# Industry Resource Toolkit series: Responding to an Emergency Plant Pest under the EPPRD

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| How to use this resource This article is the third in an educational series aimed at providing Plant Health Australia’s Plant Industry Members with a resource toolkit containing information on national response arrangements under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).  This article and the accompanying resources recognises you as the national peak industry body and signatory to the EPPRD, and your role as your industry's representative during a response to an Emergency Plant Pest (EPP).  Throughout the articles, you will find sections that can be tailored to make it more relevant to your members or industry and we encourage you to highlight how your organisation supports its members. This information can be used to create content for your website, social media, newsletters, videos, podcasts, webinars, or other formats and both long-form and short-form content is provided to help you adapt it to the relevant platform. You can also incorporate this material into your member training and educational programs. Before you publish: When adapting the articles, it is important to maintain factual accuracy and sequential order. Many of the concepts explained throughout the toolkit rely on using correct terminology to avoid providing inaccurate or misleading information. We request that you:   * publish the articles in the correct order to allow readers to build on their knowledge from one article to the next * include the following statement indicating that it has been developed in collaboration with Plant Health Australia:   *This content has been developed in collaboration with Plant Health Australia to increase awareness of national response arrangements under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).*  Industry organisations outside of Plant Health Australia’s Plant Industry Members are welcome to publish the information, provided the articles acknowledge the national peak industry body as the representative body under the EPPRD.  Find out [how to use the toolkit articles](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/industry-resource-toolkit/) to provide information to your members.  Growers and producers are encouraged to contact their [national peak industry body](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/our-members/) for further information. |

# Long-form content

This section sets the scene by providing information about being a member of Plant Health Australia and being a signatory to the EPPRD. Find out when your industry became a signatory to the [EPPRD.](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/biosecurity/emergency-plant-pest-response-deed/epprd-signatories/)

If you haven’t already done so, you can include the high-priority pests and diseases specific to your industry, using the information listed on Plant Health Australia’s [resource centre](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/?s=&resource_type=biosecurity-manual&resource_industry=&resource_pests_disease=).

Check the Plant Health Australia website for the latest version of the [EPPRD](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/biosecurity/emergency-plant-pest-response-deed/) to ensure your content is current.

## Responding to an Emergency Plant Pest under the EPPRD

In this article, you will learn how we respond to a [Emergency Plant Pests](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/emergency-plant-pest-response-deed-epprd/) (EPP) under the [Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/emergency-plant-pest-response-deed-epprd/) (EPPRD) including:

* who the decision makers are in a response
* how are decisions made
* the role of [your national peak industry body] in a response.

This article expands on information provided in Article 1 ‘[National biosecurity arrangements](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/industry-resource-toolkit/)’ and Article 2: ‘[What happens when you report something unusual](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/industry-resource-toolkit/)’.

If you are publishing the toolkit articles on your website, make sure you cross-link the information.

### Key points

* The EPPRD provides a consistent and agreed national approach for the eradication of EPPs.
* An EPP is an unwanted plant pest or disease that has a significant national impact on our crops, bees or edible fungi. A full definition of an EPP can be found in the EPPRD available on Plant Health Australia’s [website](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/emergency-plant-pest-response-deed-epprd/owner-reimbursement-costs/).
* During a response, decisions are made by national committees including the [Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Job-card_CCEPP_v2.4.pdf) (CCEPP) and the [National Management Group](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Job-card_NMG_v2.2.pdf) (NMG).
* The Australian government, all state and territory governments and peak plant industries including [your national peak industry body] are members of these national committees and work to develop, implement and review a response plan that supports eradication of an EPP.

### Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed

The EPPRD provides a consistent and nationally agreed approach to the management and funding of a response to an EPP incursion. The EPPRD:

* is a legally binding agreement between the Australian government, all state and territory governments, peak plant industry bodies and Plant Health Australia
* enables industries who are signatories to have a key role in the decision-making process
* provides accountability and transparency to all parties affected by the EPP
* covers the potential for Owner Reimbursement Costs (ORC) for growers
* commits all signatories to implement risk mitigation strategies and maintain trained personnel and technical expertise.

[Insert national peak industry body] became a signatory to the EPPRD in [YYYY] [reference year you became a signatory], in recognition of the significant benefits to our industry in preparing for and responding to an EPP.

Simply put, an EPP is a plant pest that would likely have a nationally significant impact, either economic or environmental, and must fulfill one of the following criteria:

1. a known plant pest not previously detected (or previously eradicated) in Australia
2. a variant form of an established plant pest that can be distinguished by appropriate investigative and diagnostic methods
3. a newly identified plant pest of unknown or uncertain origin
4. a plant pest already found in Australia that:
   * is restricted to a defined area through regulatory measures to prevent further spread of the pest; and
   * has been detected outside the defined area; and
   * is not a native of Australia; and
   * is not the subject of any instrument for management which is agreed to be effective risk mitigation and management at a national level.

