



**NGIA Submission to the  
“Intergovernmental Agreement on  
Biosecurity Review Draft Report”  
December 2016.**

A Submission by  
**Nursery & Garden Industry Australia  
(NGIA)**

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## Submission Summary

The Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) is the peak national industry body representing producers, retailers and allied trades involved in the production of plants across all states and territories of Australia. In partnership with state and territory peak bodies, NGIA is responsible for overseeing the national development of the Australian nursery industry.

Nursery production in Australia has a diverse and broad supply chain with multiple end users requiring a huge crop base (approx. 10,000 plant cultivars in production) grown across a range of cropping systems including glasshouse, greenhouse, open bed and in-ground. The industry is a provider of greenlife for many other horticultural industries including forestry, revegetation, fruit and vegetable cropping as well as urban retail and landscaping.

NGIA welcomes the opportunity to comment on *'Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity Review Draft Report'* released by the IGAB Independent Review Panel in December 2016. NGIA is a major stakeholder along the plant biosecurity continuum, both domestically and internationally, with a keen interest in the evolution of the national management of our biosecurity system and the roles and responsibilities of government and industry.

NGIA supports the concept of "biosecurity being everybody's responsibility or a shared responsibility" and would like to see a regulatory and investment framework that underpins this concept as opposed to a perception that government is endeavouring to cost shift, particularly in plant biosecurity.

NGIA provided an initial response to the first IGAB discussion paper in July 2016 making the following key points:

1. NGIA believes that the national biosecurity system must have a coordinating framework to maximise efficiencies and maintain and enhance the efficacy of policy settings, agreed strategies and on-ground operations across all levels of government.
2. NGIA recommends IGAB add a Market Access (domestic) to the consolidated priority areas to the six contained in the agreement. NGIA believes that there are a number of areas within interstate market access that would benefit from a nationally coordinated framework including harmonisation of systems, fee for service structures, service delivery standards, policy and industry participation.
3. NGIA is concerned that with the plethora of biosecurity reviews, strategies, engagement forums, etc decision making still excludes a major stakeholder – industry.
4. NGIA believes a national agreement needs to be found on the interpretation of 'Shared Responsibility' and decision making processes need to reflect the position. There needs to be greater transparency on all activities to ensure full engagement and sharing of the responsibilities.
5. NGIA supports in principle the existing goal and objectives as detailed in IGAB, however NGIA would like to see further discussion around adding a fourth objective that aims to focus thinking, activity and resources towards the facilitation of market access (national & international) based on pests established after a failure to prevent their introduction, establishment and spread.
6. NGIA considers the following as key biosecurity risks and priorities to be addressed:
  - a. The on-going reduction in government investment.
  - b. Northern pathway primarily the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsular
  - c. Failure to adequately assess material before release is a significant risk
  - d. International trade
  - e. International movement of people through tourism and business
  - f. Internet trading across international borders
  - g. Climate change potentially increasing the range of many pests and diseases
  - h. On-farm costs associated with market access and management of plant pests
  - i. Identification and registration of agricultural enterprises
  - j. Coordination between stakeholders to reduce duplication of activities, efforts and costs

7. NGIA recommends further education and communication by government towards the community and industry.
8. NGIA believes that within horticulture there are many 'free riders' benefiting from work undertaken by industry bodies that translates to them receiving an advantage they did not contribute to achieving. NGIA believes that a legislated registration system across nursery production is required to address the inequity in investment by industry participants.
9. NGIA supports the recognition by governments of industry based on-farm certification programs (third party programs) as a mechanism to reduce costs, improve business flexibility and improve on-farm production systems.
10. NGIA supports the need for an effective national plant biosecurity RD&E coordination process with the capacity to bring all stakeholders together and understand the needs of all parties.
11. Have equal partnership of all stakeholders - Federal Government, State Governments, Industry Sectors, Commercial Organisations - to ensure engagement and transparency.

