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Protect

New Zealand **Biosecurity** Institute

Our mission: "To preserve and protect New Zealand's natural resources from the adverse impacts of invasive pests."


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Protect

Autumn 2006

Magazine of the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute

Contents

Editor's Note

The position of Editor at *Protect* remains unfilled. Please contact Carolyn on cl.sb@xtra.co.nz if you would like to take up this role within the Institute.

New Zealand **Biosecurity** Institute

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News from the Executive

Tertiary Biosecurity Qualification

Professor Mick Clout, Director of the Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity, at the University of Auckland's Tamaki Campus, is currently investigating a biosecurity diploma through Auckland University.

A proposal will be prepared for NZQA, in consultation with NZBI, for this new qualification. As it takes some time for formal recognition for new courses through the NZQA, it would probably be launched in 2008. In the meantime, selected modules will be developed as "short courses".

Study/Travel Awards

The judging panel has made its decisions on this and successful applicants will be announced once they have been notified.

Protect

Thank you to those who have come forward with offers to help out as part of an editorial team for *Protect*. We still do not have a volunteer to take over the role of editor to pull issues of this worthwhile magazine together – please let me know if you are interested in doing this. Also, offers of papers for *Protect* are always welcome, as we are constantly looking for new material for each issue.

MOU with BNZ and NZBI

The finishing touches are being put on the Memorandum of Understanding between NZBI and Biosecurity New Zealand, and should be finalised in the near future.

Corporate membership

It has been suggested that NZBI accept a bulk sum for corporate membership. After discussion, it was decided unanimously that the membership remain as status quo for individuals.

Position statements

Ian Popay, Mike Harre, Michael Urlich and Jonathan Boow are working on a draft NZBI position statement on government funding for biosecurity research. Anyone wishing to contribute to this can contact Ian Popay on ipopay@doc.govt.nz

Asia Pacific Mosquito Control Association

John Gardner reported to the NZBI on his participation in the foundation meeting for the Asia Pacific Mosquito Control Association, which was intended to establish a forum that would represent the interests of the mosquito vector control community in the Asia Pacific region.

He was interested in formulating synergies between "like-minded" organizations dealing with biosecurity issues. He recommended that the NZBI congratulate this initiative and give its support to the formulation of such a forum and the NZBI Executive has done so – the letter to the APMCA is in Appendix 1.

Archiving documents

The vacuum of documents pertaining to the NZBI and its history has raised the issue of the necessity of official archiving. Anyone who is interested in taking on the role of institute historian would find a wealth of material to be collected and archived. Contact Carolyn at cl.sb@xtra.co.nz if you are interested in taking on this role.

NETS2005

Accounts for 2005 NETS were finally closed after months of effort by Ali Howard and her team chasing down the final three payments!

NETS2006

Planning for NETS2006 in Paihia is progressing well, with sponsorship being secured, and a full programme of speakers organised. A draft programme will be available on www.biosecurity.org.nz very soon, with registration packs going out at the end of March.

Membership

Jane Barton is doing a great job getting the membership details sorted for our new database – not a small job now due to the healthy size of our membership list!

Subs are due now for 2006; if you pay by March 31, 2006, it is only $30 and you'll be eligible for a members'

New members

The NZBI warmly welcomes the following new members:

Adrian Smith .....Waterwise Solutions
Melvyn Galbraith .....UNITEC New Zealand
Suzy Randall..... Department of Conservation
Allan Criglington ..... Nursery & Garden Industry Association
Stephen Butcher ..... Biosecurity New Zealand
Sarah Russell (now Corcoran).....AQIS
Michael Rigarlsford..... Greater Wellington Regional Council
Miranda Bernett..... Auckland Regional Council
Lindsay Scott..... Environment Canterbury
Simon Chapman.....Envirologic Ltd,
Neil Gallagher.....Horizons Regional Council
Wayne Godfrey..... Independent Monitoring Ltd

Carolyn Lewis

Branch news

Lower North Island AGM and Field Trip

Hawke's Bay Regional Council hosted the AGM and field trip this year. The AGM was well attended by Greater Wellington RC, Horizons RC and Hawke's Bay RC. About 25 people attended the AGM, providing valuable input into the meeting.

We started off at 1pm at the Napier District Council chambers. Each regional council gave a run-down of what it had been up to recently. For us all, it appears to be strategy review time. This was a great opportunity to discuss various issues we're all having with our respective documents and to get a feel for which direction other councils are heading in.

Members take part in the Lower North Island Branch field trip in Hawke's Bay.

Craig Davey accepted the position of branch President, taking over from Mike Urlich. Ruth Fleeson has remained Secretary for another year.

One of the issues to come out of our meeting was trying to include all LNI branch members in AGMs/ field trips. We will be sending out a questionnaire to members with the aim of better meeting their needs regarding this. Many ideas were thrown around and we hope to get a good response so we can see more people involved!

After much needed choccy bikkies and a cuppa, we headed out to the estuary to look at the sea lavender which is becoming a problem around Napier. Most of us had never seen it making it really interesting. We then headed up to a new subdivision overlooking the sea where sections are selling for $500K. HBRC was having trouble with apple of sodom being spread by the developers' machinery, so the regional council was enforcing the cleaning of machinery used on site to limit spread of weeds in the area. A huge task but worthwhile!

The next day, we headed to the Peka Peka swamp to see what's been happening with the restoration work there. The trees have been sprayed off and killed, which has exposed more of the water and smaller wetland plants. As wetland protection is becoming more of a focus for most of us, it was interesting to see the HBRC management plan in action here.

From here, we headed to Stu's Chilean needle grass site to have a look at the huge effort involved in clearing land of it. This plant is pretty easy to pass off as a normal pasture grass — you really need to know what you're looking at, and what to look for. Hopefully no seeds made it back down south to our areas!

Climbing spindleberry was the last stop of the day where Stu showed us a huge section of trunk taken from here — about 32 growth rings. Definitely time for the Grazon in our areas before it gets too late…

All together it was another good annual trip for the LNI branch. Thanks guys and see you all again soon.

Ruth Fleeson

Asia Pacific mosquito collaboration initiative

By John (JR) Gardner
Senior Advisor Biosecurity
New Zealand Ministry of Health

Introduction

Recently I visited Singapore to attend a meeting that was intended to establish a forum to represent the interests of the mosquito vector control community in the Asia Pacific region. This report is being presented so that members of the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute are advised of this new development within the mosquito control community in the Asia Pacific region.

Background

The mosquito has been described as "man's deadliest enemy" and increasing population growth, urbanisation, and travel has resulted in a disquieting increase in mosquito-borne disease with malaria and dengue becoming top priorities for the international health community. Although the major impacts of disease have been in the tropical regions, the advent of new epidemics of mosquito-vectored diseases such as west Nile virus in North America has shown that this insect is capable of inflicting considerable human health and economic damage in many parts of the world both temperate and tropical.

It is telling to discover that Singapore, possibly the one country that has had the most success in rolling out rigorous public health programmes, is currently suffering a dengue epidemic with some 10,000 cases reported so far this calendar year.

Why a mosquito control association?

