

Tricks of the Trade – Australian Plant Industry Perspective

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Improving national biosecurity outcomes through partnerships

Brief Introduction – setting Australian Plant Emergency Response Scene

- World first for plants – commenced 26 October 2005
- Legal document – legally binding
- Partnership between industry and Government
- Articulates responsibilities for each party (preparedness / emergency response / risk mitigation)
- Basis for a number of other key industry government partnership arrangements
- **Deed signed by all governments and 29 industries with more expected**
- Must be Member of PHA to sign Deed



What is an Emergency Plant Pest (EPP)?

- a) A known exotic plant pest that could have an adverse economic impact regionally and/or nationally if established in Australia
- b) A variant form of established plant pest which can be distinguished by appropriate investigative methods that could have an adverse economic impact regionally and/or nationally if established in Australia
- c) A serious plant pest of unknown or uncertain origin which may be an entirely new plant pest, or one listed in Schedule 13 of the Deed



What is an Emergency Plant Pest (EPP)

- Sub clause (d) It is a Plant Pest already found in Australia that:
- (i) is restricted to a defined area through the use of regulatory measures intended to prevent further spread of the pest out of the defined area or into an endangered area; and
 - (ii) has been detected outside the defined area; and
 - (iii) is not a native; and
 - (iv) is not the subject of any instrument for management which is agreed to be effective risk mitigation and management at a national level; and
 - (v) is considered likely to have an adverse economic impact such that an emergency response is required to prevent an incident of regional and national importance.



Tests for Eradication Action

MUST BE BOTH:

Positive Benefit / Cost Analysis (BCA)

Technically feasible



Categories of Emergency Plant Pests

- Category 1** – high public benefit
100% Government funding
- Category 2** – high public and private
benefits 80% Government,
20% Industry
- Category 3** – moderate public and
private benefit 50%
Government, 50% industry
- Category 4** – mainly or wholly private
benefit 20% Government,
80% Industry



Key Figures and Facts

From 1 Jan 2010 to Jan 2014 (4 years) 123 incidents considered by the CCEPP. Of these;

- 55 were extensions of range of a established pest or a new host record for the pest
- 27 were assessed as not meeting the requirement's of an EPP
- 6 were considered EPPs but not technically feasible to eradicate
- 3 border intercepts provided for information only
- 26 pests where discussion ongoing as to future action
- 2 pests were eradication program underway
- 2 pests were area freedom work underway
- 2 eradications successful or NMG decided eradication not possible



Benefits of Arrangements

BEFORE

The EPPRD and PLANTPLAN were endorsed there were:

- few documented plans on responding to an incursion
- low levels of involvement by plant industries
- few incentives to report outbreaks.

NOW

All governments & a number of industries have signed the Deed, providing:

- agreement on shared responsibilities
- reimbursement of costs for direct losses to growers –
response plan approval

PLANTPLAN has been endorsed

Development of industry biosecurity plans, including risk mitigation and contingency plans.

Benefits of Arrangements

- Shared role in decision making
- Sharing of costs (public vs private benefits of eradication)
- Potential liabilities are known in advance
- Reimbursement to growers for crop destruction for approved response plans
- Nationally consistent and agreed approach to incursion management
- Australian Government agreement to underwrite industry liabilities
- Trained and accredited personnel to work on response
- Commitment to risk mitigation



Benefits of Arrangements

Industry Roles defined

Industry Representatives on the NMG and
the CCEPP

Industry Liaison Coordinator (ILC)

Industry Liaison Officer (ILO)



Challenges in Operating the EPPRD

- Large number of incidents in plant space - 123 in 4 years
- Science not as well understood eg Mango Malformation or Banana freckle
- Impact not agreed by all parties eg Mango Malformation
- Getting Government to recognise system has changed –industry a partner not just a funds provider
- Pathway discussion issues emerge eg PSTVd and Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus
- Long times for eradication programs compared to animal responses eg Citrus Canker, Chestnut Blight 3 years+
- Getting all affected parties to the table eg Fresh and Hydroponic tomatoes vs Canned Tomatoes
- Categorisation process – adversarial – new process about to be tested



NEED ALL PARTIES TO COME TO DISCUSSIONS
WILLING TO LISTEN AND COMPROMISE (WHERE NEEDED)