

Second Meeting
Geneva, 6-10 December 2004

Meeting of Experts
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Item 5 and 6 of the agenda

**PLANTPLAN
Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan**

Submitted by Australia

1. PLANTPLAN provides a set of nationally consistent guidelines for the management and response procedures of emergency plant pest incursions of the Australian agricultural industries. PLANTPLAN is a technical response plan that describes the Australian approach to responding to emergency plant pest incursions. Application of PLANTPLAN is triggered by a detection of an emergency plant pest. The procedures, roles and responsibilities described in PLANTPLAN are generic for all plant pest emergencies.

2. The purpose of a PLANTPLAN is to:

- (a) provide policy and guidelines for the consistent management of emergency plant pest incursions by appropriately trained personnel in each state/territory;
- (b) provide coherence of emergency response plans;
- (c) provide compatibility of operation and procedures between the Australian and state/territory governments and industry;
- (d) improve the technical validity of underlying assumptions in the development of strategies to respond to emergency plant pest incursions;
- (e) provide a focus for training personnel in operational response procedures; and
- (f) provide guidelines for the development of standard operating procedures for personnel involved in response management.

3. PLANTPLAN is broken into four main sections: Management and Administrative Arrangements; Control Centres Management; Information Systems Management; and, Roles and Responsibilities of Decision-Making Bodies. Appendices at the back of the document provide significantly more detail on various aspects of the plan where required, eg Appendix 1 provides specific information on the responsibilities of key roles in an emergency response.

4. The introduction provides background information on issues relating to emergency plant pest responses including; current plant health legislation in each state and territory, PLANTPLAN's role in Plant Health Australia's emergency preparedness and response program and a brief overview of the funding of eradication campaigns.

5. The core section of PLANTPLAN, 'Management and Administrative Arrangements' describes the four phases of response to an emergency plant pest incursion.

- (a) **Investigation Phase:** A pest is detected and reported to the Chief Plant Health Manager of the state/territory agricultural department. The process of identification is initiated and the relevant people and organisations are notified of the suspected detection.
- (b) **Alert Phase:** Identification of the emergency plant pest is confirmed and the outbreak is declared. Decisions are also made on the feasibility of eradication, the preparation of a Response Plan, the resource requirements needed to implement the response and [estimated] cost of the eradication program.
- (c) **Operational Phase:** The Lead Agency in the state/territory in which the incursion occurred will implement and manage the Response Plan, overseen by a national committee. The Scientific Advisory Panel will evaluate the effectiveness of the response and its implementation.
- (d) **Stand Down Phase:** After the coordinated response is complete or if a review determines that eradication is not feasible, records of expenditure and technical reports are provided to PHA to determine final cost shares.

6. The roles and responsibilities detailed in PLANTPLAN will be used as a basis for the development of national standards for individuals involved in an emergency response.

7. Plant Health Australia is also developing training modules for producers, extension service providers and government officers to ensure personnel involved in responding to emergency plant pests are proficient and have the skills required to effectively perform their duties.

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