Given that the Asia Pacific region is facing many public health challenges caused by disease vector mosquitoes it would seem to make eminent sense that the mosquito control community should establish strong cross-border linkages to share knowledge and experiences. This will ensure the mosquito control efforts can be measured internationally and that the "best practice" standards can be identified and deployed to best effect against our common enemy.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently endorsed the need to "share best practices and lessons learned and harmonize policies and approaches with other countries by participating in inter-country initiatives" (WPR/RC56/10 dated July 21, 2005). Certainly the establishment of an Asia Pacific Mosquito Control Authority (APMCA) is consistent with the WHO philosophy.

Delegates to the foundation meeting to the Asia Pacific Mosquito Control Association gathered

Many of the countries in the region, in particular the south west Pacific, have limited capacity in terms of infrastructure and technical expertise. It is believed that the APMCA will be able to support these countries so that their programmes will be more effective.

Start-up meeting

Since that time, extensive work was undertaken to develop this proposal to the point where a meeting of interested parties took place on August 22, 2005, in Singapore. This meeting appointed a team to formalise the scope and objectives of the association, and form a *pro tempore* committee and subsequently an executive committee to drive the association forward.

For whatever reason, I was given the privilege of chairing the foundation meeting which was attended by 15 people with representation from industry, academia and government agencies from throughout Asia and Oceania.

Outcome of the initial meeting

By the completion of the meeting the following had been accomplished:

- A review of draft constitution
- Establishment of a *pro tempore* committee
- Start up of a skeleton secretariat
- Identification of a communications plan
- Identification of the time/place for the inaugural

Asia Pacific collaborative mosquito initiative Continued

assembly of the APMCA
- Identification of a membership plan and development of a membership drive
- A strategy to identify international fora and establish partnerships with them

The secretariat will be established in Singapore, initially it will be based at the offices of World Health Technologies.

Inaugural assembly

It was decided that the initial assembly of the APMCA would be the Indonesian Mosquito Control Association Conference in August 2006 in Bali. There the APMCA would run a "satellite conference" hosted by the Indonesian association.

Partnerships

There has already been significant work done to engage other mosquito control associations and like bodies within the region. The move to form the association has been endorsed by both prominent individuals from all sectors, and their organisations. The following organisational support has been offered:
- The Indonesian Mosquito Association has indicated it preparedness to host the APMCA during its Conference later next year (August 2006)
- The Mosquito Control Association of Australia, (MCAA) has proposed that it will support the APMCA and allocate a section of its Journal, the "MCAA Bulletin" to publish APMCA reports and academic papers.

As well as these partners other government and local government agencies have indicated their endorsement of the APMCA.

What's in it for the Institute?

I believe that the aims and aspirations of the APMCA fit comfortably with our own Institute's mission statement: "To preserve and protect New Zealand's natural resources from the adverse impacts of invasive pests." I would also suggest that the APMCA would make a worthy international partner for the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute.

Proposal

I would like to propose that the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute endorses the founding of the APMCA and initiates a process of recognising the new association as a "partner" of the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute.

President's Note: This proposal has been raised with the NZBI Executive and a letter sent giving our support to this organisation (see Appendix).

Weedbusters update

Weedbusters Awards to recognise 'local heroes' involved in fight against weeds.

Graphic: Tim Galloway

Weeds are a significant threat to New Zealand's natural environment, and the success of weed management requires a co-ordinated effort between government agencies, non-government organisations, community groups and individuals.

The regional Weedbusters Awards 2006 are about recognising the dedication and commitment of community groups, organisations and individuals in the fight against weeds. The awards pay tribute to "local heroes" who give their time to enhance the environment, and who help raise awareness of weed issues within the community.

Volunteers may participate in anything from weeding activities to field days, to information sessions or strategic planning exercises.

Educational groups that endeavour to educate a new generation are being recognised, as are industries or organisations that show commitment to educating, raising awareness and participating in sustainable weed management. Weed management might be only part of a project, but it will be an important part none the less.

Everyone who volunteers their time to weed busting is eligible for an award, and anyone can put forward nominations.

If you know and value the efforts of a group or individual then make sure you nominate them; or if you feel that you or your group has been putting in good work, don't be shy — please feel free to nominate yourself.

Nominations close March 31, 2006. For more information, visit the Weedbusters website at www.weedbusters.org.nz

Categories

There are five regional Weedbusters award categories:

Public Land: Awarded to volunteers and community groups for commitment and dedication in weed management initiatives on public land, including protected areas.

Private Land: Awarded to individual landowners, volunteers and community groups for commitment and dedication in weed management initiatives on private land.

Education: Awarded to an education group (e.g., a school, scouts, guides, Lions) to recognise the group's contribution to education and raising the awareness of weed issues amongst students and/or the community, and where possible for active participation in weed management initiatives.

Industry/Organisations: Awarded to an industry or an organisation to acknowledge dedication and efforts in sustainable weed management and/or educating and raising awareness of weed issues.

Excellence: Awarded to volunteers, community group, industry/organisation, or an individual for excellence in and commitment to weed management. Nominees for the Excellence Award may be taken from the other four Weedbusters Award categories.

Shaping more effective partnerships for better biosecurity

By Basil Chamberlain
Chief Executive
Taranaki Regional Council

Summary

Successful biosecurity relies on the existence of effective and successful biosecurity partnerships. We will fail without them! It is therefore appropriate that considerable attention has been applied to biosecurity partnership development and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is to be commended for leading these efforts in recent times. Gains have been made, especially in the setting of a more strategically focused agenda than previously existed. However, we collectively can and must do better.

Partnership relationships come in a variety of forms. Some are more productive than others. For many situations we have little choice about the forms of relationship we take part in and so we rightly do our best to make them as effective as possible. Pre-border biosecurity international partnerships are a case in point.

For other biosecurity relationships though, we do have choice. We can shape our law, structures, systems and procedures that, in turn shape our partnership relationships to be more effective. For future biosecurity in New Zealand and especially future pest management at the inter-regional/national level, it is suggested that we need to reshape the forms of our present partnerships to more proactively and comprehensively address the challenges ahead. Our relationships will never be as effective as they can or need to be if we do not create the right foundation for them to develop from.

Significant structural reform is not a preferred method for achieving improvement. Instead, it is suggested that reform of our biosecurity law including, but not limited to the Biosecurity Act, is the way forward. Reform would need to:

- consider a biosecurity purpose that gives clear overarching direction to all parties;
- define duties, in addition to enabling powers, to reshape roles, partner mandates and therefore partnership relationships;
- reform pest management strategy instruments to provide for the sensible inclusion of all public and private land in planning and responding to pest threats; and
- encourage appropriate connections with other relevant legislation, systems, procedures and resources, especially between local and central government, to optimise contingency planning and response capacity.

We need our law to catch up with our thinking as presented in The Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand and to provide the framework and instruments that give statutory leadership and encourage more effective partnerships to achieve our national biosecurity objectives.

Timing is important. We need to start moving seriously now to protect and build on our gains and on our capacity to deliver against a background of increasing threat, challenge and public expectation.

