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

Wednesday 25 August 2022

9.00am – 4:30pm (AEDT)

MINUTES – MEETING 21

ATTENDANCE

Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wendy Craik, Chair• Malcolm Letts, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Queensland• Jo Laduzko, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Commonwealth Government• Rae Burrows, Biosecurity Tasmania, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Tas)• Scott Charlton, Department of Primary Industries (DPI), (NSW)• Nigel Ainsworth, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, (VIC)• John van Schagen, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA)• Miles Dixon, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (ACT)• Mike Richards, External Financial Consultant• Nathan Rhodes, Department of Primary Industries and Regions (SA)
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anne Walters, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (NT)• Jasmyn Lynch, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (ACT)
Program presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graeme Dudgeon, General Manager, NRIFAEP• Brett Turville, Director Operations, NRIFAEP• Andrew Langford, Director Strategy and Science, NRIFAEP• Becca Hobbs, Director Business Services, NRIFAEP• Tom Roberts, Manager, Strategic Policy, NRIFAEP• Sharon Janssen, Manager, Planning and Quality Management, NRIFAEP• Chris Hollingdrake, Manager, Communication and Engagement, NRIFAEP• Dan Smith, Program Manager, NRIFAEP• Eddie Jebreen, Director, FAST, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) (QLD)• Maria Hauff, Principal Engagement Officer, FAST, DAF, QLD• Ross Wylie, Science Leader, NRIFAEP
Observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peta Lane, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Commonwealth Government)• Marcelle O'Brien, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (TAS)• Elissa Van Oosterhout, DPI, NSW• Hendri Eddy, Senior Business Support Officer, DAF, QLD• James Zhou, Senior Business Support Officer, DAF, QLD• Kalpana Agnihotri, Manager, Science, NRIFAEP• Simon Barry, Senior Policy Officer, NRIFAEP• Michael Ross, Principal Policy Officer, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)
A/Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kiri Funnell



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MAIN DISCUSSION, AGREED OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

The meeting opened at 9.15am (AEST) following a Steering Committee closed discussion.

Agenda Item 1 - Introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees and observers, including welcoming Kiri Funnell as A/Secretariat.

The Steering Committee discussed and supported the release of the Strategic Review Report and agreed that Agriculture Ministers would be informed at its September meeting.

Minutes for the quarterly meeting held on 25 May 2022 and the extraordinary meeting held on 14 July 2022, were taken as a correct record. All actions from these meetings were reviewed, noting that many were on the agenda for discussion.

The following comment was made regarding actions still in progress:

- FAST actions listed as completed should remain as pending with further discussion to be held within the workshop.

Steering Committee members endorsed out of session and gave final endorsement for Dr Bronwyn Harch to be invited as a member of the Steering Committee. Dr Harch has extensive experience in the 'innovation' space and is currently providing 'research' advice to DAF. The Chair will contact Dr Harch.

The Steering Committee:

- **APPROVED** the minutes of Meeting 20, and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 14 July 2022
- **AGREED** for Dr Bronwyn Harch to be invited as a member of the Steering Committee.

Agenda item 1 - Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
1.	Invite Dr Harch to sit as a member of the Steering Committee.	Chair	November 2022	

Agenda Item 2 - General Manager's Update and Omnibus

The General Manager provided the Steering Committee with an update and presentation on the Program scale-up strategy, including the FY2021 Review Impacts and the Program Streams: Demand Management; Operational Planning and Efficiency; Capability Growth; Innovation and Governance and Support.

The Program is restricted by the FTE cap which is determined by the rating agencies and the growth of the Queensland public service and is currently navigating through this challenge.

The Program is also challenged with increasing costs, including aerial services increase of 20%; field workforce increase of 10%; fuel costs and the availability and cost of new vehicles.

There is a current review of the Program being undertaken by KPMG on major opportunities for efficiencies and different business models to best suit the operation of the scale-up.



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The Steering Committee discussed the opportunities of manufacturing bait in Australia. However, the specialised corn grit required for the manufacture of the bait is only available in the United States through the sole-supplier. The Program have held discussions with the US manufacturer who have responded that it would not be viable at this stage to move operations to Australia. Discussions are also continuing with local corn grit suppliers and the options for using alternative products.

At full scale-up, the Program will require up to 3 million tonnes of bait per year at a cost of around \$64 million per year. This will equate to around 100,000 tonnes of bait per month, a volume not seen in the program's history.

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** the General Manager's update on the Program, including the Program Scale-up and the preparation for the coming treatment season.

