




# PROFILE

NEW ZEALAND. IT'S OUR  
PLACE TO PROTECT.





MAF Biosecurity New Zealand leads our country's biosecurity movement — one where every person plays a part in protecting our mountains, lakes, rivers, seas, native forests, farmlands and way of life.



**Every year** many thousands of visitors flock to our shores. They expect our environment to be clean, green and safe. Yet any one of them could jeopardise that by bringing pests or diseases across our borders.

At the same time, trade is thriving with products moving to and from markets around the world daily. Yet while we're critically dependent on that success in the world market – it also comes with biosecurity threats.

It's a balancing act between protecting New Zealand and New Zealanders and encouraging the tourism and international trade that are vital to our economy.

It's our place to make sure all New Zealanders, our natural resources, plants and animals are kept safe from the potential introduction of pests and diseases.

We're not alone in this task – our staff, partner organisations, government agencies, businesses exporting and importing goods, the general public, and of course international visitors, all play a role in helping keep New Zealand free from biosecurity threats.

Our biosecurity matters greatly – to our health, our environment and our economy.

### **It's worth protecting**

New Zealand is blessed with abundant food, fresh clean water, a strong productive sector and a healthy environment.

Pride in our environment, a love of the outdoors and our connection with our native plants, marine areas and wildlife are intrinsic features of our cultural identity and an important part of the way we portray ourselves to the rest of the world.

Pests and diseases brought into New Zealand, deliberately or accidentally, could seriously damage our natural resources, threaten our economy, and undermine our way of life.

Many weeds and pests already established here continue to cause problems, including didymo and the varroa bee mite, requiring constant vigilance and ongoing control programmes.

Whole industries, like forestry, horticulture and viticulture, can be seriously affected by microscopic plant diseases invisible to the naked eye.

“  
New threats will emerge;  
Nature is not standing still...  
”

Biosecurity Council (August 2003) Tiakina Aotearoa Protect New Zealand  
– The Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand



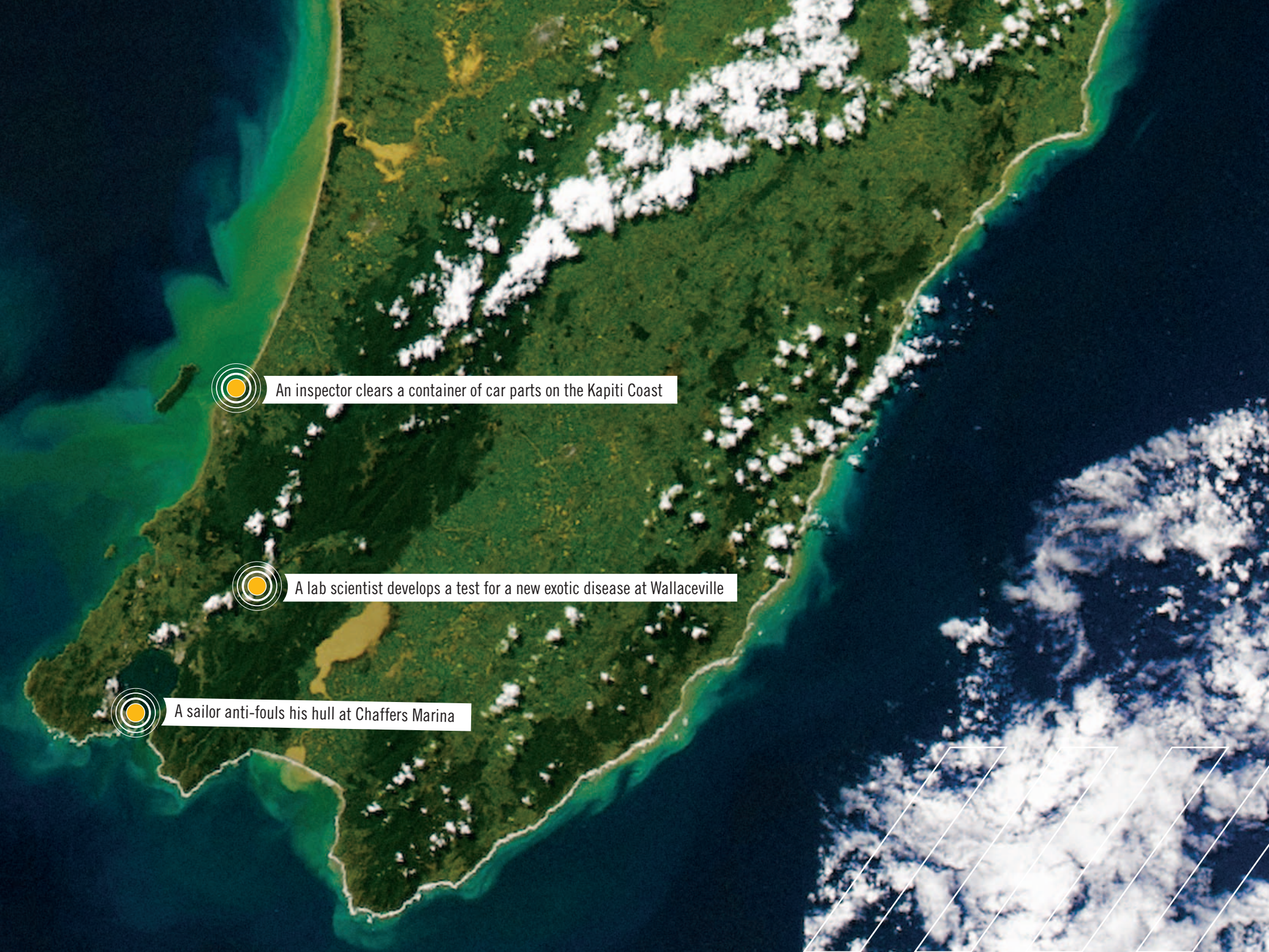
An inspector clears a container of car parts on the Kapiti Coast