Strategic design and management of partnerships

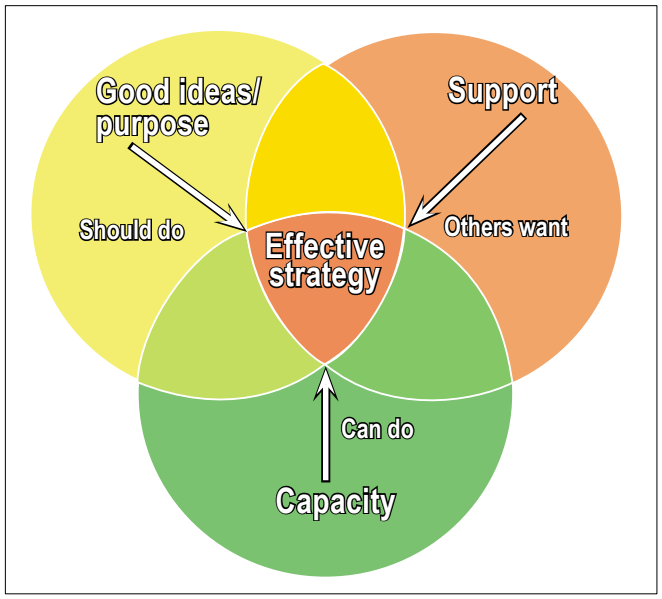
Constructive and productive partnerships are recognised as fundamental for any business or organisation. Effective organisational strategies require the coalescence of three components: good ideas or purpose; capacity to deliver; and the support of those stakeholders who allow and assist progress – the "should do, can do, others want" formula for success. For public services, such as biosecurity, good ideas or purpose are those which add public value.

Support is gained through the establishment and ongoing development of partnership relationships, often with many people, from business allies, to legislators and the paying public. The shape or form of these relationships can be extremely varied.

Good strategic management suggests that the same effort that is placed on developing good ideas or purpose, or on the capacity to deliver those things, should also be applied to the shaping and development of the most effective forms of partnerships to progress organisational objectives. This is not a simple or trivial task. It requires a similar level of professional and expert attention as is expected for the other two components.

Especially in recent years, the value and need to focus on effective partnerships has been highlighted and advocated to both central and local government agencies in a host of ways. For example, the recently reformed Local Government Act introduced

Shaping more effective biosecurity partnerships Continued



Effective stategy framework

requirements for councils to identify community outcomes and to develop long-term council community plans. There is an overt invitation to establish effective working partnerships with external parties to advance the attainment of community aspirations. There is a clear expectation of greater central and local government collaboration to this end. Considerable investment is being made both centrally and locally to drive effective partnerships because community challenges simply cannot be addressed without close collaboration.

The recent civil defence and emergency management legislation takes a like route, requiring the establishment of joint inter-council governance groups supported by joint local and central government emergency services officials groups.

There is compelling logic in the drive to co-ordinate and collaborate the public service stovepipes for the betterment of our communities. Achieving biosecurity objectives to protect and enhance our economy, health and environment provides the perfect example of the benefits of the synergies on offer.

Especially since the adoption of The Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand many people have constructively worked at having effective partnership relationships with energetic leadership from MAF in its new role. This has been sensible and appropriate.

A question worth asking, however, is: are the partnerships we are developing the best we can get for servicing New Zealand's biosecurity objectives? More specifically, is the effort and emphasis we are placing on developing the present forms of partnerships as productive as it could, or needs to be, to meet New Zealand's future biosecurity objectives and the role of biosecurity in protecting the way of life that we value?

Different partnerships — different results

Partnership relationships come in all shapes and sizes. New Zealanders have engaged in robust discussions about what partnerships are or should be, from our highest Courts and Parliament deliberating on questions about the Treaty of Waitangi partnership through to the more common, but often no less complex partnership relationships that we all deal with in our daily lives.

At one end of the range are what might be described as hierarchical partnership relationships. These are often presented as vertical, north/south depictions (for example, staff structures). In these types of partnership, one party has the power to direct and to enforce those directions on other partners if push comes to shove. Objectives, at least those of the major partner, can be achieved quickly and without compromise.

At the other end of the range are full power-sharing relationships where nothing is progressed unless all partners are aligned. These often east/west, or horizontally depicted relationships can be really hard work. Direction is replaced with advocacy and negotiation. Win/win, or lose equally, solutions have to be developed and sustained. Communications and personal relationships need constant attention. More talk than action, unsatisfactory compromises, gaps, diversions and added costs are all features of these types of partnership. Agreed actions are often reactive, sometimes to the point of being crisis driven.

Most relationships sit somewhere between these two extreme models.

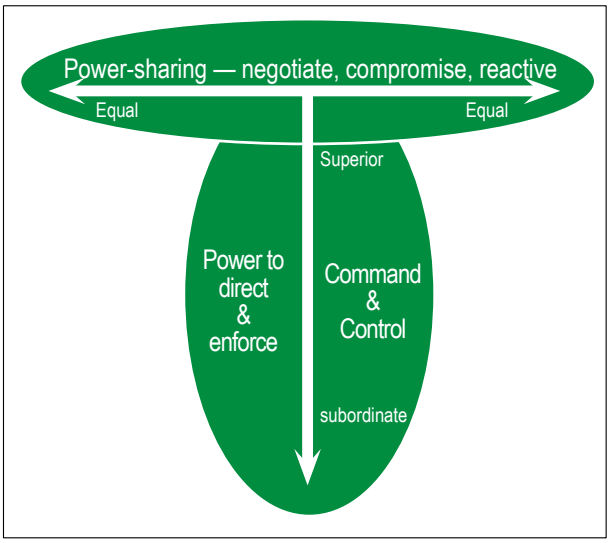
For many situations we have little choice about the form of partnership we have to engage in and so we rightly do our best to make them as effective as possible. In other cases though, we do have choice. We can shape our law, structures, systems and procedures, to in turn shape our partnership relationships to offer more or less opportunity to be effective.

The forms of biosecurity relationships

When an overview is taken of the chain of biosecurity activities, the full range of partnership forms are apparent.

In the pre-border area, the focus is necessarily on quite difficult power sharing, east/west international relationships. That environment is fixed and New Zealand has little option but to invest in making these

Shaping more effective biosecurity partnerships Continued



Biosecurity partnerships: The more difficult East/West type between equals; and the more effective North/South type with power to direct and enforce.

types of partnership work. Being a small country, the role of international institutions and agreements are important. We effectively have no clout that does not come from the collective because on our own we enjoy little ability to direct and enforce anything, although we perhaps like to think that we have earned a level of respect that does allow us to punch above our weight from time to time.

At the border and into surveillance and incursion response, partnership relationships alter significantly because the Government is more able to direct and enforce, and does so. That noted power-sharing partnerships are also present and growing. The rapidly increasing scale of the task of sea container inspection, for example, is simply beyond the capacity of Government to monitor, police and respond to all that needs to be done. It requires the development of willingly co-operative partnerships with the likes of importers.

As for pest management, it is hard to imagine that anyone could design such a complex set of relationship and partnership interactions. They are clearly the product of historical evolution.

Noting that pest management strategies are not mandated instruments, there could on the one hand be no partnerships at all. But of course they almost universally do exist at the regional level (West Coast being the exception). While regional pest management strategies often promote very successful co-operative arrangements to attend on issues, they are, if necessary and when stripped down, instruments of direction underpinned by clear enforceability. So at the regional level, the partnership between councils and their communities is fundamentally a north/south hierarchical one. There would be general agreement that the regional pest management strategies have been reasonably effective in addressing regional pest issues, at least on the privately owned land in each region.

