



Progress Update - 27 August 2012

Management Action Plan

**In Response to the Independent Review of Importation
of Kiwifruit Pollen, Plant Material, Nursery Stock and
Horticultural Equipment**

July 2012

Independent Review of Importation of Kiwifruit Pollen, Plant Material, Fruit, Nursery Stock and Horticultural Equipment. Management Action Plan

	Recommendation	Management Action Plan	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsibility	Milestones or Due Date	Progress Update
1	<p>MPI needs to look at the relative costs/benefits of reprioritising its resources towards managing the risks for economically significant industries.</p> <p>The consequences of not adequately managing a known risk or not responding appropriately to an emerging risk are heightened for New Zealand's key agricultural and horticultural sectors. There may well be net benefits in re-prioritising MPI resources away from smaller, less strategic industries, in order to ensure the risks to higher-value sectors are appropriately managed. While this may well be a controversial development, it may prove to be a more appropriate means of making the best use of MPI's limited resources.</p>	<p>1.1 Continue to prioritise work items (to develop or review IHSs, emerging pests) and issues (border non-compliances, PEQ, permits) against the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic fit (MPI 2030 Strategy) • Importance (eg risk impact, value of industry) • Net benefit (value in conducting the work) • Feasibility (likelihood of success) • Barriers (conflict, contentiousness etc) <p>The work items are continuously re-prioritised as new potential items arise daily.</p> <p>1.2 Examine whether or not we should significantly prioritise biosecurity risk management resources away from lower value industries in favour of higher value industries. The Biosecurity Operations Coordination Group to provide oversight for this work.</p>	H	Director Plant, Food & Environment	Completed	Completed – work items will continue to be prioritised against the indicated criteria until a decision is made to change.
			M	Director Sector Policy, Director Biosecurity, Food and Animal Welfare, and Director Plant, Food & Environment	To be completed by Aug 2012	Completed – Analysis undertaken and decision made that MPI should maintain current approach which already directs significant resource to high value industries, and to implement some specific initiatives which would improve resource allocation decision-making in MPI. This will include ensuring that decision-making is reflective of our bias towards work that delivers best economic benefit for NZ.
2	MPI needs to renew efforts to centralise the identification and management of emerging risks, which at present are largely left to the individuals with	2.1 Continue to progress the emerging risk project as initiated through the Science and Risk Advisory Group. This project brings a much wider reach to the now	H	Director Science & Risk Assessment	Implementation commencing in Aug 2012	On track – The work plan differentiates a short-term “manual” system (implementation 1

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	<p>responsibility for managing particular import pathways.</p> <p>It is apparent that the horizontal environment scanning undertaken by MPI's Emerging Risk and Opportunities Committee and by the Risk Analysis Team did not elevate consideration of the risks posed by a virulent strain of Psa. MPI needs to revisit the extent to which these activities are appropriately resources and connected with the teams responsible for managing individual pathways.</p> <p>MPI should consider allocating key domestic industries to senior staff members and tasking them with responsibility for ensuring the risks to that sector are being appropriately managed across all possible pathways. So instead of the risks to the kiwifruit industry having to be identified and individually managed by those responsible for imports of nursery stock, pollen, fresh fruit imports, seeds-for-sowing, and horticultural equipment, there would instead be a single point of contact and responsibility for ensuring a systems-wide approach to identifying and acting on emerging risk for the kiwifruit industry.</p>	<p>discontinued BNZ Emerging Risk Organism Committee and will provide a system for identifying emerging risks through appropriate networks and stakeholder engagement, screening, communicating potential impacts, and monitoring MPI-wide management of emerging risk over time.</p> <p>2.2 Accelerate implementation of MPI's stakeholder engagement model with DDG's, directors and managers being assigned to significant stakeholder groups. Ensure that discussions create opportunity to raise new biosecurity risks of concern to industry with those risks being fed into the new process.</p> <p>2.3 Establish processes for ITOC and Standards to share relevant tactical and operational intelligence between the groups to achieve more effective emerging risk identification and assessment process.</p>				<p>September) from a medium term system (implementation early 2013. Both systems will incorporate common elements but the latter will more comprehensive in nature and will operate across-MPI and industry.</p> <p>Completed The Stakeholder Relationship Framework is in place and is being progressively implemented across the business. A toolkit will be rolled out shortly to further support implementation.</p> <p>On Track - Manual solution to be implemented mid-November, with work closely linked to the Emerging Risks project (2.1). Working Group now identifying and mapping existing links between ITOC and Standards. In principle decision made to put in place reciprocal secondments/arrangements to forge working relationships. Finalised arrangements due end of August.</p>
3	<p>MPI needs to improve the transparency of when organic matter is being imported into New Zealand for the first time.</p> <p>Prior to the import of new organic matter MPI should consult stakeholders on the</p>	<p>3.1 Establish a practice that a risk assessment should be conducted, and interested parties consulted, when a request is received to import new germplasm:</p>	H	Director Plant, Food & Environment	Commence Immediately	<p>Completed – new practice has been communicated to staff and is being applied to any new import requests. Changes are being documented in work procedures and will be</p>

