

BIOSECURITY COSTS REGULATIONS/LEVY ORDERS REVIEW PROJECT – PROGRESS UPDATE No. 9 – November 2009

MAF has reviewed the Biosecurity Costs Regulations 2006 and three levy orders - the Biosecurity Risk Screening Levy Order 2006, the Biosecurity Shipping Container Levy Order 2006, and the Biosecurity Gypsy Moth Levy Order 2004. The work has taken us longer than originally planned due to the number of costs and levies and the complexity this brought to the review.

We have prepared a discussion paper that outlines the proposed changes to the biosecurity cost regulations and levies. The discussion paper also outlines the possible future implications of the proposed 'Joint Border Management System' which, if implemented, will involve replacing MAF's and Customs' computerised border clearance systems with a single, shared system.

Subject to Cabinet approval, we expect to begin formal consultation on the proposals in early December. Submissions on the discussion paper will be due in early February 2010.

In addition, we are planning a series of three workshops to discuss the proposals with affected industry stakeholders. The proposed dates are listed below; separate invitations will follow.

The New Zealand Customs Service will be joining MAF at the workshops to discuss the benefits and cost implications of the Joint Border Management System, and to discuss proposed changes to the Customs import transactions fees.

Planned dates for the workshops are:

Tuesday 15 th December	Auckland	Auckland Biosecurity Centre
Wednesday 16 th December	Wellington	Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace
Thursday 17 th December	Christchurch	MAFBNZ offices, Sir William Pickering Drive

Members of the project team will be available for discussion throughout December 2009 and January 2010.

Information on activities and progress to date can be found at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/cont-carg/costs-regs-levy-orders-project>

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand and the project team in particular, would like to thank all of our industry partners who provided assistance in so many ways. Also we would like to thank work site managers and staff who assisted the 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 continuing to working with you.

Howard Webber, Project Manager, MAFBNZ.

