



Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response

Sector-based Councils: November 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

Deed Governance Group (DGG): 2 November 2023

- **Strategic Framework for GIA:** Discussion on the development of a GIA Strategic Framework, with feedback on the vision statement, mission statement, and roles for GIA Partners.
- **Elements of a Multi-Year Plan:** Consideration of elements for a longer-term multi-year plan including ranking of the importance and feasibility of various options.
- **Accountability Reporting:** Discussion on the Accountability Regime was deferred for out-of-session review.
- **Response Funding Options:** Presentation on the background and findings of a review of response funding options - members were polled on their preferences for various options.
- **Next DGG Meeting and Ten-Year Anniversary of GIA:** Discussion on the purpose of the next meeting of the DGG; and options for marking the ten-year anniversary of the signing of the GIA Deed.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Council (BMSBC): 13 November 2023

- Council accepted the final BMSB Council Strategy 2023-2028
- Council reviewed the apparent barriers to work in relation to samurai wasps as a biological control agent (BCA) response tool and agreed to an independent review of the programme
- Council noted that considerable benefit was obtained from the recent visit with Chilean counterparts and discussed ways it can add value to the NZ context
- Council discussed the importance of iwi engagement, and the risks of possibly not adequately achieving strategic outcome # 4 (social licence) if gaps are not addressed
- Council agreed to more research on trap options to better meet strategic outcome # 2 (rapid detection post-border)

- The 24/25 work programme was discussed and preliminarily agreed to, with priorities & dependencies identified – these included a second import of samurai wasps, testing Korean made diffuser traps, public awareness campaign, transition to long term management plan, collaboration work with Māori and international peers, & technical methodologies reviews
- The current 23/24 FY work programme was discussed and revisions to the annual budget made.

GIA Operations Limited (GOL) Board: Tuesday 14 November 2023

The GOL Board held a dedicated planning session which discussed key matters including:

- Review of the outcomes of the recent DGG meeting
- Review and assessment of GIA's current state, highlighting areas of success and some unresolved issues.
- Consideration of future options and long-term vision for GIA's evolution.
- Planning to finalise the strategic framework based on recent DGG discussions.
- Approval of amended Financial Statements for the 22/23 year, and a brief discussion on the forthcoming Annual Board and Annual Shareholder meetings.
- Arranging a visit to Australian peer organisations.

Pest Identification and Beneficiary Categorisation (PIBC) Working Group: 15 November 2023

- The PIBC pilot has completed drafting processes through steps 1 & 2 of the draft framework. Several issues warrant more work, but the framework has proven fit for purpose against four pilot pests readily identifying impacted industry parties and determining relative industry impact.
- The GIA Technical Leads, who are proxies in the pilot for the proposed expert panel, have begun to identify criteria to qualify parties in or out of an OA: essentially identifying those who are materially impacted, or not.
- Early next year, more pests will run through the model, including half dozen fruit flies in partnership with the Fruit Fly Council.

Solanaceae Biosecurity Working Group (SBWG) Meeting: 27 November 2023

- Associate Professor Robin MacDiarmid spoke to the meeting of the serious nature of solanaceous viruses, their impact on commercial crops and potential spread, through insects, to weeds and indigenous plants. The seed import pathway is the most likely mode of entry, and opportunities for improvements were noted. There's a strong prospect for NZ to undertake breeding and seed multiplication for export taking advantage of our isolation and relative freedom from these viruses.
- The SBWG agreed to a near final draft of the Readiness OA. Minor amendments were identified. The latter will be enacted, and a final draft sent to parties for out of session agreement.

Lepidoptera Working Group: 29 November 2023

The meeting's focus was to consider project concepts for six pieces of work envisaged for action in the 2023 year. There was consensus that drafts were on track and refinements will be discussed in mid-December with a view to project briefs being prioritised, approved and scheduled early in February as across work to advance:

- Stocktake of diagnostic capability
- Surveillance status and forward options
- Readiness plan scope and approach across the five Pest injury Guild groupings
- Information Repository
- Communications and engagement plan
- A plan for how MPI secure BTK stock, delivery mechanisms, and ensure regulatory readiness for flying and spraying.

Plant Pass Scheme (PPBS): 30 November 2023

The PPBS OA has a mandated review prior to June 2024 and work has been initiated to facilitate this. It parallels the need to agree an extension to the Scheme Management Contract before June and a new funding programme after October.

Fruit Fly Council (FFC): 30 November 2023

- Council reviewed the current work programme and discussed planning for the 24/25 FY
- Guest speakers Dr. John Kean and Dr. Karen Armstrong presented the current B3 work programme for fruit fly and suggested several research directions for the Fruit Fly Council
- Biosecurity NZ presented its internal reports on fruit fly to prompt Council discussions on project ideas
- Members discussed work to be carried out for the rest of 23/24 FY and 24/25 FY. Options included a workshop to enhance response capabilities, a compensation process workshop, classification of other economically significant fruit flies, specialist media training, climate change related research & researching of fruit fly impact on NZ indigenous plants. These projects will either continue to be progressed or be further refined with more details for the next meeting.