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	proposed import requirements; or if the import requirements have previously been specified in an existing Import Health Standard, MPI should issue a notification when the first permit has been issued for a particular type of good.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the first time from anywhere in the world, or, • for a new use where that use may significantly change the risk profile, and, a risk analysis has not previously been conducted or industry not previously consulted, e.g. during IHS setting process. Supporting tools will also be developed for staff implementing the policy. Draft policy will be developed and consulted with stakeholders.				<p>communicated to stakeholders at their next regular meetings.</p> <p>Note There is a project that is currently in progress to review the IHS process and associated supporting tools. This project is awaiting the Biosecurity Law Reform Bill to be completed before this can progress.</p>
		3.2 Review the current import requests that have not been actioned, to determine whether the new process should be applied.	H	Director Plant, Food & Environment	To be completed by Aug 2012	Completed. All outstanding import requests have been reviewed. There are no requests requiring a risk assessment to be conducted.
		3.3 Publish a register of first time permits for importation of material covered by 3.1 above listing the material, purpose for which it is being imported, and rules being applied to manage the biosecurity risks, but protecting commercially sensitive information such as the name of the importer, volumes etc.	M	Director Plant, Food & Environment	To be completed by Aug 2012	Completed – The spreadsheet has been completed. A procedure has been developed to enable regular updates to the register.
4	<p>MPI should take specific steps to ensure that the border processes in place for imports of risk goods remain robust.</p> <p>Risk goods should only be released from quarantine once the</p>	4.1 Amend the PEQ standard and import permits to require the most up to date testing to be completed prior to any release. For example, if an improved test is identified/developed while material is in PEQ, then the new test, if accepted by	M	Director Plant, Food & Environment	Aug 2012	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IHS 155.02.06: Importation of Nursery Stock has been amended to include a new Biosecurity Clearance section (2.3.3). The Importation of Pollen

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	<p>inspection/testing/treatment regime contained within the most recently published Import Health Standard is carried out. The list of regulated pests and testing methods contained within that standard should always supersede any entry conditions that may originally have been in place when the risk goods entered the country.</p> <p>There are indications that border staff have been unable to detect the difference between closely related risk goods (with 'anthers' assumed to be pollen and gold kiwifruit assumed to be green kiwifruit). While responsibility must also lie with the importers, MPI needs to ensure there is sufficient rigour applied to making sure imported goods are assessed against the relevant Import Health Standard and that border staff have access to appropriate resources and expertise to allow for effective verification of the goods to take place.</p>	<p>MPI must be conducted before plants are released.</p> <p>4.2 Accelerate development of a high level MPI risk management process to guide best practice in regard to biosecurity and food safety risk management.</p>	H	Director Science & Risk Assessment / Science & Risk Advisory Group Chair, and Director Assurance & Evaluation	Work has commenced. To be completed Aug 2012.	<p>section (2.2.3) has also been amended; currently no pollen can be imported for propagation. http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ihs/155-02-06.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IHS 155.02.05: Importation of Seed for sowing – has been amended to update the Biosecurity Clearance section (Part A, section 9). http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ihs/155-02-05.pdf • All permits include a clause that the permit will be amended where there is a change in the circumstances or state of knowledge. The clause has been approved by Legal Services and agreed with Animal Imports. • The Permit issuance and peer review procedure has been amended to include a procedure for the amendment of permits. <p>Complete - MPI Organisational Risk Management Policy has been reviewed and approved. This policy sets the standard to which all risk management within MPI must align and includes risk process steps in plain English to guide risk processes</p>