An overarching strategy for Australian Biosecurity should be developed to ensure it is well managed, resourced and coordinated. Key areas of the strategy could include:

1. Organisational framework including administrative structure
2. Biosecurity RD&E
3. Economic benefit analysis
4. Biosecurity Policy Development
5. Communication

Plant and animal biosecurity management is vital for Australia's future prosperity and essential to that aim the system must be underpinned through government funding. A more coordinated approach needs to be implemented to avoid the duplication of effort and avoid the need for disjointed and seemingly constant reviews of biosecurity agreements, deeds and organisations.

## Introduction

The Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) is the peak national industry body representing producers, retailers and allied trades involved in the production of plants across all states and territories of Australia. In partnership with state and territory peak bodies, NGIA is responsible for overseeing the national development of the Australian nursery industry. The nursery industry is a significant sector of the Australian horticultural industry and employs over 45,000 people in more than 20,000 small to medium sized businesses with a combined supply chain market value in excess of \$15 billion dollars annually.

Nursery production in Australia has a diverse and broad supply chain with multiple end users requiring a huge crop base (approx. 10,000 plant cultivars in production) grown across a range of cropping systems including glasshouse, greenhouse, open bed and in-ground. The industry is a provider of greenlife for many other horticultural industries including forestry, revegetation, fruit and vegetable cropping as well as urban retail and landscaping.

Depicted in Table 1 is the wide range of end users supported by the Australian nursery production industry.

**Table 1: National value of horticultural sectors supplied by production nurseries**

<b>Production Nursery</b>	<b>Horticultural markets</b>	<b>Economic value</b>
Container stock <sup>1</sup>	Ornamental/urban horticulture	\$2 billion retail value
Foliage plants <sup>1</sup>	Indoor display/hire	\$87 million industry
Seedling stock <sup>2</sup>	Vegetable growers	\$3.3 billion industry
Native and exotic forestry stock <sup>3</sup>	Plantation timber	\$1.7 billion industry
Fruit and nut tree stock <sup>2</sup>	Orchardists (citrus, mango, etc)	\$5.2 billion industry
Landscape stock <sup>1</sup>	Domestic & commercial projects	\$2 billion industry
Plug and tube stock <sup>2</sup>	Cut flower growers	\$700 million industry
Revegetation stock <sup>1</sup>	Farmers, Government, Landcare	\$109 million industry
Mine site revegetation	Mine site rehabilitation	Value unknown
<b>Total Horticultural Market Value</b>		<b>\$15.0 billion</b>

<sup>1</sup> Freshlogic (2008) Australian Garden Market Monitor for the Year Ending 30 June 2008

<sup>2</sup> Horticulture Australia Limited (2004) Australian Horticultural Statistics Handbook

<sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (2008). Australian Forest and Wood Products Statistics

## Industry Statement

NGIA welcomes the opportunity to comment on '*Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity Review Draft Report*' released by the IGAB Independent Review Panel in December 2016. NGIA is a major stakeholder along the plant biosecurity continuum, both domestically and internationally, with a keen interest in the evolution of the national management of our biosecurity system and the roles and responsibilities of government and industry.

Nursery production moves a significant volume of greenlife around Australia annually including vegetable seedlings and fruit trees for commercial plantings through to plants for urban retail outlets and landscape markets contributing significantly to urban greening, food production and revegetation and forestry across Australia (Food, Fibre & Foliage). NGIA further believes this value of interstate trade is growing each year as key businesses establish new and emerging markets and opportunities for increasing plant export are being explored. The industry propagates and cultivates more than 10 000 different plant cultivars across the combined cropping systems, exposing industry to a vast array of pest and disease threats, therefore the management of the biosecurity continuum is of critical importance.

