



## **Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response**

### **Sector-based Councils: January and February 2024 Bulletin**

*This semi-regular update from the GIA Secretariat is intended to provide a general overview of the key matters considered by GIA governance bodies in the preceding month. It is not intended to communicate formal decisions by any of the parties, nor everything that happens within GIA. If there are any questions, or further information is required please contact [steve.rich@gia.org.nz](mailto:steve.rich@gia.org.nz)*

#### **GIA Operations Limited (GOL) Board: 26 January 2024**

- GOL's projected cashflow and options for ensuring a positive position.
- The agenda for the next DGG meeting, with a focus on meeting the new Minister and finalising the strategic direction for GIA – associated with a need for realistic expectations being set for progress on key initiatives, including engagement with Māori and GIA membership classes.
- Agreement on marking of ten-year anniversary of GIA, with MPI and KVH to host a dinner on the evening of the DGG meeting.
- Progress noted in planning for visit to Australian biosecurity organisations.
- Additional considerations for draft 24/25 work programme matters were raised, ahead of DGG's first look in March.
- GOL's indemnity insurance renewal for the 12 months from February 2024.

#### **Māori Engagement Workshop: 7 February 2024**

- Developing options for Māori engagement in GIA Readiness and Response Activities and recognition of the need for Māori involvement in decision-making.
- The importance of an agreed position on engagement across partnership.
- MPI is developing guidance for Māori inclusion in operational response activities.
- Lack of current nationwide engagement programme and the need to learn from case studies such as Myrtle rust, Caulerpa and Golden clams.
- Cost-sharing issues create a real barrier to progressing engagement activities.
- Proposed actions include prioritising high-risk surveillance areas for Māori engagement, governance training/shadowing programmes, establishing peacetime Crown-funded Māori steering group, considering Crown-funded Māori representation at operational response levels, developing operational guidance for response leaders, and creating a pan-GIA Māori engagement policy.

- Next steps include presenting possible actions to DGG for consideration after GOL meeting in early March.

#### **Livestock Biosecurity Sector (LSBC): 8 February 2024**

- An update on the System Strategy Development from Pete Thomson, Chief Biosecurity Officer.
- A roundtable series of updates on the industry-led FMD Preparedness Work Programme, ahead of review by the LSBC CE's Forum in a couple of weeks.

#### **Solanaceae Biosecurity Working Group (SBWG): 12 February 2024**

- The Solanaceae Readiness OA is now with parties for signing.
- The meeting discussed the use of Biosecurity NZ's Emerging Risks System Report as a means of maintaining an awareness of the evolving nature of Solanaceous pest threats and changes in host distribution. BNZ was asked to provide an update at the next meeting.
- BNZ, Tomatoes NZ and Vegetables NZ are building a generic response operational specification which could accommodate appendices for specific viral threats. Others were invited to join the project. The group will consider establishing the project as a piece of work under the Solanaceae Readiness OA.
- Carol Li will shortly assume the Secretariat role for the Group.

#### **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Council (BMSBC): 16 February 2024**

- Council reviewed progress on the review of its samurai wasp related project stream and noted that several planned projects had been on hold pending the result of the review, expected late April 2024.
- Council noted the progress on the development of a MOU with SAG from Chile, with the approved draft now under translation and peer review.
- Council noted the preliminary analysis on the efficacy of aerodynamic traps and decided to view the traps *in-situ* in May 2024.
- Council noted the pan-GIA work underway on Māori engagement.
- The 24/25 FY work programme was further discussed and refined, with confirmed projects to be scoped up.
- The next Council meeting will be held in Auckland where members will view the samurai wasps in containment and aerodynamic traps.

#### **Xylella Working Group (XAG): 22 February 2024**

- XAG met on 22 February to initiate discussion on a 2024/25 work plan to grow readiness for Xylella across horticultural crops and their nursery supply chains.
- Four projects were identified as potential priorities for next year's workplan and project briefs will be developed for consideration at an April meeting:
  - Grow awareness of Xylella among producers and supplying nurseries

- Testing detection scenarios to inform future readiness planning
- Develop nursery surveillance measures and undertake a gap analysis comparing nursery mitigations in California and New Zealand
- Develop a response OA

#### **Traceability OA Governance Group (TOGG): 26 February 2024**

- Participating GIA partners met on 26 February to initiate work to explore the development of an OA to manage a pan-GIA approach to Traceability.
- Key discussion points served to amend draft purpose, outcomes and services statements. Key issues include:
  - It's anticipated that the resulting traceability work programme will be both a readiness and response tool, for both BNZ and industry, albeit to varying extents.
  - Appropriate data access, sharing and privacy management, with clarity around the right levels of access, permissions and anonymity through readiness, investigation and response scenarios.
  - The group favoured establishing the OA as a single GOL managed contract with the provider rather than sectors contracting individually, and that the scope of the contract should be limited to matters the GIA parties have in common. It was noted that final contractual arrangements, including where contracts are held, will only be determined when the provider is confirmed, and the services detailed.
  - Parties agreed that the standard approach to beneficiary identification in OAs is unlikely to be suitable for a Traceability OA, given the absence of a specific unwanted organism. Formal identification of the beneficiary parties will require finalisation of the services to be provided as there will likely be some differentiation in service update and usage between the Crown and amongst industry sectors, or potentially beyond the GIA partnership.
- The Secretariat will draft an OA inclusive of the above and parties will next meet on 10 April.

The meeting also agreed the Secretariat undertake a process to secure registrations of interest from potential service providers, noting that the ROI process does not accrue commitment to TOGG parties and maintains the ability for GOL or some other entity to be the eventual contract holder (note the ROI process is now live on <https://portal.tenderlink.com/adcentre>)

#### **Livestock Biosecurity Council Chief Executive's Forum (LSBC CE Forum): 29 February 2024**

- Progress developing economic analysis to inform FMD response options for Cabinet consideration later in the year.
- Sheep and pig traceability work facing uncertainty due to uncertainty over provider capacity.
- A recent FMD part-simulation held in the Taranaki region, with lessons-learned to be reported back to a future meeting.

- Plans for cleaning and disinfection to be shared with industry partners, incorporating lessons from the M.bovis response.
- A review of available literature on FMD responses globally is to be undertaken, with findings to be reported to a future meeting.
- A report back was requested on the outcomes of the forthcoming World Organisation of Animal Health's review of FMD requirements.
- The capabilities of the MPI Animal Health Laboratory in Wallaceville were noted, with a future LSBC CE Forum to be held there.