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Biosecurity Regulatory System

The Biosecurity Regulatory System encompasses the statutes and regulations designed to keep harmful organisms out of New Zealand and ensure New Zealand can respond to and manage them if any do make it through the border.

Objectives

> To exclude, eradicate, or manage pests and diseases that pose a risk to the New Zealand economy, environment, and way of life, including social and cultural aspects and taonga species.
> To manage threats to human health from animals and plants and associated pests or diseases (such as mosquitos).
> To allow the safe movement of risk goods within New Zealand and to and from other countries.
> To ensure New Zealand's biosecurity system underpins trade, primary production and biodiversity.

PORTFOLIO	Biosecurity
STATUTES	Airports (Cost Recovery for Processing of International Travellers) Act 2014 Animal Products Act 1999 Biosecurity Act 1993 Biosecurity (Border Processing Levy) Order 2015 Biosecurity (System Entry Levy) Order 2010 Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (National Emergency Management Agency) Conservation Act 1987 (Department of Conservation) Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (Ministry for the Environment) Health Act 1956 (Ministry of Health) National Animal Identification and Tracing Act 2012 Plants Act 1970 Resource Management Act (Ministry for the Environment) Wild Animal Control Act 1977 (Department of Conservation) Wildlife Act 1953 (Department of Conservation)
OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH SUBSTANTIAL ROLES	Aviation Security Service | Kaiwhakamaru Rererangi Crown Research Institutes Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua Environmental Protection Authority | Te Mana Rauhī Taiao Land Information New Zealand | Toitū Te Whenua Maritime New Zealand | Nō Te Rere Moana Aotearoa Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment | Hīkina Whakatutuki Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Manatū Aorere Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora Ministry of Transport | Te Manatū Waka New Zealand Customs Service | Te Mana Ārai o Aotearoa New Zealand Defence Force | Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa Territorial authorities

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Planned regulatory amendments to legislation – 2022/2023

MATTER NAME	PURPOSE	PLANNED CONSULTATION	STATUS
Biosecurity Act Review ***Matter type: Bills***	To provide an effective legal framework to deliver a biosecurity system that protects our environmental, cultural, social and economic wellbeing and is fit for purpose taking into account future challenges associated with increased trade, changes to travel and New Zealand's changing climate.	Public consultation is anticipated to start in 2022.	Policy development underway.
Primary Industries Regulatory Systems Amendment Bill ***Matter type: Bills***	To improve primary industry regulatory systems by ensuring they are effective, efficient and accord with best industry practice.	Public consultation will be through the Select Committee process.	In process of being drafted following Cabinet consideration.

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Key service design and operational changes

Ongoing	*Science Advisory Groups* Science Advisory Groups are made up of experts from national and international science organisations, tangata whenua and government agencies and are facilitated by MPI but also have a high level of independence. This model is useful for providing advice for significant biosecurity issues where science is a critical part of readiness, response, and long-term management. A Strategic Science Advisory Group (SSAG) for *Mycoplasma bovis* provides advice, coordination, and prioritisation for the ongoing eradication programme. SSAGs were also established for kauri dieback and myrtle rust, but in December 2021, agreed to merge into a single Knowledge Advisory Group (KAG) for kauri and myrtle ora. The new KAG provides high-level recommendations to decision-makers on priorities on science and mātauranga and helps coordinate research programmes for these two high profile plant pathogens.
Ongoing	*Tiakina Kauri | Kauri Protection programme* This programme invests in and leads key kauri protection activities in partnership with Māori and collaborating agencies such as the Department of Conservation and regional councils across kauri lands. It is also responsible for implementing a National Pest Management Plan to help protect kauri from the disease caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora Agathidicida*.
2018 - 2028	*Mycoplasma bovis eradication programme* Biosecurity New Zealand is working with the beef and dairy industries, and the wider farming community, to eradicate *Mycoplasma bovis* from New Zealand over the next 10 years. This involves work to provide support to affected farmers and communities and to leave the biosecurity system more resilient to future incursions, which is Objective 3 of the Programme. Some of the key findings of the independent review of the programme highlight the need for improved livestock sector biosecurity governance, a national contingency plan for animal diseases with more defined roles and responsibilities, and a better integrated farm demographic database for more responsive incursion management. Four years in, 271 properties have been cleared of infection and we are working towards the next phase of the eradication journey with an upcoming public consultation on a National Pest Management Plan.
Ongoing	*National Animal Identification and Tracing Amendment Act* MPI is working with OSPRI and industry shareholders to ensure the NAIT scheme delivers a traceability system that is appropriately funded and meets the purposes of the Act to support the biosecurity system (livestock tracing function in the event of a response). There is a focus on improving compliance (MPI NAIT Compliance), which OSPRI are supporting through education, customer service and investment in an IT system that is easier to use. MPI is working with OSPRI to better leverage the regularly framework to develop and maintain NAIT standards.

