



BIOSECURITY COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

2009/2010

**Comments or feedback on the Biosecurity Council Annual Report 2009/2010
and its content should be addressed to:**

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WHAT IS “BIOSECURITY”?

The protection of our economy, environment and human health from the negative impacts of pests, weeds and diseases - it includes the management of invasive species if they become established.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF “BIOSECURITY”?

To preserve and enhance our unique lifestyle, livelihoods, and environment, and in so doing, help to:

- maintain market access
- maintain the industry profitability (especially our primary industries)
- preserve our existing social amenity for the enjoyment of future generations
- preserve our environmental assets and services
- maintain our all-important food security.

WHY IS “BIOSECURITY” IMPORTANT?

The Western Australian community places a high value on preserving the biodiversity of its unique terrestrial and aquatic environment and vibrant economy and high standard of human health and lifestyle. WA has a reasonably successful history of managing pests, diseases and weeds that could potentially impact on its primary industries and natural environment. While good progress has been made in some areas, there are still major gaps, in particular in relation to the protection of the terrestrial, aquatic and built environments. The current arrangements for the management of biosecurity risks have been questioned in terms of the completeness, consistency and efficiency of measures that are required to meet the future needs of WA's terrestrial and aquatic environments, communities and primary industries (including, agriculture, plantation forestry, fisheries, aquaculture and other aquatic industries).

Increasingly, biosecurity threats pose significant short and long-term risks to biodiversity and ecosystem health, productivity and market access for primary industries, built infrastructure, public health and amenity. Pests and diseases, assisted by rapid global and regional spread as a result of expanding trade and travel and community diversification pose real, material risks to Western Australia.

WHAT ARE THE KEY “BIOSECURITY” CHALLENGES FACED BY WA?

- increased risks from exotic plant and animal pests and diseases as international and domestic trade continues to expand rapidly and the movement of people and commodities is becoming quicker and easier (DAFWA statistics indicate a substantial rise in reported biosecurity incidents);
- the maintenance of market access by being able to demonstrate freedom from pests and diseases;
- growing concerns that ‘sleepers’ weeds, and existing pests are establishing new levels of threat due to real declines in resources for surveillance and control and a lack of sufficient containment action, to the extent that major enhanced efforts are required to maintain adequate levels of control;
- the increasing incidence, both domestically and internationally, of new and re-emerging diseases;
- increased recognition of the impact of exotic plant and animal pests and diseases and the increasing demand from domestic and international consumers for production systems that produce safe food while protecting the environment;
- establishment and spread of exotic pests and diseases that cause chronic decline in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem health and threats to biodiversity; and
- increasing community awareness and expectations that Crown land managers will meet benchmarks for pest and weed control similar to those demanded of private landowners, including ‘good neighbour’ responsibilities.

Hon. Terry Redman MLA
Minister for Agriculture and Food
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Minister

Pursuant to s51 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, and on behalf of my fellow Members, it gives me great pleasure to deliver this the third Annual Report of the State's Biosecurity Council (The Council), for your information and presentation to Parliament.

The Council continued its progress throughout the 2009/2010 reporting year, its second full year of operation. Although drawn from a very diverse range of backgrounds and fields of endeavour, the Members are working well as a team, and have continued to develop a shared understanding of key concepts, a shared vision for the future management of biosecurity within the State and, importantly, a very productive working relationship with the Biosecurity Senior Officer's Group.

The Council is particularly mindful of the importance of good biosecurity to Western Australia's economic, environmental and social future. The various interactions that Council Members have had within their own networks and out into the broader community has confirmed their view, that the role that good biosecurity plays in:

- preserving our access to existing markets and positioning us favourably to expand into new markets (via continued maintenance of our pest & disease free advantage, and our reduced reliance on potentially harmful chemical control methods);
- helping our food and fibre industries to remain globally competitive (through lower production costs as a result of avoided expenditure on the management of unwanted pests and diseases not yet present / established); and
- preserving our relatively pristine natural environment and our unique outdoor way of life (through the avoided establishment of a large number of non-native pest species);

is neither well understood nor appreciated as things stand. A firm resolve to address this anomaly now underpins many of the WA Biosecurity Council's initial priorities, for it cannot hope to improve the State's biosecurity arrangements without this fundamental understanding and appreciation at all levels.

