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

Thursday 30 September 2021

Teleconference

9.00am – 11.00am

ATTENDANCE

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

The meeting opened at 9.00am.



MAIN DISCUSSION

The Chair welcomed members to the extraordinary Steering Committee meeting, and Lucy Tran-Nguyen on behalf of Anne Walters who was an apology.

Minutes for the extraordinary meeting held on 23 September 2021 were taken as a correct record, with all actions completed.

Malcolm Letts provided an overview of the proposed timing of governance meetings for submitting the Strategic Review Report and recommendations, including three potential options on the Program's future and the bring forward of funding. A paper for noting will be submitted to the National Biosecurity Committee prior to a paper for decision being submitted to the Agriculture Senior Officials' Committee on 14 October 2021. Approval will be sought to submit a paper to the Agriculture Ministers' meeting on 1 November 2021. Alternatively, the briefings could occur out-of-session.

The Chair thanked members for their feedback and endorsement of the Steering Committee's response to the Strategic Review Report recommendations. Comments will be incorporated, and an updated version will be circulated with a view to seeking final agreement to the response.

An update was provided on the Strategy for the Control of Red Imported Fire Ant in Australia, the NRIFAEP Eradication Program Response Plan and the Queensland Fire Ant Control Plan. Some draft implementation plans and a possible variation for Option A were discussed. It was suggested a more stylised map that shows the different geographic areas of the response could be incorporated. The plans will be updated and circulated.

It was advised that the Cost Benefit Analysis Report being prepared by the Central Queensland University will be provided by cob Friday 1 October 2021, for circulation to the Steering Committee.

An update was provided on the bring forward of funding, including receipt of correspondence from the Federal Agriculture Minister indicating support.

The Steering Committee:

- **AGREED** a document be prepared for NBC noting, AGSOC and Agriculture Ministers' consideration and advice on the options provided by 7 October 2021
- **REQUESTED** a meeting be scheduled for 7 October 2021 for sign-off of governance papers
- **AGREED** members will provide comments on the Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia and the NRIFAEP Eradication Program Response Plan
- **AGREED** updated versions of the Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia, the NRIFAEP Eradication Program Response Plan and the Queensland Fire Ant Control Plan will be circulated to the Steering Committee following receipt of member's comments.
- **REQUESTED** the Remote Sensing Report and Cost Benefit Analysis be circulated to the Steering Committee by 1 October 2021.

Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
1.	Paper be prepared for submitting to AGSOC and Agriculture Ministers for consideration and advice on the options.	Qld DAF	7 October 2021	Completed
2.	Steering Committee extraordinary meeting be scheduled for 7 October 2021.	Secretariat	30 September 2021	Completed
3.	Provide comments on the Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia and the NRIFAEP Eradication Program Response Plan	Steering Committee members	4 October 2021	Completed - comments received
4.	Updated versions of the Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia, the NRIFAEP Eradication Program Response Plan and the Queensland Fire Ant Control Plan to be circulated to the Steering Committee.	Secretariat	6 October 2021	Completed
5.	Forward the Strategy for the Control of RIFA in Australia, the NRIFAEP Eradication Program Response Plan and the Queensland Fire Ant Control Plan to the Review Panel for review.	Secretariat	8 October 2021	In progress
6.	Circulate the Remote Sensing Report to the Steering Committee.	Secretariat	1 October 2021	Completed
7.	Circulate the Cost Benefit Analysis to the Steering Committee.	Secretariat	1 October 2021	Completed