

Report on the GIA Biosecurity Forum 2015/I

Information paper

April 2015

The GIA Biosecurity Forum 2015/I was held on 12 March 2015 in Wellington. A response exercise was held following the close of the Forum.

This report highlights key points from the presentations and discussions throughout the day. It also notes where follow up actions are required. It is not a formal minute of the meeting.

Over seventy representatives from industry and government attended the event (see [Appendix 1 for a list of the organisations represented](#)). Papers that were discussed at the Forum are listed in [Appendix 2](#). The presentations are listed in [Appendix 3](#). The papers and presentations are available to view on the GIA website.

Forum presentations and sessions

Opening address

Minister Guy

The GIA Biosecurity Forum began with an opening address from Hon Nathan Guy,* Minister for Primary Industries:

- GIA is part of MPI's strategy to grow and protect New Zealand
- Biosecurity is his number one priority
- Industry and MPI are working together in response now, demonstrating the value of being part of GIA
- Incursions will happen, which is why it is important to have a multi-layered system to manage and evaluate risks
- GIA enables industry input, leading to smarter risk management
- Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility - we need to work in partnership to ensure NZ has a leading biosecurity system
- GIA is an emerging force – stay focused and committed and we will all be stronger

* Read the Minister's full speech on the [Beehive website](#).

Introduction to the day

Geoff Gwyn, Chair, Transitional Deed Governance Group

Geoff Gwyn provided delegates with a brief status update on GIA and then introduced the day's discussion:

- Five signatories, two further applications, two responses, but still challenges involved in understanding how GIA will work in practice
- Things are happening as a result of MPI and industry organisations signing the Deed
- MPI recognises it has obligations to work with its Deed partners – it will be engaging them early in scoping new pieces of work

Partnership in the wider biosecurity system

Julie Collins and Geoff Daniels, MPI

Julie Collins and Geoff Daniels introduced MPI's strategic thinking around the future of the biosecurity system, and invited industry comment about what will influence their operating environments over the next five to ten years, and the implications for the biosecurity system. MPI has identified trends likely to impact on the biosecurity system:

- Volume growth at the border
- Origin of goods and tourists are changing
- Goods and tourists are arriving in different places
- Climate change
- Terrorism and the security environment
- Advancements in science and technology
- Role of the public and social licence

Through a workshop session industry delegates identified several other factors that would influence biosecurity in the future:

- Changing industry operating environment – compliance costs, profit margins, industry consolidation and vertical integration
- Overseas markets' trust in NZ's biosecurity system
- Potential to lose ability to use current pest control tools
- Changing land use, urban encroachment, lifestyle blocks
- Aging demographics – growers and farmers

Potential implications for the biosecurity system include:

- Regulatory system needs to be more dynamic and agile
- Greater need to engage with industry and public
- Need a strong emerging risk system
- Greater input into international fora for developing international standards

Julie Collins also provided an update on MPI's cost recovery consultations:

- Consultation on updating fees closed on 20 February, recommendations will be implemented from 1 July
- A comprehensive 'first principles' review of cost recovered services will be completed by the end of 2015

Yellow spotted stink bug: GIA response decision making in action

Brendan Gould, MPI, Alan Pollard, Pipfruit NZ, Bill Dyck, NZ Forest Owners Association, and Barry O'Neil, Kiwifruit Vine Health

The yellow spotted stink bug response was the first biosecurity response run under GIA. Industry and MPI representative discussed their organisations' experiences working together and lessons learned:

- MPI found industry to be pragmatic, practical, insightful and informative
- A lot of uncertainty in the response – aligning expectations was important
- Pipfruit NZ activated its crisis management plan, used orchardists for surveillance
- Timeliness of information was challenging – decisions needed to be made with incomplete information
- Learning curve for industry representatives – it was important for MPI to guide industry in working in the response system
- Question scientific literature – it may not be current or accurate
- Access experts
- Ensure knowledgeable people take part in the response strategic leadership team
- Responses are not necessarily expensive – access to a contingency fund will be useful
- Low cost option was chosen (\$30-50,000 vs \$1 million) as most appropriate way to manage and mitigate risk
- Don't underestimate the importance of having public support
- Do as much as possible in advance (eg understanding risk, mitigation options), so RSL can focus on implementation
- Lessons from the response will inform border management
- Understand the requirement to keep some information confidential, but industry still needs the ability to consult appropriately and seek expert advice

Interpreting minimum commitments: an MPI view

David Talbot, MPI

David Talbot introduced the discussion paper *MPI's interpretation of the GIA minimum commitments for readiness and response*. Feedback on the paper included:

- Smaller industries see minimum commitments as cost and resource intensive. It will be difficult for organisations reliant on volunteers to meet the commitments
- Level of detail in the document is about right
- The document does not capture engagement across the system
- Further clarity around some terms still needed, eg competencies, industry, scalable
- Who are the farm biosecurity plans aimed at?