Production nurseries are the cornerstone in the supply of starter plants for the majority of horticultural crops, both urban (foliage) and commercial (food/fibre), having the expertise in propagating and growing starter plants for a range of horticultural enterprises targeting various domestic and international markets. This expertise includes seed germination, raising and growing,

grafting or budding on pest/disease resistant and/or vigorous rootstocks, rapid multiplication of true to type, high yielding, high health and disease resistant plant varieties through tissue culture.

The industry is also the primary sector for the identification, introduction and propagation of new and improved plant varieties across most production categories in the food, fibre and foliage sectors. These skill sets and the expertise of industry exist nowhere else in horticulture thereby making nursery production a critical component in the supply chain of our urban greenlife and food/fibre horticultural products. The nursery industry is a key component for increasing farm productivity through the introduction of higher yielding varieties, increasing disease resistance and improving drought tolerance due to the development of hardy and new varieties plus the grafting of high yielding species to appropriate root stocks.

NGIA supports the concept of “biosecurity being everybody’s responsibility or a shared responsibility” and would like to see a regulatory and investment framework that underpins this concept as opposed to a perception that government is endeavouring to cost shift, particularly in plant biosecurity. NGIQ also expects a concerted effort be made towards reducing unnecessary regulatory burden on industry as well as looking at alternative, flexible, advanced and practical solutions to a range of issues confronting the effective operation of plant biosecurity in Australia.

Nursery production has had a growing investment in biosecurity resource development over recent years through statutory R&D levy investment, under the current horticulture RDC, along with being a member of Plant Health Australia and a signatory to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). Production nurseries across Australia are also being charged for every biosecurity service provided by all levels of government adding to the industry investment along the biosecurity continuum.

The industry has recently committed to two key biosecurity programs over the next 5 years (2016 – 2020) totalling more than \$5 million and has been engaging with other sectors of horticulture in cooperative projects and is a committed signatory to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed being one of the initial 10 signatory partners. NGIA is a strong supporter of nationally coordinated biosecurity engagement as demonstrated by its commitment to various support committees including the Plant Biosecurity CRC Horticulture Advisory Panel (HAP) and as an industry mentor and advisor to PBCRC projects including Myrtle Rust and Collaborative Planning.

## **NGIA Response to the Draft Report**

### **Knowing and owning our roles and responsibilities**

Feedback request 1 The Review Panel seeks feedback on the draft roles and responsibilities of national biosecurity system participants.

**NGIA Feedback 1** NGIA provides ‘in principle’ support for *the Draft roles and responsibilities of national biosecurity system participants* (Table 1. pp.11) however these are predominantly maintaining the status quo.

NGIA does not see the issues of market access the sole domain of government whether this be domestic or international trade. NGIA would like to see market access include industry participation and partnerships at all levels.

NGIA supports a greater emphasis on government facilitating and developing partnerships that improve participation as opposed to ‘promoting’ which does not require actually delivering an outcome. Government must commit to developing partnerships that deliver opportunities that allow industry to participate and take ownership of areas that are appropriate. This, in most cases, requires government putting in place the legal mechanisms that allow

industry to participate at a level that provides a win-win for all parties, utilises technology and does not increase the cost of business.

Government must take a role in educating the community on the value of biosecurity as well as the individuals' responsibility relevant to legal compliance and obligation.

**Addition to Responsibilities:** The Australian Government and State and territory governments in consultation with industry partners negotiate and facilitate international and domestic trade issues.

**Addition to Responsibilities:** The Australian Government and State and territory governments have responsibility for creating a regulatory environment that allows industry to participate at a level that delivers the specific outcomes without reducing the competitiveness of industry.

**Addition to Responsibilities:** The Australian Government and State and territory governments have responsibility for on-going education and communication of the community on the value of biosecurity and the obligations of individuals.

**Addition to Responsibilities:** The Australian Government and State and territory governments have responsibility to work with industry to support supply chain recognition of good biosecurity practice to drive industry wide adoption and value.

