



## Queensland Biosecurity Roundtable report

Thank you for attending the 2017 National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) Biosecurity Roundtable held in Brisbane, Queensland on 15 September 2017.

This event was hosted by the NBC, together with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

There were more than 50 participants at the roundtable, representing a wide range of organisations including meat and horticulture industries; wildlife, educational, apiary, aquaculture, environmental, research and animal husbandry representatives; and state and territory government.

### What we heard from participants

- Biosecurity surveillance and monitoring could be boosted by educating and empowering the community to participate and be more active.
- We need better drivers for change, along with incentives and disincentives to improve biosecurity compliance.
- Broad conversations need to be had with all stakeholders in order for them to understand and adopt the concept of shared responsibility.
- Different industries and different stakeholders have very different views on biosecurity.
- “Acceptable risk” needs ongoing conversations and verification.
- The Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) roles and responsibilities table is a great tool but needs some refining.
- Building confidence in reporting and response processes will improve planning and reporting outcomes, including through increasing general awareness of biosecurity.

Ms Amber Parr from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources officially welcomed participants to the Biosecurity Roundtable and provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

Morning presentations began with biosecurity updates from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as well as melon and banana industries. Dr Allison Crook (Queensland) spoke about the significant biosecurity work undertaken by Biosecurity Queensland, which included drafting the Biosecurity Strategy 2017-2022; implementing recommendations from the Queensland Biosecurity Capability review; and, drafting new dog breeder legislation.

Biosecurity incidents managed by Biosecurity Queensland since July 2016 were highlighted, along with the financial implications of these incidents. Dr Crook also spoke about the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2015* and the powers and tools already utilised in the management of these incidents.

Mr Tim Chapman (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) spoke about the importance of shared responsibility and collaboration in the face of increasing passenger, cargo and mail movements; and the growing diversity of supply chains. He gave an overview of recent national investment and activities including implementation of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (Cwlth) in June 2016; the \$200 million allocated to biosecurity under the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper; and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement reviews.



Ms Dianne Fullelove (Australian Melon Association) provided an update on the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGCMV) incursion and its impact on the melon industry. Ms Fullelove reported that while on-farm biosecurity was low at the onset of the incursion, awareness and practices around effective on-farm biosecurity have now dramatically increased. The continuance of surveillance activities in Queensland and South Australia – and developing biosecurity contingency plans for high priority pests – was also noted.

Mr Jim Pekin (Australian Banana Growers Association) provided an update on the effects of the Panama Tropical Race 4 incursion and its impact on the banana industry. Mr Pekin noted that the disease had not been eradicable in other countries and that the best case for the disease is a slow spread containment. Mr Pekin hoped that through research and development there may be resistant banana varieties developed, but that the future for the banana industry was uncertain.

During the first workshop of the day on surveillance and reporting, participants highlighted a number of barriers to reporting. These included a lack of knowledge on what / how to report; not knowing or understanding the consequences of reporting or not reporting; and, a general lack of awareness towards biosecurity. Participants thought that possible solutions to reporting barriers included providing incentives to reporting (financial or otherwise), using language that is widely understood by the community and outlining the process of reporting.

The next session focused on the IGAB review report. Ms Parr began by providing an introduction to the IGAB. Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Committee members Ron Glanville – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; Greg Hallam – Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ); Andrew Drysdale – NRM Regions; and Andrew Cox – Invasive Species Council then spoke about biosecurity in the context of their organisations and their perspective on the IGAB review.

Mr Glanville (Queensland) spoke about the difficulty in understanding 'shared responsibility'. Some of the reasons were explored, including the complexity of the system – issues were seldom black and white. Mr Glanville noted the need for an overall culture change regarding biosecurity.

Mr Hallam (LGAQ) spoke about the increasing use of new technologies in local governments such as the use of drones. He reported the need for an information awareness campaign for more local government support through advice and resourcing.

Mr Drysdale (NRM Regions) highlighted that if we want people to change their biosecurity views or habits, they need to be engaged and taken along the journey. Mr Drysdale also spoke about the roles and responsibilities table in the IGAB review and noted that it appears to put people into 'silos', which may not be the best approach.

Mr Cox (Invasive Species Council) spoke about the impact that invasive species have on the environment through damage to native species and creating permanent loss. Mr Cox noted the importance of the IGAB review and that the environment sector needs a voice in the decision making moving forward.

This session was then expanded into a workshop where participants were asked to consider Chapter 2 from the IGAB review – roles and responsibilities. Responses included that roles and responsibilities table needed a more strategic, less 'siloed' approach and that the concept of biosecurity needs to be simplified for the general public.



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During the final session, 'Industry's role in biosecurity', participants were asked to discuss the things they felt had worked well in biosecurity – or 'biosecurity wins' for their industry – and report back to the room. Some of the positives were completion of a social research study by industry, listening and acknowledging base workers, active community support through incursions and development of the Queensland biosecurity strategy through co-design partnership.

Next steps...

**The Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries would like to thank everyone who participated in the Queensland Biosecurity Roundtable for their time and contributions. The discussions and ideas from the Roundtable will feed into the agenda for the National Biosecurity Forum on 2 November 2017 as well as biosecurity governance and communication processes through the NBC and other avenues.**

**We value your feedback – if you have suggestions about this Roundtable or the Roundtable program please contact us at [biosecurityroundtable@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:biosecurityroundtable@agriculture.gov.au)**