Although many sectors of the community at large are already doing much good work to safeguard the unique lifestyles, livelihoods and environment presently enjoyed by all Western Australians from the potentially devastating effect of serious pest and disease incursions, the obvious lack of a suitable overarching strategy, to clearly focus and coordinate effort, and to clearly identify important priorities, loomed large in the Council's early deliberations. The Council was pleased to be involved in the successful development and implementation of the regulations to enable the Industry Funding Schemes, processes involving the development of Recognised Biosecurity Groups and is looking forward to the completion and implementation of the rest of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 provisions.

The Council is convinced there is a distinct need for a "paradigm shift" in attitudes and thinking, and a more holistic approach, if Western Australia is to be adequately protected from the growing range of biosecurity threats into the future. The current over-reliance on government to "take care of the biosecurity business", is misplaced, and through concerted education, training and example, must be overcome such that the risks are more widely understood and the responsibility for the State's biosecurity is more broadly owned and shared between all sections of the community, industry and government. This will involve cultural change, and therefore concerted effort and attention over an extended period.

The Council looks forward to the opportunity to play its part in bringing about this paradigm shift/cultural change, through the ongoing provision of sound advice, and a continuing constructive working relationship with all key stakeholders.



Chris Richardson
Chairman, Biosecurity Council of Western Australia
November 2010

1. ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S ROLE

In accordance with the obligation conferred within Part 2, Division 6 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, the Biosecurity Council (the Council) was established by the (then) Minister for Agriculture and Food, the Hon. Kim Chance MLC, on 27th February 2008. The initial Member appointments were formally endorsed by State Cabinet on 10th March 2008.

The Council exists to advise the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia on any matter related to biosecurity, whether referred to the Council by the Minister or the Director General, or of its own motion. If the Minister so approves, the Council may also advise any other Minister on any matter related to biosecurity. Particular areas of interest to the Minister and the Director General include:

1. the requirements generally of a comprehensive and effective biosecurity system for the State of Western Australia, and necessary linkages to biosecurity systems established at the national and international levels;
2. strategic biosecurity policy required for the effective operation of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, including:
 - a. any identified gaps in, or necessary improvements to, the biosecurity system implemented under the Act and, in particular, in relation to the likelihood of incursions of high impact organisms and prohibited organisms;
 - b. opportunities to improve the management of declared pests within the State;
 - c. opportunities to enhance biosecurity surveillance and incursion response capabilities;
 - d. opportunities to improve industry and public awareness and support of, and participation in, the achievement of biosecurity objectives;
 - e. opportunities to improve the capacity of regional communities and interest groups to contribute to effective biosecurity;
 - f. the operation of regulations and other subsidiary legislation under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* and any amendments to this legislation that are identified as necessary; and
 - g. identified opportunities to improve Government, community and primary producer cooperation and collaboration on biosecurity matters.
3. any proposal to declare an organism to be a permitted organism, a prohibited organism or a declared pest on which the Minister decides to consult the Council under sections 12 and 21 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* and;
4. any changes it may recommend to the matters set out in the Instrument of Appointment.

The Council membership is drawn from among those experienced or actively involved in agricultural, fishing, aquaculture, pearling or related commercial activities, natural resource management, environmental protection and/or regional communities.

Five sitting members of the Agriculture Protection Board of WA (APB) members are also current Council members. The appointment of the APB members was necessary to retain a level of 'corporate knowledge' on biosecurity policy and related initiatives and programs, particularly those matters that relate to the protection of agricultural industries, during the transition from the previous legislative framework to new. The APB continues to operate in parallel with the Council, until it's enabling and administered legislation is repealed (expected by end December 2010).

On 27 February 2010, the tenures of two members of Council ended, Dr Maggie Lilith and Dr Philip O'Brien. These positions were not replaced, with the Council subsequently operating with 14 members until 27 February 2010, and 12 members after this date.

Executive and administrative support for the Biosecurity Council's operation is provided via the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE WA BIOSECURITY COUNCIL

Individual Member Profiles



Chris Richardson (Biosecurity Council Chairperson) has been an Agriculture Protection Board member since 1998 and Chairman since 2002.

Chris' background is in mixed farming and agricultural contracting and he also served as a Local Government councillor for ten years.

Chris is Chairman of the WA Footrot Management Committee, the WA Ovine Johnes Disease Advisory Committee, the Bedstraw Consultative Committee, and the Industry (Biosecurity) Funding Schemes Working Group.