*Recommendation 1* *The NBC and the proposed Industry and Community Advisory Committee, through an open, transparent and collaborative process, should lead the development of a draft National Statement of Intent for public consultation that outlines:*

- *a vision, goal and objectives for the national biosecurity system*
- *principles for managing biosecurity*
- *the meaning and application of 'shared responsibility'*
- *the roles, responsibilities and commitments of participants, including accountability measures*
- *governance arrangements for the national biosecurity system.*

*The process should involve government (including local government), industry and the community.*

#### **NGIA Response 1**

NGIA supports the development of a National Statement of Intent particularly if national agreement can be reached on the interpretation of 'shared responsibility' and all parties are held accountable under relevant agreements including IGAB and emergency response Deeds. NGIA draws the attention of the review team to the plethora of reports completed over the past 20 years that have highlighted the consistent failure of governments to ensure biosecurity agencies meet agreed obligations. NGIA would expect this National Statement of Intent to at least be ratified at COAG level otherwise it will be just another document in a list of many.

NGIA will need to see greater detail around the proposed Industry and Community Advisory Committee before providing meaningful comment. However, at the moment NGIA believes there needs thought given to separating industry and community due to significant differing interests and levels of engagement with government and the direct impacts on individual businesses through policy and regulatory mechanisms.

### **Market access is key**

Feedback request 2 The Review Panel seeks feedback on the total effort and costs associated with demonstrating area freedom by jurisdictions, and the value of that trade.

Recommendation 2 The Primary Industries Technical Market Access and Trade Development Task Group, should seek to enhance engagement with industry to ensure that Australia's market access strategies are aligned appropriately through an agreed priority setting process, and that the degree of transparency and communication is carefully weighed against its level of risk to trade activities.

Recommendation 3 IGAB2 should strengthen consideration of market access requirements within the next NBC work program.

Recommendation 4 Jurisdictions' biosecurity surveillance activities should include pests and diseases that pose the greatest threat to our export markets.

Recommendation 5 States and territories should utilise (or adapt) the dispute resolution process agreed by ministers in 2012 and include the key elements of that in IGAB2.

Recommendation 6 IGAB2 should clarify the roles and responsibilities of the parties with regard to international and domestic market access, including proof of area freedom.

**NGIA Response 2** NGIA supports recommendations 2 through 6 however is disappointed that the domestic market issues raised in the July 2016 submission have not been included adequately. IGAB2 must embrace the domestic market due not only to the impacts on international trade but also on the ability of industry to undertake their business in a non-harmonised interstate market access system that costs industry significantly. As long as Australia continues to operate a domestic market system that is disjointed (states cannot even agree on basic terms such as types of certificates and area freedom), overseen by overly complex and non-harmonised regulatory regimes with market access controls imposed without consensus based science, the cost to industry is climbing and the red tape is increasing. The domestic market access system requires due deliberation and harmonisation under IGAB.

NGIA would also advise IGAB to add industry into the dispute resolution process if the review is serious about increasing the participation of industry across the biosecurity continuum. Currently industry must find a willing state/territory government to take a dispute to mediation under the current structure and in an environment of greater roles and responsibilities it is only appropriate that industry have its case heard in an appropriate forum brought on by industry and not reliant on government.

