National Plant Biosecurity **Preparedness Strategy Implementation Plan**

2021-2031

Plant Health AUSTRALIA

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Prepared by Plant Health Australia, with funding provided through the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

Acknowledgements

The *National Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Strategy Implementation Plan* was prepared by Plant Health Australia (PHA) for the Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment).

PlHA would like to acknowledge the input of the Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Strategy Working Group, the Environment and Invasives Committee and other plant biosecurity stakeholders into the development of this implementation plan. Plant Health Australia also gratefully acknowledges the contributions made by the Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Working Group.

This project was funded under the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper and supports the Australian Government's continued focus on growing agricultural exports.

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ISBN 978-0-6453914-6-6

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Overview

The *National Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Strategy Implementation Plan* (implementation plan) has been developed to support the rollout of the *National Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Strategy 2021–2031* (the strategy).

The strategy is structured around a shared vision and outlines the goals and expected outcomes for implementation. It provides a framework to develop the capabilities required to prepare for and manage plant biosecurity risks across Australia and ensure Australia has the people, resources, infrastructure, policies, standards and tools to address the most important priorities for Australia's plant biosecurity system. The vision, goals and expected outcomes are shown below.

Vision	**A resilient plant biosecurity system that identifies and reduces risk, and works to minimise the impact of biosecurity incidents to Australia's plant industries, economy, environment and community**				
Goals	**1** **Stronger national and international connections**	**2** **Enhanced and improved capacity and capability to mitigate and respond to plant biosecurity risks**	**3** **Enhanced participation and achievement of biosecurity outcomes**	**4** **Production and environmental assets protected and market access maintained**	**5** **Recovery and management supported during and following plant biosecurity incursions**
Expected outcomes	Improved plant biosecurity preparedness delivery through collaborative partnerships between stakeholder groups nationally and internationally	Skilled people, contemporary systems and technologies that are prepared to mitigate plant biosecurity risks and are response ready	Improved participation in preparedness activities through a greater awareness of plant biosecurity risks	Reduced impact of plant biosecurity incursions on the environment, community, trade and market access	Plant industries, the environment and communities recover rapidly and fully after a biosecurity incident

Each goal is supported by a series of actions that will guide and support national policy and inform investment in research, development and extension. The actions can also be used to guide state/territory, regional and local efforts or efforts by individual governments, plant industries and stakeholder groups.

The strategy applies to plant pests and weeds that impact Australia's plant industries, environment and community. For the purpose of the strategy, plant pests are defined as any species, strain or biotype of invertebrate or pathogen injurious to plants, plant products or bees. The application of the strategy to weeds covers exotic weed species and declared weed species not known to be established in a particular jurisdiction, which pose high potential impacts.

The implementation plan complements the goals and actions presented in the strategy. It has been developed to measure progress and provide more detail on the implementation of these measures, including performance measures, key contributors[1] and indicative timeframes for delivery[2]. A planned timeline for implementing the different components of the strategy is provided in Appendix 1 – Implementation plan timeline.

Together the strategy and implementation plan form part of a suite of strategies that supports the broader national biosecurity system through their alignment with the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) and the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy.

1 A key contributor is considered to be an organisation and/or group that contributes cash or in-kind support towards the delivery of an action in the strategy.

2 All timeframes are indicative and should not preclude the commencement of any actions before the date set out in the implementation plan.

Governance

The National Plant Biosecurity Strategy Implementation Group (implementation group) will oversee implementation, reporting and review of the suite of national plant biosecurity strategies to ensure continued alignment and complementarity across the strategy suite.

The implementation group will be coordinated by PHA and include representatives from the following groups:

- PHA
- Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- Plant Health Committee (PHC)
- Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics (SPHD)
- Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS)
- Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Working Group (PBPWG) or similar
- Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC)
- Plant Industries Biosecurity Committee (PIBC)
- Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI)
- A non-government organisation with environmental and/or community interests.

Representatives, with support from PHA, will be responsible for integrating and influencing the work of the group they represent in delivering or supporting delivery of the actions identified in the strategies.

Action plans

The strategy will be supported by detailed action plans to ensure a more coordinated and focused approach.