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2018 - 2022	*Improving on-farm biosecurity practices* *Mycoplasma bovis* has demonstrated the importance of on-farm biosecurity practices in helping prevent the spread of pests and diseases. There are, however, a range of requirements that farmers are expected to meet, and it can be difficult for businesses to understand and prioritise these responsibilities. Biosecurity New Zealand is working with other parts of MPI to investigate opportunities to support improved farm planning, including enhanced on-farm biosecurity. MPI is working in partnership with industry to deliver an integrated farm planning framework with the goals of supporting long-term planning and continuous improvement of on-farm practices. The initial areas of focus include biosecurity, alongside animal welfare, people management and greenhouse gases. In addition, MPI are working with partners to develop an on-farm biosecurity behaviour change programme to address attitudinal and motivation aspects to achieving better on-farm biosecurity.
GIA Deed Review completed	*Government-Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response (GIA) Deed review* The GIA is a partnership between primary industry and government to help prepare for, and respond to, pests and diseases that could badly damage New Zealand's primary industries, economy, and environment. The GIA Deed outlines the principles for the partnership and requires review at least every five years. The latest review of the Deed has now been completed and with a number of options for improving the GIA Deed being identified. Further work is required to develop these options and to obtain agreement amongst signatories for these to be incorporated into the Deed to help ensure New Zealand's biosecurity system is well-positioned and prepared for future challenges.
Ongoing to 2025	*Improving aquaculture biosecurity* The Aquaculture Strategy sets an industry growth target of $3 billion in annual revenue by 2035. The Government's primary sector plan to boost economic recovery, Fit for a Better World, identified the Aquaculture Strategy as a transformational opportunity to achieve the 2035 target sooner, as soon as 2030. Strong aquaculture biosecurity was identified in the Aquaculture Strategy as a core foundation for sustainable growth. Officials provided advice to Ministers in April 2021 on a comprehensive aquaculture biosecurity system. That requires better management of pest and disease pathways, improved biosecurity at the individual farm-level for both marine-based (coastal and ocean) and land-based farms, record-keeping and monitoring, and surveillance. A work programme is underway to deliver these initiatives.

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Business case underway, construction planned 2024 – 2028	*Investment in Plant Health and Environment Capability* Significant investment in MPI's Plant Health and Environment Operations (currently situated in Tāmaki, Auckland) will support growth and development in the arable, forestry and horticulture sectors by accelerating access to high value plant varieties and cultivars to support commercialisation of new products. Faster access to genetic material can support innovation and deliver benefits such as higher yields and improved resilience to pests and diseases. A Cabinet paper is expected to be submitted to Cabinet for approval in late 2022. Early site works estimated to commence in 2024 and the estimated construction completion date is 2028.
Ongoing	*New Zealand Traveller Declaration System* Cabinet has agreed to establishing a traveller health declaration system as part of the Reconnecting New Zealanders programme (tranche one), and the further development of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system under New Zealand Customs Service's leadership. The further development includes integration with other systems operating at the border and the extension of the health declaration to the maritime border (tranche two) and digitising the arrival card (tranche three).
2022-2023	*The American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan Review (AFB NPMP)* The AFB NPMP is currently undergoing a review and the Management Agency is estimated to submit the plan proposal under Section 61 of the Biosecurity Act to the Minister in December 2022. The current plan order continues to remain in force until 1 April 2023 or until the review process is completed. The Plan objectives are to eliminate the disease American Foulbrood from managed colonies of honey bees and to identify and locate any cases of the disease in beehives. Some of the proposed amendments include more stringent AFB identification and control training requirements and adding some general powers (under s114 and s115 of the Act) to expand the available toolset to manage AFB.
National Pathway Management Plan and Levy effective from 1 April 2022	*Kiwifruit National Pathway Management Plan* Cabinet approved a National Kiwifruit Pathway Management Plan (the Plan) and an associated levy to take effect from 1 April 2022. These will replace an existing plan, and associated levy, for *Pseudomonas syringae pv. actinidiae* (Psa-V) and which expires on 16 May 2023. The primary objectives of the Plan are to address a wider range of biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry through the management of pathways that spread pests and diseases, detecting threats early, ensuring threats can be rapidly traced and improving industry knowledge of risk pathways and risk management practices.