



National Onion Industry Biosecurity Plan

CONTINGENCY PLANS AND RESPONSE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS





Plant Health Australia is a peak national coordinating body for plant health in Australia. We commission projects and work with members to coordinate the development of national policy and capability to enhance the ability of Australian agriculture to respond effectively to plant pests, weeds and diseases.

For more information on Plant Health Australia

Location: Suite 5, FECCA House
4 Phipps Close
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Phone: +61 2 6260 4322

Fax: +61 2 6260 4321

E-mail: admin@phau.com.au

Visit our web site: www.planthealthaustralia.com.au

An electronic copy of this plan is available from the web site listed above.

© Plant Health Australia 2007

This work is copyright except where attachments are provided by other contributors and referenced, in which case copyright belongs to the relevant contributor as indicated throughout this document. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior permission from Plant Health Australia. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to:

Communications Manager
Plant Health Australia
Suite 5, FECCA House
4 Phipps Close
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Disclaimer:

The material contained in this publication is produced for general information only. It is not intended as professional advice on any particular matter. No person should act or fail to act on the basis of any material contained in this publication without first obtaining specific, independent professional advice.

Plant Health Australia and all persons acting for Plant Health Australia in preparing this publication, expressly disclaim all and any liability to any persons in respect of anything done by any such person in reliance, whether in whole or in part, on this publication. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Plant Health Australia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	4
Introduction	5
PLANTPLAN.....	6
Current response management procedures	6
Industry specific response procedures	8
Industry communication.....	8
Counselling services	10
Threat-specific Contingency Plans.....	12

TABLES

Table 1 <i>Key nursery and garden industry contacts</i>	8
Table 2 <i>Counselling services</i>	10
Table 3 <i>Financial counselling services</i>	11

FIGURES

Figure 1 <i>General decision making and communication chain for a plant pest emergency response</i>	7
---	---

Acronyms

DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
EPP	Emergency Plant Pest
EPPRD	Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed
GIMP	Generic Incursion Management Plan
IBG	Industry Biosecurity Group
IBMP	Industry Best Management Practice
IBP	Industry Biosecurity Plan
OA	Onions Australia
OCPPO	Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer
PHA	Plant Health Australia
QA	Quality Assurance

Note: The definition of a pest as adopted by the International Plant Protection Convention (any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal, or pathogenic agent, injurious to plants or plant products) is used throughout this plan.

Introduction

Gathering information, developing procedures, and defining roles and responsibilities during an emergency can be extremely difficult. To address this area, Plant Health Australia (PHA) has developed PLANTPLAN, a national set of incursion response guidelines for the plant sector, detailing procedures required and the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in an incursion response.

Following PLANTPLAN is a set of threat-specific contingency plans. These contingency plans cover the key pests to the onion industry. These pests are detailed in the emergency plant pest priority list and have been identified through a process of qualitative risk assessment. Information is provided on the host range, symptoms, biology and epidemiology of each organism, along with guidelines for general and targeted surveillance programs, diagnosis, and control. These documents are designed to be used in conjunction with the emergency response guidelines in PLANTPLAN.

PLANTPLAN

PLANTPLAN provides a description of the general procedures, management structure and information flow system for the handling of a plant pest emergency at national, state/territory and district levels. This includes the operations of the control centres, principles for the chain of responsibility, functions of sections and role descriptions. PLANTPLAN is a general manual for use by all jurisdictions for all plant pest emergencies.

PLANTPLAN is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it provides the best possible guidance to plant industries and governments in responding to serious plant pests. Accordingly, please check the web site (www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/plantplan) to ensure you have the most up to date version.

Current response management procedures

On finding a pest, or after a pest is reported, the relevant state/territory agriculture agency may collect samples of a suspect organism and seek a positive identification. If the pest is suspected to be an exotic pest (not yet present in Australia), within 24 hours the agency will inform the Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer (OCPPO) which will notify other relevant Australian Government Departments and relevant state agencies and industry representatives. After consultation, appropriate response measures will be decided.

If the pest is considered potentially serious, then the relevant state/territory agriculture department may adopt precautionary measures. These measures, depending on the pest, may include:

- restriction of operations in the area
- withdrawal of people, vehicles and machinery from the area and disinfection
- restricted access to the area
- interim control or containment measures.

If an exotic plant pest is confirmed, technical and economic considerations are reviewed, and a decision made on whether to eradicate, contain or do nothing about the incursion (depending on the likely costs and impacts of the pest). Under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed all decisions are made by committees with government and industry representation.

During this investigation/alert period, the affected area will be placed under quarantine until a decision is made on whether to eradicate or control the pest. Once a decision has been made on a suitable response, efforts enter the operational phase. Eradication or control methods used will vary according to the nature of the pest involved and infested material will be destroyed where necessary. All on ground response operations are undertaken by the relevant state department(s) in accord with relevant state/territory legislation.

In the stand down phase, all operations are wound down. Where a plant pest emergency was not confirmed, those involved will be advised that the threat no longer exists. Where an eradication or management/control campaign has taken place, quarantine measures will be reviewed.