## **Stronger environmental biosecurity**

- Recommendation 7** IGAB2 should include an explicit commitment by jurisdictions to support financially, decisions agreed to under NEBRA, but look to put in place systems that ensure decisions are evidence-based and transparent, in keeping with best risk management principles, and that give confidence to governments and the community that funds are being committed wisely and appropriately.
- Recommendation 8** Jurisdictions should institute formal arrangements between agriculture and environment agencies to define the objectives of cooperation, leading and support roles, information flows, resources and deliverables. The Australian Government agriculture and environment departments should enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, modelled on those with health and immigration agencies.
- Recommendation 9** The IGAB should make clearer commitments to environmental biosecurity and include:
- the principle of ecologically sustainable development
  - acknowledgement of Australia's international responsibilities under the Convention on Biological Diversity
  - a program of work to determine, plan and prepare for national priority pests and diseases impacting the environment and native species
  - a focus on environment and community as well as industry partnerships
  - invertebrate transmitted diseases as well as animal diseases.
- Recommendation 10** The Australian Government should establish the senior, expert position of Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer within the environment department. A less preferred option is to house the position in the agriculture department. The position should report on the effectiveness of Australia's environmental biosecurity arrangements and achievements. Reports should be made publicly available.
- Recommendation 11** The NBC should establish and resource a new Environmental Biosecurity Committee (EBC), comprising government and external environment biosecurity experts and representatives from both the animal and plant sectoral committees of the NBC, to support the role of the Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer. The role of the EBC should be reviewed following its work to prioritise national biosecurity risks impacting the environment.
- Recommendation 12** Greater and explicit roles should be developed for AHA and PHA in environmental biosecurity, instituted through amended constitutions and expanded board expertise.
- NGIA Response 3** NGIA supports the need to build greater capacity to assess and protect the Australian environment and understands the development of recommendations 7 to 12 however questions why the Departments of Environment cannot take this up and liaise with Departments of Biosecurity

and why not also include other Departments including Natural Resources, National Parks, Fisheries, State Forests, etc?

Significant questions remain and valid and demonstrable concerns exist across key areas such as funding, capacity and capability of biosecurity agencies plus a fear of further cost shifting to industry to off-set extra resourcing for environmental biosecurity. Biosecurity agencies, federal and state/territory, for 200 years have primarily focused on protecting agriculture and by default our environment however Departments of Environment have done very little in this space. **Note:** Biosecurity Agencies reside in Departments of Agriculture federally and in every state and territory which is reflective of the historical relationship and remit.

As mentioned above, and in every review of biosecurity over the past 20 years, all levels of government are failing to deliver on biosecurity, as it currently exists, therefore these recommendations (7 – 12) beg the question, how will this be funded? Unless there are very clear added funding streams identified and secured NGIA cannot support such a drastic move by biosecurity agencies. Of real concern is government will adopt these recommendations, due to political expediency, without adding new funding therefore will look to find 'sources' of funding, they have a captive client base (industry) due to the government monopoly on most biosecurity services. Industry has witnessed this recently in the increases, at all levels of government, in fees for service that in some cases are clearly extremely difficult to defend.

The recommendation for AHA and PHA to expand their expertise to cover environmental biosecurity, etc have similar issues to those expressed above. This concept is of significant magnitude that it warrants a great deal of investigation before being adopted and implemented due to the broader concerns around investment, capacity and capability.

If the above recommendations are adopted biosecurity agencies are going to operate across all threat pathways including environment then NGIA recommends removing biosecurity agencies out from under Departments of Agriculture. This would allow the creation of standalone biosecurity agencies with appropriate funding to undertake the tasks assigned. NGIA cannot support recommendations 7 – 12 without significant changes to the status quo.

## **Building the national system**

Recommendation 13 Jurisdictions should adopt a systematic approach to determine and plan for national priority animal, plant and environmental pests and diseases.

Recommendation 14 The NBC should lead five-yearly national-level risk prioritisation for emerging animal, plant and environmental risks and pathways, in partnership with system participants, reporting to AGSOC and AGMIN.

**NGIA Response 4** NGIA considers the 5 year interval to be excessive based on the potential rapid changes to pest importance and distribution internationally. NGIA recommends reducing this to a 3 year cycle.

## Research and innovation

**Recommendation 15** The sectoral committees of the NBC, with the endorsement of the NBC, should develop an agreed set of National Biosecurity R&I Priorities, in consultation with system participants and in line with the agreed national priority pests and diseases. Priorities at a sectoral and cross-sectoral level need to be considered. The priorities should be developed within two years of the final IGAB review report, and should be reviewed every five years.

