



## AQIS HORTICULTURE EXPORTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (HECC) BULLETIN

Volume 11: April 2007

The AQIS Horticulture Exports Program is currently seeking nominations from interested parties for the Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee. HECC has completed its second term and the process for recruiting new members to the Committee has commenced. Interested industry participants should forward a resumé and application addressing specific selection criteria to:

Mr Greg Read  
Executive Manager, Exports  
AQIS  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601

HECC is the principal advisory forum for AQIS to consult with the horticulture industry on operational, policy and strategic issues relevant to export of horticulture produce.

Industry representatives will be selected on the basis of their knowledge and skills in horticulture production, horticulture export and freight forwarding areas, not specific representatives of an industry sector or region.

Applications close on 4 May 2007.

For further information on HECC and selection documentation please click [\*\*here\*\*](#).

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The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of HECC was held on 6 March 2007 in Townsville. Committee members participated in the annual Bilateral Quarantine Arrangement (BQA) meeting in Bowen, Far North Queensland on 5 March 2007. HECC presence during the BQA meeting provided industry with the opportunity to raise any issues with the Committee at that time. The BQA meeting included discussions on the role of HECC, the upcoming BQA season and any issues involved with exports under the BQA.

Items for discussion during the HECC meeting included:

### **Horticulture Exports Program – performance and financial management**

Discussions included current financial performance, 2006-7 mid year budget reviews and progress on the financial management of the Program.

The revised fee schedule for the Horticulture Exports Program was implemented on 1 January 2007. To view the revised fee schedule and Industry Advice Notices click [\*\*here\*\*](#).

To view the Horticulture Exports Program revenue and expenditure for the second quarter click [\*\*here\*\*](#).

### **Subcommittee activity**

- ❖ The HECC subcommittees met by teleconference on the following dates:
  - ◆ Finance subcommittee 8 February 2007
  - ◆ Operational subcommittee 15 February 2007

- ◆ Communications subcommittee 22 February 2007

- ❖ The next HECC subcommittee meetings are scheduled for:

- ◆ Communications subcommittee 7 June 2007
- ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 14 June 2007
- ◆ Finance subcommittee 21 June 2007

## Operational and technical issues

### EXDOC update

- ❖ Edition 16 of the EXDOC Plant Program newsletter was distributed in December. To view this edition click [here](#).

### HEP current issues

#### Country updates

- ❖ **China:** AQIS Australian Citrus Export to China Work Plan has been revised and will be available from AQIS, ACG or AHEA in May 2007. Registration and AQIS audits for orchards, packinghouses and treatment facilities for citrus products for export to China have been finalised. The registration list will be forwarded to AQSIQ before the 2007 export season (May 2007). The acceptance of the registration list by AQSIQ will enable export of citrus under 'in-transit' cold disinfestation to commence for the 2007 season. AQSIQ requires onshore treatments to be monitored for the first season. An AQSIQ inspector will be required in Australia to monitor treatments in the first season (2007) if exports are to occur. Import permits are required for all exports.
- ❖ **Japan:** Industry are reminded of increased hygiene requirements following the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) detections of island fly in fruit exported in 2006. It is recommended that industry strengthen quality systems by only picking sound fruit, maintaining orchard hygiene by removing windfalls, dumping waste fruit well away from orchards and removing damaged fruit at packhouse inspections. For more information click [here](#).
- ❖ **New Zealand BQA:** The pre-season BQA meeting has been held with Industry in Bowen, QLD in March 2007. An audit of the BQA system will be conducted by NZ during the week commencing 21 May 2007. The winter window pathway is currently under review by NZ MAF, exports can continue pending outcomes of the review.

- ❖ **Wood packaging material**

- ◆ There are currently 183 treatment providers and manufacturers certified under the Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme. For more information click [here](#).

- ❖ **New technologies update**

- ◆ The Department of Environment and Heritage is developing a national strategy for the management of methyl bromide. AQIS is providing input to this strategy as part of a whole-of-DAFF submission.
- ◆ AQIS is continuing to work with CSIRO and overseas regulators to ascertain the regulatory and commercial status of methyl bromide alternatives. For more information click [here](#).
- ◆ AQIS has been working closely with international trading partners, industry and research organisations such as CSIRO to stay abreast of new technologies such as gamma irradiation and other alternatives being developed for post-harvest fruit treatments.
- ◆ While there is considerable progress being made both in Australia and overseas on methyl bromide alternatives, there is a lack of efficiency data to enable an assessment to be made on the suitability of alternatives for quarantine purposes.
- ◆ A review of dimethoate usage is being undertaken by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The Office of the Chief Plant Protection

Officer has taken the lead on the review and alternative options to dimethoate usage. A coordinator has been appointed.

### Biosecurity Australia

- ❖ Bilateral discussions were held with:
  - ◆ Malaysia 13/14 March 2007
  
- ❖ Proposed bilateral discussions are scheduled to occur with:
  - ◆ United States 5/6 June 2007
  - ◆ India 28/29 May 2007
  - ◆ Korea September 2007 (Tentative)
  - ◆ New Zealand October 2007 (Tentative)
  - ◆ Japan TBA 2007
  
- ❖ Industry is reminded that new market access/market maintenance proposals must first be prioritised by the Horticulture Market Access Committee before any negotiations with importing countries can commence. For more information click ***here***.

**E-Mail:** [hecc@aqis.gov.au](mailto:hecc@aqis.gov.au)

With any queries, suggestions or requests for further information.

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**