Figure 1 *General decision making and communication chain for a plant pest emergency response*

Investigation	Alert	Operational	Stand Down
<p>Detection of new pest</p> <p>Report forwarded to state agriculture department</p> <p>Investigation by state agency – samples collected/identified</p>	<p>Chief Plant Protection Officer (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - DAFF) and other state agencies and industry notified</p> <p>Quarantine restrictions imposed if appropriate</p> <p>Likely impacts of pest evaluated and decision made on response</p>	<p>State agencies manage operational response under relevant legislation</p> <p>State and/or Local Pest Control Centre established (if appropriate)</p> <p>Lead agency, DAFF and industry cooperate regarding communication/media relations</p>	<p>Response successful or decision made to move to contain and live with the pest</p>

The figure and information provided above is a general guide. For more detailed information on how pest responses are managed, please refer to PLANTPLAN.

Industry specific response procedures

Industry communication

In the event of a pest incursion affecting the onion industry, Onions Australia (AO) will be the key industry contact point and will have responsibility for industry communication and media relations.

Close cooperation is required between relevant government bodies and industry in regards to the effective management of a pest response and media/communication issues. Readers should refer to PLANTPLAN for further information.

Regional or state based industry organisations will be informed of the incident through the national industry contact.

Table 1 *Key onion industry contacts*

Name	Organisation	Position	Contact details
National			
Joanne Thomas-Ward	Onions Australia (OA)	Executive Officer	OA C/- Post Office KANMANTOO SA 5252 Ph: (08) 853 85509 Fax: (08) 853 85510 E-mail: onionsaust@activ8.net.au
New South Wales			
Tony Napier	New South Wales Department of Primary Industries		Yanco Agricultural Institute Private Mail Bag Yanco NSW 2703 Ph: (02) 6951 2796 Mob: 0427 201 839 E-mail: tony.napier@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Queensland			
Ken Jackson	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland		Locked Bag 7 Mail Service 437 GATTON QUEENSLAND 4343 Ph: (07) 5466 2288 E-mail: ken.jackson@dpi.qld.gov.au
South Australia			
Steve Rathjen	Onions Australia	Chairperson	RMB 2030 Murray Bridge SA 5253 Ph: (08) 8569 7245 Fax: (08) 8569 7296 E-mail: Rathjen@baonline.net.au
Tasmania			

Name	Organisation	Position	Contact details
Dean Metcalf	Department of Primary Industries and Water, Tasmania	Quarantine Pathologist	NewTown Reserach Laboratories 13 St Johns Avenue NEWTOWN TASMANIA 7008 Ph: (03) 6233-8011 Mob: 0417 387 370 E-mail: dean.metcalf@dpiwe.tas.gov.au
Victoria			
Dan Weddell	Magnus Kahl Seeds		3422 Melbourne Rd Lancefield VIC 0407 Ph: 0407 524 545 E-mail: dan@mkseeds.com.au
Western Australia			
Peter Ivankovich			RMB 3571 HARVEY WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6220 Ph: (08) 9720 1388 Mob: 0428 919 211 E-mail: ivafarms@bigpond.com

Counselling services

Provision for counselling will be made through the various grower organisations and government agencies. Details are provided below.

Table 2: *Counselling services*

State	Organisation	Contact
National	Australian Government Agriculture Advancing Australia information line	Phone 1800 686 175 for referral to your nearest service provider.
National	Relationships Australia	Phone 1300 364 277 or see http://www.relationships.com.au/ for regional contacts and services
NSW	NSW Rural Assistance Authority	Phone (02) 6391 3000 or 1800 678 593 or visit http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/
NT	Employee Assistance Service NT Inc	Phone 1800 193 123 or (08) 8941 1752 or visit http://www.easnt.org.au
Qld	DPI & F, Queensland	Phone 13 25 23 or visit http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/health/4085.html#for
SA	Counselling services SA: Department for families and communities	Phone (08) 8226 8800 or Crisis Care: 13 16 11 (All hours) or visit http://www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/
Tas	Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services	Phone 1300 135 513 or (03) 6233 3185 http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/
Vic	Department of Primary Industries maintains a list of various relevant counselling providers	DPI Customer Service Centre Phone 136 186 E mail: customer.service@nre.vic.gov.au
WA	Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia	Rural Counselling Liaison Officer Phone (08) 9325 0013
WA	Western Australian Health Department	Central West Mental Health Service, Gascoyne office Phone (08) 9956 1999

Advice on financial support for affected growers can be obtained from the following organisations free of charge.

Table 3: *Financial counselling services*

State	Organisation	Contact
All states	Rural Financial Counselling Service	Phone 1800 686 175 for referral to your nearest service provider
NSW	NSW Rural Assistance Authority	Phone (02) 6391 3000 or 1800 678 593 or visit http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/
NT	Territory Business Centres, Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines	Phone 1800 193 111 or visit http://www.tbc.nt.gov.au
Qld	DPI & F, Queensland Farm Financial Counselling Service.	Phone 13 25 23 (within Queensland) or (07) 3224 2337 (outside Queensland) or visit http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/business/2867.html
SA	Central Riverland Financial Counselling Service Inc	Rural Financial Counsellor PIRSA Loxton Office Phone (08) 8595 9146
SA	SA Association of Rural Counselling Services	Phone (08) 8581 7209 or visit www.ruralcounselingsa.org.au
Tas	Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services	Phone 1300 135 513 or (03) 6233 3185 http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/
Vic	Department of Primary Industries, Victoria maintains a list of various relevant counselling providers	DPI Customer Service Centre Phone 136 186 E mail: customer.service@nre.vic.gov.au
WA	Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia	Rural Counselling Liaison Officer Phone (08) 9325 0013

Threat-specific Contingency Plans

Over time, Threat-specific Contingency Plans will be completed for the exotic threats identified in the emergency plant pest priority list. Updated plans will be made available in electronic format.