- Communication with Maori is a treaty obligation
- What aspects of compensation are cost shareable
- Useful as a guide to support OA negotiations
- The Deed Governance Group is the appropriate forum for agreeing a shared interpretation
- How do we determine if organisations are meeting their minimum commitments?

Written comments on the paper should be sent to Bing-Ying.Lou@mpi.govt.nz by 30 April 2015. MPI will then seek agreement from the Deed Governance Group to finalise the Minimum Commitments paper as a GIA guidance document.

Be prepared: industry and MPI readiness activities

Glen Neal, MPI, Barry O'Neil, on behalf of the Interim Fruit Fly Council, Patricia Pearce, NZ Equine Health Association, and Andrew Harrison, Nursery and Garden Industry NZ

GIA signatories and potential signatories discussed their biosecurity readiness activities, and how they fit with GIA:

- MPI is developing a readiness strategy to provide long term direction for its biosecurity readiness work. This will build on recent achievements (single scaleable response model (SSRM), Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) readiness collaboration, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) fast track programme) and current activities (implementing SSRM, System road map, FMD and BMSB).
- MPI and industry considering development of sector plans as a precursor to formal operational agreements.
- Objective of the Interim Fruit Fly Council* is to finalise and sign the Fruit Fly Operational Agreement this year (FF OA), with it coming into effect 1 July 2016. As the first OA in development, the process has involved developing many operational components that can be used for other OAs
- Cost share proposals for the FF OA developed, requiring compromise from all. Still need an understanding of what engagement in the system means and a standard methodology for valuing industry
- NZ Equine Health Association is working on a sector plan with MPI – this will inform an Operational Agreement. Readiness initiatives focus on communications, surveillance, CIMS training. Better understanding of equine population is needed to inform decisions during a response
- Nursery and Garden Industry Association of NZ developing an industry strategy covering industry growth, improving professionalism, funding and partnerships including GIA
- Opportunities for improving readiness in the nursery industry include raising awareness, improving phytosanitary practices, surveillance, contingency plans, agreeing movement restrictions in advance

* Information about the Interim Fruit Fly Council is available on the [GIA website](#).

Summary of follow up actions

Action	Who	Timeframe
Provide additional written feedback on the minimum commitments paper to MPI	Signatories and potential signatories	30 April 2015
MPI to present revised minimum commitments paper to TDGG, for discussion about releasing as guidance paper.	MPI Project team and TDGG	End May 2015

Forum attendees

Appendix 1

Forum attendees represented the following organisations:

- Aquaculture New Zealand
- Beef + Lamb New Zealand Ltd
- Better Border Biosecurity
- DCANZ
- Federated Farmers
- Foundation for Arable Research
- GIA Secretariat
- Hazelnut Growers Association of NZ
- Horticulture New Zealand
- Kiwifruit Vine Health
- Market Access Solutionz
- Meat Industry Association
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- National Beekeepers Association
- New Zealand Avocado
- Nursery & Garden Industry NZ
- NZ Citrus Growers
- NZ Equine Health Association
- NZ Forest Owners Association
- NZ Fresh Produce Importers Association
- NZ Grain & Seed Trade Association
- NZPork
- Onions NZ
- NZ Buttercup Squash Council
- OSPRI
- Pipfruit NZ
- Potatoes NZ Inc.
- Poultry Industry Association
- Summerfruit NZ
- Vegetables New Zealand Inc

List of pre-circulated papers

Appendix 2

The following papers were circulated to delegates before the Forum. They formed the basis of discussion in several sessions.

- GIA Response Guide
- MPI's interpretation of the GIA minimum commitments for readiness and response

Forum presentations

Appendix 3

The following PowerPoint presentations given at the Forum are available on the [GIA website](#):

- Biosecurity Protecting our future, Julie Collins and Geoff Daniels, MPI
- Yellow Spotted Stink Bug Response, Brendan Gould, MPI
- Forestry and the Yellow Spotted Stink Bug, Bill Dyck, NZ Forest Owners Association
- MPI interpretation of GIA minimum commitments, David Talbot, MPI
- Readiness, Glen Neal, MPI
- NZEHA readiness activities, Trish Pearce, NZ Equine Health Association
- Nursery and garden industry GIA and biosecurity readiness, Andrew Harrison, Nursery and Garden Industry NZ
- A GIA biosecurity response exercise, Ed Massey and Brad Chandler, MPI