion, cotton, olive, chestnut, cherry, summer fruit, pineapple, strawberry and forest industries.

EPPR levy

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

Figure 3. Number of PHA industry members with biosecurity levies established, 1999–21



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 2020–21 include the significant work undertaken in improving the digital information system AUSPest*Check*™ with user-tailored data and reporting capability that meets information needs at a domestic and international level and the development of National Diagnostic Protocols for definitive taxonomic identification of plant pests in a suspect Emergency Plant Pest detection. 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.

Performance

Partnerships

Strengthen the plant biosecurity system through government and industry partnerships that deliver collaborative solutions to identified challenges.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

National committees and working groups

Attended **over 20** national committees and working groups

Corporate communications

11.78% increase in social media following
176,430 page views of PHA website
127,298 Tweet impressions

National programs

23 Farm Biosecurity articles written

Member liaison

2 member meetings held

PHA's independence and broad membership structure creates the ideal situation to bring stakeholders together and achieve critically important outcomes for plant health in the national interest.

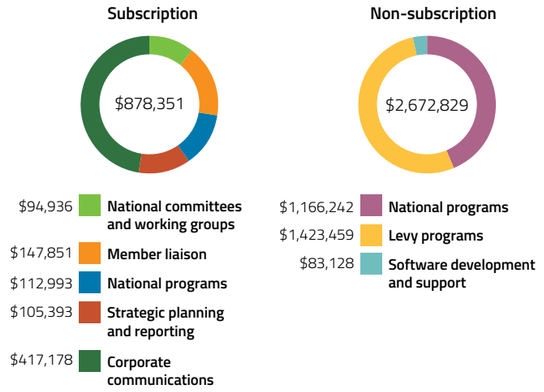
PHA's goals in this area are to:

- foster strong working relationships with members
- raise awareness of the importance of plant biosecurity
- boost investment in farm biosecurity practices
- improve biosecurity along the value chain
- establish or maintain international cooperative agreements.

Subscription-funded partnership activities 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.

Figure 4. Partnerships expenditure 2020–21



NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Inform an effective domestic market by contributing to the development and coordination of nationally consistent key plant biosecurity policy and procedures through committees.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Attend and contribute to meetings of national committees and working groups: ▪ National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) ▪ Plant Health Committee (PHC) ▪ Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) ▪ Environmental and Invasives Committee (EIC) ▪ National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC) ▪ Australian Fruit Fly Technical Advisory Committee ▪ Northern Australia Biosecurity Framework Group.		▪ Attended and contributed to more than 20 key national committees. ▪ PHA has led a number of items, including the interstate certification assurance review, development and consultation on new national strategies for surveillance, preparedness and diagnostics. ▪ In partnership with Animal Health Australia, supported NBC understanding of priorities and opportunities in the national response arrangements.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Support PHA's strategic goals by keeping members informed of company activities and raising awareness of biosecurity issues.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Produce a monthly Tendrils e-newsletter and increase subscriber base by five per cent.		▪ 10 editions of Tendrils produced and increased subscriber base by 8.57 per cent.
Increase coverage of major PHA news media by five per cent.		▪ iSentia media monitoring captured 256 articles mentioning PHA.
Increase number of articles for targeted media by five per cent.		▪ 14 articles and releases issued and covered in rural, regional, industry and social media.
Use Twitter to share aspects of biosecurity system and news to drive followers and increase reach.		▪ Increased followers by 11.78 per cent. ▪ 140 Tweets shared. ▪ Tweets received 127,298 impressions.
Maintain websites and increase usage by stakeholders.		▪ PHA website maintained with security patches and upgrades to the content management system. ▪ 73,797 users of the PHA website with 176,430 page views.
Produce publications to schedule and promote effectively with more online accessibility.		▪ Reports produced and promoted through multiple channels: - Annual report - 2019 National Plant Biosecurity Status Report - Mid-Year Performance report - Annual Operational Plan.
Contribute to the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) by boosting website traffic and driving outreach activities.		▪ Hosted and maintained the IYPH website. ▪ Supported the move to online events impacted by COVID-19 by promoting them through Tendrils and our social media channels.
Timely and high-quality responses to significant reviews with the potential to affect Australia's plant biosecurity system.		▪ No reviews required during the reporting period.

Partnerships

MEMBER LIAISON

Align company activities with member priorities by engaging members in the setting, implementation and uptake of company program objectives and outputs through meetings and member surveys.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Hold two general meetings annually.		▪ Two members meetings held (November 2020, and May 2021).
Host at least two plant industry forum meetings and a joint PHA-AHA forum.		▪ A virtual plant industry forum was held in November 2020. A hybrid forum was held in May 2021.
Hold at least one consultative meeting for all members between the AGM and GM.		▪ Held AOP webinar in March 2021.
Conduct one-on-one consultations with every member organisation at least once and provide opportunities for input into operational priorities 2020-21.		▪ PHA staff maintained contact with all members either via video or telephone throughout the year.
Participate in industry/government meetings as requested by members.		▪ Accepted all requests for attendance at meetings from members.
Include Board communiques in Tendrils.		▪ A communique from the March 2021 Board meeting included.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REPORTING

Provide members and the Board with a clear alignment between company activities and strategic goals, with reporting against the AOP occurring after six months in the mid-year performance report and in the annual report.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Consult members in determining operational priorities for 2021-22.		▪ Members consulted in AOP webinar in March 2021 and individual conversations throughout the year.
Present AOP to members and secure Board approval by May 2021.		▪ Presented and approved.
Annual Report 2020 and end-of-year financial statements presented to members at the 2020 annual general meeting.		▪ Presented to and approved by the members at the AGM November 2020.
Report against agreed KPIs in the Mid-Year Performance Report, secure approval by the Board and report to members.		▪ Mid-Year performance report prepared and presented in virtual meeting to members in March 2021.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Monitor and implement aspects of National Plant Biosecurity Strategy. Raise awareness and improve adoption of biosecurity management practices on farms through the Farm Biosecurity program.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Revise the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy (NPBS) and secure endorsement by PHA members.		▪ Reviewing the three sub-strategies under the NPBS to inform the review. ▪ Draft version NPBS to be presented at the November 2021 AGM.
In conjunction with PHA members, implement the NPBS and associated strategies.		▪ A number of actions identified in the NPBS strategy being implemented by PHA and its members.
Develop Farm Biosecurity resources for agronomists, consultants and veterinarians to help producers implement biosecurity measures.		▪ Developed content for five fact sheets and put it into design.
20 Farm Biosecurity media releases or articles published.		▪ 23 articles published by PHA on the website, distributed in newsletters and submitted to magazines for publication.
Complete the Farm Biosecurity Producer Survey to determine the awareness of producers about biosecurity.		▪ Summary of results publicly available on the Farm Biosecurity website.
Sponsor a Nuffield Scholar to foster biosecurity leaders among producers.		▪ Joint inaugural Farm Biosecurity Nuffield Scholar awarded.

DIGITAL SYSTEMS

Enhance online web resources that support the national biosecurity system.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Maintain hardware for hosting websites.		▪ PHA continues to move its hosting to the cloud and is consolidating hosting arrangements for increased efficiency, security and ease of maintenance.
Provide technical website support to maintain services.		▪ Support for the websites managed by PHA is provided to members and external users. ▪ PHA receives external technical support to ensure the websites owned by PHA continue to function as expected and where possible enhancements are made.
Opportunities sought to develop new websites.		▪ PHA considered opportunities for new websites but no relevant opportunities were presented.
Maintain and improve web security to protect PHA and member organisations.		▪ Websites and services managed to meet Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) Essential Eight baseline mitigation strategies including regular service patching, restricted management access, backups and threat management.
Seek funding for new sites and enhancements to existing sites.		▪ Funding from DAWE for essential and cosmetic updates to National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics Network (NPBDN) and Plant Surveillance Network Australasia Pacific websites (PSNAP). ▪ Developed Plant Health Committee and SNPHS sub sites on the Biosecurity Portal. ▪ Developed Bee Surveillance Portal and website to provide real-time access for remote catchboxes.
Maintain the Biosecurity Portal.		▪ The Biosecurity Portal is maintained, providing access to a number of public sites and secure workspaces for groups of stakeholders.

Partnerships

NON-SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Traceability project

Sent to **39** members
16 follow up interviews conducted

Grains Farm Biosecurity Program

10 articles published

Network coordination

86 new NPBDN members
163 new PSNAP members

National Fruit Fly Council

3-day National Fruit Fly Symposium held
38 speakers
420 registrants

Review of diagnostics/surveillance strategies and development of a preparedness strategy

Implementation plans for 3 strategies being developed

Vegetable and Potato Biosecurity Program

30 respondents to producer survey

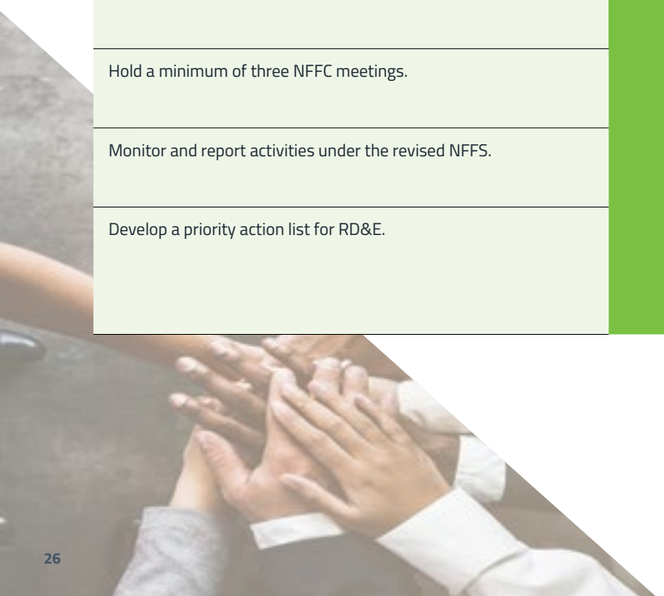
Melon Biosecurity Program

6 member technical advisory panel established

NATIONAL FRUIT FLY COUNCIL

Drive progress against the National Fruit Fly Strategy (NFFS) and the fruit fly agenda.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Identify and prioritise key activities to improve the management of fruit flies across Australia.		▪ Following extensive consultation with stakeholders NFFC have prioritised a set of key activities to strengthen the national fruit fly system. NFFC will use these prioritised activities to guide its focus in the 2021-22 financial year.
Hold a minimum of three NFFC meetings.		▪ Six NFFC meetings were held in 2020-21, including two out-of-session meetings for extraordinary business.
Monitor and report activities under the revised NFFS.		▪ The NFFC has produced an annual report against the activities 2020-21 Implementation Plan.
Develop a priority action list for RD&E.		▪ The NFFC provided advice on the co-funded government research program during 2020-21. It has also identified a range of research needs that will be taken forward with researchers and funders in 2021-22.



Outputs	Status	Comments
Develop annual NFFS action plan.		▪ A new Implementation Plan has been developed for 2021-22. This Plan has commenced including activities from industry bodies, as well as government agencies, to better represent the breadth and depth of the national fruit fly system.
Convene a series of workshops with regional groups to engage on key issues of concern and to report RD&E outputs.		▪ The NFFC hosted 12 regional workshops in 2020-21 and has collated the key issues of concern and research needs to share with decision-makers.
Host a National Fruit Fly Symposium.		▪ A National Fruit Fly Symposium was held online from 4-6 May 2021 and attracted over 420 participants.
Regularly update and promote Prevent Fruit Fly website.		▪ The Prevent Fruit Fly website has been refreshed and updated. The website had 54,406 page views and 30,213 users, an increase from last year of 15,476 page views and 7,688 users (351% and 393% respectively).
Produce an e-newsletter every eight weeks.		▪ There were 11 e-newsletters distributed in 2020-21.
Develop communication articles.		▪ In addition to the e-newsletters, two articles were distributed to industry magazines.
Present annual report to stakeholders.		▪ The 2020 Annual Report is available on the Prevent Fruit Fly website.