The action plans will outline the specific tasks required for each action to achieve the outcomes, goals and vision in the strategy. These plans will also identify organisations and/or groups with responsibility for implementing each task, resources required and timeframes. To ensure tasks achieve the intended quality, value and applicability, a program logic approach could be used that includes process and outcome components of how the implementation measures the impact of actions.

Development of the action plans will be guided by the implementation group in consultation with relevant plant biosecurity stakeholders, national committees and/or working groups.

Review and reporting

The implementation group will monitor and review progress in implementing the strategy. Annual evaluation reports will be developed and presented to PHC, SPHD, SNPHS, the Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access, PBPWG (or similar), EIC, PIBC and PBRI. A comprehensive review of implementation will be undertaken on two occasions, in the fourth and the eighth year.

The status reports and findings from the review will be made publicly available and used by the implementation group to refresh the strategy, implementation plan and action plans. This process will ensure national, regional and local effort in delivering the 2031 vision remains agile and responsive to changing priorities and a changing biosecurity context.

National Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Strategy at a glance

Vision	A resilient plant biosecurity system that identifies and reduces risk, and works to plant industries, economy, environment and community		
Goals	**1** Stronger national and international connections	**2** Enhanced and improved capacity and capability to mitigate and respond to plant biosecurity risks	**3** Enhanced participation and achievement of biosecurity outcomes
Actions	**1.1** Establish a shared and agreed understanding of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the national plant biosecurity system. **1.2** Establish ongoing forums for stakeholders to focus on plant biosecurity preparedness activities. **1.3** Grow partnerships to prevent the entry of plant biosecurity threats and identify control and management options relevant to the Australian context.	**2.1** Identify and address current and emerging capacity and capability gaps across the national plant biosecurity system. **2.2** Develop and implement tools to improve the detection, identification and prioritisation of plant pests and weeds. **2.3** Address barriers and establish incentives to improve engagement and the adoption of plant biosecurity practices. **2.4** Develop and deliver training and simulation exercises to test preparedness to biosecurity incidents.	**3.1** Develop material to promote awareness of obligations and responsibilities of stakeholders across the national plant biosecurity system. **3.2** Implement national education campaigns to increase awareness of plant biosecurity risks, management actions and the principle of shared responsibility. **3.3** Support efforts that recognise and celebrate stakeholder contributions to the national plant biosecurity system.
Expected outcomes	Improved plant biosecurity preparedness delivery through collaborative partnerships between stakeholder groups nationally and internationally	Skilled people, contemporary systems and technologies that are prepared to mitigate plant biosecurity risks and are response ready	Improved participation in preparedness activities through a greater awareness of plant biosecurity risks
Implementation	National Plant Biosecurity Preparedness Strategy		

minimise the impact of biosecurity incidents to Australia's

4 Production and environmental assets protected and market access maintained

4.1 Develop and maintain contingency material and/or environmental asset management plans for plant biosecurity risks.

4.2 Establish domestic market access arrangements prior to the detection of exotic plant pests.

4.3 Establish pre emptive arrangements for the containment and control of exotic plant pests and weeds.

Reduced impact of plant biosecurity incursions on the environment, community, trade and market access

5 Recovery and management supported during and following plant biosecurity incursions

5.1 Develop and maintain a national model for funding recovery efforts for affected communities, businesses, industries and the environment.

5.2 Develop and maintain capability to provide immediate relief to affected communities, industries and the environment during a response.

5.3 Develop national partnership arrangements for responding to Emergency Plant Pests that are not (or unlikely to be) technically feasible to eradicate.

