

# GRAINS BIOSECURITY AWARENESS WEBINAR

Spring 2025

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# Welcome

- We will be recording the session
- Please type any questions you have into the chat
- Today's agenda:



The importance of  
Australia's grain  
industry



Key spring 2025  
biosecurity risks for the  
grains industry



What you can do to  
protect your farm



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# PHA, GRDC and GPA



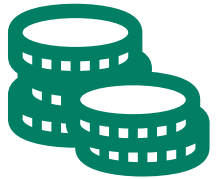
When it comes to Biosecurity there are some key organisations that work hard to protect Australia's \$31.1 billion grain industry

- **PHA** – coordinates responses to exotic plant pests and helps protect Australia's agriculture industry
- **GRDC** – invests in research and development to enhance profitability for Australian grain growers
- **GPA** – represents biosecurity interests of grain producers and the industry, including during responses to exotic plant pests

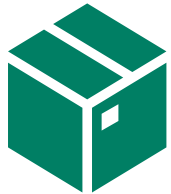
All under pressure from increased detections of exotic pests and diseases.

# Increasing risk of pests and diseases

In the previous financial year Australia experienced:



Increased global trade



An average of 115 million mail items each year



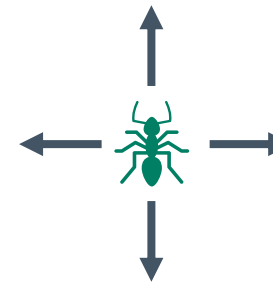
Increased impacts from climate change



124,300 aircraft and sea vessels



21.6 million international travelers



Spread of pests already present in Australia



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years

# Australia's grains industry

- Grain production sector contributes more than \$18 billion to the Australian economy a year
- Employ more than 170,000 people across the country
- Control of weeds, pests and diseases already present in Australia cost the grains industry more than \$5 billion a year

**How can we prevent these costs from increasing?**



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# Biosecurity

## What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity helps prevent the entry, establishment and spread of new (and existing) grain pests and diseases

## How does it benefit you?

Biosecurity protects your livelihood from pests and diseases that can:

- Cause crop damage
- Reduce yield and quality
- Increase production and control costs and
- Lead to lost market access.



# Biosecurity starts long before your farm gate



## Pre-border

Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



## Border

Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



## Post-border

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Forestry, state and territory governments,  
PHA, **plant industries**, **producers** and  
community



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years

# Spring 2025 threats to the grains industry

- Biosecurity threats will change year to year and season to season
- For spring 2025 these are the three key priorities.



Field days



Brown marmorated  
stink bug (BMSB)



Dumping grain



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years

# Field days

- Occur year round, but several larger events are held in spring
- Field days mean more people, machinery, vehicles, and other materials are moving around the country

| What's the risk?                                                                                                      | What should you do?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bringing in or taking out pests from properties other than your own</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the 'come clean go clean' protocol by cleaning your boots and equipment before entering and after leaving a site</li><li>• If hosting a field day keep a record of visitors</li><li>• If visiting a field day, speak to the host to understand their biosecurity practices</li></ul> |



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# Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB)

- A stink bug that feeds on over 300 plants – including grains
- High risk period is from September to April each year
- Not present in Australia – can arrive on imported goods
- Federal Department of Agriculture inspects cargo at the border and has increased vigilance during BMSB season (September – May)



## What's the risk?

- BMSB hitchhiking on imported goods such as new vehicles and machinery
- Feeding damage from the bug's saliva can affect fruit, kernels, buds, stems and bark.
- Can cause direct production losses due to reduced yield and cause contamination rendering the product unmarketable

## What should you do?

- Inspect machinery and equipment imported from overseas
- Call your agronomist if you spot a stink bug you're not sure about



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# Dumped grain



- Grain that has been dumped along transport corridors (typically highways).
- In the 2013-14 FY 53,000 tonnes of cereal grain moved along the Great Western Highway in NSW alone.

