

A satellite view of New Zealand, showing the North and South Islands, surrounded by the Southern Ocean. The land is colored in shades of green and brown, indicating vegetation and terrain. The surrounding ocean is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with some white clouds.

High Priority Organisms Project - Vision

NEW ZEALAND. IT'S OUR
PLACE TO PROTECT.





High Priority Organisms –

A vision for the outcomes of this strategic project

Matthew Stone

Project Manager

Incursion Investigation Manager, IDC

Project Objectives

- **Develop a standardised framework for organism-specific biosecurity information**
 - Goal 1. To provide effective leadership across the system
- **Support decisions on the appropriate allocation of biosecurity system resources**
 - Goal 2. To make timely and informed decisions
- **Communication of biosecurity risks and priorities to MAFBNZ and external audiences**
 - Goal 5. To see that everyone takes responsibilities for biosecurity risks and interests

Organism Prioritisation Framework

Components: “what it is”

- **Organism Prioritisation Policy**
 - Defines Categories of organisms
 - Identifies Criteria for categorisation
 - Defines biosecurity system performance expectations for organism categories
- **Dataset of standardised organism information**
 - Relating to Categories and Criteria of Policy
 - Dataset organised as three tools
 - » Impact Assessment Tool
 - » Risk Assessment Tool
 - » Intervention Prioritisation Tool
 - Supports a variety of “Lists”
- **Business system**
 - System management responsibilities and processes
 - MAFBNZ business ownership of data variables
 - Expectations for how information is used by business

Organism Prioritisation Framework

Myths: “what it is NOT”

- The answer to all MAFBNZ’s problems
 - Sorry folks ...
- An Information Technology Project
 - Not reporting through ITGB
- The “Organism Master Data Solution” referred to in the IM Plan
 - This is still in the future, and will be a true “IT Project”
 - Though we hope what is created is a significant step in the right direction
- A reference database of biological, ecological and epidemiological information on organisms
 - Though it may contain relevant technical data in a standardised format, if required by the criteria

Organism Prioritisation Policy

- **Biosecurity Act 1993: “any organism a chief technical officer believes capable of causing unwanted harm to any natural and physical resources or human health”**
 - The concept of organism “unwantedness” is central to and a natural fit with the objectives of the High Priority Organisms project
- **Review and update of the existing “Biosecurity Council Policy Statement on Unwanted Organisms”**
 - This was a “multi-agency” initiative and it shows!
 - Subsequent amalgamation of agency lists has created a shambles
- **We are in a better position to now state the purpose of listing and resulting implications**
 - the statutory implications, but also ...
 - the system implications, for MAFBNZ and stakeholders
 - Without constraining the ability of decision makers to apply contextual information to specific scenarios
- **Categories of “unwanted”, and the associated criteria**
 - Strengthen the links to biosecurity values (which are now better understood and articulated)
- **Explanation of the various “lists” and how they are expected to inform biosecurity planning and operations**



The assessment tools

Tool	Key Output	Use	Audience

Business System

- **Ownership of system**
 - Organism Prioritisation Policy owner
 - Oversight and coordination of system
- **Ownership of data variables**
 - Align business accountabilities with system information
 - Expect business owners to have processes by which data variables are derived
- **Expectations for BAU and “change management”**
 - Supports measurement and reporting of biosecurity system
- **Scope for Directorate and OMC roles**
- **System must efficiently capture business as usual outputs**
 - “Working smarter”, not creating more work servicing the new tools
- **Unifying force across MAFBNZ and the biosecurity system**