



BIOSECURITY COSTS REGULATIONS / LEVY ORDERS REVIEW PROJECT – NEWSLETTER #4 – February 2009.

Since the December 2008 Newsletter, we have made significant progress. In consultation with our project stakeholder sample groups we have identified a second initiative and have explored this in some detail.

Work has been completed on the costs, volumes, resource requirements, and forecasts, for the development of the financial model and likewise for the consumption model. The Biosecurity Costs Regulations (2006) have been fully reviewed and an Option One formulated. The numbers of individual charges have been reduced and the application of those remaining has been simplified and clarified.

Option Two was presented to the project's Business Steering Group and we have been authorised to proceed with the full development of this option. This will result in the project delivering two options for public consultation in April 2009, about four (4) weeks behind our original plan.

In Option Two, the three existing levies: Risk Screening, Sea Container and Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) may be revoked. The large number of charges under the Biosecurity Costs Regulations (2006) would also cease. Using the detail now available within the models developed, we are suggesting a single levy calculated from the fixed or baseline costs and a single hourly rate charge calculated from the variable or inspectorate costs.

The collection of the single levy will continue to be collected through the NZCS Cusmod system, with the name of this levy still to be defined. There will be several 'specialist' fees in the reviewed Regulations in addition to the hourly rate charge, e.g. Permit to Import Fee, Facility Registration Fee.

This project is working with the NZCS in the development of costs recovery policy and business processes for the Joint Border Management Systems (JBMS), Stage Two Business Case. The development of Option Two was partially driven by the need to position MAF and the NZCS processes for integration into JBMS in the near future.

As soon as the detail in Option Two has been accepted by the project's Business Steering Group, we will start the public consultation process on both options.

Information on the project activities and progress can be found at –
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/cont-carg/costs-regs-levy-orders-project>

Should you have any questions about the project, or should you wish to provide feedback to assist the Project Team, please contact me directly (029 9098519) or via e-mail at howard.webber@maf.govt.nz. The Project Team and I look forward to working with you.
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