Pest management confederation

Outside of the regional level, however, the scene changes dramatically. First there are the 16 regional authorities, all separate entities with primary accountability to their regional communities through their elected councils. Then, dependent on the type of Crown land, any one or more of several Government departments or Crown controlled entities (some of whom suggest they are not “the Crown” for pest management purposes), may have some role in pest management.

Private sector business groups or associations also tend to actively enter (in the form of specific funding arrangements) partnership relationships at the national or inter-regional level, as opposed to the regional level. Add the jurisdictional complexities of the marine environment that were exposed by *Undaria* and the inter-regional/national pest management scene is seemingly a messy confederation of potentially difficult partnerships.

If one could imagine the perspective of “threatening pests”, some hope or opportunity for successful establishment and expansion would seem apparent. The New Zealand national pest management defensive screen does not present as the equivalent of the comprehensive, proactive, seamless, assertive and successful defence of the All Blacks rugby team that we all admired earlier this year. Instead it looks more like a mix-and-match team that would seem to offer too many gaps and too much reactive hanging off the ball carrier — in spite of individual players being generally fit and trying hard. It looks just a tad like the UN wondering where Rwanda was a few years back.

The number of parties in play and the essentially horizontal nature of many of the relationships are significant factors behind the paucity of national or multi-regional, pest management strategies. No one can say that there are no national or inter-regional pest management issues. Clearly there are, (indeed most are, but these are also able to be successfully responded to locally), but with rare exception they have been unable to be attended to through the main instruments of our biosecurity legislation.

A second and related observation on these partnerships, especially between local and central

Shaping more effective biosecurity partnerships Continued

government agencies, stems from the primary distinguishing importance we have placed on land ownership.

Crown-owned land approaches half of the New Zealand land mass. It is a fact that for much of this land, and especially the Conservation estate, there are different pest management issues, priorities, and consequent management requirements than for most private land. But those distinctions also exist between private land holdings dependent on land use. For example, pest issues associated with forestry are dramatically different to dairy farming, or to apple growing.

Because land is owned by the Crown, and again with particular reference to the Conservation estate, there is a completely different set of "rules of engagement" for pest management. The first draughting gate in the pest management decision tree is: who owns the land? Dependent on the answer, the Biosecurity Act framework swings into play or alternatively other statutory frameworks such as the Conservation Act apply.

Pest threats do not conveniently and politely conform to recognise this land ownership distinction. Management responses cannot always be nicely confined to just private land.

As a result, a whole range of partnership relationships have been established to work through issues of co-ordination and cross-boundaries. These relationships are often of the difficult east/west types. Although entered into willingly and usually with good intent, the results have been mixed and an ongoing source of debate, discord and dissatisfaction. What does the Government agreeing to act as a good neighbour mean in practice? Why are we yet again debating from first principles, Crown contributions to pest management strategies? Why has the notion of strategically addressing the multiple objectives for possum control been beyond reach? Why do we need to resort to worthy, but legally flaky arrangements such as plant pest accords? Why do partners publicly beat each other up over incursion responses — is there a more deeply seated issue here, than just imperfect communications? Or… the list goes on.

Shaping more effective partnerships

Changes have occurred in recent years to promote partnership development under present arrangements. Following adoption of The Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand, changes were made, mainly within central government, to sharpen focus, accountabilities and to promote stronger integration. These actions have been commendable and praise is due to those, especially from within MAF and Biosecurity NZ who have applied strong effort, within an external environment of some scepticism that existed during the development and launch of the Strategy. There are encouraging signs that the central/regional chief executives' forum, for example, is developing and working through a useful agenda of issues with the benefit of policy development resources. A more strategic focus is evident. So, on the one hand, maybe we should allow some time to give these bud settings time to fruit.

But is more substantive change necessary and is time on our side? The mind leaps to thoughts of significant organisational structural change. This has tended to be our response mechanism in New Zealand over the past two decades. Maybe more or less organisations, more centralisation or decentralisation, or the creation of new agencies or dissolution of old ones in terms of biosecurity/pest management functions. However, nothing so dramatic is required. Major structural surgery should generally be the last, not the first option for consideration.

Biosecurity law reform

A simpler and smarter option is to tweak the form or shape of the partnership relationships by altering organisational mandates. Changing our biosecurity legislation to, in the first instance, provide a clear purpose, something akin to the vision of the Biosecurity Strategy, would be a good start. We do not have one at present. An overarching purpose with supporting principles would give statutory and therefore national leadership direction to the numerous biosecurity partners.

Carefully defined duties for central government, councils and others, in addition to the present enabling powers would reshape roles, partner mandates and therefore partner relationships. Properly done this could result in a bit less "hanging off the ball", more assertiveness, proactive game planning and inter-agency co-ordination. Clarity of roles in rapid response situations is essential.

Widening the scope of the Biosecurity Act and changing the design of the planning instruments to be able to be applied across all of New Zealand, regardless of ownership, is also surely a sensible notion. In the absence, in the early 1990s, of a serious national discussion of the role of biosecurity in addressing multiple outcomes of good health, environment and economy, and what that meant in terms of an appropriate management approach, the Act was unhelpful because in hindsight rather than challenge, it cemented in the illogical primary importance of land ownership in pest management.

Shaping more effective biosecurity partnerships Continued

This was more a product of history than of logic. The old Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries developed the Biosecurity Act in the early 1990s. Their reference frame was the protection of primary production and associated trade. Recently formed regional councils carried a similar traditional primary sector perspective into discussions on the statute's development. Their former authorities including agricultural (note, not ecological) pest destruction boards, were 99% focused on safeguarding primary production. The impacts of ragwort and rabbits, hieracium and Tb possums, and gorse on grass growth, or animal health were the foci.

Like our recently enacted emergency management/ civil defence legislation which promotes planning for the four R's of readiness, reduction, response and recovery from thinking about hazards and hazard-scapes, our pest management legislation should promote the same four 'R' approach to 'pests and pest-scapes'. Who owns land is a matter to consider, but not as the primary first order consideration. This does not simply mean having, or allowing regional pest management strategies to be "fully binding on the Crown", which has been a common call in recent years. Instead it involves redesigning the pest management planning instrument to provide for and enable the sensible inclusion of all land in transparent and comprehensive planning for pest management.

Examination of the Biosecurity Act leaves the thought that although pest management is purported to be focused holistically on health, environment and economic outcomes across New Zealand, the lack of prescriptive duties, proactive purpose and the design of the pest management strategy instrument to be so reliant on the successful development of east/west partnerships means that in practice it has fallen short.

It is a statute that was only ever going to be well suited to the economic driver and then perhaps only quite reactively. Unlike its companion statute, the Resource Management Act, the Biosecurity Act does not promote an ecological "bottom line" approach to pest management. The notion that a pest is not a pest until parties willingly agree to fund control is an approach that is well past its use-by date.

The Biosecurity Act included the notion of biosecurity's role in promoting all of the elements of sustainable development, but its design failed to deliver the necessary direction and planning frameworks to give statutory and therefore national leadership to the concept.

While examining roles and partnership mandates in any review of biosecurity and related legislation, it would also be useful to carefully explore similar potential partnerships for biosecurity activities other than pest management. Surveillance and incursion response activities are logical co-operation areas for central and local government. For example, what might be the benefit/cost in hard-wiring regional council resources into a specifically designed, extensive aquatic weed surveillance programme to be undertaken as part of council's resource management state of environment monitoring programmes? Pretty good, one would suspect.

