

## Surveillance Strategy – setting the future direction for surveillance in New Zealand

The Biosecurity Surveillance Group has recently commenced work on a very exciting project to develop a strategy for a cross-sector national surveillance system that will set the direction for New Zealand's future surveillance activities. An implementation plan will follow to enable the vision and recommendations of the strategy to be put into operation.

This is an ambitious project and the first attempt in the world to develop a national surveillance strategy that covers the marine, animal, plant and environment sectors.

Prime Consulting's *International Review (2002) of New Zealand's biosecurity surveillance system* and the *Biosecurity Strategy (2003)* both identified a number of key recommendations to improve New Zealand's surveillance system.

The recent formation of the Biosecurity Surveillance Group has, for the first time, provided the resources and focus necessary to achieve the recommendations of the *Biosecurity Strategy* allowing the development of New Zealand's surveillance system into one that will be unrivalled internationally.

The surveillance strategy intends to

- Identify the future objectives of the surveillance system within New Zealand, based on the overall goals for biosecurity.
- Identify the roles, responsibilities and needs of partners and contributors to the surveillance system to improve collaboration for a more integrated approach.
- Develop a risk-based prioritisation system that can be used within and across sectors, ensuring efficient use of resources.
- Develop consistent quality measures for surveillance activities, so stakeholders will have confidence in New Zealand's biosecurity and surveillance systems.
- Define the underlying principles and approaches that guide surveillance operations.
- Identify surveillance partners and develop an agreed model for working together to improve decision-making and to increase resourcing options.
- Identify the current and future infrastructure requirements to support the surveillance system, including systems and people.
- Identify gaps in the knowledge and science required to support surveillance activities to ensure programmes are based on the best available science and technology.

The Surveillance Group is still finalising the planned approach for the strategy development. If you or your organisation is interested in receiving further information or participating in the strategy development please email [NZBiosecuritySurveillance@maf.govt.nz](mailto:NZBiosecuritySurveillance@maf.govt.nz) providing your name, organisation, phone number, postal and email address.

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