REVIEW OF THE DIAGNOSTICS AND SURVEILLANCE STRATEGIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF A PREPAREDNESS STRATEGY

Review the national diagnostic and surveillance sub strategies and develop a preparedness sub strategy, to sit under the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Revised National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy endorsed by PHA members.		▪ The revised National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy has been discussed at several SPHDS meetings, circulated to PHA members, and sent to PHC for endorsement in the first quarter of 2021.
Revised National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy endorsed by PHA members.		▪ Revision of the National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy has been extensively discussed with SNPHS and has had significant industry and PHA member consultation. ▪ The final surveillance strategy will be put to PHC for endorsement in the second quarter of 2021/22.
First National Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Strategy endorsed by PHA members.		▪ Development of the preparedness strategy is well advanced with broad consultation with industry, government and other stakeholders well progressed. ▪ The final surveillance strategy will be put to PHC for endorsement in the second quarter of 2021/22.

Partnerships

NETWORK COORDINATION

Assist with the coordination of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network (NPBDN) and the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific (PSNAP).

Outputs	Status	Comments
Update NPBDN and PSNAP websites regularly.		▪ New content was uploaded to each site monthly. National Surveillance and Diagnostics protocols updated post-endorsement.
Develop and implement professional development programs for NPBDN and PSNAP members.		▪ Residential programs for both diagnostics and surveillance have been approved. Most of the approved residentials on hold due to COVID-19. One diagnostic residential is underway.
Deliver Annual Diagnostics and Surveillance workshops.		▪ Annual Surveillance workshop held virtually (125 attendees from 26 organisations) with the diagnostic workshop being delayed to 2021-22.
Increase membership and co-ordinate the network.		▪ There were 86 new members of NPBDN and 163 new members of PSNAP.

TRACEABILITY PROJECT

Develop a concept proposal to determine the extent of knowledge and map existing supply chain traceability systems across Australian plant industries.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Work with DPIRD WA to map existing traceability systems in Australia's plant industries.		▪ PHA consulted its industry members to determine how they use traceability with a report being provided to PHC and DAWE.

GRAINS FARM BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

Improve the management of and preparedness for, biosecurity risks in the Australian grain industry.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Promote Grains farm biosecurity website and regularly update content.		▪ Website grainsbiosecurity.com.au completed.
Develop fact sheets for critical exotic pests of grain industry.		▪ 22 new fact sheets on priority grain pests developed.
Feature articles on key grain biosecurity risks in Groundcover publication.		▪ Ten articles published in six editions of GRDC's GroundCover publication.

MELON BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

To improve biosecurity capacity in relation to post-border preparedness and enhance biosecurity practices across all aspects of melon production.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Promote online biosecurity training courses to growers through Melon e-news.		▪ Course developed and promoted.
Provide access to farm biosecurity plans through the melon website.		▪ On-farm biosecurity plan for Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus promoted to melon industry through maintaining the latest industry versions on melonsaustralia.org.au

VEGETABLE AND POTATO BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

An industry-led program to develop and implement a surveillance strategy for the potato industry.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Implement a communication and engagement plan.		▪ As a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions, a plan focusing on online and virtual activities was developed. ▪ Under the plan, the AUSVEG biosecurity team demonstrated their ability to engage effectively using different channels.
Conduct a national grower survey to establish baseline and measure improvements in knowledge and on-farm management.		▪ Biosecurity survey conducted with 253 respondents. ▪ Results indicated increased willingness to engage in biosecurity practices.

Partnerships

2020–25 NATIONAL FRUIT FLY STRATEGY RELEASED

The 2020-25 National Fruit Fly Strategy was released in November 2020 at a meeting of the National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC). The strategy provides a framework for governments, industries and research funders to advance fruit fly management in Australia and prevent exotic species from establishing.

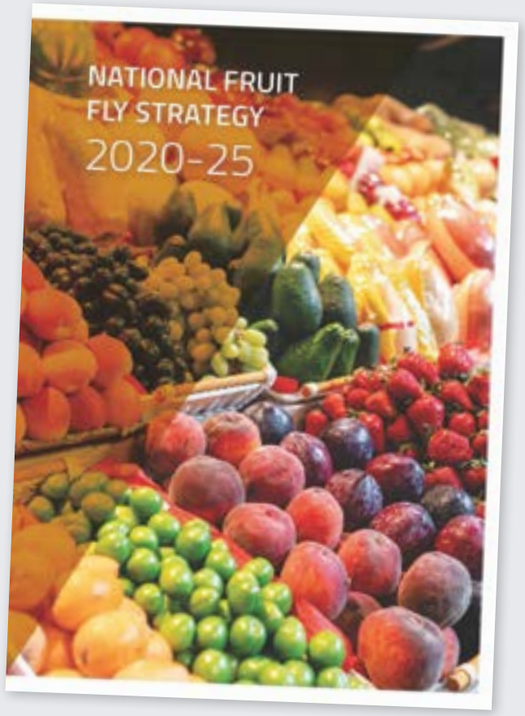
The strategy focuses on maintaining and improving access to domestic and international markets for affected industries, which make up about half of Australia's $13 billion horticulture sector.

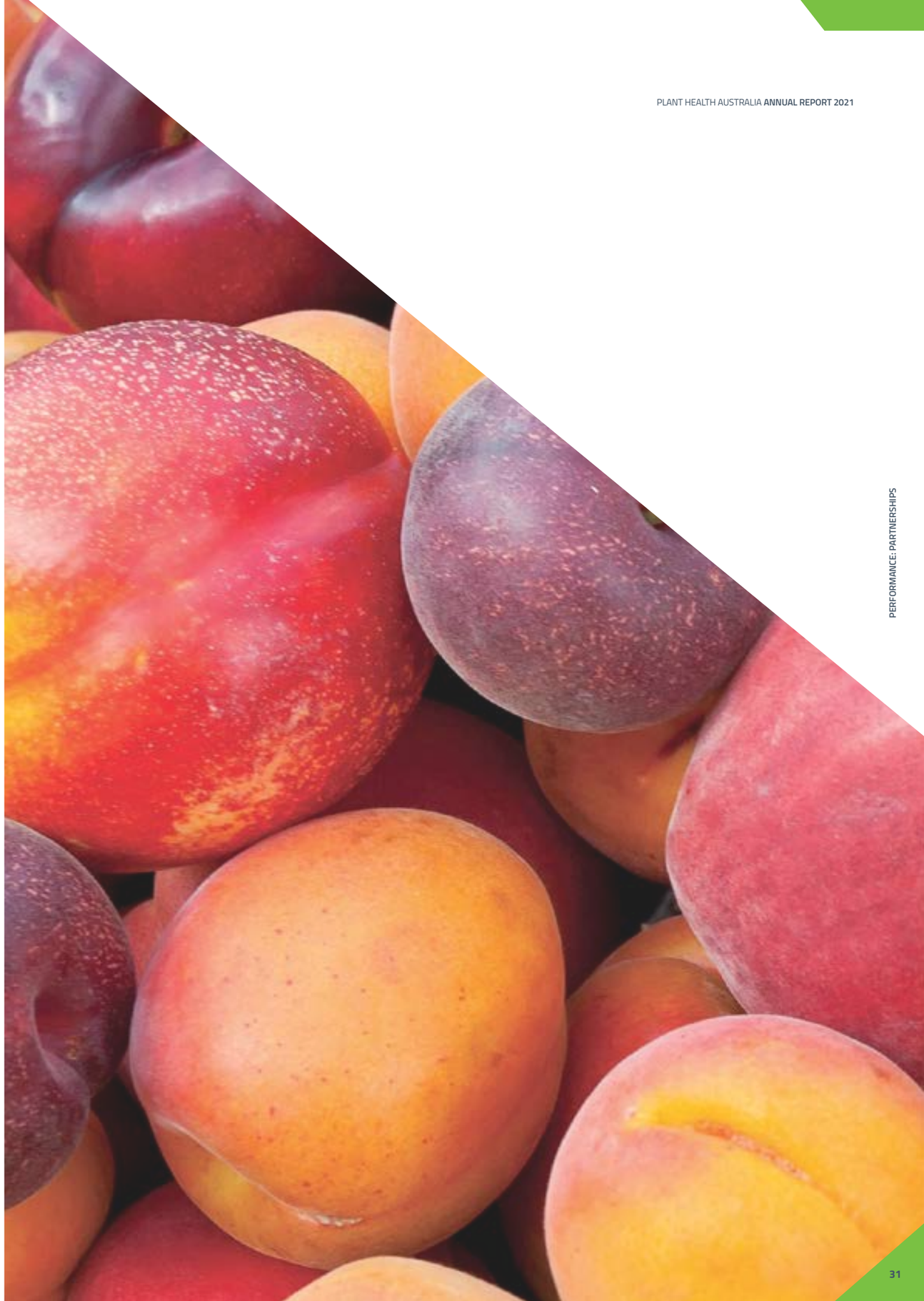
The strategy builds on the 2008 version and is the result of a collaborative effort by Australia's horticultural industries, state governments, the Australian Government, Hort Innovation and various research institutions. It reflects their contributions and maps the actions required to meet the needs of affected parties.

These needs have been captured under eight interdependent priority areas: market access; management of established fruit fly; prevention, preparedness and response; research; surveillance; diagnostics; communication and engagement; and cooperation.

The NFFC is tasked with overseeing the implementation of the strategy under the 2020–21 Implementation Plan to identify and monitor key activities under the strategy.

More information is available on the Prevent Fruit Fly website preventfruitfly.com.au





Emergency response

As custodian of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD), administer the EPPRD, enhance policy and operations to promote early pest reporting and manage responses to Emergency Plant Pest (EPP) incursion.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

National committees and working groups

Establishment of Biosecurity and Agriculture Emergency Network (BAEN)

Incursion management

Supporting Parties and completion of Citrus Canker and TSFF responses

EPPRD training

Delivered three Industry Liaison training sessions
EPPRD awareness training
ACT, NT, TAS and Feds
Australian Grape and Wine
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

EPPRD management

15 year anniversary of EPPRD

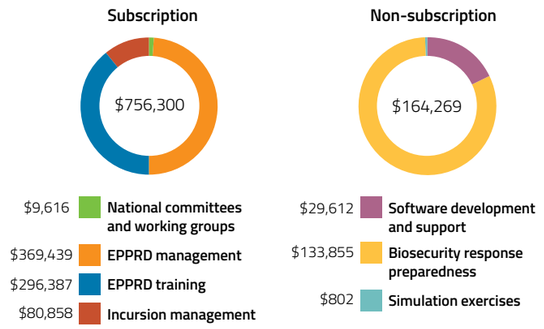
2020 review of the EPPRD
7 reference group meetings
61 recommendations put forward
46 forward actions identified

Vector/pathogen complexes progressed and agreed

Key aims of this program area include:

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

Figure 5. Emergency response expenditure 2020–21



NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Support national coordination and reform aspects of the plant biosecurity system.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Nationally agreed emergency preparedness and response training standards available, supported by required certification arrangements.		▪ PHA facilitated TOCAL delivery of an information session on the Biosecurity Emergency Response Training Australia (BERTA) competencies and the potential for uptake by industry at the industry forum.
Deliver emergency preparedness activities nationally supported through participation in relevant national committees.		▪ PHA was actively engaged in forming the new BAEN, establishing, and progressing its workplan. This is the replacement (government) group for the National Biosecurity Preparedness Expert Group. PHA led/supported progress in the following workplan activities: - training community of practice - lessons management - recovery principles - review of the Biosecurity Incident Management System (BIMS).
Outcomes of cross-sectoral biosecurity training outcomes in collaboration with AHA have enhanced consistency.		▪ PHA and AHA have worked collaboratively during 2020/21 with a focus on engagement with industry in a liaison role. Exploration of options for co-delivery of this training, including production of a cross-sector guide, was undertaken and adopted where relevant. Each company has supported the other through evaluation of training activities.
Relevant aspects of harmonisation between EPPRD, the Emergency Animal Disease Response Arrangement (EADRA) and National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement reported to Parties.		▪ Active engagement between PHA and AHA on response preparedness and operation of the EPPRD and EADRA Parties.

Emergency response

EPPRD MANAGEMENT

Implement priority actions, support parties to meet their obligations under the EPPRD, implementation of Owner Reimbursement Costs and improving policy and awareness activities to support early reporting of an incursion.

