



PineNet Newsletter

The newsletter for biosecurity readiness and response teams in the forestry sector

Issue number 2/2016 (December 2016)

This quarter we focus on some of the strategies and organisations that make up the biosecurity system in New Zealand.

Biosecurity 2025

MPI has launched a direction statement that sets out the strategic direction for biosecurity over the next few years. The document uses a framework of five themes:

1. A biosecurity team of 4.7 million – getting all New Zealanders to engage in biosecurity management
2. A toolbox for tomorrow – harvesting science and technology to work better and smarter
3. Smart, free-flowing information – using, collecting and sharing data better
4. Leadership and governance – working in partnership with industry, businesses, and other agencies
5. Tomorrow's skills and assets – developing people and assets for an effective system.

The document has been drafted and refined in conjunction with GIA partners (more on that below), and other stakeholders and was launched at a forum in Auckland in late November. The direction statement will be supported by an implementation plan that provides actions towards targets.

More here: www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/biosecurity/biosecurity-2025/

The Protecting to Grow workshop agenda can be downloaded here

www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/our-work/conferences-and-events/biosecurity-forum-2016/

The NBCN Network

The National Biosecurity Capability network is a joint initiative between MPI and Assure quality. The network provides the field team in the event of a biosecurity incursion. The network is made up of over 150 organisations. More information including their newsletters, can be found here.

<https://www.asurequality.com/our-services/pest-and-disease-management-solutions/national-biosecurity-capability-network-nbcn/>

Government Industry Agreement (GIA)

The GIA is an agreement between a number of industry bodies (including FOA) to improve New Zealand's biosecurity readiness. The aim of the agreement is to enable greater collaboration between MPI and industry in both decision-making, and readiness and response activities. FOA signed this agreement in November last year and since then, has dealt jointly with a number of incursions – most recently, the eucalyptus leaf beetle discovery in Waikanae.

So far, the GIA partnership with MPI has proved to have some teething problems, including limited consultation with industry at the decision-making stage of the process, and a lack of transparency about how MPI decides on eradication or management efforts. These issues are being worked through.

More information about the GIA Deed and the way it works is available here:

www.gia.org.nz/About-GIA/What-is-GIA

Notifications

The Burnt Pine Longhorn (BPL) beetle flight season commenced on 25 November

This means that all timber mouldings and break-bulk ply products (including LVL) shipped to Australia must be treated in accordance with Department of Agriculture and Water Resources requirements for the *Arhopalus ferus* (Burnt Pine Longicorn (BPL)) flight season and be accompanied with an MPI phytosanitary certificate.



A Burnt Pine Longhorn beetle

Additional information is available on the MPI website: www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/forestry-icprs/australia/

Giant Pine Scale in Australia

As some of you may be aware from earlier notifications, this scale insect is spreading in Australia. Early attempts to eradicate the pest by chemically treating pine, fir and spruce trees (using *imidacloprid*) have failed and alternative options have been considered and rejected. Now, Agriculture Australia has moved to develop a plan to limit the spread and mitigate the impact rather than attempt eradication. The insect has infected over 4,300 trees in the south east suburbs of Melbourne alone and has spread to several municipalities in Victoria. It has also been found in Adelaide, South Australia. Eradication has been deemed not technically feasible at the current time. A 'Restricted Area' for the management of pine scale has been declared under the Australian Biosecurity Act. This means that permits are required to move host materials or any equipment that has been in contact with a host.

Australia has a similar system to our GIA, but their system only covers response, not readiness. At the moment the Transition to Management programme follows the same cost model (50/50 split) as Eradication, but this may change as the final plan has not yet been signed off by the National Management Group.

We will be fully updated on the issues that the giant pine scale is causing to radiata pine forestry in Australia at the annual FOA/MPI forest biosecurity workshop 7/8 March 2017 (more on that below).

Our own border monitoring system is doing everything it can to prevent the insect from arriving here.



An image of a tree severely affected by Giant Pine Scale

Forest Biosecurity Workshop 2017 – Time to get real – the bugs are coming!

The theme for the annual joint MPI/FOA forest biosecurity workshop in Rotorua has been set, and on 7 and 8 March 2017 and will be working on preparedness for incursions. The workshop will feature an incursion exercise to work through the process and identify gaps and improvements in the biosecurity system. The speaker and chair are to be announced, as are the two organisms and scenarios. The organisms are tentatively proposed to be *Fusarium circinatum* (causal agent of Pine Pitch Canker) found in (a) nursery and (b) forest near a major industrial facility/port and a *Lymantrid*, suspected Nun moth, found in a Remuera back yard.

The draft programme is available here, please note the dates in your diaries.

<http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/events/foa-conferences-and-workshops/89-biosecurity-workshop-2017>

If you have not already been sent a notification about this from Venise, please email her at venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz and you will be added to the list of people who will be sent the link for registration and payment in January. There is no need to do this if you've already been sent the programme by FOA.

Contact

Please contact Venise Comfort at venise.comfort@nzfoa.org.nz if you have any queries about the content of this newsletter.