



## Stakeholder Newsletter

December 2016

This newsletter provides a monthly update of the group's activities to our stakeholders to keep you better informed about key work and initiatives in the pipeline. Please note the next edition of this newsletter will be February 2017.



## Group Update



**Sarah Clark** joins Plant Exports as a senior advisor. Sarah will be overseeing the apple official assurance programmes for codling moth for sensitive countries, and for apples to China and Taiwan. Sarah has been with

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for six years, previously working in biosecurity risk assessments of specific pests and import pathways of various commodities, including seeds and fresh produce.



**Nicola Robertson** is returning to the Import and Export Plants Group. She has joined the Fresh Produce team as a senior advisor after spending a year in Melbourne followed by a year in the South/South East Asia Team in

Market Access.



**Genalin Flaminiano** has joined the Plant and Forestry team as an advisor. She previously worked as a support officer for the Plant Import and Export group. Gen's new role will be looking after nursery stock exports, wood

packaging certification mark system and other plant product exports. She will also continue to review and update the ICPRs.

## Market Access

### Bilateral Technical Discussion between MPI and Samoa MAF

Bilateral technical discussion between MPI and Samoan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) was held in Apia, Samoa on 3 October 2016.



Front row: Nacanieli Waqa (MPI), Mike Walsh (New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade), Dr Stephen Butcher (MPI) and Pelenato Fonoti (Head of Samoa National Plant Protection Organisation).

The bilateral technical meeting was also attended by a representative from the New Zealand High Commission in Samoa.

MPI communicated on the updated import health standard (IHS) development system. Samoa appreciated the new development. Samoa recognised that the updated system would assist them in future market access requests.

## Plant Exports

### Arhopalus Season

The *Arhopalus* flight season for 2016/17 started on Friday 25 November 2016. All timber, timber mouldings and break-bulk ply products (including LVL) shipped to Australia during the *Arhopalus* flight season must be treated in accordance with Department of Agriculture and Water Resources requirements for the *Arhopalus ferox* (Burnt Pine Longicorn (BPL)) flight season and be accompanied by a MPI phytosanitary certificate.

### STIMBR Meeting and Research Update

MPI attended the Stakeholders in Methyl Bromide Reduction, Inc. (STIMBR) report back to members and the annual general meeting in Tauranga on 24 November 2016.

Research updates on areas of low pest prevalence, Joule heating, ethanedinitrile (EDN), methyl bromide fumigation rates reduction and recapture including update on phosphine monitoring were provided.



Methyl bromide fumigation of logs at Tauranga port

Methyl bromide is used for treating New Zealand logs and other primary sector products. Due to the effect of this fumigant on ozone depletion, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires mandatory recapture or destruction of all methyl bromide after fumigation by 2020.

Results from the current research indicate some prospective alternative treatments for meeting the EPA requirements and improving market access for primary products to overseas countries.

## Plant Imports

### Post Entry Plant Quarantine (PEQ)

The revised facility standard for Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) for plants comes into full effect on 8 March 2017. Plant imports staff are helping to finalise the online component of the operator training programme, which will be made available to all PEQ operators later in December. As well as working on the roll out of the new PEQ standard, members of the PIE group recently attended a workshop to discuss issues relating to level 3B PEQ greenhouse capacity in New Zealand. Further information about the implementation of the new facility standard can be found [here](#).



K & L Nurseries

A two day workshop was held for MPI PEQ inspectors in mid-November. This was organised by MPI Verification Services, with staff from Plant Imports and the Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL) also participating in the workshop. MPI run these workshops each year to upskill inspectors and to help make sure that there is consistency between PEQ inspectors from different regions.

This year there was a focus on becoming familiar with the requirements of the revised PEQ standard.

A highlight of this year's programme was a visit to K & L Nurseries. This was a very informative visit for MPI staff, and it was great for MPI to see first-hand the processes and procedures K & L are using to meet the requirements of the revised PEQ standard. It was also great to see the **Polytechnik boiler** that K & L recently installed in action. MPI would like to thank Paul Loader and Ian Kempthorne for hosting us during our visit.

### PEQ Capacity Workshop

MPI, representatives from the Germplasm Advisory Committee (GERMAC) and private PEQ providers, held a workshop on 21 November to discuss issues relating to Level 3 capacity in New Zealand.

