

BIOSECURITY COSTS REGULATIONS/LEVY ORDERS REVIEW PROJECT – PROGRESS UPDATE No. 7 – July 2009

Many of you will be aware that MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) is reviewing its activities at the border in relation to the significant downturn in the volumes of imported goods. This downturn translates in to less revenue from the cost recovered activities and expenditure must be reduced.

The changes being proposed, while being driven by the current economic climate, also reflect a new way of managing biosecurity risk at the border that is more efficient, effective and less resource intensive. We intend to introduce changes not only in capacity and expenditure but also in the way sites and border operations are run.

As mentioned in previous Progress Updates, we have developed an activity time taken and volumes model (resource allocation model) that incorporates Treasury forecasts and feedback from discussions with our industry partners. This three year model of imports through various pathways is now being used by MAFBNZ to inform the review of border operations and the development of business plans; ensuring the right balance of resources for the required Biosecurity clearance activity needed for the volumes of imported goods.

While the project waits for the review of border operations to conclude, we have been working with Customs to find more cost effective ways of collecting the MAF levies (Biosecurity Risk Screening, Sea Container and Gypsy Moth). We propose to combine these three in to a single levy that is collected through the Cusmod system.

The rationalisation of the specific tasks and their applicable costs based on activity, inspector time and material resources required is now complete. The number of charges contained in the proposed Regulations has been reduced and an improved clarity around their application has been achieved.

The project will be making its final proposal to the MAFBNZ Directors on the 30th July 2009. We will then seek Cabinet approval for public and stakeholder consultation.

There has now been a delay of four weeks in the project plan and a new calendar has been drafted, which schedules consultation for the six weeks of 24 August through 2 October 2009. We will continue to keep everyone informed of the project's progress through the various stages of its development.

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

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

The Project Team and I look forward to working with you.

Howard Webber, Project Manager, MAFBNZ.

