

CHAIRPERSON ADDRESS

25th Annual general Meeting

Wednesday 26 November 2025

As we reflect on more than 25 years of service to Australia's plant biosecurity system, PHA continues to play a pivotal role as the trusted coordinator of the government–industry partnership.

Our model of collaboration is built on strong partnerships and a shared biosecurity culture, and this remains central to PHA's role as the trusted coordinator of the plant biosecurity system.

The past year has once again seen rapid changes brought about by increased trade volumes, climate variability, growing pest pressures and constrained resources. These factors have continued to place greater demands on the national system and reinforce the need for sustainable funding solutions, and a national, connected approach to preparedness, response and recovery.

Against this backdrop, PHA has continued to deliver strongly against our Strategic Plan and the Strategic and Operational Priorities that support it.

October 2025 marked 20 years of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed. Two decades of a truly unique partnership model that continues to set the benchmark for collaborative biosecurity response in Australia. The EPPRD's foundation of co-design, co-funding and joint decision-making remains as vital today as they were at its inception, enabling Parties to work with speed, clarity and shared purpose during incursions. These efforts, which align with Strategic Priority 1, underscore PHA's pivotal role in strengthening the nation's biosecurity framework and ensuring a resilient plant biosecurity system.

Aligned with Strategic Priority 2, and our ongoing commitment to partnership, PHA has continued to deepen its relationships across government, industry, research and community sectors. Over the past year, we have strengthened long-standing collaborations while also forging new ones, ensuring that the cooperative frameworks underpinning the plant biosecurity system remain robust, inclusive and future-ready. Our active engagement in national committees, working groups and cross-sector initiatives supports this approach by aligning priorities, sharing expertise and driving coordinated progress across the system.

Technology and integration remain core enablers of a modern biosecurity system. AUSPestCheck® reached a significant milestone this year with more than 10 million surveillance records uploaded, reinforcing its role as a critical national platform that supports early detection and decision-making. PaDIL (Pest and Disease Image Library), the APPD (Australian Plant Pest Database), continue to evolve to meet emerging system needs.

Internally, PHA has strengthened its operating environment through improvements to governance, risk management, digital systems and workforce capability. The rollout of the new Enterprise Resource Planning system was a major achievement that will support more efficient, transparent, and resilient operations into the future.

Throughout the year, PHA has prioritised Member engagement. Whether through forums, targeted meetings, webinars, surveys, or communications, we remain committed to ensuring our Members are informed, empowered and actively shaping the PHA's work program. Our shared success depends on strong and collaborative relationships, and we remain grateful for your continued support.

This month, we published the 2024-25 Annual Report, now available in digital format for download on the PHA website. The Annual Report provides a comprehensive account of the organisation's achievements, challenges, and progress against the key performance indicators outlined in the corresponding 2024–25 Annual Operational Plan.

Today we will hear from our CEO, Sarah Corcoran, and the Executive Management Team, who will present performance highlights and outcomes against the 2025–26 Annual Operational Plan.

Before we move to the next slide and the Directors' Report, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Sarah and the entire PHA team for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to excellence. Their work continues to strengthen the plant biosecurity system and deliver meaningful impact for our Members and the broader community.

I would also like to thank the Board for the support they have given me while I have been Chair. The Board are committed, determined and united in their determination to protect and improve PHA for the benefit of Members. I would particularly like to thank Kathy Kelly for the extra work she has done as Company Secretary and for the assistance she has given PHA management on the introduction of the new ERP system.

In closing, thank you to our Members for your ongoing engagement, trust and collaboration. Your partnership is essential to our collective success. I look forward to the discussions ahead and to continuing our work together to build a resilient, responsive and future-ready plant biosecurity system.