KPIs	Status	Comments
2020 review of the EPPRD completed and outcomes considered by Parties in May 2021.		▪ Every five years the EPPRD is subject to a formal review. The third such review commenced in October 2020 through a review reference group (led by PHA), with multiple meetings held between October 2020 and April 2021. ▪ During this period of time signatories to the EPPRD were updated on initial outcomes, with the final draft report provided in June 2021 (EPPRD meeting #33). ▪ Parties provided their overall support for the outcomes and forward actions identified in the report. Forward actions were prioritised for action, with those of an 'urgent' nature to be progressed during 2021-22. ▪ Parties were invited to provide any further reflections on the report out of session, with the report to be finalised for early August 2021.
Variations to support equity for impacted owners agreed by Parties by May 2021.		▪ A set of variations to the EPPRD was provided to the Parties in November 2020 which would provide a National Management Group (NMG) with the discretionary decision-making power to provide (and share of the costs of) Owner Reimbursement Costs (ORCs) to impacted producers, even if a national response plan is not implemented. ▪ The underlying intent of the variations was to support equity to impacted owners, noting in the absence of a response plan the EPPRD does not currently allow for ORCs to be cost shared. In March 2021 the signatories revalidated the agreed approach and intent of the variations. ▪ As a significant change to the EPPRD, some Parties need to complete consultation within their agencies / organisations. It is anticipated that formal sign-off will commence in early 2022 following the Parties' meeting end of 2021. ▪ This work brings together more than four years of negotiation amongst the signatories to the EPPRD on this important matter.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Complete a holistic review of the structure and format of PLANTPLAN by May 2021.		▪ PLANTPLAN was subject to a full review during 2020-21, inclusive of its structure, usage and content. ▪ Identified improvements to the structure and format of PLANTPLAN supported by Parties December 2020. ▪ Proposed framework for classifying PLANTPLAN supporting documents and other resources were supported by Parties in June 2021. ▪ Development of content in line with the revised structure and format is currently ongoing, with consultation with Parties to occur in August 2021 ahead of endorsement being sought in November 2021.
Complete the review of Parties' normal commitments by May 2021.		▪ An Issue Resolution Group was formed to discuss the concept of 'existing staff' and Cost Sharing in early 2021. The relationship between Normal Commitments and eligible cost types for Cost Sharing was discussed with Parties in June 2021. ▪ Parties have agreed to hold a workshop (to be held in the latter half of 2021) to share their understanding and expectations regarding Normal Commitments and Cost Sharing.
Progress key policy and process issues and report to Parties each EPPRD meeting.		▪ **Vector/pathogen complexes** – Parties provided in principle support for proposed variations to the EPPRD in November 2020 to implement the agreed approach to address vector–pathogen complexes. This matter had been deliberated on by the Parties over the last 5-10 years and the variations supported will provide clarity (without being restrictive) in how to address these pests of concern under the EPPRD arrangements. ▪ **Near border Incidents** – Agreed policy position achieved by the Parties in respect of application of the EPPRD for 'near border' incidents in November 2020. Resolution of this issue had been supported through the work of an Issue Resolution Group led by PHA. ▪ **Transition to Management** – Parties discussed their concerns regarding the limitations of the 'transition to management' provisions in June 2021. Options to provide more flexibility in extenuating circumstances whilst maintaining the original intent were explored and supported. ▪ **ORCs** – Insights from the ORC review were discussed with Parties in December 2020 and forward actions agreed that will support improved implementation of the ORC provisions in a response. ▪ **ORC Evidence Frameworks** – Supported Industry Parties in the annual short rotation and perennial tree cropping sectors to progress development of their ORC evidence frameworks through sector specific workshops. This followed on from support provided by PHA to the Plant Industry Forum in late 2020 to run two ORC workshops focused on improving ORC awareness. ▪ **Various policy/process improvements to the EPPRD** – Clarity and improvement in the EPPRD achieved through Parties negotiation and support of proposed variations across various provisions. Variations were informed through experience in application of the EPPRD and reflect current practices. Examples of provisions supported for variation included: - CCEPP/NMG membership and role - training obligations for Parties - non-signatories to the EPPRD - PHA membership/EPPRD signatory status.

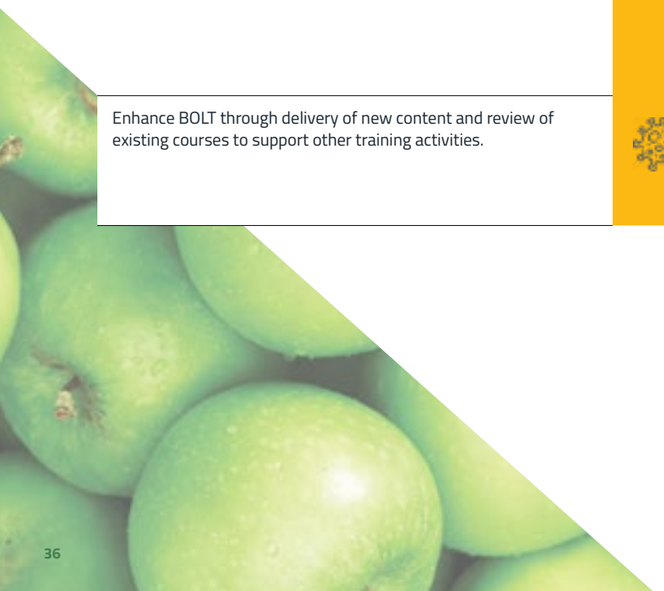
Emergency response

KPIs	Status	Comments
Develop and revise key guidance material to support Parties understanding and implementation of the EPPRD.		▪ Progressed guidance material on determining if a Plant Pest meets the definition of an Emergency Plant Pest.
Full compliance with PHA responsibilities in respect of administration of the EPPRD demonstrated quarterly to the PHA Board.		▪ PHA compliance with its obligations/responsibilities under the EPPRD reported to the PHA Board each quarter. Key matters addressed: - finishing admission of a new Party to the EPPRD - CCEPP/NMG representation - collation/coordination of progressing cost claims - implementing the 5 year review of the EPPRD.

EPPRD TRAINING

Develop and maintain appropriately skilled personnel, robust processes and systems that promote effective responses to plant biosecurity incidents.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Deliver four 'Industry Liaison in a Biosecurity Response' workshops.		▪ Three workshops delivered during 2020-21, hosted in South Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory. ▪ Two workshops initially scheduled for 2020-21 postponed at the request of the hosting jurisdiction due to COVID-19 impacts (New South Wales – hosted July 2021; Victoria – to be hosted during 2021-22)
Deliver emergency preparedness and response training tailored to members' needs.		▪ Enhanced EPPRD awareness supported through training delivered to various governments (ACT, NT, Tasmania, and the Commonwealth) and members of Industry Parties (Australian Grape and Wine and Australian Honey Bee Industry Council).
Complete BISOPs for two Industry Parties.		▪ Commitment to developing a BISOP resides with the Industry Party. ▪ Apple and Pear Australia BISOP was finalised. ▪ PHA engaged with several Industry Parties regarding potential workshops to progress their BISOPs, anticipated to occur in late 2021.
Enhance BOLT through delivery of new content and review of existing courses to support other training activities.		▪ Review (design and content) of the Emergency Response Management and the Plant Biosecurity in Australia (previously the PHA Foundation) courses commenced, with publication anticipated during 2022.



INCURSION MANAGEMENT

Facilitate effective and efficient responses to plant pest notifications in line with the requirements of the EPPRD.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Participate in incidents and fulfill PHA roles and responsibilities according to the specified terms and timeframes of the EPPRD.		▪ PHA roles and responsibilities fulfilled for all incidents reported under the EPPRD, including all current and recently completed response plans.
Support Parties during incidents to fulfill their roles and responsibilities under the EPPRD.		▪ Full support provided to Parties for all incidents including current and recently completed response plans.
Report key findings from implemented debriefs to Parties in May 2021.		▪ Findings from implemented debriefs considered through 2020 review of the EPPRD and outcomes discussed by Parties in June 2021.

Emergency response

NON-SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Software development and support

Free Biosecurity for Beekeepers course

Software development and support

Provision of online platform for member courses

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

Provide members with access to a central, low-cost eLearning platform to host their biosecurity related course.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Facilitate hosting of online training courses developed by PHA members through the BOLT system.		▪ **Biosecurity for Beekeepers** – Updated course released in July 2020 and made free to access thanks to funding from AHBIC and state and territory governments. ▪ **Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) course** – Designed and developed (under contract to QLD) an eLearning course targeting RIFA awareness for the building and construction industry in QLD (course content provided by QLD). ▪ Continued hosting of specific government courses on request.
Support Parties during incidents to fulfil their roles and responsibilities under the EPPRD.		▪ Full support provided to Parties for all incidents including current and recently completed response plans.

BIOSECURITY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

Advise on and facilitate professional development and response training to improve cross-sectoral national biosecurity response capability and capacity.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Contribute to the National Biosecurity Response Team (NBRT) program management.		▪ Strong participation and contribution as part of the NBRT advisory group.
Contribute to the planning and delivery of the NBRT activities (recruitment, induction, professional development and exercises).		▪ Part of the recruitment panel for the major NBRT recruitment round. ▪ Supported NBRT members during COVID-19 by leading the development of a remote professional development program. ▪ Supported the implementation of the 'virtual control centre' exercise in June 2021 through engagement on the planning and evaluation teams.

PLANT BIOSECURITY IN AUSTRALIA: ONLINE TRAINING

PHA hosts an online learning platform, BOLT, that provides free courses on topics related to plant biosecurity. In 2020, a new online course on the fundamentals of plant biosecurity in Australia was launched.

The Plant Biosecurity in Australia course covers important information on the:

- structure and key participants in the biosecurity system
- work completed before a pest is detected, designed to protect Australia's plant resources, including:
  - the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy
  - biosecurity planning
  - surveillance programs
  - training
  - on-farm biosecurity
- key elements of biosecurity emergency response management
- fundamentals of Emergency Plant Pest responses in action.

The course is essential learning for anyone who will be representing their organisation in the event of an emergency response to a plant pest. It is also great background knowledge for anyone who is involved in biosecurity.

This and other courses are available at planthealthaustralia.com.au/BOLT

Plant biosecurity in Australia operates best when key participants work as partners

Preparedness

Undertake biosecurity planning and strategic post-border activities for specific plant industries to identify, prepare for and manage threats to plant-based agriculture and the environment.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

National committees and working groups

Participated in 6 working groups

Biosecurity planning and review

Biosecurity Preparedness Portal: info for 35 plant sectors

Biosecurity planning and review

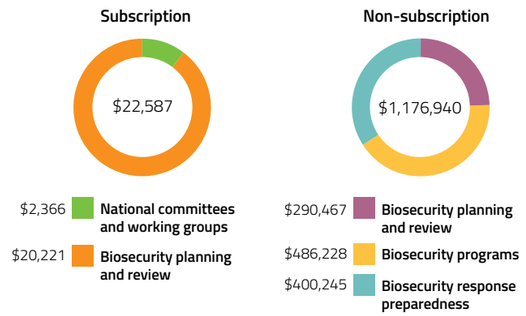
4 new funding agreements secured

The key aims of this area are:

- facilitate the identification of pest risks and corresponding risk mitigation activities
- improve prioritisation of exotic pests
- facilitate the identification and implementation of post-border industry preparedness initiatives.

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.

Figure 6. Preparedness expenditure 2020-21



NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Working Group* (PBPWG) aims to improve priority plant pest and system preparedness through national coordination of government preparedness activities.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Participate in Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Working Group meetings and activities.		▪ Participated in all 6 Working Group meetings as well as additional workshop activities when required.

BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND REVIEW

Improve risk mitigation by developing plans that identify, assess and prioritise biosecurity risks and provides a framework for preparedness.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Maintain and update PHA's exotic pest database.		▪ Database updated when a new biosecurity plan version is updated.
Prepare proposals for development and review of three biosecurity plans.		▪ Proposals prepared and funding secured for Biosecurity Planning for the cotton, grains, rice and citrus industries.
Update the Biosecurity Capability Index after completion of each biosecurity plan.		▪ Biosecurity Capability Index regularly updated following industry biosecurity meetings.
Update the Biosecurity Preparedness Portal with the preparedness material for all PHA member plant industries as it becomes available.		▪ Development and initial content population completed mid-2020. ▪ Biosecurity Preparedness Portal populated for 35 different plant industry sectors. ▪ Resources within each of the industry portals include biosecurity planning resources, contingency plans, fact sheets and data tables used in Industry Biosecurity Plans.

