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Update 12

Update on the Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy

The Biosecurity Surveillance Group is currently developing a strategy for a cross-sector national biosecurity surveillance system that will set the direction for New Zealand's future biosecurity surveillance activities.

Since our last update, we've incorporated your feedback into the draft Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy, and presented it for pre-consultation feedback to two important groups of external stakeholders.

In April, briefings and workshops introducing the strategy were held for key staff from other government agencies. There was good attendance, with all ministries and departments with an interest in biosecurity represented.

We've recently held three workshops to get input from a small group of stakeholders in biosecurity surveillance as to how the direction and structure of the strategy is looking. We've also had written comments from many of those invited to participate in our 'road test', and we appreciate the effort put in by those who have participated. We're currently reviewing the feedback we've received so that we can update the *draft* Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy to reflect the needs of all stakeholders. So far the feedback we've received is supportive of our general approach and we're encouraged by the interest stakeholders have shown in the future of biosecurity surveillance.

While most of the feedback supports our approach, some areas have been identified where further information or improvements are required, so we'll undertake further revisions to the draft over the next few weeks. We'll then be moving to seek cabinet approval to release the Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy for public consultation. At this stage, we're on track to have this released in October 2008 as planned.

Our website has been updated (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/surveillancestrategy>) and now includes a question-and-answer section.

Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy Development Process	
Development of the review of the current state of biosecurity surveillance	Completed
Internal consultation on the Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy	Completed
Briefings and workshops with other ministries and departments	Completed
Limited release of discussion paper for comment by key stakeholders	Completed
Public release of the Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy for public consultation	October 2008

If you have any questions or comments, or do not wish to receive the updates on the Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy, please email NZBiosecuritySurveillance@maf.govt.nz