## What's the risk?

- Dumped grain can attract and harbor grain storage pests
- Can allow for these pests to spread from areas they are currently contained into new areas

## What should you do?

- Excess grain can be burned, buried or bagged and reused as feed
- Chat to your drivers if you have any concerns
- If you see dumped grain report it to your state government

# Managing spring 2025 biosecurity

## How to promote biosecurity while this spring



### Field days

- Practice come clean / go clean
- If you're hosting, keep a visitor log
- Speak to the field day organiser about their biosecurity practices



### Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB)

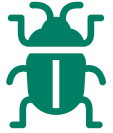
- Inspect products from overseas
- Speak to an agronomist if you see a pest of concern



### Dumped grain

- Chat to the drivers leaving your farm if you have concerns
- Report dumped grain to your state or territory government

# Benefits of talking to someone



Understand the existing pests in your area so you know what to look for



Help identify it early and give us a better chance of eradicating it



Identify appropriate management for pests



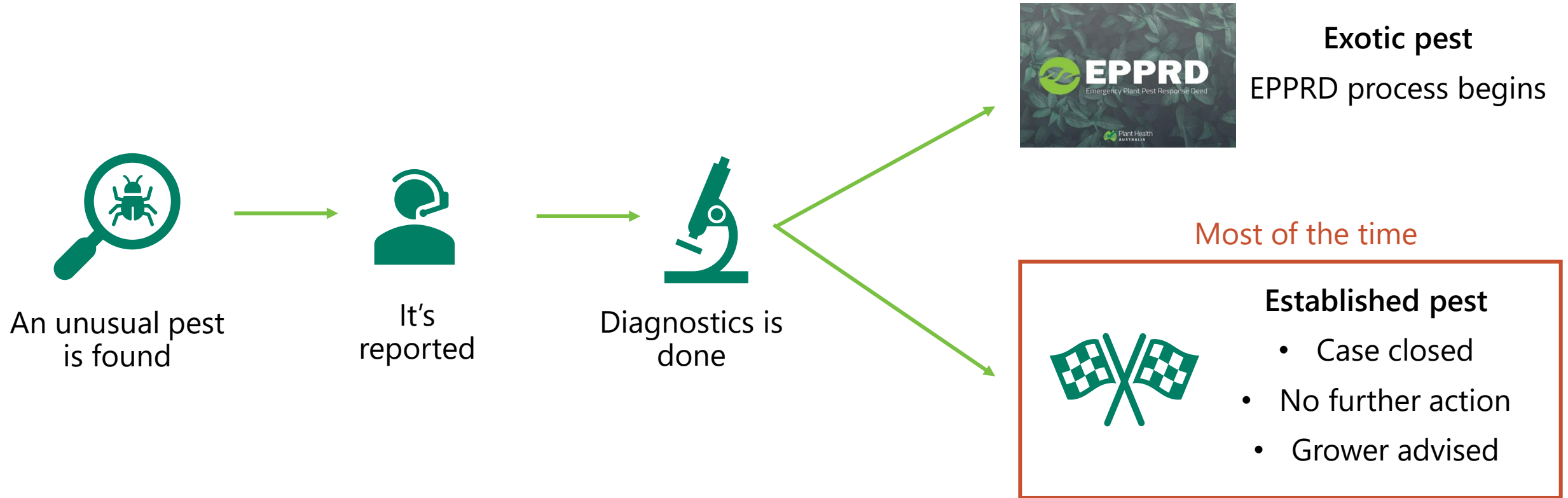
Protect international exports of Australian grain



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# What happens if a pest is reported?



# Myth vs reality

| Myth                                           | Reality                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| It's too complicated to report it              | Just discuss your concerns with your agronomist – if it's a pest of concern they can do the rest                                              |
| I don't have to report it, someone else will   | Earlier containment improves the chance of successful eradication. Early reporting helps the entire industry, even if it's not an exotic pest |
| If it's bad, it will be the end of my business | The grains industry is a signatory of the EPPRD. Owner Reimbursement Costs (ORCs) exist there to help growers.                                |

*Most of the time it is not an exotic pest, just something that we have not seen in a while.*

# ANY QUESTIONS?



# Upcoming PHA grains initiatives

## Grains Farm Biosecurity Program

- Continued communication of relevant HPPs and Biosecurity recommendations (*ongoing*)
- Distribution of farm gate biosecurity signs and other resources (*ongoing*)
- Sentinel Silo surveillance program (*ongoing*)
- Development of a Grains Farm Biosecurity Management Plan



## PHA/GRDC Biosecurity Initiative

- Simulation exercises over the next 5 years to test and improve the grain industry's preparedness
- Updated Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan and Australian Grains Biosecurity Guide
- Development of ORC framework for the grains industry
- Biosecurity standard operating procedure for GPA to assist them in the event of a response
- Coordination of the Grains Biosecurity Advisory Committee (GBAC) to support the implementation of the Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan



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# Want to stay in the loop with grains biosecurity?

Using the QR code below you can sign up to be added to our mailing list and hear updates on what PHA is delivering for the grains industry!



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