Agenda Item 2 - Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
2.	Circulate presentation to members	Graeme Dudgeon	August 2022	

Agenda Item 3 – Financial Update

Sarah Mitchell provided a short update on the financial position of the Program as the DAF 2021-22 financial statement had not been signed off. This is expected by 31 August 2022 and a full annual financial report will be provided to the Steering Committee out of session.

Following Steering Committee sign-off of the third quarterly report, both the second and third quarterly reports will be submitted to the Commonwealth to meet the requirement of the milestone payment schedule.

The Program is in the process of engaging a financial auditor. The audit will cover years 2017-18 to 2020-21. The newly appointed Program Manager of Business Services will assist with the process.

Sarah Mitchell provided an update on the budget build that includes bring forward of funding to date.

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** that the Program's Financial Performance Report and dashboard as at 30 June 2022 is to be provided out of session after finalisation of the Department's 2021-22 financial statements - expected by 31 August 2022.

Agenda item 3 - Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
3.	Program's Financial Performance Report, dashboard and budget build to be provided to the Steering Committee out of session.	BQ Finance	September 2022	In progress



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Agenda Item 4 – AGSOC / Bring Forward of Funding Update

Malcolm Letts provided an update on the jurisdictions’ additional funding commitments for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years, noting that Tasmania had just confirmed its bring forward of funding.

The Commonwealth have provided in-principle support to the 2022-23 bring forward of funding, noting that issues such as the progress on the KPIs of the FAST and Program activities will be added into the payment schedule.

Victoria has requested that the proposed January 2023 timeline for the 2017-24 Program plan and budget to be presented to AGSOC, be adjusted to December 2022 to allow the plan and budget to be entered into usual budget processes. It was suggested an interim plan be circulated to Steering Committee members for endorsement of the strategies and outcomes and the interim plan then be presented to AGSOC prior to December 2022.

In relation to the Procurement Schedule provided for July and August 2022, it was requested that notations be added for slippages and what mitigation factors are in place to get back to target. With the onboarding of the Program Manager and a dedicated procurement team, a full forward program and schedule has been developed and is being implemented.

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** the replies to the requests to bring forward funding to 2021-22 and 2022-23
- **NOTED** that the Commonwealth has provided in-principle support to the 2022-23 bring forward with final funding conditional on progress of Queensland-led and national program activities
- **NOTED** that Victoria has requested that the proposed January 2023 timeline for the 2017-24 Program plan and budget to be presented to AGSOC, be adjusted to December 2022 to allow the plan and budget to be entered into usual budget processes.
- **AGREED** the Program would provide an interim plan to jurisdictions by the end of October 2022 in response to Victoria’s request to allow the plan and budget to be entered into usual budget processes.
- **AGREED** that notations be added to the Procurement Schedule for slippages and risk mitigation factors.

		Responsibility	Target	Status
4.	Submit interim 2023-27 Response Plan (including draft FAST Plan) to the Steering Committee for endorsement and submission to AGSOC	Program - Policy	Mid October 2022	
5.	Notations be added to the Procurement Schedule for slippages and risk mitigation factors.	Program – Business Services	Ongoing	



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Agenda Item 5 – Governance Changes

The Chair sought nominations from Steering Committee members following the resignation in August 2022 of Bill Magee, Chair of the National Exotic Invasive Ant Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), and also discussed the role of the SAG in the next phase of the Program.

Noting the number of recent triggers that are of a technical nature, it was proposed that a consultative committee arrangement, similar to NEBRA would be beneficial to make decisions about the future of the Program. Membership of the SAG could be expanded with technical and subject matter experts who could provide advice to the Steering Committee around feasibility of eradication, cost benefit analysis and harmonisation movement controls. The consultative committee could also provide advice to AGSOC.

The next phase of the Program is likely to include fairly significant decisions and will need the best advice possible from the Program but also from subject matter experts within the jurisdictions to enable recommendations to be submitted to AGSOC in a timely manner. It was suggested that the NBMCC model would be suitable and that subject matter experts could be called in on an issue-by-issue basis.

The Steering Committee agreed at the previous meeting, the need for an update to existing governance arrangements. An updated *Governance Arrangements for the NRIFAEP: 2023-27* document was provided for review and discussion at this meeting. Members discussed the role the Steering Committee will play going forward and the level of representation of members from jurisdictions. It was agreed that the triggers need to be more specific and at a higher-level for Steering Committee decision and recommendations to AGSOC.