The group agreed that the lack of level 3B facilities are limiting the importation and development of new varieties. The committee also discussed the main causes contributing to the provision of cost-effective PEQ space.

An Investment Logic Map has been developed from the workshop and the next step will be for MPI to consider what strategic interventions could be taken to solve the problems. Once the options have been determined, the group will reconvene to discuss these.

### Accreditation of Offshore "High-Health" Plant Facilities



Another approach to reducing the “bottleneck” for importing plant germplasm into level 3 PEQ in New Zealand, is the accreditation of offshore “high-health” plant facilities. There are currently seven operating **MPI-approved offshore facilities**, allowing germplasm of certain species to be imported with reduced PEQ and testing requirements in New Zealand. Applications for new offshore facilities (or reaccreditation of existing facilities) can be made to the Plant Germplasm (Imports) team by submitting **the IHS request form** and emailing it to **plantimports@mpi.govt.nz**.

### Visit to New Zealand Agriseeds

Rose Souza-Richards and Amie Parker of the Plant Germplasm Imports team visited New Zealand Agriseeds in Darfield in November. They toured the property and discussed the plant breeding and seed production.

The Plant Imports and Exports group also hosted two Agriseeds employees for a day to help them learn more about New Zealand’s seed regulatory system. MPI would like to thank John Duncan for organising the exchange.

## Plant Imports Work Programme Updates



The updated Plant Imports Work Programme for 2016/17 can be found at **this link**.

### Cucurbitaceae Seeds for Sowing

The review of submissions for the proposed amendment to the *Cucurbitaceae* seeds for sowing requirements is underway and expected to be released on the website in December.

### Pelleted Seed and Seed Tape Measures

Rose Souza-Richards is currently reviewing the Seeds for Sowing IHS for permanent measures to be applied to all pelleted seeds and seed tapes imported into New Zealand.

### Rosa Nursery Stock IHS

Megan Dymond is reviewing the submissions received from consultation on proposed changes to the requirements for rose nursery stock and is hoping to have the Review of Submissions report and Final Draft of the IHS available for submitters to review prior to the Christmas break.

### Truffles IHS

Gillian Stone is reviewing the submissions received from consultation on proposed changes to the requirements for

truffles for consumption and truffles for propagation. Further discussions with the New Zealand Truffle Association on molecular testing requirements are planned in December. The Review of Submissions report and Final Drafts of the two IHS are expected to be made available to submitters in the New Year.



### IHS for Fresh Onions

The Import Health Standard (IHS) for fresh onions for consumption was issued on 28 November. No objections to the IHS were received following the provisional period.

Trade from China will not begin until an export plan has been negotiated and implemented. This is the first commodity IHS in the new format to be issued for fresh produce.

### Fungicide Seed Treatment Updates

Updates to the options for fungicide treatments for coriander and *Echinochloa* seed is currently in progress. The New Zealand seed industry and interested parties can expect to see a letter detailing the proposed changes and inviting comment later this month.

## Upcoming Meetings and Travel

Plant & Food Research, hops facility	<b>5 December 2016, Motueka</b>
GERMAC	<b>21 February 2017, Wellington</b>

## MPI Office Closure

### Plant Exports

The Plant Exports office will be closed from 23 December and reopens on 4 January 2017.

There will be staff on-call to deal with any urgent enquiries or issues.

For any enquiries, a list of MPI contact persons during the holiday period is available with the IVAs.

Please contact your respective IVA in the first instance.

### Plant Imports

The Plant Imports office will be closed from 23 December 2016 until 4 January 2017. Consequently, we will not be able to process permits during this time.

Any permit applications received after the close of business on Monday 12 December 2016 will not be processed until the New Year. Any permit that is due for renewal prior to Monday 16 January 2017 should be submitted to the permits office by Monday 12 December 2016.

## Previous Newsletters

All previous newsletter issues can be found on MPI's website using the following link: [News & Resources > Publications](#) and then filtering by title: [Plants Imports](#) and by document type: [Newsletter](#).

MPI manages a subscription list for this newsletter. If you'd like to receive issues in the future, please [subscribe here](#).