Plant industries, the environment and communities recover rapidly and fully after a biosecurity incident

Implementation Plan and action plans

Strategic direction to 2031

GOAL 1

STRONGER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

EXPECTED OUTCOME:

Improved plant biosecurity preparedness delivery through collaborative partnerships between stakeholder groups nationally and internationally

Performance indicators	
Short term (1–3 years)	▪ Preparedness needs and activities required to support the Australian plant biosecurity system identified. ▪ Major stakeholders identified and roles and responsibilities established. ▪ Platforms and approaches (i.e. groups, committees, networks and forums) identified that provide the greatest benefit. ▪ National and international partners identified and engaged on agreed priorities to reduce the risk of plant pests and weeds entering Australia.
Medium term (4–6 years)	▪ All of stakeholders aware of their roles and responsibilities. ▪ Ongoing platforms established between stakeholders including governments, plant industries and the wider community to better manage biosecurity risks. ▪ Improved collaboration between stakeholders involved in plant biosecurity preparedness activities.
Long term (7–10 years)	▪ All stakeholders fulfilling their obligations. ▪ Operating partnerships and collaborative arrangements used to gather and share intelligence on plant pests and weeds. ▪ Established platforms and approaches reviewed and changes implemented to meet current needs.

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Key contributors (cash and in-kind)	Dependency
1.1 Establish a shared and agreed understanding of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the national plant biosecurity system.	Very High	Short to medium term	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ PHA ▪ Community groups ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Supply chain participants[3]	Links to 1.2, 1.3
1.2 Establish ongoing forums for stakeholders to focus on plant biosecurity preparedness activities.	Very High	Medium term	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ PBPWG ▪ EIC ▪ Plant industries ▪ PHA ▪ Community groups ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Supply chain participants[3]	Links to 1.1
1.3 Grow partnerships to prevent the entry of plant biosecurity threats and identify control and management options relevant to the Australian context.	High	Ongoing	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ PHA ▪ Universities ▪ Community groups ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Supply chain participants[3]	Links to 1.1 and 1.2

3 Participants involved in performing activities along the supply chain, including producers, processors, retailers and exporters.

GOAL 2

ENHANCED AND IMPROVED CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY TO MITIGATE AND RESPOND TO PLANT BIOSECURITY RISKS

EXPECTED OUTCOME:

Skilled people, contemporary systems and technologies that are prepared to mitigate plant biosecurity risks and are response-ready

Performance indicators	
Short term (1–3 years)	▪ National capacity and capability framework developed and used to identify critical gaps across Australia's plant biosecurity system. ▪ Mitigation plan developed to address identified gaps in capacity and capability. ▪ Measures identified to improve the detection, identification and prioritisation of plant pests and weeds. Incentives to improve engagement and the adoption of plant biosecurity practices investigated. ▪ National program of activities for training and simulation exercises established.
Medium term (4–6 years)	▪ Emerging gaps in capacity and capability identified. ▪ Suitability of tools for the detection, identification and prioritisation of plant pests and weeds identified through appropriate mechanisms. ▪ Improved engagement on plant biosecurity practices as a result of the incentives established. ▪ Improved integration of governments, plant industries and the wider community as demonstrated by participation in training and simulation exercises.
Long term (7–10 years)	▪ Emerging gaps in capacity and capability identified. ▪ Increased adoption of tools by governments, plant industries and the wider community to improve the detection, identification and prioritisation of plant pests and weeds. ▪ National program of activities for training and simulation exercises reviewed and changes implemented to meet current needs.

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Key contributors (cash and in-kind)	Dependency
2.1 Identify and address current and emerging capacity and capability gaps across the national plant biosecurity system.	Very high	Ongoing	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ PBPWG ▪ EIC ▪ Plant industries ▪ PHA ▪ Community groups ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Supply chain participants[3]	Links to 2.4, 3.2 and 4.3
2.2 Develop and implement tools to improve the detection, identification and prioritisation of plant pests and weeds.	Very high	Ongoing	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ PBPWG ▪ EIC ▪ PHA ▪ Plant industries ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Universities	Links to 3.2
2.3 Address barriers and establish incentives to improve engagement and the adoption of plant biosecurity practices.	Very high	Short term	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ Environmental groups ▪ PHA ▪ Local government authorities	Links to 3.3
2.4 Develop and deliver training and simulation exercises to test preparedness to biosecurity incidents.	Medium	Ongoing	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ PHA ▪ Community groups ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Supply chain participants[3]	Links to 2.1

3 Participants involved in performing activities along the supply chain, including producers, processors, retailers and exporters.