Chris is also an independent director of National Plant Biosecurity CRC Ltd which is based in Canberra. In recent times he has also been closely involved with the development of the WA Rangelands Wild Dog Management Policy.



Bob Pearce is the Executive Director of the Forest Industries Federation of WA and President of the National Association of Forest Industries. He was previously Minister for the Environment, Education, Transport, Planning, Parliamentary and Electoral Reform and Leader of the House in the Government of Western Australia. He is Deputy Chairman of the Fremantle Port Authority Board, Chairman of the WA Forest Heritage Centre, and a Board Member of the CRC Forestry and the Forest Training Centre.



Johann van der Merwe is currently developing a Quarantine Management System for Chevron for the Gorgon Project that has set new benchmarks in the management of biosecurity risks, in particular those associated with large resource projects in sensitive locations. He was previously the Parks Director for South African National Parks. He managed biosecurity threats to the biodiversity of national parks including management of highly contagious diseases (e.g. anthrax, bovine tuberculosis, foot and mouth) and a massive invasive species management program. He is considered an international authority on conservation planning and development, protected area management, and associated sustainable regional development.



John Edwards is the Dean of the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at Murdoch University in Perth. Following a period as a veterinary epidemiologist with the WA Department of Agriculture and two years as Lecturer in Veterinary Epidemiology at Murdoch University he was appointed Chief Veterinary Officer for Western Australia from 1993-2001. This was followed by three years as Regional Coordinator for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign. Professor Edwards is well known in national and international circles and has relevant policy and management experience in the fields of animal health, aquatic animal health, public health, plant health and invasive species. Areas of particular expertise include risk analysis, risk communication, border security, surveillance and emergency response. He is also actively involved in research on trans-boundary animal diseases in Australian and Southeast Asia. He is also Chair of the Australian Biosecurity CRC's Biosecurity Risk Intelligence Scanning Committee.



David Anderson is Chairman of Vegetables WA (from 2004) WA and was Vice Chairman of the Potato Growers Association of WA. He is a Board member of Chemcert WA and a Member of the Agricultural Produce Commission (vegetable producers committee).

David is a vegetable grower with more than 20 years experience in fresh produce industry. He grows produce for both the domestic and international markets.



Maxinne Sclanders has been a member of the Agriculture Protection Board since 1995 and currently is chair of the Board's Rainbow Lorikeet Working Party. She and her family have a vineyard in the Perth Hills. She is a former senior public servant who is now working as a consultant. She is a member of the Mental Health Review Board, Edith Cowan University's Quality and Audit Committee and Fremantle Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee. She has a particular interest in ways to encourage urban populations to participate in the management of environmental/agricultural pests and diseases.



Lisa Christy has spent many years working with Department of Conservation and Land Management (now Department of Environment and Conservation); Forest Products Commission; and Department of Agriculture and Food WA in roles relating to biosecurity and emergency response, including leading the emergency response to the European House Borer incursion from 2004 to 2006. She has experience as both a member and Chair of a number of related industry bodies, stakeholder groups and associations and maintains links with the forestry and furniture industries. She has strong ties to the equine industry and has fulfilled Executive roles on State and Federal Equestrian Industry bodies. She is the Equine Industry Liaison Officer for Emergency Animal Disease Response. Lisa is currently based in private industry (Oil & Gas) working in the field of Quarantine.



Michelle Allen is a member of the Agriculture Protection Board and Chairs the State Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee. Michelle is experienced with policy and service delivery in the northern agricultural region and with natural resource management through the Sustainable Rural Development Program.

Michelle, together with her husband and son, has a property in Northampton producing grain and livestock. Michelle is actively involved with the marketing and transport of grain, livestock and wool and works closely with numerous local organisations in a governance capacity and is currently working with local grower groups building awareness of issues that affect regional economies.



Maggie Lilith was formerly the Sustainable Agriculture Officer at the Conservation Council of WA (CCWA), and now continues to act as a consultant for CCWA on sustainable agriculture and local food production issues. Maggie also works closely with the Organic Growers Association of WA to promote organic farming and is researching economic viability and social benefits of local food production systems in urban environments.

