

Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee – Meeting Update

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

Meeting 29 held on 6 July 2022 - Summary

The committee met on 6 July 2022 in person and via teleconference to discuss Plant Export Operations, the Horticulture Exports Cost Recovery Arrangements, market access activities, and relevant information technology projects. Routine operational updates covering audit and assurance, assessment services, and the Authorised Officer program were provided out-of-session.

Plant Export Reform

The Busting Congestion for Plant Exports program will simplify processes for plant exporters and industry participants involved in the production, treatment and logistics of exporting plant and plant products. The committee noted the progress of four projects relevant to horticulture products:

- Harmonised Regulation – The department has partnered with the Tasmanian and Victorian State governments on two projects; to respectively automate area freedom certification and standardise irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment.
- Industry Systems Recognition – Areas of duplication between commercial food safety and quality assurance schemes and plant export requirements have been identified, and work has commenced on drafting amendments to policies and instructional material to allow for the recognition of food safety certification for pest control, hygiene, and waste management.
- Packhouse Grower Supply Model – The department is currently trialing the use of a citrus packhouse's grower management system to check pest monitoring activities, chemical applications, and farm hygiene. The trial, being conducted from March until August 2022, has been developed with Citrus Australia and includes six citrus packhouses in NSW, South Australia, and Victoria.
- Technology for Assurance - Technology for Assurance – The department has engaged with several technology companies who are developing, or have developed, technology that could be utilised in the plant export pathway and is working with vapour heat treatment facilities on a proof of concept for collecting treatment and sensor calibration data using an application programming interface (API).

Further information is available from the department's [Busting Congestion for Plant Exports](#) webpage.

Amendments to the Plant Rules

Following consultation with committee members on proposed changes to remove the requirement for preparation at a Registered Establishment for fresh fruit and vegetables for export to non-phyto sanitary markets, the department will be progressing the amendment during the next tranche of amendments scheduled in the final quarter of 2022. There will be an opportunity to provide further feedback as amendments to the Plant Rules progress.

Horticulture Exports Program

The Horticulture Exports Program is seeking feedback from members on the 2019 policy regarding the phytosanitary security of horticulture goods for export.

[Trade Reform Research Panel](#)

The department is building a list of exporters who would like to participate in research activities to help shape the exporting experience of the future. Exporters can become involved by signing up to the [Trade Reform Research Panel](#). Further information is also available on the [Taking Farmers to Markets blog](#).

[Plant Export Management System update](#)

New functionalities in the Plant Export Management System (PEMS) implemented on 30 June 2022 include:

- an update to the 'Inspection Result' screen for citrus inspections to protocol markets to include a tick box '10% calyces lift'; and
- improved reporting and functionality for users.

Further information is available from the department's [Plant Exports Management System \(PEMS\)](#) webpage.

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