GOAL 3

ENHANCED PARTICIPATION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF BIOSECURITY OUTCOMES

EXPECTED OUTCOME:

Improved participation in preparedness activities through a greater awareness of plant biosecurity risks

Performance indicators	
Short term (1–3 years)	▪ Baseline level of biosecurity awareness determined and key gaps in awareness identified. ▪ Key biosecurity actions identified and drivers for action determined. ▪ Material developed to promote awareness of obligations and responsibilities among all system participants. ▪ National education campaigns launched to increase plant biosecurity awareness and encourage biosecurity action. ▪ Incentives that recognise and celebrate positive stakeholder contributions to plant biosecurity investigated.
Medium term (4–6 years)	▪ Australian Biosecurity Awards expanded to include recognition of new categories and sectors. ▪ National education campaigns reviewed and changes implemented to meet current needs. ▪ Major stakeholders aware of biosecurity and implementing measures to improve their biosecurity practices.
Long term (7–10 years)	▪ Sophisticated suite of incentives established to encourage stakeholder contributions to the national biosecurity system. ▪ All stakeholders aware of biosecurity and implementing measures to improve their biosecurity practice.

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Key contributors (cash and in-kind)	Dependency
3.1 Develop material to promote awareness of obligations and responsibilities of stakeholders across the national plant biosecurity system.	Medium	Short term	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ Environmental groups ▪ PHA	Links to 3.2
3.2 Implement national education campaigns to improve awareness of plant biosecurity risks, management actions and the principle of shared responsibility.	Medium	Short term	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ Environmental groups ▪ PHA ▪ Educators	Links to 1.1 and 3.1
3.3 Support efforts that recognise and celebrate stakeholder contributions to the national plant biosecurity system.	High	Ongoing	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Community groups ▪ PHA ▪ Supply chain participants[3]	Links to 2.3

GOAL 4

PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS PROTECTED AND MARKET ACCESS MAINTAINED

EXPECTED OUTCOME:

Reduced impact of plant biosecurity incursions on the environment, community, trade and market access

Performance indicators	
Short term (1–3 years)	▪ Most likely contingency (detection scenario and actions to eradicate, contain, manage) identified for plant pests and used to develop contingency material. ▪ Contingency material developed and updated for the top 10 National Priority Plant Pests[4]. ▪ Feasibility of pre-determined market access outcomes investigated. ▪ Domestic market access arrangements established for the top 10 plant pests and weeds in the National Priority Plant Pests and the Exotic Environmental Pest list[5]. ▪ Framework developed and used to assess the feasibility of chemicals for use in the event of a detection. ▪ Potential biological control agents or research and development projects identified.
Medium term (4–6 years)	▪ Contingency material developed for the top 20 National Priority Plant Pests. ▪ Domestic market access arrangements established for the top 20 plant pests and weeds in the National Priority Plant Pests and the Exotic Environmental Pest list. ▪ Appropriate permits in place to enable the rapid deployment of chemicals for the top 10 plant pests in the National Priority Plant Pests. ▪ Research and development projects commenced.
Long term (7–10 years)	▪ Contingency material developed for most National Priority Plant Pests. ▪ Domestic market access arrangements established for most plant pests and weeds in the National Priority Plant Pests and the Exotic Environmental Pest list. ▪ Appropriate permits in place to enable the rapid deployment of chemicals for the top 20 plant pests in the National Priority Plant Pests. ▪ Findings from research and development projects incorporated into management or preparedness material.

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Key contributors (cash and in-kind)	Dependency
4.1 Develop and maintain contingency material and/or environmental asset management plans for plant biosecurity risks.	Medium	Ongoing	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ PBPWG ▪ EIC ▪ Plant industries ▪ Environmental groups ▪ PHA ▪ Councils	Links to 2.4
4.2 Establish domestic market access arrangements prior to the detection of exotic plant pests.	Very high	Ongoing	▪ State/territory governments ▪ Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access ▪ Plant industries ▪ Research organisations/ institutions	Links to 5.3
4.3 Establish pre-emptive arrangements for the containment and control of exotic plant pests and weeds.	Very high	Ongoing	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ PHA ▪ Research and Development Corporations	Links to 2.1