The DAF Director-General has a strong view that the Program and the FAST should work together but be clear about lines of accountability, funding and reporting for both programs.

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** the status of the development of new Program governance arrangements
- **DISCUSSED** the proposed draft governance arrangements for NRIFAEP 2023-27 as provided.

Agenda item 5 - Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
6.	An out-of-session discussion to be held around the greater alignment of NRIFAEP Steering Committee and sub-committee structures with national biosecurity structures.	Chair / Malcolm Letts / Jo Laduzko	October 2022	
7.	Members to consider possible effective models for a consultative committee to provide technical advice to the Steering Committee before or at the next meeting.	Steering Committee members	November Meeting	
8.	Members to provide feedback to the Program on the "Governance Arrangements for the NRIFAEP 2023-27 Response Plan" including triggers, KPIs and the relationship between the Program and FAST.	Steering Committee members	Mid October 2022	



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Agenda Item 6 – NRIFAEP 2022-23 Work Plan and Strategic Overview and NRIFAEP 2023-27 Response Plan Update

At its May 2022 meeting, the Steering Committee approved the Program’s 2022-23 Work Plan, subject to the inclusion of an approved compliance related KPI. In consultation with the ACT representative in June 2022, the KPI was developed and updated in the 2022-23 Work Plan. The Steering Committee discussed the amendment and recommended that the target be amended to 80%, noting that the Program is working with a research company, MCR, to look at a series of qualitative studies which should assist with the validity issues in the survey data that is being collected.

The Chair suggested that a ‘Compliance’ paper be presented at the November Steering Committee meeting

The 2023-27 Response Plan developed by the Program in consultation with FAST was presented to the Steering Committee with the aim for a combined effort between the Program and FAST to achieve the common goal to eradicate fire ants from SEQ by 2032.

Michael Ross and Tom Roberts presented the proposed Strategic Overview for the Program and FAST including the timeline between now and 2032, the risks and opportunities, and an outline of the proposed operational approach, with a focus on strategic objectives and how the overview aligns with the Strategic Review recommendations.

It was suggested that the Program provide further information to the Steering Committee including what will be achieved by the Program and FAST this year and the following years, to include maps.

Further detail will be provided on suppression/pre-eradication activities within the FAST workshop being held on 26 August 2022.

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** that the NRIFAEP 2022-23 Work Plan was conditionally approved by the Committee, subject to the inclusion of an approved compliance related KPI
- **NOTED** the new KPI proposed at Paragraph 3
- **APPROVED** the KPI and by extension, the finalised NRIFAEP 2022-23 Work Plan with the Compliance target to be amended to 80%.
- **NOTED** and **DISCUSSED** the proposed outline of the NRIFAEP Response Plan 2023-27 and provided some suggestions, noting the Program will provide an ‘interim plan based on the approved outline. .

Agenda item 6 - Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
9.	Amend Compliance KPI target in 2022-23 Work Plan to 80%	Program Policy	ASAP	
10.	Draft paper on Compliance Strategy to be included in the November meeting agenda.	Program Policy / Secretariat	November 2022	
11.	Members to provide feedback to the Program on the Strategic Overview, with near final draft due in October for circulation in November 2022.	Steering Committee members	October 2022	



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12.	An 'interim' 2023-27 Response Plan be provided to the Steering Committee	Program	October 2022	
13.	Schedule provision of annual Response Plan outlines to the Steering Committee (to include proposal of what will be achieved each year by FAST and the Program including maps)	Program - Policy	October 2022 – to be presented November Meeting	Ongoing

Agenda item 7– Queensland Fire Ant Suppression (FAST) Update

Eddie Jebreen provided an update on FAST, noting that the Strategic Overview presented in Agenda Item 6, also covers the FAST Program. Recruitment of staff continues, with the current team sitting at 5 FTE. The main focus is to mobilise other stakeholders. There are several projects, strategies and initiatives currently being rolled out.

A significant community suppression project has commenced in Ipswich, with treatment to commence in October 2022. An application for community engagement and advertising is currently being considered by the Queensland Government which will build on the broader SEQ Program awareness campaign. FAST will have a targeted campaign to engage people in particular suburbs within the Ipswich local government area to be part of the community suppression project. The FAST is also working on a proposal for the Logan local government area with a slightly different approach to Ipswich. Treatment should commence in March, which will allow two rounds of treatment.

Discussions are continuing with the Gold Coast and Brisbane City Councils, and the Brisbane Sustainability Agency who have commenced treatment in Archerfield. Further details on collaborative agreements and data sharing will be provided at the FAST workshop.