Her interest in biosecurity stems from an extensive research experience and knowledge of environmental issues such as introduced plant diseases and introduced predators and, their effects on biodiversity and plant/fauna communities. Her research on ecological impacts of the domestic cat, which was based on the precautionary principles, was part of a broader study to assess the requirements of local by-laws (cat legislation).

N.B. Tenure on Council ended 27 February 2010.



Phil O'Brien has a background in microbial biochemistry and molecular biology. His previous experience includes postdoctoral research at The University of California Berkeley and CSIRO Division of Plant Industry in Canberra. He has been a Biotechnology staff member at Murdoch University since 1988. His interests are in the area of plant pathogenic fungi and oomycetes. His current research focus at Murdoch is *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, the agent of eucalypt dieback disease. His specific interests are in the population genetics and the development of methods for detection of fungal phytopathogens in plant material, soil and water as this is the basis for any successful disease management and quarantine exclusion. In collaboration with colleagues at Murdoch he has established the Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management.

N.B. Tenure on Council ended 27 February 2010.



Ron Creagh has been a member of the Agriculture Protection Board of Western Australia since 1995 and is Chairman of the GrainGuard Steering Committee. Ron has played a lead role in guiding the development of industry biosecurity plans for the grains sector.

Ron owns and operates a broadacre cropping and livestock enterprise in the Shires of Nungarin and Trayning, is a member of the WA Wheat Growers Association and foundation member of the Ningham Focus Group and Vice Chairman of the Nungarin Land Conservation District Committee.

Ron was recently appointed Chairman of Plant Health Australia's Biosecurity Committee for the Western Region.



Lesley Maher is currently Managing Director of Era Farming and has been in that position for 10 years. Era Farming works with the University of Western Australia taking agricultural research into agricultural practice and has programs for farmers who wish to be chemical free, use the productive soil as a carbon sink, and ensure that their crops are contaminant free and farming style sustainable. Era Farming also has research relationships with Newcastle University (UK) and Cornell (USA). She was a member of the Minister's Sustainable Agricultural Committee for 2 years. Era Farming is a current recipient of an ARC grant to look at how soil biota can influence farming practice. Lesley has previously been a Member of the Senate of the University of Western Australia and a Member of the Strategic Planning Committee for the NHMRC.



Dan Machin has over 20 years experience in aquaculture and seafood industry development. He has worked along the continuum of strategic roles from Public Company Director, Ministerial Advisory Committees and in senior and middle management positions both in businesses (Ireland & Greece) and in government. Dan has a BSc. (zoology and botany), Diploma in Business, and a MSc. in Aquaculture.

Dan has solid general knowledge of biosecurity arrangements within WA, developed through a long standing involvement with Biosecurity Agriculture Management Bill Overarching Reference Group and the Biosecurity Review, and his operational experience in biosecurity breaches in the seafood industry in WA and nationally.



Rob Gillam is a member of the Agriculture Protection Board and is President of the Pastoralist and Graziers Association.

Rob has a wealth of experience in both agricultural and pastoral enterprises. Rob's family business now operates from Dongara (cropping, wool and sheep and cattle for domestic and live export markets). Until recently, he also ran a pastoral sheep station at Yalgoo involving wool production and live export markets.

Rob remains active in the biosecurity sphere, and is formerly a Local Government Councillor of many years standing and experience.

Summary of Member Terms:

Name	Position	Expiry of Current Term	Section of Act
Mr Chris RICHARDSON	Chairman	27 February 2011	48(1)
Prof John EDWARDS	Member	27 February 2011	48(1)
Mr Rob GILLAM	Member	27 February 2011	48(1)
Mr Dan MACHIN	Member	27 February 2011	48(1)
Ms Lesley MAHER	Member	27 February 2011	48(1)
Mr Bob PEARCE	Member	27 February 2011	48(1)
Ms Lisa CHRISTY	Member	27 February 2012	48(1)
Mr Ron CREAGH	Member	27 February 2012	48(1)
Ms Maxinne SCLANDERS	Member	27 February 2012	48(1)
Mrs Michelle ALLEN	Member	27 February 2013	48(1)
Mr David ANDERSON	Member	27 February 2013	48(1)
Mr Johann VAN DER MERWE	Member	27 February 2013	48(1)
Dr Maggie LILTIH	Out-going Member	27 February 2010	48(1)
Dr Phil O'BRIEN	Out-going Member	27 February 2010	48(1)

3. BUSINESS OF COUNCIL AND ITS INTERACTION WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

As part of its role to advise the Minister and Director General of Agriculture, in practice, the WA Biosecurity Council works closely with the Biosecurity Senior Officer's Group, which is comprised of senior executives of each of the four State Government agencies having responsibility for various aspects of biosecurity ie:

- the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA);
- the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC);
- the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and
- the Forest Products Commission (FPC).