4 National Priority Plant Pests can be found at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/plant

5 National Exotic Environmental Pests can be found at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/environmental/priority-list#weeds-and-freshwater-algae

GOAL 5

RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORTED DURING AND FOLLOWING PLANT BIOSECURITY INCURSIONS

EXPECTED OUTCOME:

Plant industries, the environment and communities recover rapidly and fully after a biosecurity incident

Performance indicators	
Short term (1–3 years)	▪ Recovery plans developed and implemented to provide support to affected parties during a response. ▪ Review of recent responses undertaken to identify gaps in recovery determine the recovery needs for different stakeholders.
Medium term (4–6 years)	▪ National funding model developed and implemented to support recovery efforts and build resilience for affected communities, businesses, industries and the environment. ▪ National partnership arrangements developed and implemented for responding to Emergency Plant Pests that are not (or unlikely to be) technically feasible to eradicate.
Long term (7–10 years)	▪ Effective recovery arrangements established to support affected parties in the event of an incursion.

Action	Priority	Timeframe	Key contributors (cash and in-kind)	Dependency
5.1 Develop and maintain a national model for funding recovery efforts for affected communities, businesses, industries and the environment.	Very high	Short to medium term	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ PHA ▪ Community groups ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Supply chain participants[3] ▪ Local government ▪ Natural resource management sector	
5.2 Develop and maintain capability to provide immediate relief to affected communities, industries and the environment during a response.	Very high	Short term	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Local governments ▪ Plant industries	Link to 5.1
5.3 Develop national partnership arrangements for responding to Emergency Plant Pests that are not (or unlikely to be) technically feasible to eradicate.	Medium	Short term	▪ Australian Government ▪ State/territory governments ▪ Plant industries ▪ PHA ▪ Environmental groups ▪ Local government ▪ Natural resource management sector	Links to 4.2 and 5.1

Appendix 1. Implementation Plan Timeline[1]

VERY HIGH PRIORITY HIGH PRIORITY MEDIUM PRIORITY

Goal 1. Stronger national and international connections

Action
1.1 Establish a shared and agreed understanding of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the national plant biosecurity system.
1.2 Establish ongoing forums for stakeholders to focus on plant biosecurity preparedness activities.
1.3 Grow partnerships to prevent the entry of plant biosecurity threats and identify control and management options relevant to the Australian context.

Goal 2. Enhanced and improved capacity and capability to mitigate and respond to plant biosecurity risks

Action
2.1 Identify and address current and emerging capacity and capability gaps across the national plant biosecurity system.
2.2 Develop and implement tools to improve the detection, identification and prioritisation of plant pests and weeds.
2.3 Address barriers and establish incentives to improve engagement and the adoption of plant biosecurity practices.
2.4 Develop and deliver training and simulation exercises to test preparedness to biosecurity incidents.

Goal 3. Enhanced participation and achievement of biosecurity outcomes

Action
3.1 Develop material to promote awareness of obligations and responsibilities of stakeholders across the national plant biosecurity system.
3.2 Implement national education campaigns to improve awareness of plant biosecurity risks, management actions and the principle of shared responsibility.
3.3 Support efforts that recognise and celebrate stakeholder contributions to the national plant biosecurity system.

Goal 4. Production and environmental assets protected and market access maintained

Action
4.1 Develop and maintain contingency material and/or environmental asset management plans for plant biosecurity risks.
4.2 Establish domestic market access arrangements prior to the detection of exotic plant pests.
4.3 Establish pre-emptive arrangements for the containment and control of exotic plant pests and weeds.

Goal 5. Recovery and management supported during and following plant biosecurity incursions

Action
5.1 Develop and maintain a national model for funding recovery efforts for affected communities, businesses, industries and the environment.
5.2 Develop and maintain capability to provide immediate relief to affected communities, industries and the environment during a response.
5.3 Develop national partnership arrangements for responding to Emergency Plant Pests that are not (or unlikely to be) feasible to eradicate.

1 All timeframes are indicative and should not preclude the commencement of any actions before the date set out in the implementation plan.

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31

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