Eddie also provided an update on financial accountability systems; procurement arrangements for bait, including logistics for repackaging and distribution; and development of data systems and data sharing agreements with collaborative partners.

FAST will continue to work with the Program to understand the Program’s priorities for suppression and pre-eradication activities within the FAST area.

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** the progress of the Queensland Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce.

Agenda item 7 – Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
	Nil			

Agenda item 8 – Surveillance and Treatment Update

Brett Turville provided an update on the progress of treatment and surveillance to 17 July 2022, outlining some key statistics for the season, including



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- the Program treated 314,000 hectares of the planned 315,000
- treatment amendments of 29,000 hectares due to surveillance findings and other clearance activities in September 2021 and in November 2021 resulted in reduction of treatment in other areas
- 103 refusals – a dedicated compliance team have been working with the field teams and as a result of their engagement, 63 of the refusals have since permitted entry to their premises.
- 16,000 hectares of surveillance planned this year.

There is now a dedicated ‘no more gaps’ team which remains a focus. They coordinate revisits and also coordinate the enforced entry with the Queensland Police Service when required. The team achieved between 97 – 99% coverage over the three treatment areas on average. The high proportion of gaps was due mainly to cropping. In these instances, the detection dogs were utilised for surveillance and discussions were held around treatment commencing when crops are in fallow. The team have also been working with the organic certifiers and organic property owners to investigate alternative measures for treatment to ensure the process runs smoothly into the 2022-23 treatment season.

The impact of COVID creating absenteeism and the significant wet weather events in South East Queensland proved challenging, with aerial losing 166 days out of 206 days. Monthly wet weather patterns are factored in when planning with a four-week contingency built into each 12 week block.

Forage, the in-field data capture App, has proven highly successful in its first full year since implementation, allowing electronic job tasking, rapid identification of outstanding work and creating a near paperless environment.

To aid in retention of operational staff, a learning and development framework has been developed and the team are looking at pathways and training opportunities to develop career pathways for area co-ordinators, team leaders and assistant team leaders. The induction package has been refreshed with tutorials for ‘on the job’ training processes which includes fortnightly reviews with checklists that have to be completed by the team. The team are also providing training through a “Job Skills Application Webinar” to equip employees with the skillset to apply for roles. A pilot is also being trialled in a Certificate II qualifications traineeship model with AWX and Protech who are happy to absorb the costs as an attractor. The Program is also trialling part time employees ie University students.

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** the update on treatment and surveillance delivered in 2021-22 and congratulated the team on their achievements in the face of adversity.
- **NOTED** the progress of 2022 surveillance.

Agenda item 8 – Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
	Nil			

Agenda item 9 – Outbreak Detections / Detections of Importance Update

Sharon Janssen provided an update on Serious Outbreaks and Detections of Importance. In the 2022-23 Work Plan, new detections in the area covered by the Program are referred to as outbreak detections. All new



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detections other than those in the pre-eradication area will be assessed according to risk and actions undertaken according to the risk level. 'Serious outbreak' is a new detection that presents a heightened risk to the Program's ability to achieve its objectives, will be case managed and reported to the Steering Committee immediately. These may include detections:

- outside the containment area
- large scale detections in areas that have received eradication treatment
- in areas that were considered to be free or clear of fire ants.

A map was presented outlining detections of importance found during 2021-22 and 2022-23, and the 2022-23 treatment areas that were created in response to those detections. There has been no new evidence of spread south to the New South Wales border. The closest being Nerang which is 11.9 kms from the border. The closest detection to date was in Witheren in 2019 which was 7.4km from the border. This was an isolated nest moved onto the property in hay mulch which was promptly eradicated, and no further infestation has been found in the following years.

An outline of the case study of the serious outbreak in Summerholm was presented. On 8 July 2022, the Program discovered over 100 nests on a rural property in Summerholm, which is in the Eradication area. The nests were found as a result of remote sensing. Additional surveillance undertaken to date has confirmed approximately 403 nests in two suburbs, across 21 properties. Genetic testing has determined that the infestation is of the monogyne social form and nests are not related to one another. This detection was immediately escalated to a serious outbreak status. The Program is working on a coordinated approach which includes:

- scientific analysis
- treatment – immediate nest destruction and extensive broadscale treatment over three rounds
- extensive surveillance – by foot teams and odour detection dogs to determine how many nests and the extent of the infestation
- compliance investigation – into human assisted movements into and out of the areas
- Communications Action Plan – this includes meetings with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council in relation to illegal movements and other stakeholders.

