

**Update on the High Priority Organisms Project:**

Piloting of the framework is currently underway and is anticipated to continue over the next few months. Consultation will be undertaken through internal and external focus groups. The dates for the focus groups have not been finalised and is subject to the completion of the pilot study, development of the business system workstream and draft HPO policy. The approach will be to deliver a complete view of a draft system and process for consultation and review, using the project team and steering group to guide development up to this point.

The following is a summary of progress to date.

**Organism Long-lists (completed):**

Compiled from stakeholder nominations and other intelligence sources; these lists of organisms are from each of the five sectors (animal and human health, plant health and terrestrial, freshwater and marine invasive species). It contains organisms which on the basis of the compilers' judgement are considered:

- likely to have a significant impact on one or more values, should they establish<sup>1</sup> in New Zealand and
- have a reasonable likelihood of entering and establishing in New Zealand taking account of current distribution in relation to trade patterns and eco-climatic requirements.

Currently the lists contain the following number of organisms:

Workstream (Sector)	Organisms
Animal Health/Human Health	207
Plant Health	195
Invasive species freshwater	138
Invasive species marine	129
Invasive species terrestrial	85

The overall “long-list” comprises approximately 750 organisms not established in New Zealand, excluding organism that are present but subject to an existing long-term management programme.

The list is a starting point. Its purpose is to identify organisms to be assessed first using the framework being developed by the project team. Organisms can be added to or removed from the list if relevant information becomes available. Inclusion or exclusion from the list has no immediate policy or resource allocation implications, other than the High Impact Lists<sup>2</sup> and High Risk Organism Lists<sup>3</sup> will eventually be compiled from this long-list.

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<sup>1</sup> Established: self sustaining populations, outside containment

<sup>2</sup> High Impact Organism Lists: The High Impact Organism list impacts on the generic capability of intervention points. High Impact Organism will be representation of all sectoral

### **Prioritisation Criteria (completed):**

A multi-criteria decision analysis tool has been developed, which uses high level “objective” criteria with semi-quantitative scoring. Aggregation of scores into indices and ranks, with threshold values, will be tested during the piloting phase.

Criteria Framework							
	Impact				Likelihood		
	Economic	Environmental	Socio-Cultural	Human Health	Entry & Exposure	Establishment and Spread	Risk Management
# Criteria	4	3	7	4	3	3	4

The impacts are currently equally weighted across the four Impact values with provision to change this in the future if required. Scores associated with the criteria allow for:

- Weighting of responses within criteria
- Weighting of responses between criteria

### **Risk Scenario (completed):**

A risk scenario template has been developed and will be tested during the piloting phase. This compiles all criteria into a single document and reflects the policy and business system for prioritising risk organisms.

An analyst completes the risk scenario and scores each criterion. Results are entered into the “HPO System”, which allows comparison across risk organisms.

### **Pilot Study (initiated):**

Fifty organisms have been purposively selected from the long-lists, providing a range across: organism types, organism impacts/risks and organism uncertainty (or state of knowledge).

For each organism selected, a risk scenario will be developed. Data will then be compiled from the scores and aggregated indices/ranks. During the pilot study, consideration will be given to the usability and consistency of the tools and methods developed so far. The project team anticipate significant changes to the system and processes as a result of the pilot study.

### **Project Approach:**

A recent project report and decision document to the Post Border Governance Group has noted and agreed that the direction of the High Priority Organism project will now be confined to Phase 1 deliverables. It is proposed that a decision document will be

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concerns, conveying a need to have generic biosecurity intervention capability across all sectors.

<sup>3</sup> High Risk Organism Lists: A High Risk Organism has a high likelihood that the impacts will be realised because of its ability to enter, establish and spread throughout New Zealand. High Risk Organisms will have defined levels of specific capability and capacity maintained to intervene.

developed on the completion of Phase 1 to further progress the project to Phase 2, with Phase 3 being MAF's long term goal.

**Phase 1: Current deliverables as re-scoped by variations**

1. Development of policy and criteria
2. Creation of long-lists
3. Test of framework by pilot study
4. Finalise policy, criteria and aggregation methods through consultation using focus groups.

**Phase 2: Implementation**

1. Complete risk scenarios and scoring for all long listed organisms
2. Create High Impact Organism and High Risk Organism lists

**Phase 3: Future**

1. Database development linked to NZOR
2. Transition of Unwanted Organism Register

The HPO Project Objectives:

1. Develop a standardised framework for organism-specific biosecurity information
2. Support decisions on the appropriate allocation of biosecurity system resource
3. Communication of biosecurity risks and priorities to MAFBNZ and external audiences.

We will seek input from people with a role or interest in Organism Prioritisation during the process of developing the policy, business system and through the focus groups.

If you have any questions or comments, please email [Deirdre.Haines@maf.govt.nz](mailto:Deirdre.Haines@maf.govt.nz) with "HPO Project" in the subject line and your contact details and who you represent in the body of the e-mail.