Relationships to associated hazard response legislation, systems and procedures such as regional emergency management groups, plans, databases and facilities should also be explored. The potential to realise very substantial contingency biosecurity capacity and capability at the local level should be encouraged, even required, by our biosecurity legislation.

Timing is important

Law reform is a slow process and will possibly be even slower following the recent election. Right now, although we are building capacity in a number of biosecurity areas, we may be losing capacity in others. For example, in recent years, regional councils have substantially divested possum control resources and are likely to progressively move away from having vector management capability as well within a short time, in response to the changing nature of the national Bovine Tb strategy.

Possums in many places, I am told, are enormously pleased with the great progress that has been made towards the effective elimination of bovine Tb. As things currently line up they are looking forward to an enormous jump in average life expectancy about 10 years out, or even earlier in some places. We have known about this for many years, but our statutory mandates have not assisted, indeed required us, to proactively get together and address this issue. The good news is that it is not too late, but the fat possums are starting to sing!

We need to move at a pace that ensures the capacity to deliver components of our biosecurity strategy is still there to meet the tasks. We also need to capture, not lose, the on-the-ground gains that have been hard and expensively fought.

Goodwill and cultural inertia within organisations have arguably been useful allies in assisting pest management progress over the last decade. For example, regional councils have collectively made significant investments to find smart and "lawful" methods to essentially circumvent several of the rigorous statutory tests that could have made the development of controls for any number of pests extremely difficult. They did this because of a political

Shaping more effective biosecurity partnerships Continued

will to do the "expected/right" thing.

Conclusion

With the development of The Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand, we are now much clearer about the multi-purpose role of biosecurity. We have greater clarity of purpose and appreciation of the public value of biosecurity. We know that we need to protect and build our capacity to deliver. We now need our law to catch up and to provide the framework and instruments to support more effective forms of partnership relationships to achieve our biosecurity objectives comprehensively and consistently across all of New Zealand.

If we do that we might find that we get a far better return for the very large investments that many of us are willingly putting into our biosecurity partnerships. Central and local government partners and other key parties can then turn their strategic relationship building resources more outwardly to engage the major challenge of effective biosecurity partnering with the public of New Zealand.

We get occasional glimpses of how powerful this public engagement opportunity is. The Biosecurity Strategy highlighted the need to work on this potential. It is not simply a matter of awareness-raising or public relations. It involves appropriate empowerment.

Careful thought needs to be applied to shaping and optimising the Team New Zealand biosecurity partnership and so the sooner that we set ourselves in top partnership shape "internally", the better we will be able to extend our focus to proactively address the issues of the future. We know what most of these are but as playwright/author Samuel Beckett wisely advised:

"Everything will turn out alright unless something foreseen crops up".

Let's stop talking about why biosecurity law reform cannot happen — we know our patch protectionists have a box load of "why can'ts". Instead let's start from the proposition that we must do this. The challenges of building biosecurity success are daunting enough going forward, but in the same way that the tight five lay the foundation for All Black success, getting our biosecurity statutory foundation right is critical — let's get on with it!

Island biosecurity plans well advanced

By David Agnew
Technical Support Supervisor – Biodiversity Threats
Southland Conservancy,
Department of Conservation,
P.O Box 743,
Invercargill

The Department of Conservation's Southland Conservancy has been an innovator when it comes to island biosecurity procedures. With responsibility for more than 1000 islands which support numerous rare and endemic species, it is not surprising that Southland staff have afforded this aspect of conservation a high priority.

Southland's Island Biosecurity Plan plus the Best Practice Manual (a supporting document) have formed the basis for national standard operating procedures (SOPs) which now guide DOC's island biosecurity country-wide.

Evolution of SOPs, plan and manual

Andy Roberts of DOC produced the first draft of the Southland Conservancy Island Biosecurity Plan during 2003. He also produced a Best Practice Manual providing more detail on best practice in relation to methods, tools and equipment. National templates have been based on these documents for other conservancies to model their plans on.

The plan was then aligned with the national template that had been produced and finalised to the point that it was approved by the Conservator in November 2004. It continues to be updated as necessary.

The preparation of the Island Biosecurity Plan has increased the awareness, effectiveness and efficiency of biosecurity and quarantine in DOC's Southland Conservancy.

Islands covered by the plan?

The plan includes islands around the Fiordland and Stewart Island/Rakiura coasts plus the subantarctic groups: Antipodes, Bounty, Snares/Tini Heke, Campbell/Motu Ihupuku, and Auckland islands.

Many of these islands (especially those in the subantarctic) are pest free and most support valuable assemblages of native flora and fauna. There is a relatively high degree of endemism amongst the species found on these islands.

Quarantine stores

The greatest risk of introducing unwanted organisms to islands is via equipment and personnel transported to the islands. Stringent quarantine is considered the most effective method of reducing this risk.

Photo: Greg Sherley, DoC

A quarantine store was operated in Invercargill by the NZ Wildlife Service during the 1970s and early 1980s. The original facility eventually became infested with insects brought back from the Auckland Islands and a new facility was developed. This new facility was established at Eye Street, Invercargill, in 1996 and is now used solely for quarantine. The Eye Street store is DOC's largest quarantine facility due to the volume of equipment involved in the subantarctic programmes.

Southland also operates smaller quarantine stores at Te Anau and on Stewart Island/Rakiura. These stores provide clean facilities where gear can be checked and stored prior to travel.

What are the risks?

The most obvious biosecurity risks are from animal pests and weeds. These can be managed by cleaning equipment, checking packs, and so on. Less obvious risks are from diseases that may be transferred through contaminated clothing, food supplies, dogs, building equipment, and the like.

The Southland plan contains procedures aimed at minimising these risks.

Island biosecurity plans well advanced Continued

Incursions

Initial incursions of pests onto offshore islands were the result of animals released (or weeds transported) during Polynesian and European settlement (for example, rats, stoats and deer onto Fiordland islands).

There have been a number of more recent incursions of pests, especially rats and stoats, onto southern offshore islands (for example, Resolution Island). Perhaps the best known rodent incursion is that of ship rats onto Big South Cape Island (Taukihepa) which resulted in several extinctions during 1965.

A database records these events, as knowledge of past invasions will be useful for identifying highest risk pests, sites and activities.

The future?

The Southland Island Biosecurity Plan will continually be updated as knowledge, technology, and best practice improves.

Many of the islands covered by the Southland plan have unrestricted public access (apart from subantarctic islands, nature reserves and specially protected areas). Effective biosecurity of these islands will depend on voluntary adoption of minimum standards by the public. Educating the people who visit these islands, and fostering an appreciation of what is at stake, is vital.

Due to the potential to eradicate pests from other islands, there is expected to be an increase in the number of pest-free islands managed by DOC's Southland Conservancy in the future.

NETS2005 report

National Weed Detection Network: Community-based weed surveillance

By Sally Vidler
Science Communication Officer,
CRC for Australian Weed Management,
Australia.

Presented at NETS2005 on behalf of
Queensland's National Weed Detection Project
Officer Jane Morton.

Everyday, while we go about our lives, working away at our desks, lunching in the park, dropping the kids off to school, even while we're sleeping and drinking beer on Friday afternoon, plants are doing what they do best – reproducing, spreading their seeds, their corms, their bulbs, their roots – surviving. Floating with the wind, flowing with the streams, jumping the garden fence, falling off the back of trailers, sticking to the shoes of a visitor from across the Tasman, and quietly, secretly, snugly wrapped in envelopes, slipping through the post, with the aid of the world wide web, undetected.

