

## Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee – Meeting Update

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

### Meeting 26 held on 14 July 2021 - Summary

The committee met on 14 July 2021 via teleconference, and received operational updates from the department on the Plant Export Operations and Export Operations, the Horticulture Exports Cost Recovery Arrangements, market access activities, and relevant information technology projects.

#### Export Cost Recovery Implementation Statements

The Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management has approved the 2021-22 Horticulture Exports Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS), which outlines a proportionate increase to fees and charges based on the existing price structure. Following public consultation in May/June 2021, the new 2021-22 fees and charges commenced on 1 July 2021. Twelve submissions on the horticulture exports arrangement, published [here](#), were received during the consultation period, and feedback from industry and stakeholders was provided to the Minister for consideration in making his decision on the final 2021-22 CRIS. The department will continue to regularly engage and work closely with stakeholders on the ongoing streamlining of cost recovery arrangement, including undertaking annual CRIS updates (to start in October 2021) to ensure expenses and revenue are aligned and to pass on efficiencies from reforms and government investments as quickly as possible. (see [Industry Advice Notice 2021-37: Horticulture – 2021-22 Horticulture Exports Cost Recovery Implementation Statements](#) of 29 June 2021 for further information).

#### Agricultural export legislation

The new export legislation commenced on 28 March 2021 and consists of the *Export Control Act 2020* as the central pillar of the new legislative framework, and the Export Control Rules 2021 setting out the operations requirements for exporting specific goods from Australia (including plants and plant products). The department is planning to review and, where required, amend the Plant Rules on an annual basis, with the first amendment scheduled for October 2021. (See [Industry Advice Notice 2021-08: Plant Export Operations – Key changes: new plant and plant product export legislation](#) of 4 March 2021, and the department's webpage on [new plant export legislation](#) for further information).

#### Updated requirements for food manufacturer exporting to China

Effective 1 January 2022, all manufacturers and exporters of food to China must be registered with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). The requirements capture a broad range of food products including low risk foods. Additionally, food products exported to China will be subject to new labelling requirements. The department is seeking implementation guidance from China and working on processes for implementation. To assist this effort, please provide questions or comments on the updated requirements to your industry committee member for forwarding to the department. Further advice will be issued as it become available. (See [Industry Advice Notice 2021-41: Plant Export Operations – Updated requirements for food manufacturers exporting to China](#) of 15 July 2021 for further information).

#### Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters

The committee was briefed on a number of specific ICT reform projects being conducted under the Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters program, including projects to:

- deliver enhanced processes to support plant and plant product exports from Australia (Plant Export Management System (PEMS) 4)
- map and implement harmonised regulatory approaches between Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and between Commonwealth and industry arrangements
- design and implement third party auditing regimes (alternate assurance pathways)

- rial and adopt real-time monitoring and reporting technology for assurance.

Further information on the Busting Congestion package can be found [here](#).

#### Plant Export Operations Strategic Plan 2020-2030

The Plant Export Operations Strategic Plan 2020-2030 was developed by the department in consultation with committee members in late 2019. The Plan identified six high level strategic priorities designed to form the basis of the reform work over the next ten years, many of which have been included in the recent Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters initiative. A copy of the Plan will be available shortly on the department's website.

#### NEXDOC

Commodities are being moved from the Export Documentation System (EXDOC) to the new system, Next Export Documentation System (NEXDOC), with the first commodity – dairy – being transitioned to NEXDOC on 17 May 2021. Following the launch of the dairy commodity, further developments are to be progressed incrementally. (See the department's webpage on [NEXDOC](#) for further information).

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