

Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access Communiqué – SDQMA56

The Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) held its 56th meeting virtually from 27-29 April 2021. The Chair, Rodney Turner, welcomed Andrew Bishop as the Plant Health Committee Champion for the subcommittee.

▪ Bee Harmonisation

Trevor Weatherhead from the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council was invited to discuss the issues with current arrangements and industries interstate trade requirements into the future. A working group has been formed under the National Bee Biosecurity Program Steering Committee to work with the subcommittee on the harmonisation of honey bee entry requirements.

▪ Systems Approach Workshop

Dr Rieks Van Klinken from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation led a workshop on Systems Approaches. The workshop included a recap on systems approaches, a discussion on pest risk management relating to protocol development, an exercise on what measures can be used and how do they reduce risk and an examples of science to support measures within a systems approach. The subcommittee agreed for an additional workshop using ICA-21 as an example to illustrate to members the breakdown of levels of confidence.

▪ Interstate Trade Review

JAS-ANZ has been contracted to perform the Interstate Trade Review for Plant Health Australia. Interviews for the review have begun and there will also be an opportunity for industry to be involved. JAS-ANZ has been provided a range of documentation to assist in their review. The review is expected to be completed mid-June 2021 whereby a report will be provided to Plant Health Australia before seeking endorsement from the Plant Health Committee.

▪ SDQMA Systems manual / Charter of interstate trade

The subcommittee discussed the next steps of the Charter of Interstate Trade which are identifying the key topics that will be included in the document. The document will be guided by the Plant Health Committee operating guidelines and will be useful for new members to the expectations of representatives on the subcommittee. This body of work is considered a subgroup to the Interstate Trade Review that is being led by Plant Health Australia.

▪ Next Meeting

The subcommittee will hold its 57th meeting in Brisbane, scheduled for the week of 23 August 2021. The committee looks forward to the opportunity to meet face to face after working through virtual means for an extended period.