

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOREST BIOSECURITY COMMITTEE

Ratified 10 March 2020

Purpose

To provide industry with strategic leadership and oversight for all aspects of forest biosecurity, and foster cohesion across industry, government and the science community to improve forest biosecurity outcomes.

For the purposes of this Terms of Reference, leadership and oversight does not imply control of other governance committees with biosecurity responsibilities, rather, it implies linkages and collaboration to ensure all parts of the forest biosecurity system are working together.

Roles and responsibilities

Strategy/policy

1. Develop, approve and monitor forest biosecurity strategy and policies, and provide advice and recommendations on strategic issues, policy matters and research needs to other bodies such as the Executive Council, Forest Research Committee and other governance entities.

Work planning

2. Develop and implement an annual work plan and initiatives to address forest biosecurity strategy, including developing strategic priorities.

Advocacy and consultation/engagement with government

3. Advocate on biosecurity and forest health issues, including input to Government policy and research direction and promoting policies to improve biosecurity (for example submitting on standards and other government policy or consultation opportunities).
4. Provide input to GIA readiness and response, including:
 - lead and oversee implementation of industry commitments, including operation of PineNet and associated industry biosecurity awareness, training and practices
 - recommend readiness planning priorities (for agreement between FOA/MPI)
 - oversight of specific GIA readiness projects (where agreed between FOA/MPI)
 - advice to industry leadership during response (e.g. to the Executive Council and industry representative on Response Governance).
5. Monitor changes in forest biosecurity risk profile and learn from issues and experience offshore and in other sectors and work with MPI to ensure we remain current and up to date.

Forest Surveillance

6. Oversee the Forest Biosecurity Surveillance programme.
7. Enhance awareness and training for forest health surveillance.

Research and knowledge transfer

8. Provide direction on biosecurity science and research needs to the Forest Research Committee.

9. Support and commission short-term forest biosecurity research projects, and ensure findings are available to the sector.
10. Lead transfer and uptake of forest biosecurity knowledge including information sharing and coordination of policy and planning matters with other industry committees or groups, and with other organisations that contribute to forest biosecurity outcomes.

Scope and working to role

The scope of FBC includes all matters relating to forest biosecurity, including pre-border, border and post-border biosecurity, forest health, and trade issues.

This recognises and provides for the key roles that other committees or groups play in improving forest biosecurity outcomes (e.g., STIMBR, FRC), respects the autonomy of such groups, but proposes that clear leadership and oversight for forest biosecurity sits with FBC.

FBC will identify the priority areas where it will focus and invest effort and resources (e.g., risk profiling, pathways, surveillance, export phytosanitary compliance, readiness and response, biosecurity practice research).

In its leadership and oversight role for the other areas FBC's role will be to ensure there are no critical gaps/important biosecurity matters falling between the cracks and will develop strategic direction and monitor forest biosecurity performance that encompasses the full scope of forest biosecurity.

The FBC oversight is limited to commercial plantation forest species as listed in the [Biosecurity Profile](#). While there are linkages with indigenous forests, the primary focus of the FBC is for commercial plantation species.

Membership

Members of the committee are made up of representatives from the following groups and organisations. Other people can be invited as Active Observers or will attend specific meetings where relevant.

- Industry Representatives (FOA) (up to 12)
- NZFFA (up to 2)
- Forest Nursery Association (1)
- Biosecurity New Zealand (up to 2)
- Te Uru Rākau (Forestry New Zealand) (1)
- Crown Research Institute (Scion) (up to 2)

Forum

The FBC will meet as follows:

- Four meetings per year, one of which may be a workshop
- Meeting in three parts strategy/policy, operations/implementation, research updates
- Annual strategy session (review progress, refresh)
- Annual FOA/MPI/industry GIA partner Forest Biosecurity Conference in June each year
- Subcommittees will be established to deal with specialist issues (for example, forest surveillance, R&D, health assessments and training and careers)