And many of them, in fact in Australia, 20 new plant species, will establish themselves with varying degree of vigour and success in the landscape, every year. But, traditionally, we like to wait until we're absolutely, positively, undeniably sure these newly naturalised plants are really causing a problem. And even then, there's often little action until the weed interrupts a national cultural event such as a watersport championship.

When that happens, there's ministers, the media and the community jumping up and down and saying "Why didn't somebody do something about this sooner!"

Even today (in Australia at least, but I'm sure it happens right across the globe) there are just a handful of people to do the Goliath task of scanning the country to locate new incursions. To give you some perspective, in Australia's north we have just two paid people who search an area that covers half the size of Europe, extending across the country from Broome to Cairns and well into Papua New Guinea and Asia.

Now let your imaginations run free and wild for just one manic moment and imagine, if you will, a community-driven process that detects these new plants (or diseases or other pests) in their very early stages of establishment, increasing the probability of a timely and efficient response. Is it a dream? Can it be done?

As I'm sure you all know, early detection systems aren't a new idea. Some already operate or have operated in the past with varying degrees of success, and I believe you have a system in place here through DOC.

But today I'll talk about what a community-based weed detection network is, and give you some history on weed detection networks in Australia that provide background on how the National Weed Detection Network (NWDN) model was developed. I'll also take you though a brief outline of the support and training provided as part of the project.

We know that early detection of new weed incursion at the stage when eradication or containment is possible minimises both control cost and the impacts on environmental, social and environmental values.

So how do we do this?

There are two methods to date:

- Active surveillance – botanists are employed to actively look for and collect weeds, and
- Fortuitous surveillance – where volunteers find weeds in the course of doing something else, such as their work or recreation. This is where a community-based weed detection network comes in.

To do this though, there needs to be a structure, a process and network to link to. These types of networks have been developed in other states of Australia, so first a brief history lesson….

The first formal network was developed in Tasmania in 1996 by the Weed Alert Working Group. The idea was fortuitous surveillance by volunteers and the group was called the Weed Alert Network. They chose to source people with a basic level of botanical skills who spent some time in the field during the course of their work or recreation.

In 1998, they sourced Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funding for a weed education position for someone to support the network and develop resources for

NETS2005 report

Community-based weed surveillance Continued

the weed spotters. Funding ceased in 2002 and the position was subsumed and eventually ceased to exist. Currently the Weed Alert Network is under review.

Victoria was also working towards a weed detection network. Initially in 1998 Kate Blood, while working for the Weeds CRC, set up the "weedwatch" list server, which provided a voice to weed managers while also being an electronic national weed detection network. From 2000 to 2002 the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Department of Primary Industries began developing their "weed alert rapid response" plan for Victoria, aptly named WARR. One of the objectives of the plan was to establish a surveillance network through the mobilisation of the community. WARR was launched in March (last year).

Around 2001 Western Australia (WA) also became involved in weed detection networks. The WA Herbarium sourced NHT funding for two years to set up the Weed Information Network (WIN). This was to be a comprehensive weed watch program with an online info system feeding into their 65 regional reference herbarias across WA. Funds were stopped in 2002 due to a difference in the achievable and expected outcomes and currently a few volunteers maintain WIN.

Each of these detection networks described have provided significant direction to the NWDP and how the model was developed.

So what is the NWDP?

The NWDP is a four-year pilot project taking place in Queensland, testing a model for wider national application.

Weeds CRC and NHT are the major funders, and importantly the Queensland Herbarium is a collaborative partner, hosting Jane Morton, National Weed Detection Project Officer, at the herbarium and providing much support to the project.

The aim of the project is to establish a new regional network and to build the capacity of the community to assist in weed surveillance.

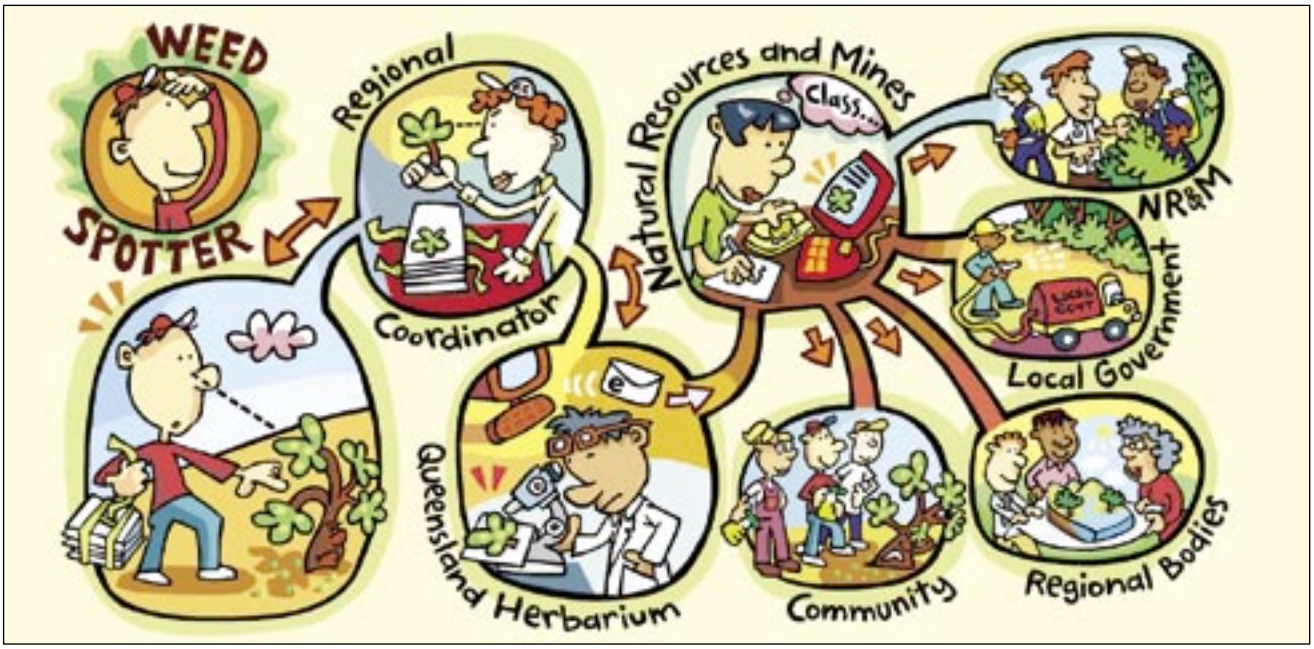
Pilot regions

The regions of Rockhampton (seven local government shires) and Townsville (six local government shires) were chosen for the pilot because they have a range of pathways for new weed incursions to occur. These areas have large urban growth, so the likelihood of new incursions exists through dispersal of ornamental plants.

They are both major ports handling container shipments from overseas, and major Australian Government defence bases which regularly host overseas vehicles and personnel are located within the regions.

Flowchart

This flowchart, below, shows the overall process. The thing to note here is that this is a multi-agency process and all levels of government are involved, and the model is dealing with detection only. What happens on the other side of that line on the right hand side – "the response" – is not part of this project.