**NGIA Response 5** NGIA considers the 5 year interval to be excessive based on the potential rapid changes to pest importance and distribution internationally. NGIA recommends reducing this to a 3 year cycle.

**Feedback request 3** **The Review Panel seeks feedback on the following options for a new entity for cross-sectoral biosecurity R&I:**

**Option 1: Establishing a new stand-alone entity for cross-sectoral biosecurity R&I.**

**Option 2: Addressing cross-sectoral biosecurity R&I within an existing RDC (for example, the Rural Industries RDC).**

**The Panel also seeks feedback on the funding options and would welcome alternative suggestions.**

**NGIA Feedback 3** NGIA **does not support** the need to develop a new entity with all of the associated start-up costs and the ongoing administrative costs where there is the possibility of utilising an existing structure with minimal additions required. Through the use of an existing body the administration and governance system is primarily established and there would likely be sound economies of scale in the added costs required to manage a plant biosecurity coordinating component/unit within the current business.

## Strengthening governance

**Recommendation 16** A future IGAB should remain an agreement between the First Ministers of the Australian, state and territory governments.

**Recommendation 17** First Ministers should, within IGAB2, identify lead ministers and agencies for biosecurity (assumed to be agriculture or primary industries) and require supporting whole-of-government arrangements to be in place, including through memoranda of understanding.

**Recommendation 18** First Ministers should formally establish the NBC and articulate its Terms of Reference in the IGAB.

**Recommendation 19** The NBC should include the CEO of the Australian Local Government Association, and the New Zealand Government be invited to include a representative.

**Feedback request 4** The Review Panel seeks feedback on the proposed Terms of Reference for the NBC.

**NGIA Feedback 4** NGIA supports the ToR and suggests additional content:

a) develop a national biosecurity dispute resolution system that allows industry to participate in its own right and a process that delivers binding outcomes from parties.

b) NGIA understands that IGAB is an agreement between governments however in the interests of transparency and partnerships the NBC should include a representative from the animal and plant industries – an industry member that is selected from signatories under the respective response Deeds that reports back to the signatories via arranged forums.

c) Develop strategies and policy to encourage/mandate all industry bodies to sign the appropriate Deed's and contribute to national biosecurity.

**Recommendation 20** The NBC should adopt a sub-committee structure that aligns with the revised national biosecurity system objectives and national reform priorities in the IGAB. All NBC working groups and expert groups should be task-specific and, wherever possible, time-limited.

**Recommendation 21** The NBC should take steps to increase its public profile and openness, including establishing a stand-alone website. The website could be maintained by, but be separate from, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and could accommodate and centralise all information on the NBC, its committees, and their activities. Key policy frameworks, agreements and reports of the NBC should be made publicly available on the site.

**Recommendation 22** AGSOC should establish and provide oversight to an independent IGAB Evaluation Program to assess and report on implementation of each jurisdictions' commitments under the IGAB. The evaluations, or a summary of them, should be made publicly available following ministerial consideration.

**Recommendation 23** The NBC should clarify core commitments of jurisdictions for use in the independent IGAB Evaluation Program to be documented in a future IGAB.

**Recommendation 24** The NBC should report annually to AGMIN on its progress of priority reform areas. The NBC's work program and annual report should be made publicly available upon ministerial consideration.

**Recommendation 25** AGSOC should establish, as a priority, an Industry and Community Advisory Committee to provide advice to the NBC on key policies and reforms.

**Recommendation 26** The NBC should convene a dedicated annual national Biosecurity Roundtable for AHA and PHA members to provide direct input to the NBC.

### **Funding our national system**

**Recommendation 27** The NBC and the Industry and Community Advisory Committee, in consultation with other key stakeholders, should revise the National Framework for Cost Sharing Biosecurity Activities to enable its practical application.

**Recommendation 28** The NBC, with key industry and non-government partners, should agree uniform and fully inclusive categories of funding activity for the national biosecurity system.

