

Joint decision making in biosecurity responses: how will it work?

The GIA Deed gives industry Signatories the right to joint decision making for biosecurity responses. This factsheet provides an introduction to how joint decision making will work in practice.

Biosecurity responses are managed using MPI's National Biosecurity Response System (NBRS).

The NBRS is robust, well tested, and based on the NZ Coordinated Incident Management System that emergency management agencies use to manage responses. It is documented in the Biosecurity Response Knowledge Base.

Response decision making

When MPI detects a suspected unwanted organism that presents a possible biosecurity risk, it will notify potentially affected industry Signatories, and a decision on whether to begin a response will be made by consensus.

An industry Signatory has a right to a decision-making representative on Response Governance when its sector:

- **Is affected by the organism:** meaning the organism has a direct and negative impact on:
 - an animal or plant species that is a host and underpins the sector's business or livelihood

And

- the sector's ability to produce, move, sell or export animals, crops or products – either domestically or internationally

And

- **Will benefit from the response:** meaning the sector will obtain value from avoiding, delaying or reducing the impact of the organism

Response Governance provides strategic oversight of a response. It makes the decisions related to starting and stopping a response, and transitioning a response to long term management.

Response Governance also makes decisions about the response's outcomes, objectives and resources.

As a member of Response Governance, Signatories' representatives will be responsible for:

- Strategic decision making - setting response outcomes, objectives and resourcing
- Approving critical documentation - such as briefs, plans and options papers
- Providing direction to the Controller, who is responsible for the delivery of the response
- Knowing and operating within their mandate, including funding and representation of sector
- Monitoring and responding to strategic risks

The Controller is responsible for all management and operational decisions in a response.

The GIA response guide

The *GIA response guide* provides clear direction for MPI and industry Signatories to work together. It explains:

- How the biosecurity response system works
- When and how industry Signatories will be notified about the detection of a suspected unwanted organism
- The role of industry Signatories' response decision makers
- The issues they will need to consider and decisions that they will be required to make

The guide was drafted by an industry-government joint working group. All potential Signatories had the opportunity to comment on a draft. The guide will be updated as industry and government gain experience in working together and as the NBRS evolves.

More information

- The GIA response guide <http://www.gia.org.nz/Handbook/ArticleId/14/responses>
- Biosecurity Response Knowledge Base <http://brkb.biosecurity.govt.nz>