A green and white circle with white text

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceThe full definition of an EPP can be found on Plant Health Australia’s [website](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/emergency-plant-pest-response-deed-epprd/owner-reimbursement-costs/).

Image caption: The EPPRD is only applied where the pest or disease has been identified as an Emergency Plant Pest.

The diagram above depicts what an EPP is. It is available in the [graphics pack for Article 3](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/industry-resource-toolkit/). You can customise the graphic to suit your organisation’s branding and use the image for your communications channels. It is recommended you replace the crop icon with one relevant to your industry. Note: this diagram can also be used in Article 1: ‘National biosecurity system’.

### [National Peak Industry Body’s] decision making role during a response

As a signatory to the EPPRD, [insert national peak industry body here] has representation in the decision making that supports the development and delivery of a response to eradicate an EPP. If [your industry] is directly impacted by an EPP [national peak industry body] will be a member of the CCEPP and the NMG which are formed to manage the response. The [industry] may also provide support via industry liaison roles (Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) or Coordinator (ILC)).

### Who makes the decisions during a response?

#### The Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests

The CCEPP is a technical committee that is responsible for the effective and efficient coordination of the response. Members of the CCEPP include representatives from affected industries that are signatories of the EPPRD, the Australian government, state and territory governments and Plant Health Australia. During the investigation stage, the CCEPP determines if the incident relates to an EPP and whether it is technically and economically feasible to eradicate. Throughout the response, the CCEPP monitors response progress and makes recommendations to the NMG for their approval.

[National peak industry body] will consult with our board and executive management team when making decisions on behalf of our industry. [include other ways you may have engaged with your members to support your decision making at the CCEPP level]

#### The National Management Group

The NMG is the key decision-making group that among other things, approves a response plan and its associated budget, which is then funded through the cost sharing arrangements under the EPPRD by the governments and affected industries. Members of the NMG include senior delegates from the Australian, state and territory governments and the appropriately authorised person from affected industry organisations. [Option to include [national peak industry body] is represented on the National Management Group by [contact name details].

Decisions made by the NMG are by consensus except for those that relate to financial (cost sharing) matters which must be unanimous.

#### Industry Liaison Officers

[Industry Liaison](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Job-card_Industry-Liaison-functions_v1.1.pdf) Officers (ILO) are a key conduit of information between the lead agency implementing the response plan, and the national peak industry body. Throughout the response an ILO will:

* assist the lead agency in understanding their industry and minimise impacts on business continuity
* provide their industry perspective on aspects of response activities
* provide an industry perspective to support communication and engagement activities.

### How are decisions made during a response?

The Australian government and all state and territory governments are represented at the CCEPP and NMG for every response as the impact of the pest has national consequences. The industry membership of the CCEPP and NMG varies based on which industries are impacted by the EPP that is being responded to. Only industries that are directly impacted will have representation on the CCEPP and NMG and therefore have a say on how a response is managed.

To support [national peak industry body] decision making during a response our representatives on the CCEPP and NMG engage with our board and our members. [national peak industry body] also undertakes preparedness planning to ensure we can make decisions quickly by engaging with our members in peacetime. [Include information on how your national peak industry body has engaged with growers to support your decision making during a response]

A diagram of a company

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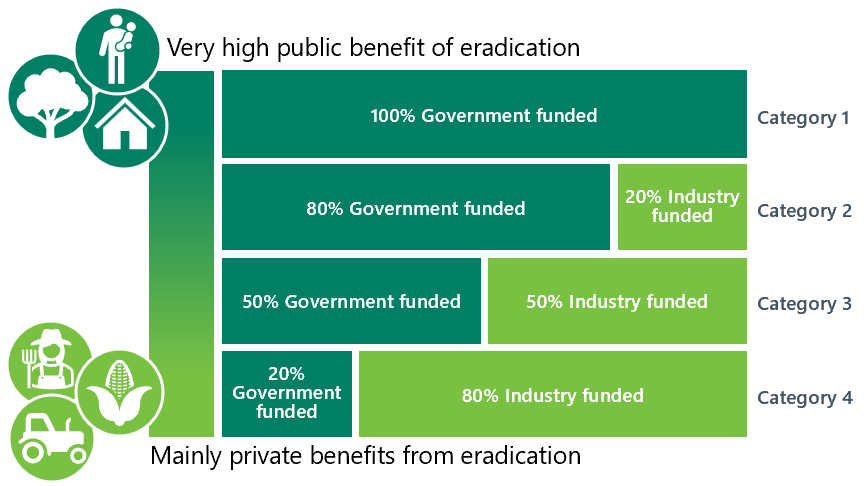
Caption: An Incident Management Team is established to respond to a plant pest or disease incursion.

The diagram above shows the reporting lines between the control centre and the peak industry body during a response. It is available in the [graphics pack for Article 3](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/industry-resource-toolkit/). You can customise the graphic to suit your organisation’s branding and use the image for your communications channels.

