



SUBMISSION

Western Australian State Biosecurity Strategy November 2014

5 May 2015

The Forest Industries Federation of WA (FIFWA) is the industry association for the timber industry in Western Australia. FIFWA's membership encompasses both the native and plantation forestry sectors, harvesting contractors and processors. FIFWA was interviewed by the Biosecurity Council as a part of the consultation process and also provided feedback on the draft results of the stakeholder engagement. This submission will provide FIFWA's comments on the Draft Western Australian State Biosecurity Strategy.

The major area of interest for our Members in this review has been the funding structures of Biosecurity initiatives in Western Australia. FIFWA submitted several comments on the paper "Biosecurity decision-making in Western Australia: results of stakeholder engagement" regarding government funding. We felt our views were clear in our stakeholder consultation in that the government has the biggest responsibility in funding Biosecurity as the general public will most often be the biggest beneficiary. This view was not clearly reflected in the draft results of the stakeholder engagement.

Funding is again where FIFWA would like to see improvement in the Draft WA State Biosecurity Strategy. There is very little detail of the funding structures to be implemented with the strategy. FIFWA's previous submission requested greater clarity on the funding responsibilities of government, industry and community. However, on page 7 of the strategy the responsibilities of each sector are explained and funding is not mentioned in any sector.

Page 10 of the strategy outlines Principle 2 for risk based decision making, outlining that government will target prevention as a priority for funding. This is cause for concern as there is no mention of facilitation or funding a response to an outbreak. We feel the government has a clear role in an outbreak facilitating and funding the response because as stated above the general public will often benefit the most.

Outcome 4.2 "effective Biosecurity emergency preparedness, response and recovery" states "the resources required for an emergency response will vary considerably and are determined by the incident level". It is not clearly stated what is meant by resources and from where the resources will come from for emergency responses. This outcome should explain the incident levels clearly and the appropriate response and by what sector the response will be from.

We also feel that strategy for implementation 2.1.5 "Equip industry sectors to fund Biosecurity measures that provide direct benefit to its members" should be explained in greater detail. What mechanism will be used to trigger this funding? This requires a greater explanation.

FIFWA agrees that the focus should be placed on prevention and eradication programmes in the draft strategy. However, an outbreak of pest or disease will rarely occur at one of our sites and may impact on our operations and we feel the government should play the lead role in the containment of these outbreaks in every situation, not just "when there is a compelling case to do so"

FIFWA feels that the government has a key role to play in the funding of Biosecurity and we would like to see the final WA State Biosecurity Strategy reflect this position. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me on 08 9472 3055 or tom@fifwa.asn.au.