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| **Project Code** | MT16018 |
| **Project Title**  | National Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP) Program Coordinator |
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| **End Date**  | 15 June 2020 |

In February 2017, Tomato potato psyllid (TPP) (*Bactericera cockerelli*) was reported to be found in mainland Australia for the first time, in the Perth Metro Area. Recently, it was agreed by industry and government that TPP is no longer able to be feasibly eradicated and that a Transition to Management (T2M) program should be implemented in Western Australia. A vital part of the successful transition into this management phase will be the coordinated and strategically focused response efforts to limit the impact of this pest.

In order to facilitate this, it was recognised that a single point of contact between the various affected industries was needed. As such, a National TPP Coordinator project was launched with the intent that the Coordinator will work with relevant researchers, government personnel and the Steering Committee to develop a national management strategy for TPP – an analogous document to the National Fruit Fly Strategy.

The Coordinator will work closely with T2M personnel to develop a national management strategy. The strategy will provide a cohesive framework for holistic management of TPP at a national level and ensure that the pest is managed using the most effective and up to date methods going forward. The strategy will be a useful resource for other levy funded projects, such as the vegetable Export Development project.

The Coordinator will be heavily involved with Western Australian activities relating to the TPP Transition to Management (T2M) plan. This involvement will include a liaison/coordination element between DAFWA activities and industry as they actively learn about the pest and how to manage it. Activities relating to TPP-free states will have a strong preparedness focus. For instance, ensuring growers in TPP-free states are aware of initiatives in WA and outcomes of Hort Innovation-funded projects, as well as DAFWA initiatives. If TPP spreads to other states, the TPP Coordinator will work with government and relevant service providers, to ensure that management of the pest in the new state is undertaken effectively and according to best-practice.

The strategy will be underpinned by a national TPP R&D agenda. Any R&D priorities identified during development or updating of the national strategy will be reviewed by the project steering committee and integrated into the national TPP R&D agenda, which will guide future R&D investments on TPP.

The Project Coordinator will also serve a secretariat role for a project Steering Committee, which will provide industry and technical advice to the Coordinator.

This project is intended to drive a strategic and coordinated approach to short-, medium- and long-term TPP management, which will result from facilitated collaboration between industry, researchers and government. The Project Coordinator role will reduce double handling, and depletion of resources as it will ensure that key initiatives are not repeated by multiple organisations and aid in directing investments to where R&D is most needed for effective management of TPP. Constant monitoring of the latest research and surveillance data will ensure that the optimum management approach is taken in dealing with the TPP threat.

This role will ensure that industry is well informed about the current distribution and impact of TPP in Australia, the progress of R&D/T2M and understand best practices for effective management of the pest. Coordination (and liaison) between government and industry will aid in implementing International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) aligned surveillance initiatives and movement conditions that are scientifically sound and will support trade. In this way the project will also support international trade as it will support the continued production of high quality produce and assure trading partners that the pest is being effectively controlled, both in field and post-harvest.

The Coordinator will provide a central point of communication, information and coordination, will produce and update a national TPP management strategy, identify research priorities, and provide stakeholders with regular information and surveillance data. These initiatives will result in a project objective of a coordinated industry response with a well-informed grower base. The success of these proposed outcomes will be able to be clearly measured from the activities and outputs identified and described in the six monthly milestone reports. Following the well-defined achievement criteria and deliverables described in the proposal, the key performance indicators for each of the project period and final report will be able to be clearly and objectively measured.