Preparedness

NON-SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Biosecurity planning and review

Biosecurity Plans for Plantation Forest and Tropical fruits developed

Environmental biosecurity planning for mangroves and associated communities

40 attendees at the Cairns workshop

National Bee Biosecurity Program

2,746 Beekeepers completed biosecurity online training course

Bee Health and Resources

2,549 professional and amateur beekeepers surveyed

Management of fall armyworm

47 Government, industry and research agency attendees at national forum
9 podcasts produced and published

BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND REVIEW

Investigate and prioritise the threats and pathways for exotic plant pests to enter Australia and develop implementation plans to mitigate the risk.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Develop or revise biosecurity plans for plantation forestry, production nursery and tropical fruit (lychee, papaya and passionfruit) industries.		▪ Biosecurity Plans for plantation forestry and tropical fruits developed and submitted for endorsement. ▪ Biosecurity Plan for production nursery sector still under development. ▪ Plantation Forestry Biosecurity Plan sent to PHC.
Reference panels held for avocado, banana, berry (Rubus and strawberry), cherry, ginger, mangoes, onion, plantation forestry, potato, summer fruit, sweetpotatoes, tea tree, vegetable and viticulture industries.		▪ Reference panel meetings held for the avocado, banana, berry, cherry, ginger, mango, mushroom, onion, plantation forestry, potato, summer fruit, sweetpotato, tea tree, vegetable and viticulture industries.
Project proposals for the honey bee, citrus and grains industries developed.		▪ Honey Bee industry Biosecurity Plan underway and to be finalised in the new financial year.

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY PLANNING FOR MANGROVES AND ASSOCIATED COMMUNITIES

Map stakeholders and stakeholder engagement in a mangrove pest response.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Host stakeholder workshop.		▪ Workshop held in Cairns with government, industry and environmental groups. ▪ Over 40 delegates attended.

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY ASSESSMENT OF NATIVE BEES

Investigate the risks and pathways for exotic bees or pests to enter Australia, based on a review of international literature on a similar genera of bees and develop a plan to mitigate the risks to native bees.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Develop biosecurity threat list for Australian native bees.		▪ The environmental pest list was consolidated and provided to stakeholders.
Identify biosecurity risk pathways.		▪ Literature review complete. ▪ A workshop with risk pathway experts was held. ▪ Knowledge of how cryptic insects move in cargo or naturally captured.
Develop recommendations to address potential impacts of pests on native bees.		▪ Recommendations compiled for input into final report.
Develop appropriate awareness material.		▪ Preparation of awareness material delayed and will be completed first half of 2021-22.
Conduct a stakeholder workshop.		▪ The workshop delayed to 2021/22 due to the impact of COVID-19. ▪ Stakeholders have advised a face-to-face meeting will be more successful than a virtual meeting.

NATIONAL BEE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

Enhance preparedness of the honey bee industry for exotic bee pests, support international trade and protect the pollination reliant industries.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Finalise implementation of the program review.		▪ Review finalised, with five recommendation areas identified to support improvements to the program.
Manage the workplans of six Bee Biosecurity Officers.		▪ All contract milestones delivered by Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBOs).
Assist AHBIC with formal phase in of Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice.		▪ BBOs trained and provided with awareness material to support adoption of the Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice. ▪ State and Territories use the code to support or amend their legislation to meet code requirements.
Encourage increased level of participation by beekeepers in the online course 'Biosecurity for Beekeepers' (BOLT).		▪ Online course promoted nationally by PHA and BBOs. ▪ 1,635 Beekeepers completed the BOLT course.

Preparedness

Outputs	Status	Comments
Support the National Bee Biosecurity Program Steering Committee.		▪ NBBP steering committee met in November 2020 and June 2021. ▪ As required by its terms of reference.
Support the National Bee Biosecurity Program Harmonisation Committee.		▪ PHA continues to work with AHBIC and the SDQMA to ensure domestic movement controls are aligned domestically. This is an ongoing project.

BEE HEALTH AND RESOURCES

A national annual survey of professional and amateur beekeepers.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Undertake Beekeeper survey and report to AHBIC.		▪ The annual survey was undertaken online. The results were analysed and findings provided to AHBIC and AgriFutures. ▪ 2,549 participants in the survey comprising professional and hobby beekeepers. ▪ The report is available on the PHA Bee Aware web site.
BeeAware pest ID app released.		▪ The BeeAware app was not progressed under the advice from AgriFutures. ▪ PHA has submitted a final report to AgriFutures on this project.

MANAGEMENT OF FALL ARMYWORM

Educate the Australian grains industry on the potential impacts of the pest and its management, to minimise potential damage to the industry.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Contribute to a final RD&E gap analysis.		▪ Literature review on key components of a RD&E gap analysis and recommendations to guide future investments submitted. ▪ Information on international, domestic and local activities provided.
Deliver a national Fall Armyworm Forum.		▪ Led the delivery of a virtual national forum and submitted a report on new RD&E ideas, gaps, opportunities and areas for partnerships.
Develop a fall armyworm continuity plan for the Australian grains industry.		▪ Continuity plan developed and provided to GRDC.
Fall armyworm podcasts.		▪ A series of nine open podcasts produced and published.

DEFENDING AGAINST A NEW PEST, FALL ARMYWORM

Since it was first detected in northern parts of Queensland, NT and WA in February 2020, fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) has established in these locations and moved into parts of southern Australia.

As a new pest little was known about fall armyworm, with a heavy reliance on information and experience available from overseas. In unmanaged situations overseas, fall armyworm has been known to decimate crops, specifically maize, sweetcorn and sorghum, and has been observed on 350 different plant species with crops from 11 local industries potentially at risk.

This threat prompted concerted efforts to research its likely effects in Australia and develop resources to guide management of the pest. Throughout 2020, PHA sourced and collated international knowledge of the pest to produce a new fall armyworm continuity guide and record a series of podcasts to help industry manage the invasive moth species.

The Fall Armyworm Continuity Plan for the Australian Grains Industry – a Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC) investment initiative led by Cesar Australia with project partners PHA, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International, and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – is a reference guide on the pest and provides a basis for designing area wide management plans, crop specific management manuals and strategies to avoid chemical resistance.

The podcast series, funded by Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI) members and PHA, features growers, agronomists and leading Australian researchers sharing their experiences and delves into the biology and behaviour of the pest. These resources are available online at pbri.com.au

To bolster local information, identify gaps in our understanding of how fall armyworm will behave in Australia and how best to manage it, a National Fall Armyworm Forum was convened. Led by PHA, and supported by the Australian Government, the forum comprising representatives from government, industry and research sectors, assisted with the development of a national management plan, available from planthealthaustralia.com.au/fall-armyworm

Surveillance

Coordinate the components of the surveillance system to increase early detection of new exotic plant pests and provide evidence of the absence of key pests to support market access.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

National committees and working groups

2 SNPHS meetings attended

International programs

3 meetings attended as part of the IPSN Australia/New Zealand surveillance project

Three botanic gardens (Perth, Melbourne, Hobart) providing surveillance data into the Botanic Gardens Surveillance Network

Software development and support

15 of PHA's 38 members engaged in AUSPest*Check*™ deployment

All state and territory governments and four industry members provided data into four programs

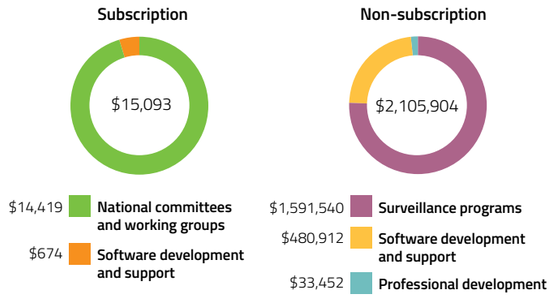
Over 2.6 million fruit fly data records uploaded

Over 580,000 data records uploaded

Key aims of this program 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 (SNPHS).

Figure 7. Surveillance expenditure 2020–21



NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS) supervises the implementation of the National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy and facilitates the development and implementation of initiatives that promote domestic and international market access. As a member and deputy chair, PHA supports work to review and implement the National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy in 2020. The subcommittee is contributing to improving the national collection of information through developing standards for surveillance protocols and data for targeted and general surveillance programs. It coordinates the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia–Pacific (PSNAP) and identifies professional development opportunities that will improve capacity, capability and development of resources for surveillance. As part of the work on SNPHS, PHA also provides a member of the Plant Surveillance Network Working Group (PSNWG).

KPIs	Status	Comments
Support SNPHS meetings and activities.		▪ Active participation in two SNPHS meetings and the two intersessional meeting. ▪ Contributed to the strategic direction of the subcommittee and its activities as deputy chair.
Support the National Plant Health Surveillance Consultative Committee activities.		▪ Committee was inactive and no meetings were scheduled during the period.
Identify requirements for transition of MyPestGuide™ to the cloud and national deployment.		▪ Led discussions with the Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to identify the requirements for the transition of MyPestGuide™ and informed on progress.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN) is an Euphresco initiative coordinated by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) 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 will focus on Australian native flora as well as plants important for agricultural production. PHA co-ordinates the Australian engagement with the IPSN through BGCI alongside Better Border Biosecurity (B3) from New Zealand, creating a joint Australia–NZ network. This links strongly with the non-subscription funded project, Botanic Gardens Surveillance Network. PHA's expertise and experience with pest surveillance data sharing platform, AUSPest*Check*™, will be part of the PHA input for this project.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Maintain linkages with international stakeholders.		▪ Maintained contact with the IPSN through contacts with BGCI.
Develop a surveillance network with Australia's major botanic gardens to assist providing an early warning system of new and emerging pest and pathogen risks.		▪ A Botanic Gardens Surveillance Network and a Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network established and maintained by PHA for staff and friends/volunteers of botanic gardens. ▪ Each network undertakes surveillance for five target pests (three exotic and two with limited distribution).

Surveillance

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

Undertake members consultation to support the operational deployment of AUSPest*Check*™ for the national collection, visualisation and reporting of plant surveillance data. Scope and assess the requirements for the deployment of MyPestGuide™ as a national app that supports industry, government and community report new pests or provide information on pest absence. Data collected using MyPestGuide™ will be collated and aggregated into AUSPest*Check*™, to provide data supporting our national surveillance system.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Identify mechanisms for sustainable funding for the national deployment of AUSPest*Check*™ and MyPestGuide™.		▪ A three-year funding agreement established through National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) for AUSPest*Check*™. ▪ Funding discussions for MyPestGuide™ are ongoing and done in conjunction with transitioning the system to a national cloud-based service.

NON-SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

National Citrus Biosecurity Program

60,000 surveillance records undertaken
153 surveillance records from commercial, urban and peri-urban regions

National Forest Pest Surveillance Program

Trap location mapping and sentinel host tree mapping undertaken
High-risk sites surveillance conducted in 6 jurisdictions

National Bee Pest Surveillance Program

28 remote catch boxes deployed
2,048 surveillance activities for **18** pests completed

National Bee Pest Surveillance Program Enhancements

The Bee Surveillance Portal finalised and used to collate **7,601** data points for upload into AUSPest*Check*™

Surveillance in northern Australia

The Exotic Pest Identification and Surveillance Guide for Tropical Horticulture developed and distributed to support training and awareness

Botanic Gardens Surveillance Network

8 webinars hosted
3 public surveillance blitzes held

National Bee Pest Surveillance Program Enhancements

28 Remote catchboxes deployed
National Diagnostic Protocol for bee viruses developed

The Annual Surveillance Workshop

The Annual Surveillance Workshop was held as a virtual event in December 2020, with 125 members attending from 26 organisations

AUSPest*Check*™

Use of the operational version of AUSPest*Check*™ commenced, with collation of data from the National Plant Health Surveillance Program and from four industry programs
Over 2.6 million fruit fly records collated into AUSPest*Check*™

NATIONAL CITRUS BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

Improve industry biosecurity outcomes by focusing on surveillance, awareness, capacity building and preparedness activities.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Upload surveillance data for high priority pests of citrus into AUSPest*Check*™ from a minimum of three commercial production regions and two urban sites.		▪ Uploaded 60,000 data records from surveillance undertaken through all commercial citrus production regions for the 2020 monitoring season as a requirement for export protocols. ▪ Uploaded 153 surveillance records from 10 commercial, urban and peri-urban regions as part of the Asian citrus psyllid trapping program.
Hold a minimum of two meetings of the National Citrus Biosecurity Steering Committee each year.		▪ Four meetings held in September 2020, November 2020, one each in February 2021, and June 2021.
Conduct training with a minimum of three citrus industry groups.		▪ Face-to-face training was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. ▪ Training guides were developed and circulated to consultants and crop scouts to support to support surveillance activities.