The findings of the case study showed:

- genetic analysis shows all nests tested to date are monogyne
- surveillance of main site in October detected no nests
- most of Summerholm received at least five rounds of treatment
- genetics show nests unrelated
- no known resistance to baits or bait shyness
- some evidence of human assisted movement of product in area but not onto main site
- Alate flight after 2020 possible in area
- flooding in February 2022 may have pooled nests on low point in landscape
- more genetic analysis pending.

Member for Tasmania requested further information on nests found through remote sensing surveillance in Summerholm. The Chair also suggested the Program could report any detections outside the outer containment boundary as a separate category.



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The Steering Committee:

- NOTED the new classifications of detections of importance
- NOTED the latest information available on serious outbreaks.

Agenda item 9 – Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
14.	Provide information on nests found through remote sensing surveillance in Summerholm	Planning	September 2022	
15.	Program to report any detections outside outer containment boundary as separate category	Planning	Ongoing	

Agenda item 10 – Remote Sensing Surveillance

Sharon Janssen provided an update and presentation on remote sensing activities. Remote sensing is moving out of the research and development phase and surveillance was operationalised in May this year. This was four weeks behind schedule due to delayed ‘sign-off’ of the 2022 Specific Task Analysis and Risk Assessment and also due to severe weather conditions. Despite the loss of at least 30 flight days, it is hoped the minimum target of 52,000 ha will still be achieved. Results have been positive with 387 nests over 27 sites being detected.

The Program has been working with Outline Global (OG) to come to an agreement on what constitutes existing and new IP. King and Wood Mallesons (K&WM), an external legal firm specialising in IP matters was engaged in July 2022, to assess the IP register relative to the previous and current contracts, and the specific processes to which each listed item relates. IP processes have been mapped and provided to K&WM to ensure all possible IP and the associated hardware and software has been identified. These processes are grouped into three components:

1. Image acquisition – relates to the end-to-end process from flight planning and camera setup to navigation processing and data exporting once capture is complete.
2. Image processing – relates to initial image downloads and corrections, through to orthophoto and mosaic production.
3. Artificial intelligence (AI) model – relates to the application of the AI model to orthophotos and AI training and data preparation.

A solution to resolve the IP ownership issue is currently being negotiated between the Program and OG. The solution involves OG applying password protection to their code that was pre-existing prior to their contractual agreement with the Program. The password will then be placed in Esgrow. Negotiations also continue to relocate the OG servers from their Melbourne headquarters to a locked room at Berrinba, however this in itself will not provide a solution which is acceptable to OG.

The Program is undertaking a six-week feasibility study of drones to understand how they could be applied within the Program to give clear guidance on available solutions, how they can be applied and what that would look like, so a decision can be made based upon the data, the problems and then interlinkages with the Program. It will be a considered approach, with a clear cost benefit analysis available for the Program. The results should be available by mid-October 2022.



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The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** the remote sensing surveillance progress update and the work being undertaken to resolve outstanding IP issues related to the RSS project.
- **NOTED** the update on the drone study and look forward to receiving the results in October 2022.

Agenda item 10 – Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
16.	Provide results of drone study to Steering Committee.	Program	Mid-October 2022	

Agenda item 11 – Movement Controls Update

Tom Roberts gave a verbal update on progress of the work that is occurring to harmonise movement controls across the states and territories. A recommendation from the Plant Health Committee (PHC) meeting held in July 2022, was to hold a national RIFA market access workshop to investigate the opportunity to align market access protocols for intra and interstate trade and nursery stock. Members from the NRIFAEP Steering Committee, Plant Industry Biosecurity Committee (PIBC) and PHC will be invited to the workshop. Tom Roberts has also been in discussion with the Chair, John McDonald around the HACCP process of nurseries which doesn't comply with our regulation, and there is no allowance for HACCP approved nurseries to meet our regulations.

PHC recommended the draft paper on harmonisation movement controls **not** be submitted to the National Biosecurity Committee as there was no formal risk analysis assessment completed. A risk assessment is to be completed and agreed to by the PHC working group to be signed off as acceptable market access.

The Chief Biosecurity Officer approved amendments to the fire ant biosecurity zones, to take effect from 1 September 2022. An additional 60 suburbs will be added to the existing biosecurity zones. There has been no incursion in these zones, there are just high-risk activities occurring there ie. hay and lucerne production, and soil turnover and movement in the building industry The Program has been actively engaging with industry, Queensland Farmers Federation, AgForce, Equestrian Association and Hay Growers Association to educate them on the changes to the biosecurity zones and their biosecurity obligations. The three engagements to date have been very positive.