Members of the BSOG routinely attend meetings of the Council, and provide valuable information from a governmental perspective.

Together, the Council and the agencies are effectively collaborating to establish a comprehensive and integrated approach to manage biosecurity threats across the environment, the community and all primary industries within WA. Legislation that underpins this objective, the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, was enacted in October 2007. However, full implementation of its various provisions still pends the completion of a suite of supporting subsidiary legislation.

The main purposes of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* are:

- to prevent new animal and plant pests (weeds and vermin) and diseases from entering WA;
- to manage the impact and limit the spread of those already present in the State; and
- to safely manage the use of agriculture and veterinary chemicals and ensure agricultural products are not contaminated with chemical residues.

Legislation on these subjects has existed for many years but, in the form of discrete Acts which came into being in differing circumstances and points in history. As a result of this, there have been inconsistencies, confusion and inefficiency. The new *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* has been designed to remove unnecessary prescription, and to standardise, modernise and consolidate the new regulatory framework within the one overarching Act. Consistent with contemporary legislative practice, the principal Act itself contains a high-level framework, but much of the detail will now reside in supporting regulations and other regulatory instruments. The associated process of reform has involved extensive discussion with relevant producer and community groups and Government agencies, in an effort to ensure every aspect of biosecurity and agriculture management is regulated consistently. Further work is still to be completed, before the new Act can be fully implemented. This will help safeguard Western Australia's primary industries, natural environment, economic future and lifestyle and provide a holistic approach to biosecurity protection.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BIOSECURITY SENIOR OFFICER'S GROUP

Senior executives from each of the four State Departments involved in biosecurity in WA, again worked closely with the Council throughout the 2009/2010 reporting year, to ensure a seamless two-way flow of information and ideas, at the strategic and operational levels.

BSOG Members Contributing To Council's Work in 2009/2010

Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA)

- Damian Collopy: Director of Biosecurity and Research
- Eric Wright: A/Deputy Director General NRM & Biosecurity

Department of Fisheries (DoF)

- Greg Paust: Director of Fisheries Management Services
- Heather Brayford, Director Aquatic Management (Current)

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)

- Gordon Wyre: Director of Nature Conservation (Current)

Forest Products Commission of WA (FPC)

- John McGrath: Manager of Forest Science and Resources

5. COUNCIL ACTIVITIES IN 2009/2010

Meetings

A total of three ordinary meetings of the Council were conducted throughout the 2009/2010 reporting year. Individual member participation is summarised in the following table:

Council Member	Meeting Date			Total
	30/9/09	10/12/09 ¹	25/3/10	
Allen, M.	✓	✓	✓	3
Anderson, D.	✓	✓	✓	3
Christy, L.	✓	✓	✓	3
Creagh, R.	✓	✓	✓	3
Edwards, J.	X	✓	✓	2
Gillam, R.	✓	✓	X	2
Lilith, M.	✓	✓	N/A	2
Machin, D.	✓	✓	✓	3
Maher, L.	✓	X	✓	2
O'Brien, P.	✓	✓	N/A	2
Pearce, R.	✓	✓	✓	3
Richardson, C.	✓	✓	✓	3
Sclanders, M.	✓	✓	X	2
Van Der Merwe, J.	✓	✓	✓	3
	13	13	10	36

¹ – joint meeting with the membership of the Agriculture Protection Board of WA

The Strategic Framework Working Group of Council continued to meet throughout the year, and reported back to the full Council at their ordinary meetings. Council members also attended other forums as part of their duties throughout 2009/2010.

Strategic Framework to Guide Future Biosecurity Investment in WA

In the previous year, Council had determined the need to progress the development of a strategic framework to guide future Biosecurity investment in Western Australia. This was deemed critical to:

- articulate a vision and outcomes for a modern, integrated biosecurity system;
- set some broad policy principles to underpin subsequent actions;
- identify areas for immediate and longer-term action;
- confirm the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholder groups—government, non-government, industry and community;
- confirm some suitable principles for an appropriate sharing of costs between stakeholders and beneficiaries;
- define how success will be evaluated and reported on; and
- provide a basis for more detailed consultations with key stakeholder groups.

