

An Introduction to GIA: Government Industry Agreements for Biosecurity Readiness and Response



GIA is a new approach to managing biosecurity risks. It creates a partnership between government and industry for better biosecurity. Primary industries organisations now have the choice to sign up.

GIA will give primary industries a direct say in managing biosecurity risk. Partners will share decision making, costs, and responsibility in preparing for and responding to biosecurity incursions.

Biosecurity is one of the biggest business risks primary industries face. This partnership approach will ensure decisions about managing biosecurity risks more closely reflect industry concerns and priorities. It makes industry joint partners, alongside government, in managing their most important biosecurity risks.

This is a major change to the way decisions are made about biosecurity. Currently, the government is the final decision maker, although it takes steps to consult and act in partnership with stakeholders and affected parties.

GIA originated as a government initiative. It is provided for by the Biosecurity Act. The concept was then developed into an agreement (the Deed) by a joint industry and MPI working group.

The members of the joint working group included representatives from the Meat Industry Association, Federated Farmers, Horticulture NZ, NZ Kiwifruit Growers, Dairy NZ, Poultry Industry/Egg Producers, MPI and the GIA Secretariat

What is the Deed?

The Deed is a legal agreement that outlines the principles for the partnership and the commitments that each Signatory makes to:

- engage in the wider biosecurity system
- co-invest to improve the collective capacity and capability of industry and government to prepare for and respond to exotic pests and diseases.

Why have GIA?

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility, and industry and government can achieve better outcomes by working together. GIA provides the platform for shared decision making, cost sharing and priority setting.

Through GIA, government and industry will:

- identify the pests and diseases of most concern to a signatory industry
- discuss how to minimise the risk of an incursion, or prepare for and manage a response in the event than an incursion occurs.

The key benefit of GIA for primary industries is a formal role, alongside MPI, in making decisions about biosecurity readiness and response activities. This should lead to reduced impact from unwanted pests and diseases.

The GIA also opens the door for industry and MPI to discuss actions that they each can take across the wider biosecurity system (pre-border and border control, pest management, as well as readiness and response) to improve biosecurity outcomes.

Specific benefits of the GIA will be different for each industry, according to their interests, biosecurity risks and priorities.

Who can join?

Industry organisations that have mandate from a primary sector can join the GIA by signing the Deed.

As signing the GIA brings with it legal and financial obligations, industry organisations must go through a process to show they can meet these obligations and that they have the support of the members of their sector.