### How are responses under the EPPRD funded?

The EPPRD outlines how the cost of a response is equitably shared between governments and industries based on the relative public and private benefit of eradicating the EPP. Industry will pay a higher proportion of costs to eradicate an EPP that will mainly impact production compared to an EPP that impacts households, the environment and regional and national economies. Based on the relative public and private benefits of eradication each EPP is assigned one of four Categories that identifies the government/industry funding ratio.

Industry’s funding ratio may be paid through statutory levy arrangements or other voluntary means and in consultation with their members. [National peak industry body to include details on your levy arrangements.] How a response is funded will be covered in more detail in a future article.



Caption: Based on the relative public and private benefits of eradication each EPP is assigned one of four Categories that identifies the government/industry funding ratio.

The diagram above shows the categories under the EPPRD, and indicates the percentage paid between government and industry. It is available in the [graphics pack for Article 3](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/industry-resource-toolkit/). You can customise the graphic to suit your organisation’s branding and use the image for your communications channels.

### PLANTPLAN

The Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan, commonly known as [PLANTPLAN](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/plantplan/) is a companion document to the EPPRD that outlines the key roles and responsibilities of industry and government parties throughout the life of the response and provides nationally consistent guidelines for managing a response to an EPP.

Job cards within PLANTPLAN list the roles and responsibilities of [CCEPP representatives](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Job-card_CCEPP_v2.4.pdf), [NMG representatives](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Job-card_NMG_v2.2.pdf) and [ILO](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Job-card_Industry-Liaison-functions_v1.1.pdf). Find out for more information on [PLANTPLAN](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/biosecurity/incursion-management/plantplan/).

### How [national peak industry body] keeps you updated during a response

Throughout a response, [insert Plant Industry Member] will provide accurate up to date information on response activities, keeping you well-informed of the situation. This will include [Plant Industry Member to list how they would engage with growers e.g., email alerts, social media, webinars. Provide an example of how this was done in other instances e.g. during the *Varra destructor* response]

### What you can do now

* Identify any programs or information you, as a national peak industry body, can provide to your members to support their understanding of your industry's role under the EPPRD.

Add acknowledgement statement: This content has been developed in collaboration with Plant Health Australia to increase awareness of national response arrangements under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).

Resources

#### Read: Want to learn more?

* [Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/emergency-plant-pest-response-deed-epprd/)
* [PLANTPLAN](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/plantplan/)
* [Emergency Plant Pests](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/biosecurity/emergency-plant-pests/)
* [National priority plant pests (DAFF)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/plant)

#### Watch: View videos online to find out more

* [Biosecurity Bite: Exotic Plant Pests](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaHsqaoFFeM)

#### Learn: Free training available on BOLT

Free training is available on [Biosecurity Online Training platform (BOLT)](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/resources/training/biosecurity-online-training/). Register your free account to get started.

* [National EPP response management course](https://pha.canopihr.com.au/mylearning/catalogue/index?menu=Home#/detail?page=1&pageSize=10&details=%2Fmylearning%2Fcatalogue%2Fdetails%2F8c207dbf-3a8f-e511-80c4-000d3ae015ad)
* [Plant Surveillance](https://pha.canopihr.com.au/mylearning/catalogue/index?menu=Home#/detail?page=2&pageSize=10&details=%2Fmylearning%2Fcatalogue%2Fdetails%2Ff2433fc7-09fe-ea11-99c2-0003ff8cdf5c)
* [Plant Biosecurity in Australia course](https://pha.canopihr.com.au/mylearning/catalogue/index?menu=Home#/detail?page=1&pageSize=10&details=%2Fmylearning%2Fcatalogue%2Fdetails%2Fd03fce3e-aeab-ea11-9b04-0003ff8cc08d)

If you are publishing the toolkit articles on your website, you can encourage your members to read more in Article 1 ‘National biosecurity arrangements’ and Article 2 ‘What happens when you report something unusual?’

# Short-form content

This section summarises the information contained in the article. This content is best suited for social media, newsletters, or other short-form content. You're encouraged to adapt the style and tone of the content to fit your communication style.

Ensure you include the relevant organisations or governments social media handles if posting to your channels.

## Responding to an Emergency Plant Pest under the EPPRD

The [Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed](https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/response-arrangements/emergency-plant-pest-response-deed-epprd/) (EPPRD) provides a consistent and nationally agreed approach to the management and funding of a response to an Emergency Plant Pest (EPP) incursion.

As a signatory to the EPPRD, [insert national peak industry body here] has representation in decision making that supports the development and delivery of a response to eradicate an EPP. The Australian government, state and territory governments and affected industry parties, including [national peak industry body], will work together to amongst other things, support determining if the incident relates to an EPP and whether it is technically and economically feasible to eradicate and monitor the response progress, approval of a response plan and its associated budget and assist the lead agency in understanding [your Industry] and minimise impacts on business continuity.

Throughout a response [national peak industry body] will provide accurate up to date information on response activities, keeping you abreast of the situation.