Surveillance

NATIONAL FOREST PEST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

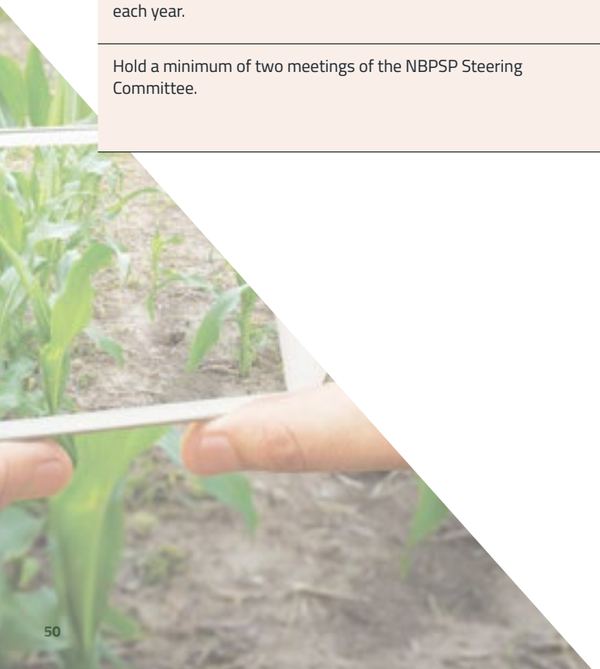
Progress the implementation of the National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy by establishing a National Forest Pest Surveillance Program.

Outputs	Status	Comments
National high risk site surveillance program for forest pests operating in three jurisdictions.		▪ New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have established pilot surveillance programs that target port areas and surrounds. ▪ Program expanded to include Tasmania, Western Australia and Northern Territory. ▪ Trap location and sentinel host tree mapping undertaken. ▪ Multi-pest lure trial progressed. ▪ National forest pest surveillance training package developed. ▪ Mobile App for implementation in QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS, SA, WA and NT progressed.
Governance arrangements and a sustainable funding mechanism for the National Forest Biosecurity Program in place.		▪ Steering group expanded to include representatives of the forest sector, Australian Government, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia governments. ▪ Draft Memorandum of Understanding for the National Forest Biosecurity Program provided to partners.
Hold a minimum of two meetings of the National Forest Biosecurity Steering Committee each year.		▪ Meetings held in July, August, September and November 2020 as well as March and June 2021.

NATIONAL BEE PEST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Early detection of high priority bee pests and pest bees.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Undertake nine bee pest surveillance activity periods per state each year.		▪ States and territories delivered the maximum number of results permissible under COVID-19 restrictions.
Hold a minimum of two meetings of the NBPSP Steering Committee.		▪ NBPSP meeting held in November 2020 and June 2021. ▪ Review of the NBPSP undertaken, with 13 review recommendations provided.



NATIONAL BEE PEST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

Improve data capture from remote catchboxes and integration of NBPSP Bee Portal and AUSPest*Check*™.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Deploy 40 remote catchboxes.		▪ 28 remote catchboxes deployed and linked to the central reporting system.
Deploy enhanced web-based data collection system and link to AUSPest*Check*™ from the bee portal and remote catchboxes.		▪ Enhancements delivered with all jurisdictions reporting field activity and submitting data into the online system. ▪ Information used to report to AUSPest*Check*™.

SURVEILLANCE IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Investigate funding mechanisms and partnerships to implement the Tropical Plant Industries Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Establish a Northern Tropical Plant Industries Surveillance Steering Group and host a minimum of two meetings each year.		▪ The Steering Committee, comprising representatives of industry and northern governments, including the Commonwealth, have met regularly (August, October and November 2020, and January and April 2021). ▪ Steering Committee participated in the annual NAQS Scientific Discipline Meeting to continue the growth of collaboration in surveillance between industry and government. ▪ The Steering Committee worked closely with the Northern Australian Biosecurity Strategy (NABS) Working Group to drive the implementation of key activities common across several biosecurity and surveillance strategies.
Conduct training with a minimum of three industry groups in northern Australia.		▪ Pest identification and surveillance guide for ten tropical industries developed and distributed. ▪ Training was not undertaken due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Surveillance

BOTANIC GARDENS SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

Engage major Australian botanic gardens to develop a network for surveillance in Australia. The Botanic Gardens Biosecurity Network also works with volunteers and community groups to develop awareness, knowledge and skills of biosecurity surveillance activities.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Undertake training with a minimum of two Botanic Gardens groups each year.		▪ Eight webinars hosted covering a range of topics on biosecurity, surveillance and key pests and diseases.
Network actively participates in collection of surveillance data.		▪ 301 absence records for five target pests collected. ▪ Three public surveillance blitzes held with seven reports made through MyPestGuide™ Reporter.

ONLINE PLANT HEALTH SURVEILLANCE TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Develop online surveillance and training resources for surveillance practitioners to build and enhance knowledge and understanding of plant biosecurity surveillance principles.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Develop a Biosecurity online training module for surveillance.		▪ Module was developed and launched in August 2021.
Collate and upload online surveillance resources to the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia– Pacific (PSNAP) website.		▪ Training module and accompanying videos promoted through the PSNAP website.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Build the surveillance network and facilitate the development of plant health surveillance capacity.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Deliver the annual surveillance workshop.		▪ 2-Day virtual workshop held in December 2020.
Host a professional development workshop and develop training packages.		▪ Delivery of training workshops has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

Provide national systems that collect and collate surveillance data to support early detection and market access.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Deploy AUSPest*Check*™ as an accessible national repository and provider of plant biosecurity surveillance data.		▪ User acceptance testing (UAT) version released in July 2020. ▪ Jurisdictional training delivered in August 2020.
Trial AUSPest*Check*™ as a national repository and provider of animal biosecurity surveillance data.		▪ Consultation with animal sector stakeholders and upload of small datasets were undertaken to trial AUSPest*Check*™ for collation of animal health data.

ANNUAL SURVEILLANCE WORKSHOP 2020

Over 120 people working in pest surveillance attended the fourth Annual Surveillance Workshop in December 2020 with representatives from several plant industries, the Australian Government, state governments, research agencies, Fiji, New Zealand and Timor-Leste.

Delivered by PHA, the two-day virtual workshop built a better understanding of surveillance activities and initiatives in the wider plant pest surveillance system, connected stakeholders, facilitated capability building and grew the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia–Pacific.

The workshop theme aligned to the International Year of Plant Health was 'International, Regional, National and Local – where do you fit in the surveillance continuum?'. Program topics included international surveillance systems, post-border surveillance, cross-industry plant pest surveillance initiatives, urban surveillance and farm monitoring.

Input was also sought from participants on the future activities of the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia–Pacific and the structure and content of National Surveillance Protocols.

More information is available on the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia–Pacific website plantsurveillancenetwork.net.au

Diagnostics

Provide diagnostic resources to support Australia's network of diagnosticians to enable fast and accurate identification of pests.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

National committees and working groups

Participated in 2 meetings in October and May

1 intersessional meeting

Software development and support

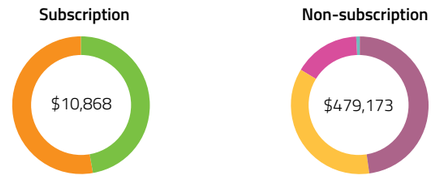
25 news events uploaded to National Plant Biosecurity Diagnosticians' Network

10 articles posted to National Plant Biosecurity Diagnosticians' Network

PHA's goals in this area are:

- coordinate the development and review of diagnostic protocols for National Priority Plant Pests
- support the enhancement of Australia's diagnostic network
- facilitate activities to improve capability of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network
- support work undertaken by the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics.

Figure 8. Diagnostics expenditure 2020–21



$5,135 National committees and working groups

$5,733 Software development and support

$230,065 Software development and support

$171,143 Biosecurity response preparedness

$74,532 Professional development

$3,433 Biosecurity network coordination and enhancement

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD) provides national leadership in plant pest diagnostics policy, standards and coordination. As a member, PHA supports work to review and implement the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy, which ensures the ongoing delivery of effective and accurate plant pest biosecurity diagnostics. PHA leads the delivery of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network (NPBDN) as the coordinator of the Network Implementation Working Group under SPHD.

The network strengthens connections between diagnosticians and provides professional development opportunities to build national capability and capacity. SPHD also provides national leadership in delivering agreed plant pest diagnostic standards for definitive identification and to support surveillance activities, facilitates the National Plant Health Proficiency Testing Program and is progressing the implementation of the National Plant Pest Reference Collections Strategy.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Participate in SPHD meetings and activities.		▪ Active participation in subcommittee meetings and working groups. ▪ A PHA staff member was appointed as one of the two deputy chairs. ▪ PHA provides the chair of the Reference Collection Implementation Plant Working Group (RCIPWG).
Contribute to the strategic direction of SPHD.		▪ PHA has a member of the SPHD executive which provides guidance to the committee. ▪ PHA also has a member of Diagnostic Protocol Working Group (DPWG), RCIPWG and Network Implementation Working Group (NIWG).

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

The NPBDN website is the primary mechanism for communication with network members and is the gateway to professional development and enhancement opportunities. PHA hosts the website and administers content, promoting development opportunities for network members. PHA provides executive support for the Australian Plant Pest Database (APPD) and currently liaises with CSIRO who manage the site. CSIRO's engagement is being discussed with overall management potentially returning to PHA.

PHA maintains the user registrations and policy issues around APPD. APPD is the national collated view of individual reference collection databases that include plant pest voucher specimens and is the first point of reference in all new plant pest detections in Australia, providing supporting evidence for pest status determination and identifying specimens to aid in plant pest diagnostics. PHA works as a member of the APPD Steering Committee and SPHD to improve the utilisation of the system.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Use APPD to inform pest status in suspect EPP Incidents.		▪ APPD is routinely searched for plant pests notified to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests.
Maintain and regularly update the NPBDN website.		▪ Website content regularly updated including minor revisions to website accessibility and functionality.

Diagnostics

NON-SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Redevelopment of PaDIL

26,944 page views

Development of National Diagnostic Protocols

2 new NDPs endorsed by SPHD

4 NDPs reviewed and updated

3 draft NDPs submitted for review

Proficiency testing of diagnostic laboratories

7 specimen panels provided for National Proficiency Testing Program

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN PLANT PEST DATABASE

Through a consultation process, PHA is negotiating with the DAWE for a contract to investigate the most cost-effective way to manage the Australian Plant Pest Database (APPD).

Outputs	Status	Comments
Hold workshop to determine functional requirements.		▪ A number of topic specific workshops were held with data providers and end users to determine the scope of the rebuild of APPD.
Agree on plans for future development.		▪ A rebuild scope was agreed and work on the APPD rebuild is underway.

