

Response Guide JWG

Progress report

25 June 2014

The Response Guide Joint Working Group had its first meeting at the end of April 2014, and since then members have had their heads down drafting and reviewing documents. As their next formal meeting is not until July, the group's co-ordinator, Amelia Pascoe, provides an update.

A sub-group of the GIA Response Guide Joint Working Group (JWG) has completed first drafts of the two proposed Response Guides.

These drafts are now out for review with the wider JWG.

The first Guide introduces the National Biosecurity Response System and aims to support common understanding on how responses are managed and strategic decisions made - with a specific focus on partnership arrangements under GIA. The second two-page stand-alone document highlights the critical information that response strategic decision-makers need to know to be effective in their roles.

Two table top exercises have been set up to test these documents as fit-for-purpose, and to give potential future strategic decision-makers first-hand experience with the types of decisions they will need to make in a response. The first exercise will be held with the Interim Fruit Fly Council on 30 June, and the second with the Animal Sector Group on 7 July. Both exercises will include an on-the-day debrief to ensure that any lessons learned can be captured for the benefit of both future responses and for the Response Guides.

In late July, following approval from the Transitional Deed Governance Group, the JWG intends to release these revised Response Guides to Biosecurity Forum participants along with a set of proposed 'Principles for managing responses under GIA'.

The JWG will be seeking agreement from September 2014 Forum participants to accept and implement these outputs.

For more information about the JWG's activities, please contact Amelia Pascoe, MPI (Amelia.pascoe@mpi.govt.nz and 04 894 2556).