NETS2005 report

Community-based weed surveillance Continued

How it works

- Weed Spotter discovers *Limnocharis flava* (Limnocharis) in Townsville
- Collects two specimens and sends them off to his Regional Co-ordinator
- Co-ordinator forwards specimen to Queensland Herbarium
- Herbarium verifies identification and notifies the relevant state government department (NRM) through the weed alert procedure (if applicable)
- Specimen entered into Herbrecs database

Weed Spotters

Weed spotters come from a wide variety of backgrounds. There are 54 registered to date, and 18 have been trained in collection techniques, hygiene protocols and work place, health and safety associated with collecting specimens. They are also provided with resources to assist with detecting new and emerging weeds (weed decks, plant presses, and so on)

Weeds CRC Regional Co-ordinators

There are three regional co-ordinators, one each in Townsville, Rockhampton and Gladstone, who filter the specimens using the herbarium criteria. If the species is relevant, then one specimen is retained in a regional herbarium and the other forwarded onto the Queensland Herbarium.

Queensland Herbarium

Queensland Herbarium will provide taxonomic verification of the specimen. New records and distributions will be incorporated into the collection and associated databases.

Herbrecs

This is the herbrecs database which the information is fed into and this is important for many reasons:

- Improving the weed specimen data in the Queensland Herbarium will ultimately assist all agencies responsible for the management of weedy naturalised plants.
- Agencies need to know where weeds occur and how far and how quickly they are extending their range.
- Providing weed specimens to the Queensland Herbarium builds the scientific capacity for action and research, and in particular assists in developing the correct response to each particular weed species.

The specimen information is then made available via Australia's Virtual Herbarium website – www.chah.gov.au/avh

Notification

The herbarium then notifies the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines. depending on the status of the plant.

Support

Support includes training for Weed Spotters and regional co-ordinators, an email network, resources, CRC information and updates such as our *Weed Watch* newsletter so that people involved are also linked to the bigger picture and other resources

Training

Participants are trained in collecting and preserving specimens, hygiene and identification techniques. Training is done in workshops, organised for spotters in their local community.

For the regional co-ordinators this was done in Brisbane so that they could visit the herbarium and understand the process once vouchers are sent from their regions. Speaking to them just after the training, they found the herbarium visit really interesting and exciting as it demonstrated to them how valuable their work is, and how they are part of something much bigger than perhaps they realised.

Queensland's National Weed Detection Project Officer Jane Morton and volunteer during training

NETS2005 report

Community-based weed surveillance Continued

Weed spotters learning speciment collection techniques. Graphic: Jane Morton

Weed spotters resources

Collect, Press and Preserve Specimens, used in the training process and currently going through the design process. While written for this project, the workbook has been linked to national competencies which means it will be used in the Vocational Education and Training Sector (VET).

Collect, Press and Preserve Aquatic and Difficult Specimens is also in the pipeline.

Brochures, posters and banners have also been developed to raise awareness of the project

There are other training resources available, such as the *Australian Weed Management: Biocontrol* workbook and teaching tools, online factsheets (also linked to VET sector), and we also have school resources such as Ghastly Guests. Our website has all this information and most things are free and downloadable via the web.

The Enviroweeds list server is also great to join. It is used to help distribute and discuss information on the management of environmental weeds in natural ecosystems. You have the opportunity to share information, ask questions, participate in discussions and respond to the queries of others.

Where is the project to date?

Regional Co-ordinators in place and have started
Community group consultation has been completed
Training for weed spotters is ongoing
Weed spotter network is now up and running

Benefits

Whether the NWDP succeeds or not in delivering a national weed detection network using the model described today, the project will provide a process for improving our weed detection capabilities on a regional basis. The following direct benefits are:

1 Weed spotters trained in collection techniques, hygiene protocols and health and safety;
2 Increased awareness of priority and alert weeds;
3 Weed detection process and protocols will have been developed and be functioning in two regions in Queensland; and
4 Improved specimen-backed data will be available nationally through the Australian Virtual Herbarium.

To conclude, should the Australian Government chose to give priority to regionally based weed detection networks, the Queensland community will be prepared, experienced and well placed to make use of any support offered.

Better Border Biosecurity: Research aims to keep new pests out of NZ

New research is under way to develop methods and technologies that will help prevent harmful organisms invading New Zealand and damaging the country's ecosystems and agricultural base.

The research collaboration, Better Border Biosecurity, integrates the border biosecurity research of four Crown Research Institutes: Crop & Food Research, AgResearch, HortResearch, Forest Research, and the Lincoln University-based National Centre for Advanced Bioprotection Technologies. Other collaborators representing end users of the research are the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Conservation, the Environmental Risk Management Agency and the Forest Biosecurity Research Council.

The programme is also seeking to work more closely with the Australian Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity. Australia is an important pathway for pests entering New Zealand and collaborative work in this area benefits both countries.

Better Border Biosecurity is funded by the New Zealand Government, through the Foundation for Science, Research and Technology.

Research outcomes

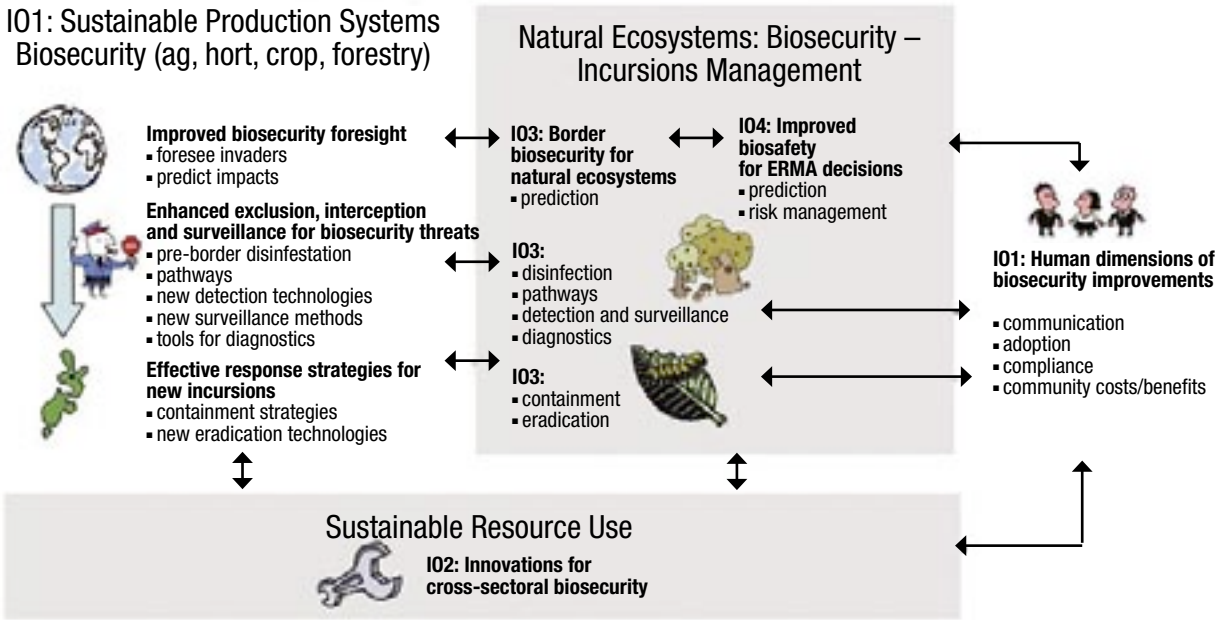
Implementation of the outcomes from the research programme, including new tools and approaches, will ensure harmful organisms are excluded pre-border, intercepted at the border, or eradicated post-border to prevent damage from new pests to the country's natural, recreational, cultural and economic environments.

