

Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee Horizon Scan

26 February 2015

What is BMAC

The Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee (BMAC) is an advisory body established in 2005 to provide the Minister for Primary Industries with high-quality independent advice on the performance of biosecurity system. It consists of up to 10 members from a variety of backgrounds and interests.

Horizon scan

This report is the result of the Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee's (BMAC) Horizon Scan conducted at its February 2015 meeting. The intention of this is to support and inform the Ministry for Primary Industries work on refreshing the 2003 Biosecurity Strategy and other relevant work streams.

The timeframe for this Horizon Scan was 10 years, but flexible when appropriate for each item.

Below is a summary of what BMAC sees as key pressures and trends that will impact and shape the biosecurity system over the coming years.

Awareness of biosecurity – Domestically and Internationally

Emphasis on biosecurity diminishing internationally, New Zealand rapidly becoming one of the last countries to hold an emphasis on biosecurity

Need to communicate to overseas markets why biosecurity is important to New Zealand, such as the dependence of the economy on the primary sectors and the threat to our unique flora and fauna

Further engagement with industry and general public needed on the impacts biosecurity can have on their daily lives, including the value of this in terms of income and also the disruption. Case studies and examples would help here.

Further uptake of social media as a tool for engaging and communicating with the general public and stakeholders

Balancing of trade and biosecurity

Biosecurity seen as a non-tariff trade barrier, particularly by those countries where biosecurity has little relevance

Relevance of unique New Zealand conditions in trade (i.e. Biodiversity), balancing the need for protection with facilitation of trade

Increasing trade leading to increasing risk, particularly with ocean freight leading to bigger ships entering New Zealand waters

Increasing relevance of marine pathways in biosecurity, both as a international and domestic vector

Increase in demand for stock feed from rapidly changing sources, and the risk of being delivered in shipping containers straight to farm without treatment

Increasing importation of new and novel products bringing in new risks

Increasing number of products from new markets as more Free Trade Agreements are made with other countries, biosecurity chapters need to be included in these

Reputational impact on New Zealand as a trusted supplier of produce if we have an incursion

The increasing amount of goods crossing the border, particularly mail and express freight from online purchases

Biosecurity Management

Mandate for government to do biosecurity – leadership/co-ordination/implementation

Increasing use of co-management and partnership in managing risk, encouraging industry/corporate responsibility

Biosecurity system ownership through commercial drivers

Keeping the regulatory framework fit-for-purpose, getting the framework to work at the right points at the right time

Marine biosecurity lacking a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework, lack of regulation on internal movement of craft as a vector

Continuing to balance the use of enforcement versus encouraging compliance (Carrot vs. Stick)

Further emphasis needs to be placed on pre-border biosecurity interventions, prevent arrival of risk where possible

Changes in natural environment

Increasing number of climatic events leading to increasingly disturbed environments and increased risk of invasion

Shifting climatic conditions changing risk profiles and suitability of pest species

Timings for seasonal control of pest species altering

Development and demand for new biological materials and natural products

Increasing demand for natural products, intolerance/adversity to additives and chemicals

Protein production moving towards a basis of quality and value added products and not commodities or quantity

Development of science and technology

Need for an ongoing focus on capability and capacity

Leveraging skills and knowledge across disciplines

Prioritising improved interventions, detection tools, through more efficient new methods and technologies

Improving accuracy of risk profiles through ongoing collection of information

Further encouragement of research and development, including funding and international collaboration

Need for more tools and technologies to deal with pre border treatment and incursions, especially as greater concern over treatments and detection of residues is leading to the loss of some existing measures.

Land use

Changing land use leading to changing risk profiles e.g. Irrigation

Rise in urban agriculture, lifestyle blocks, leading increased risk through lack of knowledge and resources

Introduction of new species

Monocultures in production

Productive systems are expanding with different species and strains

Lower diversity leads to greater vulnerability, especially in forestry and even viticulture

Cross-sectorial risk exacerbation

Population demographics

Aging population, leading to changes in personal capability

Increasing diversity of cultures and cultural values of population, increase in overseas (particularly Asian) cultures living in New Zealand

Increasing use of overseas seasonal workers, with less understanding of biosecurity and New Zealand's values

Increasing foreign ownership of land leading to less knowledge and personal responsibility for biosecurity by land owners

Tourism pressures on biosecurity

Changing diversity of tourists entering New Zealand, increase in Asian tourists

Methods of tourists changing, more independent travel, less group travel, more extensive travel outside of main centres