REDEVELOPMENT OF PEST AND DISEASE LIBRARY

PaDIL (Pest and Disease Image Library) is a valuable tool that provides high quality diagnostic images of plant pests. PHA is one of the four owners of PaDIL and is working with the other PaDIL owners to ensure its ongoing delivery and the implementation of appropriate image standards.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Transfer PaDIL to the PHA IT systems.		▪ The original version of PaDIL transferred back to the PHA IT environment. ▪ Minor enhancements undertaken to improve its operation.
Hold workshop on IT enhancements.		▪ PHA held meetings with end users and data providers on the features required in a reviewed PaDIL. These were endorsed by the PaDIL steering committee.
Develop IT enhancements.		▪ PHA secured an 18 month contract to rebuild PaDIL.
Launch revised site.		▪ Due to the timing of the PaDIL rebuild contract the site was not relaunched in the 2020/21 financial year. Work is underway to redevelop PaDIL.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC PROTOCOLS

National Diagnostic Protocols (NDPs) provide instructions for the definitive taxonomic identification of plant pests or groups of plant pests and are the agreed procedures to use in the event of a suspect Emergency Plant Pest detection. Specific information on diagnostics to support surveillance is now included in the protocols to guide high throughput and field diagnostic activities.

The protocols are developed by experts from the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network and endorsed by SPHD. PHA will work with the NDP Coordinator and SPHD to identify gaps and facilitate the development of new protocols for pests on the National Priority Plant Pest list or the Environmental Priority Pest list, and update of existing protocols as required.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Facilitated the development or review of National Diagnostic Protocols for agreed National Priority Plant Pests.		▪ During the financial year the management of the NDP process was transferred to PHA. ▪ PHA are developing a revised work flow process to improve the efficiency of the system. Two new NDPs added to NPBDN website, four NDPs reviewed and updated and three draft NDPs submitted for review/verification.

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. The proficiency testing program tests the ability of Australian diagnostic laboratories to reach the correct plant pest identification in blind testing. PHA supports this program by facilitating the provision of verified plant pest samples to the testing program prior to distribution to laboratories.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Facilitate the provision of samples to the National Plant Health Proficiency Testing Program.		▪ Seven specimen panels (a panel group of organisms) provided for the National Proficiency Testing Program.

Diagnostics

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PLANT PEST REFERENCE COLLECTIONS STRATEGY

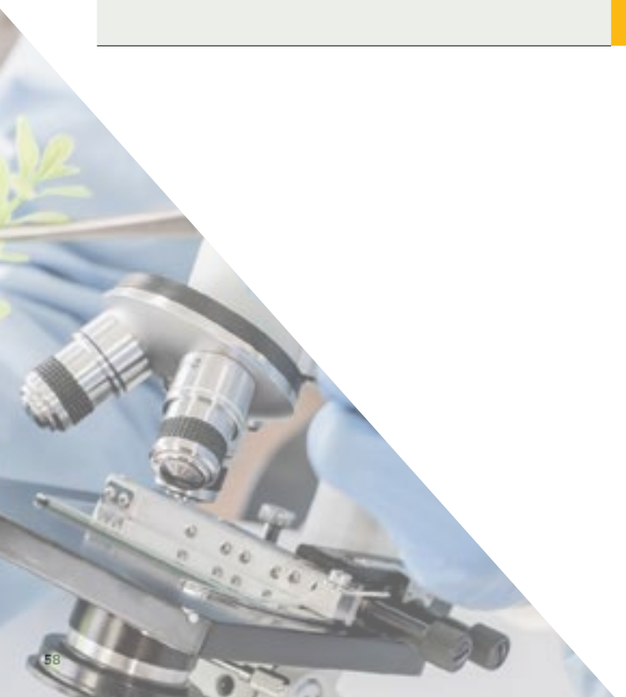
PHA is supporting the implementation of the National Plant Pest Reference Collections Strategy, in conjunction with the Reference Collections Implementation Plan Working Group of SPHD and Agriculture Victoria. The specimens of National Priority Plant Pests available in Australian reference collections are being analysed and guidance provided on the need to fill any gaps. This project will also look at developing standards for curation and vouchering of specimens in the collections.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Facilitate the analysis of reference sample coverage and needs for National Priority Plant Pests.		▪ The coverage of NPPPs in the major plant biosecurity reference collections assessed and the critical gaps identified.
Develop a strategy for the development of curation and vouchering standards.		▪ National and international curation and vouchering standards have been reviewed and project pathways proposed.

NPBDN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network Professional Development Framework (NPBDN), which is endorsed by SPHD, articulates 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.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Lead the delivery of the Annual Diagnosticians' Workshop and training workshops.		▪ Project contract extended to June 2022 to make provision for a face-to-face meeting.
Facilitated the delivery of the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network Professional Development Framework.		▪ Preparations underway and tentative agreements in place to deliver residentials/workshops but the delivery on hold due to COVID-19.



RURAL RESEARCH FOR PROFIT

The Rural Research for Profit's (RR4P) 'Boosting Diagnostics' project is managed by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and funded by all RDCs, the Australian, state and territory governments, the New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research, Bio-Protection Research Centre of Lincoln University, AUSVEG, Cesar Australia and PHA.

The project aims to:

- generate knowledge, technologies, products or processes that benefit primary producers
- strengthen pathways to extend the results of rural RD&E, including understanding the barriers to adoption
- establish and foster industry and research collaboration that forms the basis of ongoing innovation and growth of Australia and New Zealand agriculture.

PHA is a member of the RR4P – Boosting Diagnostics Steering Committee. Funding has been provided to plan and deliver a training workshop for diagnosticians to increase understanding of in-field collection methods, identification of specimens and exchange of best practice methods and lessons learned. The workshop will be delivered in 2021–22.

Outputs	Status	Comments
Plan a field-based training workshop for diagnosticians to build identification skills.		▪ The project has been extended due to COVID-19 with the workshop scheduled September 2022.

Research development & extension

Coordinate the planning and implementation of plant biosecurity research, development and extension or outreach (RD&E) to ensure plant biosecurity science delivers maximum benefit.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION AND NON-SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative

Aligned PBRI strategy and investments with national priorities

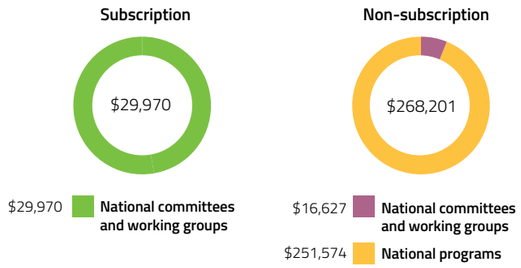
Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative

Value of PBRI projects exceeds **$50 million** across **16** projects

Key aims of the RD&E area include:

- holding workshops to agree on RD&E priorities
- monitoring RD&E activities, capability and capacity.

Figure 9. RD&E expenditure 2020–21



NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI) is a collaboration between Australia's plant Research and Development Corporations, PHA and DAWE.

The purpose of the PBRI is to foster collaboration and coordination of investment in high priority cross-sectoral plant biosecurity RD&E. Throughout 2020-21 PBRI held six cross sectoral RD&E workshops on key biosecurity priorities including sea container hygiene, biosecurity extension and sustainable pest management.

In addition, plans were also developed to capture collaborative opportunities between the Plant Health Committee (PHC) and PBRI, on developing future cross-sectoral plant biosecurity research, development, and extension priorities for investment.

In identifying priorities for future investment, PHC and PBRI will collaborate on common areas for investment, that align with the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Liaise with stakeholders to determine future role of strategy.		▪ National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee meeting held in September 2020 to consider future options.
Provide executive support to the satisfaction of the committee.		▪ Support to workshops, reports and committee meetings provided as required.
Report to Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) Research and Innovation Committee on time.		▪ Satisfied AGSOC Research & Innovation Committee reporting requirements through stocktake reports.
Attend Strategy Leaders Forums and present to AGSOC R&I Committee.		▪ Strategy Leaders Forum proposed a date – to be advised.
Complete strategy revision.		▪ PHC approved a process to collaborate with the PBRI members on developing future cross-sectoral plant biosecurity research, development, and extension priorities for investment.

Research development & extension

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The PBRI encourages collaboration and investment in research and development, 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 strategic goals of the initiative are to:

- coordinate investment in plant biosecurity RD&E to support Australia's plant production system.
- promote and facilitate collaboration for better plant biosecurity outcomes.
- build and retain RD&E capability in plant biosecurity based on a strong culture of innovation and science.

Throughout 2020-21 a series of monthly forums were organised across each of PBRI's priority investment areas. The main purpose of these forums was to identify opportunities to collaborate and co-invest in plant biosecurity RD&E, which would mutually benefit multiple plant industries.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Attend all agreed meetings.		▪ PHA representative attended all scheduled PBRI meetings.
Provide advice to the Program Director.		▪ Advice on strategy and investment priorities for the PBRI has been provided in four online strategy and research prioritisation workshops.
Ensure PBRI work is aligned to national priorities identified through the AGSOC National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy.		▪ Satisfied AGSOC Research & Innovation Committee reporting requirements through stocktake reports.
Attend Strategy Leaders Forums and present to AGSOC R&I Committee.		▪ The PBRI members were invited and contributed to a National Plant Biosecurity RD&E strategy meeting. The PBRI strategy mid-term review has been finalised and aligns to the RD&E Strategy.
Strong project-based engagement with Euphresco and B3.		▪ The MOU with B3 NZ was renewed for a further three years in December 2020, after both parties agreed that the partnership had been productive. A greater focus on a more strategic approach to RD&E will occur over the next three years. ▪ The PBRI members developed an Australian program for the B3 Conference held in Wellington in May 2021. ▪ Monthly meetings held with the Euphresco Coordinator as part of the MOU with PBRI. Through the MOU, an Australian Xylella vector project has been formally linked to a Euphresco project led by SASA (Science Advice for Scottish Agriculture). ▪ A new MOU was signed with Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in December 2020 to develop RD&E with ACIAR partner countries targeting capacity building for common pests such as fall armyworm. In March 2021, shared research priorities will be discussed for further development.

Company health

Sound management of PHA through transparent operations, efficient business systems and professional staff to fulfil member commitments.

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION – ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Board management

96% of Board attendance at member and stakeholder meetings.

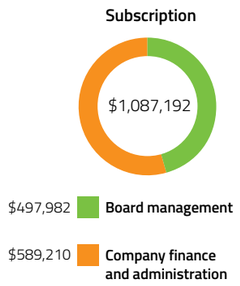
Ongoing collaboration with Animal Health Australia

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

All company management activities are funded from member subscriptions.

Figure 10. Company health expenditure 2020–21



BOARD MANAGEMENT

The Board has three formal sub-committees – the Finance and Audit Committee (F&AC), the People and Culture Committee (P&CC) and the Board Selection Committee. This area focus on meeting members' requirements measured through an independent survey every three years and other member consultation processes.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Performance of PHA meets members' expectations.		▪ A very positive member satisfaction survey was undertaken in 2018. A similar survey will occur in the second half of 2021. ▪ There has been no feedback received to indicate that performance does not meet expectations
Meet legal and constitutional compliance requirements.		▪ All legal and constitutional compliance requirements were met. ▪ Support has met expectations of the Board.
Board satisfied with PHA secretariat support and follow up of Board meetings, F&AC meetings and other meetings attended by directors.		▪ Support has met expectations of the Board.
Attendance of the PHA Board at over 80% of requested member and stakeholder meetings.		▪ Director attendance at relevant meetings has exceeded the KPI.
Commence the 2021 Board selection process.		▪ The process commenced as planned with a view to completion at the November 2021 Annual General meeting.

COMPANY FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Managing and maintaining PHA's capabilities to meet the business objectives outlined in the PHA Strategic Plan and Annual Operational Plan.

KPIs	Status	Comments
Meet all legal and constitutional obligations.		▪ All obligations were met.
Review Company Risk Management Plan quarterly and include as a standing item for PHA Board and F&AC Meetings.		▪ The Risk Management Plan has been regularly updated by the Executive Management Committee and subsequently reviewed at each F&AC and Board meeting.
Review and update Company Human Resources Plan annually and presented to the Board.		▪ The Human Resources plan was reviewed by the Board at the November 2020 Board meeting. ▪ Board succession was discussed at the February 2021 Board meeting.
Annual financial statements externally audited and declared accurate and compliant.		▪ EY resigned as external auditor and have been replaced by Synergy. ▪ The 2021 financial statements and notes received a clean audit report from Synergy.
Review annual internal audit reports and address findings.		▪ Three internal audits took place during the year and any recommendations are being implemented.
Present PHA's 2021–22 budget and AOP to members and agree subscriptions in May 2021.		▪ The 2021–22 budget and AOP were agreed to by members at the May 2021 General Meeting.
Provide assistance to members with implementation and management of statutory biosecurity levies.		▪ PHA continues to work with members and the Commonwealth to establish statutory biosecurity levies as required.