Work on the strategic framework continued throughout 2009/2010 and resulted in the development of a draft Vision and Purpose, underlying Principles, three Strategic Objectives (and subsidiary strategic priorities):

- Engagement
 - Understanding
 - Ownership
 - Collaboration

- Framework
 - Cohesive policy
 - Consistency
 - Compliance

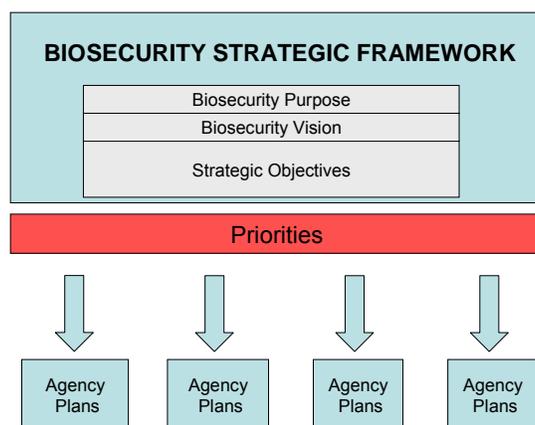
- Performance
 - Capacity
 - Monitoring and review
 - Outcomes promotion

The Council developed draft milestones and targets for the framework with 5, 10 and 20 year timeframes.

Biosecurity Council Capacity Development

The Council presented the draft Strategic Framework to the Minister in October 2009 for his feedback and consideration. This was accompanied by the concept of a draft stakeholder engagement strategy. This was followed up by Council members contributing to the development of the draft engagement strategy in March 2010. The package was presented to the Minister in June 2010.

The following schematic outlines the Council's intended relationship between its developing strategic framework, and the operational plans of the individual State Government agencies having responsibility for aspects of biosecurity:



Additional to the development of the Strategic Framework, in 2009/2010 Council dedicated itself to information gathering, seeking presentations from expert speakers and developing a shared context of the on-going role of the WA Biosecurity Council.

These presentations included:

- Dr Simon McKirdy, CEO CRC National Plant Biosecurity:
Plant biosecurity – a national and international perspective
- Dr Deb Cousins, Australian Biosecurity CRC for Emerging Infectious Diseases:
Animal biosecurity – a national and international perspective
- Mr Rob Delane, Director General, Department of Agriculture and Food:
Biosecurity and market access – handling of biosecurity risks in DAFWA Industry Development Plans
- Mr Gordon Wyre, Director of Nature Conservation, Department of Environment and Conservation:
Developing the National Biosecurity Agreement
Biosecurity Challenges on the Government estate – future threats and opportunities
- Mr John McGrath, Manager Science and Resources Branch, Forest Products Commission:
Future biosecurity challenges – a forestry perspective.
- Ms Heather Brayford, Director Aquatic Management, Department of Fisheries
Marine biosecurity – a fisheries perspective.
- Mr Damian Collopy, Director Biosecurity and Research, Department of Agriculture and Food:
Future biosecurity challenges and opportunities – a DAFWA perspective.
- Mr Johann van der Merwe
Overview of the development and implementation of Gorgon’s quarantine system.
A new paradigm for biosecurity – the Chevron story.
- Mr Tony Richman, Manager, Agricultural Resource Risk Management, Department of Agriculture and Food:
BAMA Industry Funding Schemes Regulations Development and Implementation

BAMA Industry Funding Schemes and Recognised Biosecurity Groups

Within the 2009/2010 reporting period, Council members participated in processes relating to the development of the regulations to enable the BAMA Industry Funding Schemes (IFSSs) and Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs). This participation included work on a regulatory reference group, chaired by the WA Biosecurity Council Chair.

Once the regulations had been drafted, they were taken out for public consultation over a period of 3 months (1 February 2010 to 30 April 2010). Council members participated in many of the 33 briefings, forums, and workshops plus media opportunities that were delivered throughout the State. In addition, they delivered the relevant information to meetings within their portfolio areas of responsibility within the agricultural and pastoral areas of the state – most notably Zone Control Authorities, Biosecurity Groups, Growers Groups, Declared Species Groups, Members of Government and Industry Forums.

