

## Myrtle Rust Governance Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	31/05/2019	<b>Time</b>	1.30pm – 3.00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Charles Fergusson Tower (38 Bowen Street) - Meeting room 1.03 Skype link: <a href="https://www.skype.com/join/9388561">+6448194675</a> , Conference ID: 9388561		
<b>Chair</b>	John Walsh (MPI)		
<b>Members in attendance</b>	Phil Brown (Regional Council Bio Managers), Matt Dolan (NZPPI), Haami Piripi (Iwi Chairs), John Sanson (BNZ)		
<b>Apologies</b>	Hilary Aikman (DOC), Kim Morgan (DOC), Mike Slater (DOC), Melanie Mark-Shadbolt (TTW) Joris De Bres (Project Crimson Trust)		
<b>Observers</b>	Ezra Jennings Pedro (BNZ), Paula Loader (BNZ), Fiona Thomson (DOC), Naomi Parker (MPI), Suliana Teasdale (DOC), Jessica Roche (BNZ), Peter Thornbury (BNZ), Fleur Matthews (BNZ)		
<b>Minute taker</b>	Danny Gorman (BNZ)		
<b>Next meeting</b>	28/06/2019		

Summary of Actions	Section	Responsible	Date of action	Status
1 Provide formal thanks to the working group.		Chair	25/01/19	To be actioned.
2 Provide an update on planned activities at the next meeting, and identify critical gaps in future activities.	3	BNZ & DOC	31/05/19	
3 Consider what the Governance Group structure may look like going forward and bring suggestions to the next meeting.	3	All parties	31/05/19	
4 Deliver an update at the next meeting on the conclusion of the research programme.	4	Paula Loader (BNZ)	31/05/19	
5 Report back on what readiness work is planned / underway with GIA partners on preparedness for more virulent strains of myrtle rust.	5	BNZ	31/05/19	

## Items under discussion

### 1 Welcome, introductions & apologies

Apologies accepted.

Phil Brown (Regional Council Bio Managers) dialled in.

MPI welcomed Dr Jessica Roche to the team backfilling for Zoe Ogilvie who is on maternity leave (Jessica's role in myrtle rust is 0.2 FTE, or 1 day/week).

### 2 Previous minutes, matters arising and actions

Considered read and accepted. Outstanding action from the previous meeting:

- Chair to finalise the letter providing formal thanks to the working group.

### 3 Budget announcement and MR activities 2019/20

The Governance Group noted that there was no announcement of Government funding for myrtle rust coordination beyond 30 June 2019. This decision will affect BNZ's and DOC's ability to contribute in the future. Both agencies are now working through the implications of the budget.

The tabled proposed activities for 2019/20 have been informed by the prioritised action plan and the outcomes of Budget 2019. However, the agencies are still working through the resourcing and implications before the activities can be finalised.

**Action:** BNZ and DOC to provide an update on planned activities at the next meeting, and identify critical gaps in future activities.

There was some discussion about the ongoing structure / role of the Myrtle Rust Governance Group. It was agreed that Governance members would bring suggestions for further discussion to the next meeting.

**Action:** All parties to consider what the Governance Group structure may look like going forward and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

### 4 Joint dashboard report

MPI and DOC spoke to the group about the dashboard noting:

- The overall status of the programme is green.
- Governance endorsed the strategy in March – BNZ is ready to communicate the strategy and activities going forward.
- Twenty research programme reports are due in June. BNZ is currently receiving drafts. Good progress is being made and it was agreed that Paula Loader (BNZ) will give an update on the progress of the reports at the next meeting.
- DOC's tier 1 monitoring programme continues throughout the country with only 1% left of plots to measure (3 plots)
- The fieldwork component for a project for developing methods to monitor the canopy of swamp maire using aerial photography is complete.
- Seed banking is currently at 66%.
- One new find has been confirmed in early May 2019 on the West Coast. This find is not unexpected
- Compensation is expected to be completed by the end of July and all claims to be settled by August 2019.
- The AsureQuality contract for the myrtle rust Biosecurity Hotline will conclude on 30 June 2019. Changes to the call centre advice will take effect from the beginning of July.

**Action:** Paula Loader (BNZ) to deliver an update at the next meeting on the conclusion of the research programme.

## 5 Strategic Science Advisory Group (SSAG) (verbal update)

The consultation period for the science plan concluded in May. Most respondents were happy overall and gave constructive feedback. Earlier today, the myrtle rust SSAG worked through the feedback received and further refined the plan. The key changes are:

- All priorities outlined within the plan have been downgraded by one star.
- Undertook a careful recheck of indicative costings to make sure realistic figures have been applied to achieve the desired outcomes – only a very small adjustment was made to costings.
- The final plan will strengthen the message to make it clear that the science plan is not a guaranteed fix for all issues and is unfunded.
- The final version will include stronger links to the myrtle rust strategy.
- An additional section upfront related to system infrastructure to cover germplasm storage and data.
- Duplications have been minimised.

The final version of the science plan will be compiled in the first week of June with a view to have it available for governance endorsement at the next meeting in late June. Publishing to follow in July.

The SSAG has discussed holding a science symposium in Auckland over two days in September. This is a key action flagged in the strategy. The focus of the symposium is to share outcomes of science, progress to date, where the science needs to go in the future and given what we know now, what we should be doing differently.

A discussion took place around the possibility of future incursions of other more virulent strains of myrtle rust. Research underway includes susceptibility testing for other strains. It is unlikely that other strains could arrive in New Zealand on the wind. The biosecurity system has mechanisms in place to prevent the introduction of myrtle rust infected plant material from countries where different strains are present, e.g. South Africa. If the risk of a new strain changes, this will trigger a review of the strategy.

**Action:** BNZ to report back on what readiness work is planned / underway with GIA partners on preparedness for more virulent strains of myrtle rust.

## 7 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Meeting closed at 3:00PM.