

National Plant Biosecurity Strategy

Summary



A ten year vision for protecting Australia and the livelihoods and lifestyles of Australians from the negative impacts associated with plant pests

December 2010



Why is plant biosecurity important to Australia?

Plant biosecurity is a set of measures which safeguard the economy, environment and community from the negative effects of plant pests. A fully functional and efficient biosecurity system is a vital part of the future profitability, productivity and sustainability of Australia's plant production industries and is necessary to preserve the Australian environment and way of life.

Biosecurity: The challenges

Australia has a comprehensive plant biosecurity system in place which supports plant production industries worth \$25 billion annually, along with the regional economies these industries sustain. By international standards this system has performed extremely well. However, due to factors such as growing levels of trade and tourism, the emergence of new pests, the shifting geographic spread of existing serious pests, increasing competition for resources and climate variability, Australia is facing a heightened level of biosecurity threat.

Maintaining and improving the current plant biosecurity system will help keep Australia free from many pests that affect plant production, the natural environment and economies overseas. This will ensure that Australia can maintain a healthy, high quality food supply and continue to have a competitive advantage producing and exporting plants and plant products.

A national approach

The National Plant Biosecurity Strategy (NPBS) was developed by PHA on behalf of its Members and in close consultation with stakeholders across Australia's plant biosecurity system. It draws together the views of these stakeholders to provide 10 strategies to address present and future challenges facing the system (see table opposite).

The NPBS points the way for governments, plant industries and the community to work even more closely together to strengthen Australia's plant biosecurity system over the next decade. It calls for Australia to move toward a more efficient and effective nationally coordinated approach that is characterised by transparency, cooperation and sharing. In the process, the NPBS will play an important part in delivering essential reforms to the national biosecurity system as recommended by the 2008 independent review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements – the Beale Review.

Implementation of the new NPBS will ensure that the plant biosecurity system continues to:

- Protect Australia and Australians from the negative impacts of plant pests
- Assist plant production industries to gain and maintain market access
- Sustain Australia's high quality food supply
- Support long-term sustainable production practices





Strategies	Primary outcomes
1. Adopt nationally consistent plant biosecurity legislation, regulations and approaches	Harmonised laws that assist domestic trade and help Australia comply with its rights and obligations in international trade
2. Establish a nationally coordinated plant pest surveillance system	Enhanced interstate and international market access through improved ability to detect new pests, and demonstrate freedom from known pests
3. Build Australia's ability to prepare for, and respond to, pest incursions	Government and industry stakeholders who are clear about their roles and responsibilities, and making trained personnel and other services available to effectively respond to pest incursions
4. Expand Australia's plant biosecurity capacity and capability	A system of education, training and research funding that addresses skill gaps in the plant biosecurity sector into the future
5. Create a nationally integrated diagnostic network	Capability to more quickly, accurately and efficiently identify plant pests
6. Enhance national management systems for established pests	More effective management of established pests to minimise their impacts, limit their spread into new areas and make best use of available resources nationally
7. Establish an integrated national approach to plant biosecurity education and awareness	An improved understanding of plant biosecurity among industries, industry service groups and the wider community with more active involvement from all in activities which prevent the establishment and spread of pests
8. Develop a national framework for plant biosecurity research	Research, development and extension resources that are being used efficiently, effectively and collaboratively to address national plant biosecurity needs and improve the productivity and sustainability of Australia's plant industries
9. Adopt systems and mechanisms for the distribution, communication and uptake of plant biosecurity information	Ready access to biosecurity information via a centralised system that facilitates sharing of data, uptake of research and development, and eliminates duplicated effort
10. Monitor the integrity of the plant biosecurity system	Continual assessment of performance of the plant biosecurity system resulting in recommendations on measures to address gaps and other identified weaknesses

For a full copy of the NPBS, contact Plant Health Australia on 02 6215 7700 or download a copy from: www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/NPBS

The following Plant Health Australia Members endorse the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy

Industry Members

A3P
Almond Board of Australia
Apple and Pear Australia
Australian Banana Growers' Council
Australian Dried Fruits Association
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
Australian Lychee Growers' Association
Australian Macadamia Society
Australian Mango Industry Association
Australian Nut Industry Council
Australian Olive Association
Australian Passionfruit Industry Association
Australian Processing Tomato Research Council
Australian Table Grape Association
Australian Walnut Industry Association
AUSVEG
Avocados Australia
CANEGROWERS
Canned Fruit Industry Council
Cherry Growers of Australia
Citrus Australia
Cotton Australia
Grain Producers Australia
Growcom
Nursery and Garden Industry Australia
Onions Australia
Ricegrowers' Association of Australia
Strawberries Australia
Summerfruit Australia
Wine Grape Growers' Australia

Plant Health Australia (PHA) is the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia. As a not-for-profit company, PHA services the needs of Members and independently advocates on behalf of the national plant biosecurity system. PHA's efforts help minimise plant pest impacts, enhance Australia's plant health status, assist trade, safeguard the livelihood of producers, support the sustainability and profitability of plant industries and the communities that rely upon them, and preserve environmental health and amenity.

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Government Members

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

Associate Members

Australasian Plant Pathology Society
BSES
Cotton Research and Development Corporation
Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity
Grains Research and Development Corporation
Horticulture Australia
New Rural Industries Australia

