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National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (SEQ) Steering Committee

Thursday 23 September 2021

Teleconference

9.00am – 11.00am

ATTENDANCE

Attendees	Wendy Craik, Chair Jo Laduzko, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (C'wealth) Scott Charlton, Department of Primary Industries (NSW) Nigel Ainsworth, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (VIC) John Robertson, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) (QLD) Marcelle O'Brien, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (TAS) Nathan Rhodes, Department of Primary Industries and Regions (SA) Jasmyn Lynch, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (ACT) Mike Richards, External Financial Consultant
Observers	Malcolm Letts, Deputy Director-General/Chief Biosecurity Officer, Biosecurity Queensland, (DAF) Graeme Dudgeon, General Manager Mel Blankenberg, A/Director, Strategy Andrew Turley, Strategic Review Secretariat Jacqui King, Director, Invasive Plants and Animals
Secretariat	Kerri Nobbs, Senior Policy Officer, (NRIFAEP)
Apologies	Anne Walters, Department of Primary Industry and Resources (NT) John van Schagen, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA) Rae Burrows, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (TAS)

The meeting opened at 9.00am.



MAIN DISCUSSION

The Chair welcomed members to the extraordinary Steering Committee meeting, and also Jasmyyn Lynch from the Australian Capital Territory and Nathan Rhodes from South Australia. Anne Walters and John van Schagen were noted as apologies.

The Chair thanked members for their feedback on the Steering Committee's response to the Strategic Review Report recommendations and advised an updated version will be circulated with a view to seeking agreement to the response.

Andrew Turley gave a broad outline and sought opinion from the Steering Committee on the 'Strategy for the Control of Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) in Australia (2022-2028)' with emphasis on discussion around the Governance model. The Strategy will sit overarching the NRIFAEP Plan and the Queensland Control Program Plan.

Also discussed, were some inconsistencies/issues which were unclear in the review report. A document is being developed to provide clarification around the inconsistencies. It will be circulated to Steering Committee members.

Mel Blankenberg provided an update on the Cost Benefit Analysis and advised the report should be available for discussion at the Steering Committee meeting being held on 30 September 2021.

An update was provided on remote sensing surveillance. Following the Remote Sensing Project Board meeting being held on 23 September 2021, the 'draft' report will be circulated to the Steering Committee for feedback.

Discussions on the recommendation for bring forward of funding by cost share partners are continuing and advice will be provided as soon as available.

Alan Millis, Chair of the Risk Management Sub-Committee requested feedback from the Steering Committee on the value of the Sub-committee. The Steering Committee members reported that they found the Sub-committee extremely helpful, especially in identifying previously unidentified risks.

The Steering Committee:

- **AGREED** the Steering Committee's response to the Strategic Review Report recommendations be updated and circulated seeking agreement to the response.
- **AGREED** to provide comments on the 'draft' Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia (2022-2028) document by cob Monday 27 September 2021.
- **AGREED** the revised 'Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia (2022-2028)' document will be circulated to the Steering Committee by Tuesday, 28 September 2021
- **AGREED** the draft 'Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia (2022-2028)' be sent to the risk experts from the Risk Management Sub-committee for review and comment on the first 15 pages of the document.
- **AGREED** the 'inconsistencies on the review report' document and the Remote Sensing Report be forwarded to the Steering Committee as soon as available.



Action items	Responsibility	Target	Status
1.	Circulate updated Steering Committee response to the Strategic Review Report recommendations.	Chair/Secretariat 24 September 2021	Completed, sent 24/9/2021.
2.	Provide comments on the draft Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia (2022-2028).	Steering Committee members 27 September 2021	Completed, comments received.
3.	The revised Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia (2022-2028) document be circulated to the Steering Committee.	Program – Andrew Turley 28 September 2021	Completed.
4.	Forward the draft 'Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia (2022-2028)' document to Alan Millis and Irene Sitton for review and comment.	Secretariat 23 September 2021	Completed – sent 24/9/2021.
5.	The 'inconsistencies from the review report' document and the Remote Sensing Report to be circulated to the Steering Committee.	Program 30 September 2021	Completed.