A lab scientist develops a test for a new exotic disease at Wallaceville



A sailor anti-fouls his hull at Chaffers Marina



## The biosecurity system

Our system is made up of many groups and organisations working together:

- // The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
  - the lead agency.
- // Others in the government sector including the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Tourism, Tourism New Zealand, Ministry for Economic Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Health, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry of Fisheries, the Department of Conservation, Environmental Risk Management Authority, Customs, Crown Research Institutes, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, New Zealand Food Safety Authority.
- // Primary production organisations.
- // Industry sectors, such as importers, exporters, transport and travel, marine and tourism operators.
- // Regional councils and local government.
- // The public health sector.
- // Environmental groups.

## Who we are

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand is the division of MAF charged with leadership of the New Zealand biosecurity system. It encompasses facilitating international trade, protecting the health of New Zealanders and ensuring the welfare of our environment, flora and fauna, marine life and Māori resources.

We came into being on 1 July 2007 from the integration of two former business groups of MAF – Biosecurity New Zealand and MAF Quarantine Services.

Around \$500 million is spent annually on biosecurity in New Zealand, of which \$180 million is allocated directly by MAF Biosecurity New Zealand.

We have around 1000 full-time and part-time staff, based across New Zealand and overseas. They include vets, scientists, quarantine inspectors, directors, managers, administrators, advisers, detector dog handlers, analysts, investigators, legal experts, policy makers, communicators, strategists and business services staff.

Building a biosecurity system is a collaborative project.  
It takes a whole country.

## What we do

We're here to keep out, remove, or effectively manage the harm that pests or diseases can do to our economy, the environment and our health. To do this we:

- // provide leadership across the biosecurity system
- // establish policy
- // deliver effective interventions
- // encourage wider participation and collaborations of effort.

