

31 May 2007

Update on the Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy

The Biosecurity Surveillance Group is working on a project to develop a strategy for a cross-sector national biosecurity surveillance system that will set the direction for New Zealand's future biosecurity surveillance activities. An implementation plan will also be developed.

This is a regular update on our progress. If you would prefer not to receive updates, please email NZBiosecuritySurveillance@maf.govt.nz to let us know.

Work on the biosecurity surveillance strategy is continuing. At present, the team are working on a review of the current state of biosecurity surveillance in New Zealand. This review brings together information from across all industries and sectors, including biosecurity surveillance activities from the last 10 years, and examines current priorities, objectives, communications, methodology, research, governance and funding, information management, roles, responsibility and capability.

On 1 June, we will be releasing our review of the current state of biosecurity surveillance as a document for internal review within MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. Internal consultation will be completed by the end of June, to allow for wider consultation by 1 August 2007.

We will be seeking written submissions and comments on the current state review, to find out whether it is an accurate reflection of the current biosecurity surveillance environment, situation, and activities being undertaken in New Zealand. We will be especially keen to hear of any activities which might be being undertaken, that we might not know about, and of any other potential gaps in our understanding of current biosecurity surveillance in New Zealand.

We also ask that you start considering your suggestions for improvement in the biosecurity surveillance system. We won't need these as part of the current state review, but we will be undertaking further consultation on the future of biosecurity surveillance in New Zealand in late 2007 and early 2008. At that time, suggestions for future biosecurity surveillance needs and opportunities will be a focus of our efforts.

Timeline of upcoming events:

Release of the review of the current state of biosecurity surveillance for internal comment:	1 June 2007
Internal comments on the review of the current state of biosecurity surveillance due:	27 June 2007
Release of the review of the current state of biosecurity surveillance for external comment:	1 August 2007
External comments on the review of the current state of biosecurity surveillance due:	22 August 2007
Tentative timeline for review of future biosecurity surveillance needs document	
Review of future biosecurity surveillance needs released for internal comment:	late September 2007
Internal comments due:	1 November 2007
Review of future biosecurity surveillance needs released for external comment:	1 February 2008
External comments due:	28 February 2008

If you have any questions or comments on the Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy, please email NZBiosecuritySurveillance@maf.govt.nz



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