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		<p>4.3 All risk profilers and assessors have been reminded of the requirement to check documentation against the import requirements.</p> <p>4.4 Further enhancements to support accessing information will be included as part of the introduction of the JBMS risk and intelligence tools.</p>	<p>H</p> <p>H</p>	<p>Director Operational programmes</p> <p>Director BCP/JBMS</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>To be completed Oct 2013</p>	<p>across MPI.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>The JBMS T1 programme is on track to deliver an improved set of risk and intelligence tools from March 2013.</p>
5	<p>MPI needs to improve its connectedness with industry and research organisations.</p> <p>MPI staff responsible for setting import requirements need a level of awareness of what external research projects are being undertaken that might have implications for New Zealand's biosecurity settings. In the first instance there would be value in regular information exchanges between the MPI Risk Analysis Team and Plant & Food Research to identify all research that is being undertaken and is in the pipeline that may have implications for import requirements. Establishing a more constructive relationship between the two organisations would also assist Plant & Food Research to recognise MPI's priorities and areas where further research would be valuable.</p> <p>The successful identification of emerging</p>	<p>5.1 GIA will provide an opportunity for MPI and industry to establish shared awareness of pests of concern and develop whole of system view of biosecurity risks. MOU are now being signed enabling industry groups and MPI to develop value propositions. These will help industries determine whether to sign a GIA agreement for joint decision-making and cost sharing in biosecurity preparedness and response.</p> <p>5.2 Continue to resource MPI forums to improve our connectedness to industry and increase industry input into managing</p>	<p>H</p> <p>H</p>	<p>Director Preparedness & Partnerships</p> <p>Director Plant, Food & Environment and Director Animal &</p>	<p>MOU being sign by industry groups from 1 July 2012. Cabinet report back on final Deed by June 2013</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>• On Track - Seven industries have signed MoU. Some of those industries have met with MPI to discuss work plan and resourcing for value proposition work.</p> <p>Other signings are imminent.</p> <p>Completed – all forums are meeting as scheduled.</p>

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	risks is assisted by having effective working relationships with key industry contacts. Both MPI and industry groups need to reflect on whether more can be done to ensure that those staff that are making decisions about the risk profile of an industry are fully informed of the views of the industry on pests of concern.	risks associated with imports: Animal Trade Advisory Council (ATAC) established 2009, Plants Germplasm Advisory Committee (GERMAC) established 2010, Fresh Produce Advisory Committee (FRESHPAC) established 2011. 5.3 Include CRIs, B3 and ACERA (Australia) as priority science stakeholders in the emerging risks system with formalised reporting by key contact points at six monthly intervals.	H	Animal Products Director Science & Risk Assessment	Initiate this in Aug 2012	On Track - CRIs, B3 and ACERA will be included as both sources and recipients of emerging risk information in the Emerging Risks Project (2.1). These links will be piloted in the short term "manual system" and will be fully integrated into the more comprehensive system that is to be implemented in the medium term. Reporting is likely to be more frequent than the 6 months stated in 5.3.
6	MPI should consider establishing a research fund that can be used to commission any targeted research needed to better understand a specific area of biosecurity uncertainty. This review highlighted MPI's dependence on timely access to research being undertaken by external organisations – in this case it was undertaken by Plant & Food Research, but one can expect that industry groups will also often take the lead in researching biosecurity risks. In the case of emerging risks, there may well be instances where MPI would benefit from prompt and targeted research to ensure its standards remain appropriate.	6.1 Transition the biosecurity operational research fund (\$1.5m) and the food safety operational research fund (\$2.6m) into a single programme that incorporates the rapid response characteristics of the food safety fund i.e. discretionary application of a significant proportion of funds to newly emerging issues and data gaps.	H	Director Science & Risk Assessment	Already started. To be completed Oct 2012	On Track - The biosecurity operational research fund has been combined with the food safety operational research fund under a single management system for 2012 - 2013. This includes transition of a proportion of biosecurity funding to a "fast track" system so as to be immediately responsive to emerging issues. The full transition plan is to be endorsed by the SBLT on 30 /8/12

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	Consideration should be given to ability of MPI to commission research to address areas of biosecurity uncertainty in cases where no other organisation has taken the lead.					