



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

### **Sector-based Councils: July 2023 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)*

#### **Xylella Action Group: Meeting 20 July 2023**

- MPI Readiness science products team reported that a project to develop a better understanding of insect vectors of Xylella has been approved and granted funding. It will shortly advance to procurement.
- A B3 project to understand pathway risk of exotic diapausing pest insects (example Glassy-winged sharpshooter) entering NZ, and how climate change predictions may affect this threat is near complete. The project report should be available soon.
- Plant and Food Research's (PFR) report on Xylella host, strain, vector relationships matrix project was discussed by the group. It's intended to inform targeted host/vector-specific response actions based upon elucidation of the strain of Xylella under investigation. Some refinements to the matrix have been sought and the group will further consider its impacts, how it influences the workplan and OA, and future engagement strategies in late September. In advance of this MPI and the PFR project group will look at alignment and update mechanisms among this matrix and MPI maintained lists.
- NZ Plant Producers formally joining the Xylella Readiness OA was noted. OA signatories are now MPI, NZ Winegrowers, NZ Citrus Growers, Summerfruit NZ and NZ Plant Producers.
- The group will next meet late September 2023.

#### **Solanaceae Biosecurity Working Group: 24 July**

- Group discussion focused on the changing priorities among members and whether the imperative for a broad-based approach to viral threat to Solanaceae was still valid. Members will review priorities and resources and the Group will reconvene in the near future to decide next steps.
- A Code of Practice to manage the threat of PSTVd nears completion with final signoff expected during September.

### **Livestock Sector Biosecurity Council CE's Forum: 31 July**

- The status of FMD Readiness work, now transitioned from the dedicated FMD taskforce into Biosecurity NZ was discussed. Members noted work on the Business Continuity scheme, Germplasm and Raw Milk Processing schemes is continuing with a final draft of the Raw Milk Processing scheme and Communications material is due to go out to partners for feedback shortly.
- A draft high level assurance framework has been developed and the FMD Preparedness programme team are working on the development of an enduring exercise programme.
- A workshop is planned in August to ensure all Partners are fully briefed on the detailed elements of the FMD work programme.
- The full report back of the FMD Independent Review, along with MPI's response to the recommendations was noted. The report is due for public release in early August 2023.
- Proposals for Sheep Traceability were discussed with members agreeing necessary policy work should happen concurrently with the more operational aspects. The project is to be recast into separate streams covering sheep traceability, non-commercial pork activities, and policy requirements.
- The most likely pathway for an FMD incursion into NZ was discussed (being infected waste food being fed to non-commercial pigs, and then spreading outside of normal commercial and controlled operations). A research paper (from 2002) that covers anticipated pathways for the disease to arrive in NZ will be circulated for information.
- The increasing pressure coming from commercial operators in relation to delays in airport passenger processing was noted, which are being blamed (inaccurately) on border biosecurity requirements. Partners will work together to reinforce messaging about the importance of NZ's strict biosecurity measures.
- GIA partners agreed to continue progressing the development of the response component of an FMDOA and, in the interim, the parties intend to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (or similar) that highlights good faith efforts to develop the Operational agreement and move FMD readiness forward.
- Members agreed, in principle, that the LSBC CE forum should continue as a strategic governance body dealing with livestock sector biosecurity matters (maintaining the focus on FMD preparedness in the first instance) with an advisory group (the current LSBC) charged with implementation of the parent group's decisions.
- Members were briefed on reports that Indonesia has placed restrictions on cattle imports from a small number of Australian farms, after imported animals (that had been in Indonesia for some time) were reported to have tested positive for Lumpy Skin Disease, a viral livestock disease with significant economic implications.