Company health

COOPERATION WITH ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

KPIs	Status	Comments
Continue the partnership between PHA and AHA.		▪ Cooperation between the two companies continues with a solid partnership in the areas of emergency response training, the Farm Biosecurity Program and communication.

AUSTRALIAN BIOSECURITY 2030 WORKSHOP: BUILDING A MASS MOVEMENT

More than 250 biosecurity practitioners from across Australia and New Zealand convened in a virtual workshop in November 2020 to influence the future direction of Australia's biosecurity system through mobilising a 25-million strong biosecurity mass movement.

The workshop saw delegates from the 'biosecurity collective' from across the agriculture, human, weed, pest animal, wildlife, aquatic and environment sectors, build new partnerships and strengthen existing ones.

The workshop defined what the biosecurity system would look like in 2030 with discussions centred on creating and nurturing on-the-ground biosecurity and building the foundations of a mass movement. Presentations by guest speakers presented on successful Australian and New Zealand campaigns were followed by dialogues on strategies to mainstream biosecurity and motivating Australians to participate.

The consensus was to develop mechanisms to support biosecurity champions, expand the Biosecurity Warrior education program, share analysis and research on innovative and successful biosecurity initiatives, and encourage industry and community leaders to make a biosecurity commitment.

Outcomes from the workshop will feed into the 2021 Australian Biosecurity Symposium and will form the basis of the Biosecurity 2030 agenda.

Corporate governance

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.

THE PHA BOARD

PHA has a skills-based Board with between five and nine directors. Further details about PHA's directors are provided on pages 72-77. Current directors are:

Chair – Mr Steve McCutcheon

Deputy Chair – Dr Prue McMichael

Board Director – Dr Joanne Daly

Board Director – Ms Kathy Kelly

Board Director – Mr Kim Halbert

Board Director – Ms Liz Alexander

Board Director – Mr Doug Phillips

Board Director – Mr Robert Prince

Company Secretary – Mr Michael Milne

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

The People and Culture Committee operates under terms of reference reviewed and approved annually by the Board.

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.

Board Selection Committee

Where positions become vacant, Directors are appointed after a selection process. A Board Selection Committee has been convened for that purpose to consider all candidates and put forward recommendations to members for voting and approval at the November 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Corporate information

Directors

S. D. McCutcheon (Chairperson)

E. K. Alexander

J. C. Daly

K. G. Halbert

K. M. Kelly

P. A. McMichael (Deputy Chairperson)

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

PLANT HEALTH AUSTRALIA **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

Directors' report

Your Directors submit their report on Plant Health Australia Limited (PHA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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:

Chair: 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, and FSANZ. He was appointed to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment's Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) in 2017 and in 2021 was appointed a member of the governing board of the Joint Accreditation Scheme for Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Deputy Chair: Prue McMichael

Appointed Director on 22 November 2017

Dr Prue McMichael is a career plant pathologist. She has operated predominantly in horticulture and viticulture across southern Australian production regions in 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 affect pest and business impact. Of particular interest to her in terms of sustained biosecurity and assisted incident recovery, are planting material schemes and 'defined health' parameters, plant 'quality' assurances and plant movement practicalities.

Prue is a Fellow of the Ag Institute Australia, Chair of Vinehealth Australia, and serves in SA branches of the GM Crop Advisory Committee and Australasian Plant Pathology Society. 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.

Director: Liz Alexander

Appointed Director on 27 November 2013

Based in Emerald, Queensland, Liz Alexander is a Commercialisation Facilitator with i4 Connect, the Delivery Partner for the Australian Government's Entrepreneurs' Programme. She works closely with businesses in the central and south-west Queensland regions and agtech businesses nationally to bring novel products, processes and services to market.

She has extensive knowledge across the value chain of dryland and irrigated cropping industries, and experience across natural resource management, agricultural extension, and water policy. In her previous role with CHDC, Liz founded the AgFrontier Regional Agtech Incubator and developed the AgTeCH events held annually in Emerald and Mungindi, NSW from 2017. Liz obtained a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Rural Systems Management from the University of Queensland.

Liz is a non-executive Director of the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), and Independent Chair of the Director Selection Committee for Sugar Research Australia.

Previously, Liz was a Director of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation for six years including as Chair of the IP and Commercialisation Committee, Director of Cotton Australia, and the Chair of Theodore Water and the Theodore Irrigation LMA Interim Board. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Director: Joanne Daly

Appointed Director on 25 November 2015

Dr Joanne Daly is a consultant in agricultural sciences and was a CSIRO Honorary Fellow until December 2020. 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.

Director: 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 (GRDC), 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, Arafox Pty Ltd, Qwest Crane Hire Pty Ltd, Qwest Group Pty Ltd and Qwest Plant Hire Pty Ltd.

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.

Director: Kathy Kelly

Appointed Director on 17 November 2020

Kathy Kelly has a Bachelor of Economics and is a Registered Company Auditor. From 1989–2019 she was a Director at Boyce Chartered Accountants, the largest regional accounting firm in Australia. Based in Cooma, she managed the office and provided specialist tax and audit services to agribusinesses and business advisory services.

Kathy has developed an understanding of the agriculture sector and the risks and issues facing boards and has deep and practical knowledge of the accounting and tax issues in agricultural and related agribusiness entities.

Direct experience in agriculture includes cotton, wheat and cereal crops, both irrigated and dryland; sugar; viticulture; almonds, apple, stone fruit and citrus trees; cattle and sheep grazing, poultry; forestry; grain marketing and water licence leasing.

As President of the Cooma Chamber of Commerce from 2015–18 the membership tripled, and in 2017 and 2018 the Chamber was awarded the Best Chamber in the Far South Coast by the NSW Business Chamber.

Kathy has had various appointments including advising the Australian Government on the industry impacts of legislation and 'red tape' in small business and was on the Advisory Committee to the Minister for Small Business and R&D Tax Incentives.

Kathy is currently on the Executive Committee of Landcare NSW and is Company Secretary for the Mulloon Institute Limited.

She is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and New Zealand.

Director: 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.

Director: 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

Greg Fraser (previous Chief Executive Officer)

Appointed Director on 17 November 2008, retired as a Director on 8 July 2021

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 is a Director of Citrus Australia Ltd and the New Zealand Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) College of Assessors.

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, governance, financial reporting, and Information and Communication Technologies functions.

Michael has applied his governance and 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		People and Culture Committee	
	Attended	Eligible to Attend	Attended	Eligible to Attend	Attended	Eligible to Attend
Ms E. K. Alexander	3	4			2	2
Dr J. C. Daly	4	4			4	4
Mr K. G. Halbert	4	4	4	4		
Ms Kathy Kelly	3	3	2	2		
Mr S. D. McCutcheon	4	4	1	1	4	4
Dr P. A. McMichael	4	4	2	2	2	2
Mr D. J. Phillips	4	4	4	4		
Mr R. W. Prince	4	4				

Notes

- In addition to Board meetings there is a specific two-day Board Strategy meeting each year. The meeting for 2020/21 was held in September 2020. An additional Board strategy meeting was held in October 2020.
- Directors were unable to hold a joint Board meeting with Animal Health Australia during the year, to facilitate a closer working relationship between the two companies, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions
- Although the Chairman is not a member of the Finance and Audit Committee, he is invited to attend the meeting during the year where the financial audit is discussed with the company auditors
- Mr Fraser retired as a director on 8 July 2020 and did not attend any of the meetings.

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 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 2021 was $130,742 (2020: $131,870 surplus). The operating surplus was an improvement on the budgeted deficit of $59,656 approved by members for the financial year.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

PHA fulfilled the majority of its operational objectives and performance measures in 2020/21 although some project work has been delayed due to travel restrictions and social distancing measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 comparison to the 2016-21 Strategic Plan. Benchmarks are used by the directors to assess the financial sustainability of PHA and whether our short-term and long-term objectives are being achieved.

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 which insure 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. A new 2022–2027 Strategic Plan will be released in November 2021.

MEMBER COMMITMENT ON WINDING UP

Plant Health Australia Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Australia. At balance date, there were 59 (2018: 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'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 following non-audit services were provided by the Company's auditor, Synergy Group Audit Pty Ltd. The Directors are satisfied that the provision of non-audit services is compatible with the general standard of independence for auditors imposed by the *Corporations Act 2001*. The nature and scope of the non-audit services provided means that auditor independence was not compromised.

Assurance related	$8,755

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

S. D. McCutcheon
Director

29 September 2021

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

Synergy

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF PLANT HEALTH AUSTRALIA LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2021 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.

Eric Hummer
Audit Director

ehummer@synergygroup.net.au
3 September 2021

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 45 104 227 069 AUTHORISED AUDIT COMPANY NO. 301280

Financial statements

Statement of comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	2021 $	2020 $
Revenue			
Revenue from operating activities	4	9,589,814	10,881,105
Revenue from non-operating activities	4	208,605	214,147
Total revenue		9,798,419	11,095,252
Expenses			
Assist members to manage biosecurity risks		3,151,397	3,370,542
Enhance national biosecurity response agreements and implementation		1,326,929	1,580,125
National strategies and policy coordination		2,800,504	3,366,167
Building capacity and capability		326,276	474,215
Board and governance		497,982	489,361
Effective partnerships		650,900	725,845
Company management		589,210	636,671
Corporate Communications		324,479	320,456
Total expenses	2.16	9,667,677	10,963,382
Surplus before tax		130,742	131,870
Income tax expense	2.9	-	-
Surplus for the year from continuing operations		130,742	131,870
Other comprehensive income		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		130,742	131,870

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of financial position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	2021 $	2020 $
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	10,612,854	9,955,200
Investments	10	11,551,916	10,921,475
Trade and other receivables	5	377,476	564,675
Prepayments		3,870	5,292
Total current assets		22,546,116	21,446,642
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	303,398	238,550
Right of use assets	9	900,351	897,281
Total non-current assets		1,203,749	1,135,831
TOTAL ASSETS		23,749,865	22,582,473
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	973,384	862,638
Unexpended funding	11	18,401,049	17,289,039
Provisions	8	663,966	769,229
Right of use lease liability		163,295	199,269
Total current liabilities		20,201,694	19,120,175
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	8	84,499	115,909
Right of use lease liability		741,346	754,805
Total non-current liabilities		825,845	870,714
TOTAL LIABILITIES		21,027,539	19,990,889
NET ASSETS		2,722,326	2,591,584
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		2,722,326	2,591,584
TOTAL EQUITY		2,722,326	2,591,584

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of changes in equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Accumulated surplus $	Total equity $
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 1 July 2020	2,591,584	2,591,584
Operating surplus for the year		
Other comprehensive income	130,742	130,742
Balance at 30 June 2021	2,722,326	2,722,326

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	2021 $	2020 $
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from member subscriptions and project funding		11,533,419	11,088,194
Payments to suppliers and employees		(10,075,998)	(11,911,685)
Cash flow boost received		100,000	-
Interest received		148,262	245,690
Net cash flows from operating activities		1,705,683	(577,801)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(138,977)	(123,470)
Sale of property, plant and equipment		-	709
Net cash flows used in investing activities		(138,977)	(122,761)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Principal repayment of capital lease obligation		(278,611)	(219,020)
Net cash flows used in financing activities		(278,611)	(219,020)
Net (decrease)increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,288,095	(919,582)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		20,876,675	21,796,257
Cash and cash equivalents the end of the financial year	10	22,164,770	20,876,675

This statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

1. Corporate information

The financial report for Plant Health Australia Limited for the year ended 30 June 2021 was authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 29 September 2021.

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.

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

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 recognized 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 Note unused

2.7 Leases

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.

2.8 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.

2.9 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.

2.10 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.

2.11 Goods and Services tax (GST)

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

a) 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

b) 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 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.

2.14 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.

2.15 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. 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 comprehensive income.

2.16 Total expenses

Total expenses include defined contribution plan costs totalling $378,649 (2020: $361,443).

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 has been adversely impacted in some cases and the impact will continue. 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.

3.5 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.

