



Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response

Sector-based Councils: December 2023 Bulletin

This semi-regular update from the GIA Secretariat is intended to provide a general overview of the key matters considered by GIA governance bodies in the preceding month. It is not intended to communicate formal decisions by any of the parties, nor everything that happens within GIA. If there are any questions, or further information is required please contact steve.rich@gia.org.nz

Livestock Sector Biosecurity Council (LSBC) Chief Executive's Forum: 1 December 2023

- Progress on the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) work programme, with particular focus on the Response Strategy Cabinet paper and industry involvement in exercise programmes.
- Updates on sheep and pig traceability initiatives, noting the need to incorporate dairy goat farmers into consideration. The expected availability of sheep movement reporting data was noted, alongside the importance of issuing clear guidance for farmers.
- Members noted that the draft FMD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is ready for sign-off by the GIA Partners, noting its significance in underpinning the FMD Work Programme ahead of the FMDOA being finalised.
- The group agreed to continue with LSBC CE Forum's quarterly meetings until December 2024. The primary focus remains reviewing shared aspects of the FMD Work Programme and driving the FMDOA towards signing.

Traceability Pilot and Onside Evaluation: 4 December 2023

- In November 2023, Biosecurity NZ, Kiwifruit Vine Health, NZ Wine, NZ Pork, Aquaculture NZ, NZ Avocado, NZ Apple and Pears signed a memorandum of understanding with New Zealand agritech company Onside to carry out an evaluation of their biosecurity management platform Onside Intelligence.
- The MOU outlines plans for a comprehensive six-month evaluation to gauge how well Onside's traceability programme works across the primary sectors covered by GIA Parties. This collaboration sets the stage for potential long-term partnerships through a prospective GIA Operational Agreement.
- Under the provisions of the MOU, Onside will work with each of the industry signatories to deploy its technology across the various industry sectors, offering tools for data collection, robust privacy frameworks, traceability software, and access to the Onside mobile app. The MOU also provides for comprehensive support and training to be provided to ensure high adoption rates among industry members.

Pest Impact and Identification Classification (PIBC) Pilot: 4 and 15 December 2023

- The pilot team completed exploration of core processes through Steps 1 and 2 of the draft framework, impacted industry party identification and determination of impacts among those parties. The process was tested among four pilot pests, with GIA Technical Leads drawing upon published data and their own expertise and readily reaching a conclusion.
- Several issues needing more work were identified, including the challenge of just how far GIA coverage should extend through the supply chain, and how we account for impacts on suppliers and customers. Our planned work to develop a rule pertaining to the definition of “directly impacted” will advance thinking.
- Work early in Q1 will codify Step 1 and 2 processes, test these with more pilot pests and advance thinking on how the framework provides options of parties for whom impact is immaterial.

Plant Biosecurity Council (PBC): 11 December 2023

- Reports of a fungus affecting pine trees in South America were discussed.
- An apparent increase in Import Health Standard consultations and a perceived variability in the BNZ’s consideration of industry submissions. Plans to address these concerns were discussed.
- Discussion about apiculture sector biosecurity, highlighting concerns about economic volatility impacting beekeeping practices and the need for a collaborative response model. Partners expect to workshop a response under GIA in the new year.
- A research paper regarding biosecurity decision-making processes, emphasising the value of ongoing research in improving decision-making frameworks.
- Council expects to meet four times in 2024 and, amongst other things, will conduct a five-year review of the purpose and modus operandi of the Council.

Xylella Working Group (XAG): 12 December 2023

- Observers from DOC were welcomed to their first meeting, and as Dr Luciano Rigano of PHEL in his first meeting as XAG’s technical lead.
- The meeting conducted a post project review of beneficiaries, cost shares and OA terms and conditions. Informed by the Host/Strain/Vector matrix project, XAG agreed no OA changes were warranted.
- The matrix report also informed discussion of XAG’s future workplan. Agreement was reached on the need to focus on readiness work across threats to grapevines, summer fruit and citrus sectors and their nursery supply chains, while work on the threat to amenity and native host species need more discussion. An in-person meeting/workshop will be convened to explore and advance issues and develop work plans.
- The group’s Xylella Strategy 2022-27 was signed off for publishing.

GIA Operations Limited (GOL) Board: 14 December 2023

- Discussion on GOL’s cashflow projections for the rest of the 23/24 year, including the possible need to adjust the timing of invoicing to partners and explore setting up an overdraft facility.

- A detailed discussion on options for revising the industry valuation methodology used to determine Secretariat cost shares. The Board considered, in principle, that the universal role out of the model developed for the livestock sectors is problematic and decided to focus on a hybrid valuation model. The Board noted this will likely require some re-valuation of previous values, particularly by NZFOA.
- Agreeing the Secretariat priorities for January – June 2024.
- Noting a planned workshop on Māori engagement (using biocontrol agent use as a case study).
- In general business a quick noting of Crown Indemnity review progresses, accounting software issues, and the draft Board Charter.
- The GOL Board meets again in late January 2024.

BMSB Council (BMSBC) and Fruit Fly Council (FFC) Compensation Workshop: 15 November 2023

- Members received a comprehensive presentation from MPI setting out the detail of how the compensation process works in practice in a response.
- The FFOA and BMSBOA provisions relating to trailing liabilities (i.e. that relate to costs that do not become apparent until well after a response is closed or a fiscal cap reached) will be highlighted for members.
- Biosecurity NZ will review its draft compensation information brochure and provide it to industry partners.
- The wording of the standard response governance terms of reference will be reviewed to ensure regular, and early, reporting on the compensation liability is included as a standing item.
- Industry parties are to consider sector, or pest, specific scenarios and engage with the Compensation team directly (noting that anything with broader applicability should be made available to the wider group).
- FFC and BMSBC to discuss at their next meetings whether any additional information is desirable, or if the expectations set when the OAs were signed have been met.

Lepidoptera Working Group: 18 December 2023

- The meeting's focus was to consider project concepts for six pieces of work envisaged for action in the 2023 year. There was consensus that drafts were pretty much on track and refinements will be discussed in mid-December with a view to project briefs being prioritised, approved and scheduled early in February as across work to advance:
 - Stocktake of diagnostic capability
 - Surveillance status and forward options
 - Readiness plan scope and approach across the five Pest Injury Guild groupings
 - Information Repository
 - Communication and engagement plan
 - A plan for how MPI secure BtK stock, aircraft and ensure regulatory readiness for flying and spraying.