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National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (SEQ) Steering Committee
Thursday 17 November 2022
Teleconference
(AEST) 1.00pm – 2.00pm

ATTENDANCE

Attendees	Wendy Craik, Chair Jo Laduzko, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Commonwealth) Scott Charlton, Department of Primary Industries (NSW) Nigel Ainsworth, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (VIC) Marcelle O'Brien, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (TAS) Claire Morton, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (NT) Nathan Rhodes, Department of Primary Industries and Regions (SA) Mike Richards, External Financial Consultant Miles Dixon, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (ACT) Malcolm Letts, Deputy Director-General/Chief Biosecurity Officer, Biosecurity Queensland, (DAF) John van Schagen, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA) Rae Burrows, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (TAS)
Observers	Lance Perry, Program Executive, NRIFAEP Eddie Jebreen, Director, FAST
Secretariat	Heather Jablonski, Policy Officer, Biosecurity Queensland
Apologies	

The meeting opened at 1.04pm (AEST).



MAIN DISCUSSION

The Chair welcomed members to the extraordinary Steering Committee meeting, noting all members were in attendance.

Lance Perry, Program Executive provided a presentation on the working papers to supplement the Eradication Strategy and Compliance Strategy currently with the Steering Committee for approval to progress to AgSOC. Lance advised members of the feedback incorporated into the documents, the establishment of the Senior Leadership Board and Extended Leadership Team for governance and detailed how the Program estimated the financial data within the reports.

Members again discussed a Steering Committee member sitting on the FAST Committee as an observer. Wendy Craik advised that it would be useful to have the Chair of the Steering Committee as this attendee and requested this be incorporated into the structure presented today.

A question was raised around the remote sensing component of the plan and whether it was based on the technology deployment to date. Lance provided advice that a review of the current remote sensing surveillance technology is currently underway to validate the effectiveness, accuracy and confidence of that technology and could take two months to complete. Steering Committee members requested a copy of the review once completed. The Steering Committee were advised that while the review is being undertaken alternate surveillance options are currently in a discovery phase to ensure all possible options are understood.

The budget and costings within the documents were further discussed, including where potential for financial savings within the Program exist over the next ten years. Financial data contained within the Strategic Review are proportionate estimates, with the financial data in the proposed Eradication Strategy based on actual estimates. Members questioned whether inflation and the consumer price index (CPI) of wages had been incorporated into the figures. Lance advised that CPI had not been included and was directed by the Steering Committee to update the figures to include CPI.

Members discussed the proposed treatment strategy and sought advice on the Strategic Review's recommendation that compliance be managed by the Queensland Government through the FAST team. Eddie Jebreen advised members that the draft FAST Plan is currently being circulated internally for comment. The draft FAST Plan has been developed in consultation with the Eradication Strategy and will detail what FAST will deliver and how success will be measured.

The Chair requested an Extraordinary Steering Committee meeting be held, prior to the full day Steering Committee scheduled on 23 November 2022, to continue discussions.

The Steering Committee:

DISCUSSED the supplementary working papers of the proposed Eradication Strategy and Compliance Strategy and requested an additional extraordinary meeting to allow discussions to continue.



Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
1.	Update governance flowchart to include a SC member on the FAST Committee	Policy Team	Nov-22	Open
2.	Update financial data to include CPI	Policy Team	Nov-22	Open

The Chair noted the next meeting is planned for 23 November 2022.

Meeting closed 2.16pm (AEST).