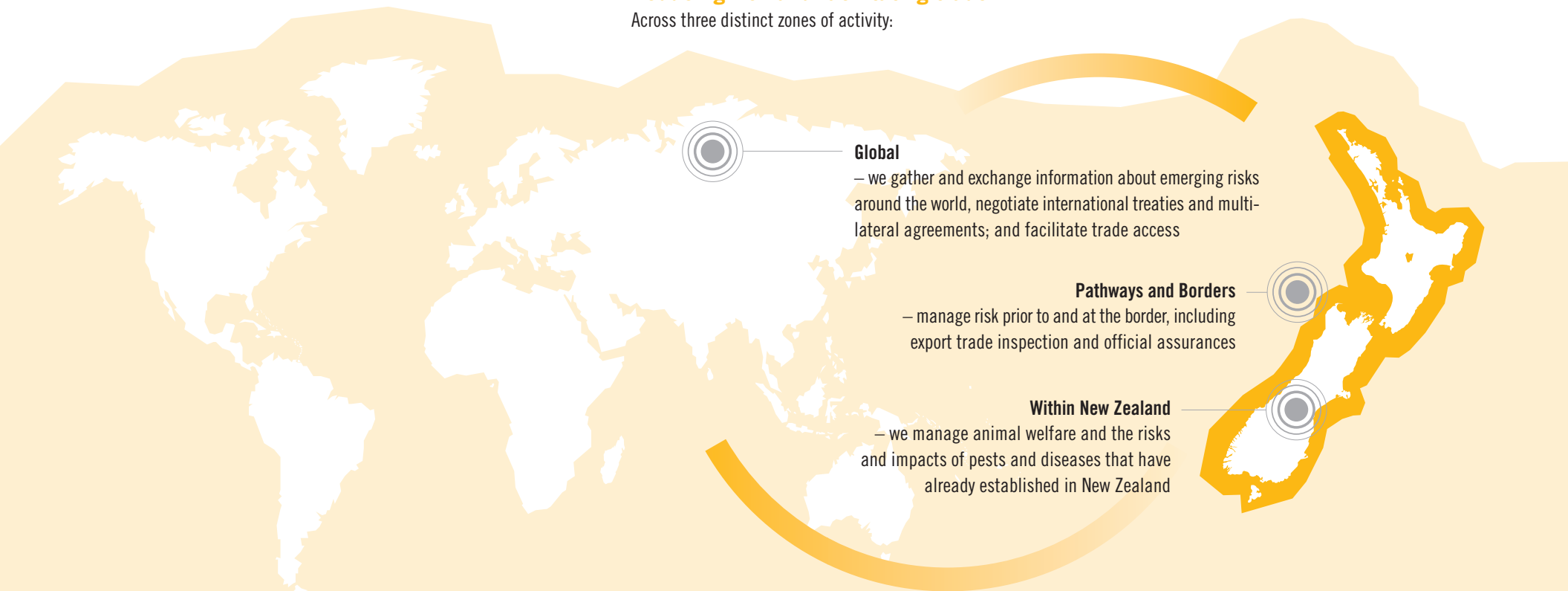
## How we do it

Our work has three outcomes:

- // Prevent harmful organisms from crossing New Zealand's borders and establishing, while ensuring trade and tourism are maintained.
- // Reduce the unwanted harm caused by organisms already established in New Zealand.
- // Support New Zealanders to be informed and involved participants in the biosecurity system.

## Reducing risk and facilitating trade

Across three distinct zones of activity:





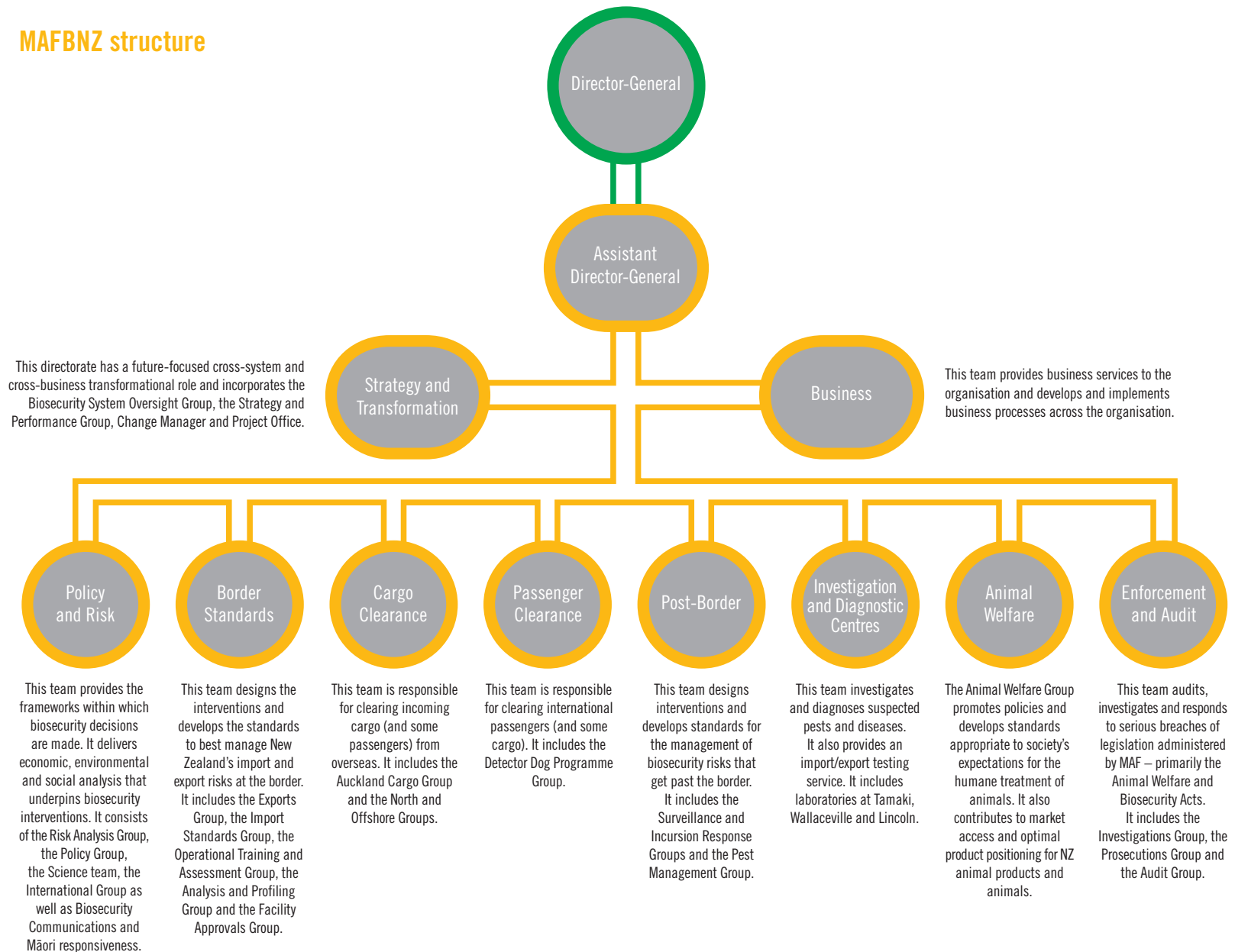
A Fish and Game volunteer restocks “check, clean, dry” pamphlets in a hut