The effects of flooding was raised. The Program has 21 years of flood data collected which is analysed in respect to rafting, survival rates and mechanisms. An internal report on "Flooding in SE Qld in February" will be provided to Steering Committee members.

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** the update on work associated with harmonising movement controls across jurisdictions
- **NOTED** the Program will undertake a risk assessment (using their methodology) for the Plant Health Committee to progress endorsement of the NBC Paper for RIFA Movement Controls
- **NOTED** the pending changes to the fire ant biosecurity zones
- **NOTED** the Program will provide a copy of the internal report "Flooding in SE Qld in February" to the Steering Committee.



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Agenda item 11 – Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
17.	Undertake risk assessment (using their methodology) for the Plant Health Committee to progress endorsement of the NBC Paper for RIFA Movement Controls	Program Policy	September 2022	
18.	Provide a copy of the internal report “Flooding in SE Qld in February” to the Steering Committee	Program Science / Policy	September 2022	Completed
19.	Provide draft journal paper “Fire ants and flooding, the Australian experience” by Ross Wylie to Steering Committee	Program Science	31 October 2022	

Agenda item 12 – Communication and Engagement Update

Chris Hollingdrake gave a presentation on the new approach the Communication and Engagement team are developing, including:

- Behaviour change approach
- Behaviour change model
- Behavioural targeting
- NRIFAEP and FAST – a coordinated approach with central key messaging; single website and phone number; single visual identity protocol and style guide; coordinated media management and advertising strategy; and a joint stakeholder training approach.
 - NRIFAEP
 - Broad community campaigns led by the Program across entire area
 - Local targeted engagement in the eradication and containment areas
 - FAST
 - Local targeted engagement in the suppression area
- Campaign Update – increase advertising this year from 700,000 to \$2M – need to build capabilities in order to deliver.
- Website Development Project
 - Stage 1 and 2 have been completed
 - Stage 3 – functionality sits in the capability project

The Steering Committee:

- **NOTED** the information provided in the Communication and Engagement update which is sounding very promising.

Agenda item 13 – Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
	Nil			



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Agenda item 13 – Other Business				
• Nil				
Agenda item 16 – Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
	Nil			

The meeting closed at 4.30pm

The next quarterly meeting will be held in November 2022.



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

FIRE ANT SUPPRESSION TASKFORCE WORKSHOP

Thursday 26 August 2022

9.00am – 2:30pm (AEDT)

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP

The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program Steering Committee held an extraordinary meeting on 14 July 2021 to review feedback on the draft Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce (FAST) Plan. An action from this meeting was for the FAST to convene a workshop for the Steering Committee in conjunction with the August meeting. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a detailed overview of FAST planning and operational commitments.

The workshop was Chaired by Wendy Craik, Chair of the Steering Committee and presented by the Director and Principal Engagement Officer of FAST. Attendees included, Steering Committee members (with three online), Bob Gee, DAF Director-General, Graeme Dudgeon, Program General Manager, and Program Manager, Communications and Engagement.

The workshop program addressed outstanding action items from the Steering Committee including a review of FAST priorities and governance arrangements, key performance indicators and reporting, operational delivery models for pre-eradication and suppression, opportunities for collaboration between the Program and FAST, and timeframes for finalising the FAST plan and commencement of on ground operations.

The Steering Committee discussed the relative differences between suppression treatment and pre-eradication treatment, and how each of these relate to Program priorities for eradication and risk mitigation. Timeframes were also discussed, and it was agreed that a roadmap of milestones would be developed in collaboration with the Program and included in the revised FAST Plan.

Agenda item 16 – Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
20.	A roadmap of milestones to be developed in collaboration with the Program and included in the revised FAST Plan (Roadmap to be based on “condition” rather than only time).	FAST	October 2022	
21.	Revised FAST Plan to be submitted to the Steering Committee.	FAST / Secretariat	October 2022	
22.	Risks relating to both the National Program and FAST to be identified	FAST / Program	October 2022	
23.	Discussion options for funding of the National Program elements in transition to FAST Program. To be added to November meeting Agenda.	Chair Malcolm Letts Graeme Dudgeon	November 2022	
24.	Draft FAST KPI's for review by the Steering Committee	FAST	October 2022	