It will also develop decision-support tools for optimising biosecurity decision-making and resource allocations.

New methods of managing and treating imports to exclude pests, and novel approaches for predicting and minimising pest risks before they reach the border, will be developed and implemented.

Border interventions will be optimised using improved knowledge of entry pathways, faster and more sensitive pest detection tools, and more effective pest treatments.

Beyond the border, new and widely implemented pest surveillance systems will reduce the rate at which harmful organisms establish.



Key: The numbers refer to the programme's intermediate outcomes.

IO1 ***refers to research already under way which has been brought into the programme and relates to sector specific biosecurity.***

IO2 ***is new research aimed at integrating biosecurity systems across sectors.***

IO3 ***is future-focused and is looking for new technologies and science which will enhance New Zealand's biosecurity.***

IO4 ***seeks to prevent harmful organisms entering New Zealand and establishing self-sustaining populations.***

Better Border Biosecurity Continued

Better Border Biosecurity will:

- Co-ordinate and integrate research activities of all major research providers and stakeholders contributing to land-based border security for New Zealand's plant-based resources;
- Provide a single, key research biosecurity contact for MAF, Department of Conservation, ERMA and industry stakeholders;
- Co-ordinate a diverse range of currently funded and proposed research initiatives involving pre-border, at-border and post-border biosecurity interventions;
- Reduce New Zealand's need for reactive biosecurity; and
- Ensure that the technologies are acceptable to the community and appropriate for adoption by stakeholders.

Benefits to New Zealand

The economic cost to New Zealand of pests such as the painted apple moth arriving in New Zealand is huge. It is estimated that the annual total cost of new insect pests to the country is about $2 billion.

This figure includes the direct costs of eradicating pests, lost opportunity costs to exporters who cannot get market access because of the pests, and costs to the environment and natural estate value of the country.

Management and contact details

The governance board comprises representatives from the five research organisations and leads the programme's strategic direction and operational policies. It works in partnership with senior managers of end user partners to prioritise funding within the programme.

The science management committee has seven members and includes senior scientists who are experienced in managing large science teams and applying research findings in collaboration with end users.

Crop & Food Research leads the contract on behalf of the partners.

Dr Grant Smith
Contract manager
Phone +64 3 325 9590
Email smithg@crop.cri.nz

AgResearch leads the science programme.

Dr Craig Phillips
Science leader
Phone +64 3 983 3932
Email craig.phillips@agresearch.co.nz

Stop the spread: Update on aquatic pest awareness initiatives

Boat ramp programmes nationally have been in full swing over the Christmas period and into the New Year raising the profile of aquatic pests with boaties.

The larger boat ramp programmes have added extra resources, the most creative being a large bright orange floating sign in Lake Dunstan as part of the Southern Lakes Lagarosiphon Campaign.

Propeller flags sponsored by national and regional players including stop the spread boat ramp symbol have been distributed for use in the regional boat ramp campaigns and have added a fresh component to the summer campaigns. In the South Island, Biosecurity New Zealand has provided resources to extend existing regional programmes to ensure that information is also provided about didymo, following further South Island incursions since September 2005.

This year has seen an increase in use of the national aquatic pest awareness symbol for boat ramps, reinforcing that it is a useful image to provide a level of national consistency. It is very encouraging to see this level of support and buy-in across the diverse selection of groups involved given the symbol was only launched a little over a year ago. In the last six months the groups involved with the National Aquatic Pest Awareness Group have continued to actively work together to increase awareness about aquatic pests through events (in Hamilton, Southland and Wanganui), advertising (Fish and Game Magazine), articles (New Zealand Federation of Aquatic Societies) and production of pamphlets (Fishing Pamphlet – Lake Hawea; Boating pamphlet – Bay of Plenty).

The continuing spread of didymo has highlighted that public awareness is the key to preventing aquatic pest spread. Biosecurity New Zealand, in consultation with the national aquatic pest awareness co-ordinator Anne Brow, has adopted aspects of the national messaging in their didymo material to provide consistency by promoting the "Protect our waterways" and "Stop the Spread" statements. Given that didymo is still in the incursion phase there is value in keeping aspects of the messaging distinct to ensure that didymo continues to be reported. This will continue to be reviewed as the incursion response runs its course. The "check, clean, dry" messaging and a dot to represent didymo was incorporated into the national boat ramp symbol to further align cleaning messages at the October national meeting.

The last four months has been an extremely busy time for those involved in freshwater and biosecurity but the upshot is that freshwater biosecurity is now on everybody's radar and there is a real opportunity to capitalise on the current interest to move the issue forward.

There has now been several points of contact made with the aquarium industry and there is increasing interest in progressing the proposed aquarium release symbol. This is the priority for 2006.

A National Aquatic Pest Awareness Group update sent out in January 2006 provides details of the national meeting, other public relations initiatives being undertaken nationally and in the regions, a list of available resources, and updates on aquatic pest research.

Brenton Hicks (Waikato University) wowed those who took part in a field trip following a recent aquatic pest awareness meeting in Hamilton with Waikato University's electrofishing boat, Te Waka Hiko Hi Ika. Within a few minutes of putting the boat in the lake, fish were being scooped out and placed into plastic bins of water, where they could swim about for everyone to see. Pest fish caught included perch, rudd and gambusia.

For more information and for copies of the national aquatic pest awareness symbols and use guidelines contact:

Anne Brow,
National Aquatic Pest Awareness Coordinator,
Department of Conservation,
Private Bag 5,
Nelson.
Or by email: abrow@doc.govt.nz
or phone on (03) 546 3171.

Copy of letter Asia Pacific Mosquito Control Association, referred to in the Executive News (p5) congratulating the Pro Tem Committee on initiating the establishment of the organisation.

10 March 2006

Asia Pacific Mosquito Control Association
c/- World Health Technologies,
Penthouse Level,
Suntec Tower 3,
8 Temasek Boulevard,
Singapore 038988

Dear Dr Zairi, President APMCA

The executive of the New Zealand Biosecurity Institute, (NZBI), would like to congratulate the Pro Tem Committee of the Asia Pacific Mosquito Control Association, (APMCA), on their efforts to initiate the processes to establish the APMCA.

The NZBI executive well understands the amount of commitment and very hard work that is required to bring together people who have a common professional interest and inspire them to work as one to form a vocational body that can represent their interests. It is even more impressive when such a group set their sights to bring together people from different national jurisdictions into one organization.

One of our committee members, JR Gardner attended your pro tem committee meeting and made a very positive report on your goals and the strategies you intend to pursue in order to achieve those objectives.

In New Zealand there is no mosquito control association as such. However individuals, (who include academics, government officials and private operators), that are involved in Mosquito control programmes in New Zealand do belong to the NZBI and use the institute as a forum for exchanging opinion, information and ideas.

It is appropriate therefore for the NZBI to recognise the APMCA's founding, and we offer this organisation our good wishes and support.

Yours sincerely

(Ms) Carolyn Lewis
President, New Zealand Biosecurity Institute