

## BIOSECURITY COSTS REGULATIONS / LEVY ORDERS REVIEW PROJECT – PROGRESS UPDATE No. 12 – August 2010

It has been 40 plus days since the change over to the new Biosecurity (Costs) Regulations 2010 and the Biosecurity (System Entry Levy) Order 2010. The project is closing, with the Implementation Plan almost completed and the new costs recovery processes embedded as business as usual. In this Update, I would like to cover the last few tasks being undertaken and provide a few reminders of what the project set out to achieve.

Very early in the project we identified the need to develop two tools; the resource allocation model and the costs recovery model. These have worked well throughout the project and continue to be used by the businesses to identify areas where efficiencies can be gained, and to forecast resource demand based on imported goods volume fluctuations and trends. The total costs recovery budget remains at \$23m, as it was in the previous financial year and as it is forecast for the next.

Everyone should now be aware that MAF are no longer posting invoices for the former Biosecurity Shipping Container Levy and the Gypsy Moth Levy, and that the NZCS are no longer invoicing on MAF's behalf for the Biosecurity Risk Screening Levy. These levies ceased to exist as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Invoices for importations in June 2010, were invoiced in July however.

The New Zealand Customs Service now invoices on MAF's behalf for the new Biosecurity System Entry Levy (BSEL) at \$12.50. This Levy replaced the three former levies mentioned above, with the total costs recovery in this 'fixed' activity area remaining the same at \$13m.

Detailed information on all aspects of MAF's costs recovery is available from our web site at:  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/cont-carg/costs-regs-levy-orders-project>

One of the last project tasks to be completed is the development of a "Fees and Charges" internet web page. This web page will provide links to all areas of MAF where costs recovery and charging for services are made. As soon as the page development is complete, the project will notify all parties.

The final task of any project is the project's closure, where the project is reviewed and any lessons learnt are noted for future use in other projects. The closure will involve discussions with MAF's stakeholders and with staff on how the project delivered, what it delivered, and whether the benefits stated were realised. One of the areas we will be focusing on is the project's communications, where despite the wide range and large number of organisations, and range of medium that we distributed information through, we still had businesses that did not know of the changes on 1 July 2010.

MAF will be soon advising clients on the changes to fees and charges as a result of the GST rate change.

If you have any questions about the project, or wish to provide feedback to assist the Project Team, please contact me directly (029 909 8519) or via e-mail at [howard.webber@maf.govt.nz](mailto:howard.webber@maf.govt.nz)

The Project Team and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Howard Webber, Project Manager, MAFBNZ.