4. Revenue

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

	2021	2020
	$	$
Revenues from contracts with customers		
Revenue from member subscriptions	2,660,000	2,656,667
Federal/State government project income	3,131,627	3,955,984
Industry project income	3,798,187	4,268,454
Total revenues from contracts with customers	9,589,814	10,881,105
Revenues from non-operating activities		
Interest income	108,605	214,147
Commonwealth cash flow boost	100,000	-
Total revenues from non-operating activities	208,605	214,147
Total revenues from ordinary activities	9,798,419	11,095,252

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 2021 financial year these payments totalled $2,861,280 (2020: $2,729,933).

5. Trade and other receivables

	2021	2020
	$	$
Current trade and other receivables		
Trade receivables from customer contracts	314,962	514,442
Goods and Services Tax	51,938	-
Interest receivable	10,576	50,233
Total Trade and other receivables	377,476	564,675

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are generally on terms of 30 days. No receivables are impaired (2020: $nil)

6. Property, plant and equipment

	2021
	$
Leasehold improvements	
At cost	197,586
Accumulated amortisation	(193,289)
	4,297
Computer equipment	
At cost	380,872
Accumulated depreciation	(300,953)
	79,919
Office equipment	
At cost	129,251
Accumulated depreciation	(72,216)
	57,035
Furniture and fittings	
At cost	259,206
Accumulated depreciation	(97,059)
	162,147
Total property, plant and equipment	
At cost	966,915
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(663,517)
Total written down amount	303,398

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:

	2021
	$
Leasehold improvements	
Carrying amount at beginning	5,322
Additions	4,296
Depreciation expense	(5,322)
	4,296
Computer equipment	
Carrying amount at beginning	71,972
Additions	46,743
Depreciation expense	(38,796)
	79,919
Office equipment	
Carrying amount at beginning	9,939
Additions	57,477
Depreciation expense	(10,380)
	57,036
Furniture and fittings	
Carrying amount at beginning	151,317
Additions	30,461
Depreciation expense	(19,631)
	162,147
Total property, plant and equipment	
Carrying amount at beginning	238,550
Additions	138,977
Depreciation expense	(74,129)
	303,398

7. Trade and other payables

	2021	2020
	$	$
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	819,419	699,267
Goods and Services Tax	0	35,635
Fringe Benefits Tax	18,229	14,783
Salaries and wages	135,736	112,953
Total current liabilities	973,384	862,638

8. Provisions

	2021	2020
	$	$
Employee benefits	710,299	846,972
Make good provision	38,166	38,166
Total provisions	748,465	885,138
Carrying amount at end of financial year – Current	663,966	769,229
Carrying amount at end of financial year – Non-Current	84,499	115,909
Total provisions	748,465	885,138

9. Right of use asset and liability

Right of use Assets

PHA's lease portfolio consists of an office building, with an initial term of 5 years.

The option to extend or terminate are contained in the property lease of the Company. An extension clause provides the Company the opportunity to manage the lease in a manner that aligns with its strategies. The extension or termination options are only exercisable by the Company. The extension or termination options which are probable to be exercised have been included in the calculation of Right of Use asset.

Lease

The Company entered a five-year concessionary lease from 1 May 2021 with the owner of premises at 1 Phipps Close, Deakin, for the exclusive use of office space and car parks. The previous lease, for the same premises was not extended and the accounting treatment was to reverse the lease in accordance with AASB 16.

The Company may not use this space for any purpose other than office space and associated car parking, during the lease term without prior consent of the owner. Lease payments are $228,060.00 per annum payable monthly. The Company has been provided with an incentive equivalent to 15% of the gross lease commitment over the lease term.

This lease is measured at cost in accordance with the Company's accounting policy as outlined in Note 2.7.

i) AASB 16 related amounts recognised in the balance sheet

Right of use assets	**2021**	**2020**
	$	**$**
Provisions		
Leased building	931,397	1,127,239
Accumulated depreciation	(31,046)	(229,958)
Total Right of use asset	900,351	897,281

Movement in carrying amounts:	**2021**	**2020**
	$	**$**
Leased building:		
Opening balance	897,281	-
Reversal of expired lease	(702,220)	
Additions	931,397	1,127,239
Depreciation expense	(226,107)	(229,958)
Net carrying amount	900,351	897,281

ii) AASB 16 related amounts recognised in the statement of comprehensive income

Movement in carrying amounts:	**2021**	**2020**
	$	**$**
Interest expense on lease liabilities	38,275	47,205
Lease modification (reversal of expired lease)	(58,368)	-

10. Cash and cash equivalents

	2021	**2020**
	$	**$**
Cash and cash equivalent balance comprises:		
Cash on hand	350	350
Cash at bank	158,436	362,006
Short term deposits	2,586,595	2,237,771
Cash at bank and short-term deposits (EPPR)	7,867,473	7,355,073
Closing cash balance	10,612,854	9,955,200
Long term deposits	11,551,916	10,921,475
	22,164,770	20,876,675

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. Long term deposits are made for periods in excess of three months.

11. Unexpended funding

	2021	**2020**
	$	**$**
EPPR Levy related	7,877,859	7,380,158
Membership subscriptions received in advance (contract liabilities)	0	217,348
Project income received in advance (contract liabilities)	10,522,213	9,691,533
Total Unexpended funding	18,401,049	17,289,039

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	**2021**	**2020**
	$	**$**
Cotton Research Development Corporation (Associate Member)	23,120	36,389
Vinehealth Australia (Associate Member)	2,000	2,000
Total Income from related parties	25,120	38,389

No amounts were owed by the Company to related parties and no amounts were owed by related parties to the Company as at 30 June 2021.

13. Key Management Personnel Compensation

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

	2021	**2020**
	$	**$**
Compensation to directors and key management personnel of the Company	1,243,480	1,299,273

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 2021 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

29 September 2021

Synergy

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

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 2021, the 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 2021 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 on 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 2021 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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PO Box 3789 Kingston ACT 2600 ABN 45 164 727 063 AUTHORISED AUDIT COMPANY NO. 301260

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.

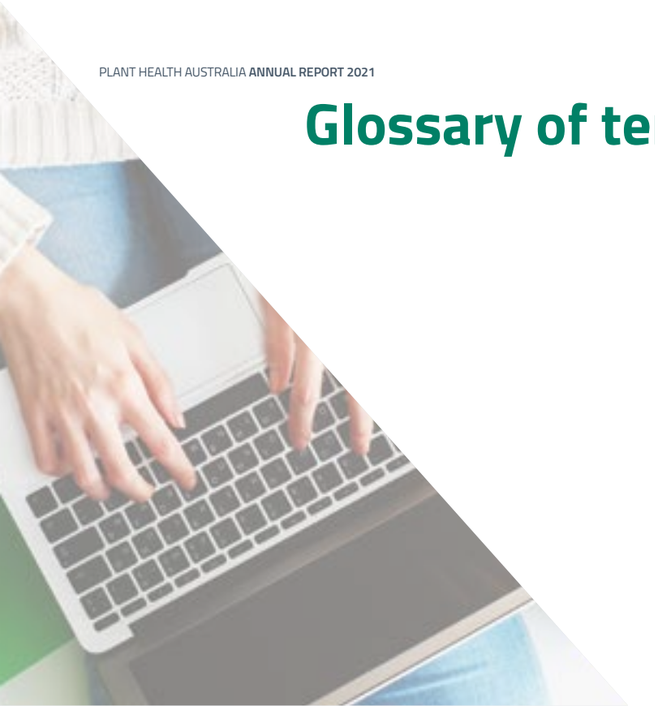
As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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.

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.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

Eric Hummer
Audit Director
ehummer@synergygroup.net.au
30 September 2021



Glossary of terms and acronyms

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AGSOC	Agriculture Senior Officials Committee
AHA	Animal Health Australia
AHBIC	Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
AOP	Annual Operational Plan
APVMA	Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority
AUS*PestCheck*™	Plant Pest Surveillance Virtual Coordination Centre
AUSVEG	Industry representative body for vegetable and potato growers
B3 NZ	Better Border Biosecurity New Zealand
BISOP	Biosecurity Incident Standard Operating Procedures
BOLT	Biosecurity Online Training
CCEPP	Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests
cesar	Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research
EPPR Levy	Emergency Plant Pest Response Levy
EPPRD	Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed
FAW	Fall armyworm
IGAB	Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IPSN	International Plant Sentinel Network
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
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
NMG	National Management Group
NPBDN	National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Network
NRBT	National Biosecurity Response Team
PBRI	Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative
PHA	Plant Health Australia
PHC	Plant Health Committee
RDC	research and development corporation
RD&E	research, development and extension
RR4P	Rural Research for Profit
SNPHS	Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance
SPHD	Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics
SDQMA	Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access

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ISSN: 2205 1724

Acknowledgement of Country
PHA acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands where we work, live and learn.

In referencing this document, the preferred citation is:
Plant Health Australia Annual Report 2021,
Plant Health Australia, Canberra, ACT

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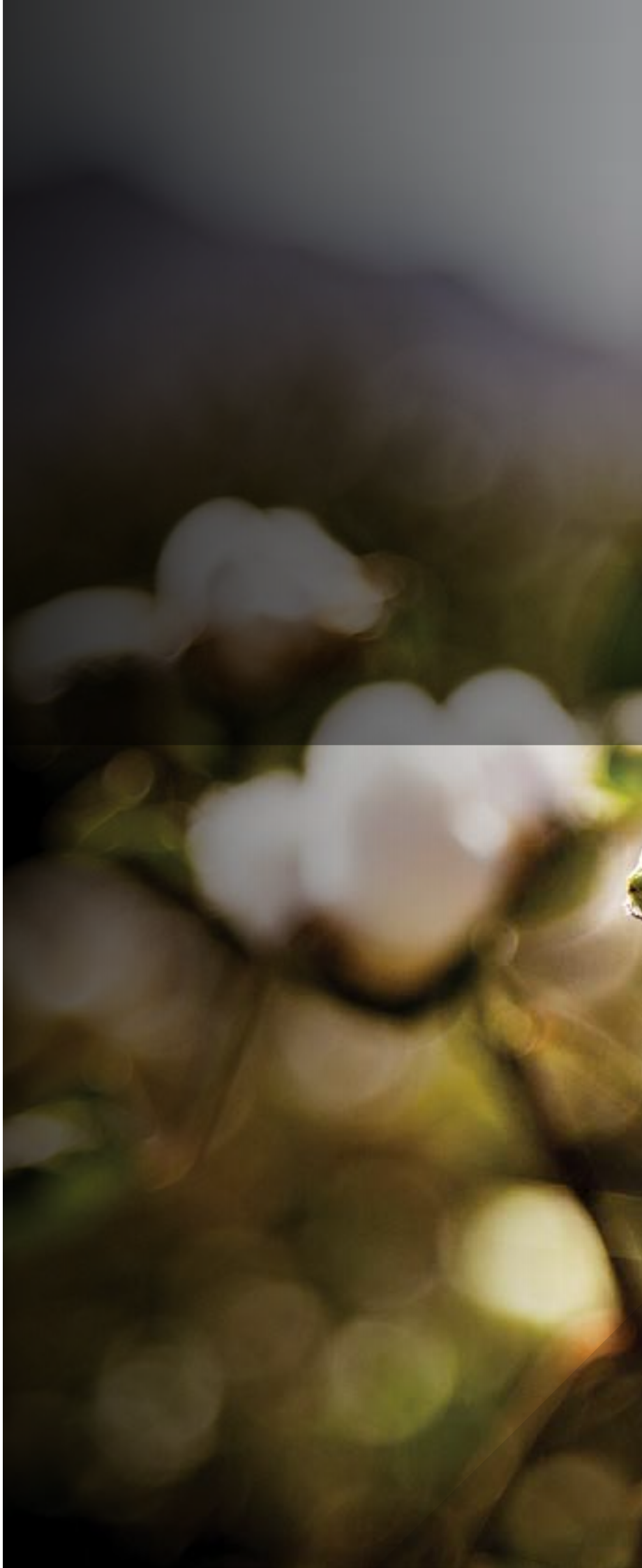

Plant Health AUSTRALIA

Improving national biosecurity outcomes through partnerships

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