**Recommendation 29** The IGAB should include an ongoing commitment to the funding stocktake, with governments publicly reporting their expenditure and the high-level stocktake results under uniform and fully inclusive categories.

**Recommendation 30** All governments should review their current biosecurity expenditure, with a view to redirecting funding into areas that return the highest yields to

farmers, industry and the community. This approach will require a planned and coordinated strategy of engagement and communication.

Recommendation 31 The Risk Return Resource Allocation model should be extended to include all jurisdictions and their investments, with the Australian Government providing assistance to jurisdictions to build national capacity.

Recommendation 32 AHA and PHA should coordinate an industry stocktake of national biosecurity system investments, making the results publicly available.

Feedback request 5 The Review Panel seeks feedback on the following options to ensure a more rapid-response to an exotic pest or disease incursion:

Option 1: Cost-sharing arrangements should provide for four weeks of monitoring, assessment and preliminary control strategies, while an overall assessment is conducted on the possibility of successful eradication.

Option 2: Cost-sharing arrangements should include a default funding arrangement for when decisions cannot be quickly reached about the success or otherwise of an eradication program.

NGIA Feedback 5 It is disappointing to see that the options presented by the review panel above fail to consider the costs incurred by industry in these early stages of an incursion nor include them in cost sharing models. This underscores the ongoing inability of predominantly government focused reviews to truly adopt the concept of shared responsibility and partnerships in biosecurity.

NGIA does not support industry participating in cost sharing normal commitments and sees this as another move by government to reduce further their obligations to ensure adequate resourcing and maintenance of capacity and capability. The fact governments continue to down size agencies that then cannot respond to an emergency incident does not guilt industry into cost sharing. It is also unfair on parties, governments and industries, which do ensure appropriate levels of investment are made to see a jurisdiction that fails to invest receive cost shared support.

Further complicating the issue are the 'free rider' industries that have yet to join the relevant industry organisation and sign the appropriate Deed (e.g. PHA and the EPPRD) and be a part of the cost sharing in the case of an incursion response. Government has placed little effort or emphasis on bringing these industries to the table and over time there is a trend of a few paying for the many.

NGIA supports a funding model whereby state biosecurity agencies are funded appropriately and that states ensure they have an 'emergency fund' available to draw on in case of an incursion. NGIA **does support** a cost sharing model that provides Owner Reimbursement Costs (ORC's) to growers impacted under a quarantine action while a decision to eradicate is made. Supporting the first reporter is a critical gap in our biosecurity system.

Recommendation 33 The emergency response deeds for aquatic animals and exotic production weeds should be finalised within 12 months.

Recommendation 34 State and territory governments should review their biosecurity cost-recovery arrangements to ensure they are consistent, appropriate and transparent.

Recommendation 35 All levels of government could help meet their budgetary challenges by reviewing biosecurity levies and rates/charges currently or potentially applying to system participants. These should be commensurate with agreed national cost sharing principles, which the Review Panel considers should be reviewed.

### **Measuring system performance**

Recommendation 36 The NBC should establish a time-limited task group to progress development of a performance framework and performance measures for the national biosecurity system.

Recommendation 37 The Australian Government should facilitate development of an integrated, national biosecurity information system to provide a common platform for all jurisdictions to share and access biosecurity data and information in the national interest.

Recommendation 38 Data and knowledge sharing should be a core commitment of jurisdictions under the IGAB. Minimum standards and specifications should be agreed for data sets.

Recommendation 39 The Australian Government should establish, within the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, a dedicated National Biosecurity Intelligence Unit, to coordinate and provide advice to the NBC, AGSOC and AGMIN on biosecurity intelligence covering emerging risks and pathways, and international and domestic pest and disease detection.

### **A future system, a future IGAB**

Recommendation 40 Jurisdictions should adopt the proposed new priority reform areas and associated work program for IGAB2, and amend the IGAB in line with proposed revisions.