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National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (SEQ) Steering Committee
Thursday 9 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 van Schagen, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA) Anne Walters, Department of Primary Industry and Resources (NT) 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) Mike Richards, External Financial Consultant
Observers	Bernadette Ditchfield, A/Deputy Director-General/Chief Biosecurity Officer, Biosecurity Queensland, (DAF) Graeme Dudgeon, General Manager
Secretariat	Kerri Nobbs, Senior Policy Officer, (NRIFAEP)
Apologies	Rae Burrows, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (TAS)



The meeting opened at 9.00am.

MAIN DISCUSSION

The Steering Committee discussed the recommendations from the NRIFAEP Strategic Review and considered the options and its approach.

For options A (preferred) and C, operationalising the recommendations and developing a business case will need to occur as soon as possible, including ramping up, efficiencies of scale, pace of transfer to Queensland and KPIs. The case will also need to include a commitment from Queensland for the Residual Area, including negotiation with local government regarding ramping up etc.

The Queensland Government to commence discussions with the local government to negotiate their participation in either option.

A draft response to the review recommendations to be prepared for the Steering Committee.

Bring forward of funding for the financial year is critical to ensure momentum is not lost and the Program experiences another hiatus.

The Steering Committee:

- **AGREED** the report remain “confidential” to the cost share partners and people integrally involved in the Program until considered by the Agriculture Ministers.

Action items		Responsibility	Target	Status
1.	Develop a business case for Options A (preferred) and C.	Program	30 September 2021	Completed
2.	A draft response to the review recommendations be prepared for the Steering Committee.	Program	30 September 2021	Completed