A DOC ranger points out didymo signage to a visiting fisherman



## MAFBNZ structure



## Our challenges and opportunities

- // Meeting New Zealanders' increasing expectations for protection of economic, environmental, health and social opportunities from unwanted biosecurity pests and diseases.
- // Managing fluctuating numbers of passengers and volumes of trade from increasingly diverse origins.
- // Maintaining adequate levels of protection to maximise export opportunities while not unfairly hindering imports into New Zealand.
- // Identifying and adapting to emerging biological threats, including climate change.
- // Ensuring we have access to the right skill sets to deliver effective decisions and interventions.
- // Finding more effective ways to deploy limited resources across the biosecurity system.
- // Enabling stakeholders to take responsibility for managing biosecurity risks their activities create.
- // Connecting with other agencies which have a diverse range of perspectives.
- // Operating in an environment of greater scrutiny of our decisions.
- // Ensuring that the new biosecurity business group is connected by a shared vision and strategy, has clear accountabilities, clear roles and responsibilities, and a strong business transformation capability.
- // Ensuring that we involve and influence a wider range of ethnic communities such as Pacific Island and Asian communities.

## Moving forward together

### We'll lead effectively

We'll lead the biosecurity system with clear direction. We'll integrate and align efforts across the key agencies, organisations and industries. We'll help the system to predict and respond effectively to unfolding events or changing priorities, and prioritise scarce resources to where they will make the biggest difference.

### We'll make informed decisions

Decisions will be based on accurate and timely information. They'll integrate science and a full understanding of the social, cultural, environmental and economic values at stake across the spectrum of land, freshwater and marine environments. We'll show stakeholders that we consider their interests in our decision-making process.

### We'll manage borders more effectively

We will have the best pre-border and border risk interventions in the world and we'll complement that with a suite of new intervention methods that meet the challenges of increasing volumes of passengers and products. We will learn to improve the system from any border breaches.

### We'll collaborate

We'll build a better system by working together. We will learn from other peoples' efforts.

### We will build collective responsibility

We will lead a movement to encourage all New Zealanders and overseas visitors to actively manage their own biosecurity risks. Importers and exporters and primary industries will work with us to improve response readiness and manage pests that get through the border.

### We will be prepared

We will look outward for signs of change in the international political, economic, social and technological environment that may affect our biosecurity. We will identify, monitor and adapt to emerging pest and disease threats so we are better prepared to deal with them.

### We will recruit and retain skilled people

We will build a team to deliver effective decisions and interventions, providing them with the right tools to do the job, making sure they know what is expected of them at work and have opportunities for development.



## Our success

We will know that we successfully worked together when:

- // Primary producers know and trust that the best efforts are being taken to reduce risks to production.
- // Industry sectors – importers, exporters, and the travel industry – play a major role in reducing biosecurity risks.
- // The public understands biosecurity's importance, comply with its rules, report the unusual and have confidence that dangerous incursions are minimised and managed appropriately.
- // Environmental groups know risks to flora and fauna are being minimised, established environmental pests are being managed appropriately, and the biodiversity of our native ecosystems is being protected.
- // Māori will be involved in biosecurity.
- // Scientists will know decisions are based on the best scientific knowledge available, gaps in science capability are being closed, and there are incentives for them to work collaboratively across agencies.
- // Regional councils will recognise central government's leadership role – facilitating national coordination (where appropriate) and involving regional councils transparently in relevant decisions and actions.
- // The public health sector will know the risk of zoonotic and pest-borne diseases and venomous species being introduced is being managed effectively.
- // Government will be confident that New Zealand's biosecurity system is robust.





A gardener reports an unusual ant nest in his backyard in Napier





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This brochure is printed on the most environmentally friendly paper available on the market today.