Three sets of regulations were proclaimed on the 21 May 2010:

1. Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Industry Funding Scheme (Grains) Regulations 2010;
2. Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Industry Funding Scheme (Cattle) Regulations 2010; and
3. Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Industry Funding Scheme (Sheep and Goats) Regulations 2010;

Subsequently, three new Industry Management Committees to oversee the management of the State's new biosecurity Industry Funding Schemes commenced.

The committees are utilising the new funding arrangements authorised under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (*BAMA*) 2007 to fight biosecurity threats from 1 July 2010.

The three new management committees will determine which pest and disease threats require action, how best to deal with the threats, and what contributions will be needed from industry to tackle the problem. This will allow grain/seed/hay producers, cattle producers, sheep and goat producers, to raise funds to self-manage serious pests and diseases which might threaten the viability and sustainability of their industries.

On the 8th of June 2010 the Minister for Agriculture and Food declared a number of pests as Declared Pests under section 22(2) of the BAM Act for the purposes of the Industry Funding Schemes. A notice of the declaration was published in the Government Gazette of 22 June 2010 (no 110, p2786).

Five new incorporated associations have now established and stand ready to assume control of declared pest management throughout the State's pastoral areas, as soon as the 5 remaining Zone Control Authorities (ZCAs) are abolished. This will occur at the same time as the APB is abolished i.e. by December 2010. It is expected that these incorporated associations will become the first of the so-called Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) under the BAM Act.

Each of the five incorporated associations now has their own formal Constitution ("rules") and management committees. The work of these groups, with continued support from DAFWA, will begin in earnest upon the impending wind-up of the ZCAs.

DAFWA is also simultaneously working to enable equivalent groups to be recognised (RBGs) in the agricultural areas of the State, and to provide access to a new and more flexible rating mechanism via which declared pest control programs undertaken by RBGs operating anywhere in the State can be funded. The types of declared pests that RBGs are considering control programs for include weeds, feral donkeys, wild dogs and foxes.

Council members, particularly those who also serve on the Agriculture Protection Board, are continuing to meet with and guide these groups through the transition from the previous legislation to the newly proclaimed sections of BAMA.

6. COSTS OF COUNCIL OPERATION IN 2009/2010

Direct costs of the Council's operation during the 2009/2010 reporting year amounted to \$196 288 (see Appendix 1 for further detail). Executive, accounting, administrative and other general support provided throughout the year by the Department and Agriculture and Food WA is not included in this total. Data on these additional costs is not available (not separately costed within the relevant systems). All activities were financed from within the 2009/2010 recurrent Consolidated Fund Appropriation made to the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

7. COUNCIL ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2010/2011

Council's immediate priority for the 2010/2011 reporting period will be to further the development of the Strategic Framework to Guide Future Investment in Biosecurity within WA, in partnership with Government. When finalised, it is hoped that this framework would subsequently be endorsed as suitable to underpin a whole-of-government approach to future biosecurity management, and with further consultation and input, a whole-of-industry and whole-of-community approach to same. If it is, further work would then be needed to refine outcomes, targets and milestones, and to consider corresponding resource implications.

Council will continue to advise the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia on any matter related to biosecurity, whether referred to the Council by the Minister or the Director General, or of its own motion. If the Minister so approves, Council may also advise any other Minister on these matters related to biosecurity.

APPENDIX 1

WA BIOSECURITY COUNCIL - EXPENDITURE PROFILE BY MONTH – 2009/2010

Line Description	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Reimbursement of Travel Expenses – Intrastate				1303						256			1559
Conferences & Seminars			1086	982			940						3008
Postage							7						7
Board & committee fees - Sitting Fees Only	13387	15750	15750	23624	15750	15750	15750	15750	11022	20368	12598	15118	190 615
Printing						545							545
Consultancy Travel & Mileage Exp				279									279
Non Entertainment Light Meals & Refreshments					72								72
Charges from Business Units – Copy Centre						203							203
	13387	15750	16836	26188	15821	16497	16697	15750	11022	20624	12598	15118	196 288

Notes:

- (1) data sourced from the accounting records of the Department of Agriculture and Food WA
- (2) costs of executive, accounting, administrative and other general support not included – funded elsewhere within the recurrent Consolidated Fund Appropriation of the Department and Agriculture and Food WA **Error! No index entries found.**