

Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee – Meeting Update

Updates on key projects and issues are summarised following each committee meeting.

Meeting 22 held on 19 February 2020 - Summary

The committee met on 19 February 2020 in Canberra and received operational updates from the department on the Horticulture Exports and Authorised Officer programs, the Plant Export Management System (PEMS), the Horticulture Exports Cost Recovery Arrangements and market access activities.

Regional Assurance Manager Program

The Regional Assurance Manager Pilot program has expanded to include the appointment of eight Regional Assurance Managers throughout Australia providing support and advice to industry Authorised Officers and Registered Establishments within their regions.

Plant Export Management System

PEMS Version 3 was delivered on schedule and on budget in December 2019. Further enhancements covering onshore cold treatment and integration with industry systems for horticulture inspections and calibration are planned to be finalised by 30 June 2020. The department stressed the importance of registering and transitioning to PEMS as soon as possible, particularly given the mandatory use of electronic documentation for plant export inspections and in-transit/onshore cold treatment calibrations from May 2020.

One Audit Pilot

Stage 1 of the One Audit Pilot found significant efficiencies were achieved through consolidating the multiple pieces of import and export requirements for one freight forwarder into a single streamlined audit tool. Stage 2 of the Pilot, focused on effectiveness, commenced in November 2020 and is due to conclude by 30 June 2020.

Agricultural export legislation

The House of Representatives passed the Export Control Bill 2019 and its associated bills on 12 February 2020. The bills were then introduced to the Senate on 13 February 2020, with debate expected in late February. Drafting of the Plant Export Rules is progressing, with the first consultation period of 30 days anticipated to occur in late April/early May 2020, and the second consultation period of 60 days to occur in July/August 2020.

Cost recovery of exports certification

Consultation on the draft Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) for plant related commodities was extended until 31 January 2020. A summary of the feedback received is to be published on the department website.

For additional information on the above summary please contact your industry HEICC representative.