

COMMUNIQUE TO POTATO INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP) Business Continuity Arrangements in NSW, Qld, SA and Vic.

Since the 2017 detection of TPP in Western Australia industry stakeholders in NSW, Qld, SA and Vic have been concerned about the impact of regulatory movement conditions on produce that may spread the pest if detected across the respective jurisdictions.

In October 2017 a request was made by industry stakeholders for Plant Health Committee (PHC) to take into account the economic impact of imposing regulatory barriers on the movement of potato tubers between jurisdictions if TPP was found.

Plant Health Committee acknowledged that TPP detections in the eastern jurisdictions will be dealt through the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed. However, it is critical that business continuity is maintained whilst measures are put in to slow the spread of TPP.

Plant Health Committee had a number of scenario workshops on key pathways of TPP spread that also involved representatives of key affected industries.

A draft protocol for all pathways including potato tubers was prepared in early 2018 and circulated by PHC to key industry stakeholders for comment and feedback. The protocol was revised and considered at a PHC meeting in early October 2018.

The requirements of the proposed protocol will only take effect when TPP is detected in NSW, Qld, SA or Vic and is confirmed to have come from WA.

Specifically for potato tubers, PHC took into consideration the following:

1. Tubers are not traded with green leafy material.
2. Potato tubers were not a vector for TPP.
3. Western Australia had demonstrated CLso freedom through nationally endorsed surveillance and testing protocols.
4. All jurisdictions will collaborate in an ongoing TPP monitoring program.
5. International experience has shown that despite the presence of TPP and CLso, potato production is still able to continue and grow.
6. A CLso preparedness plan is to be developed taking into consideration the unique situation Australia finds itself of having TPP but no evidence of CLso.

PHC confirmed at the meeting held on 4th October 2018 that it is:

1. Committed to a harmonized approach to ensuring the movement of potato tubers between Qld, NSW, Vic and SA, if TPP arrives in any of the respective jurisdictions.
2. Committed to ensuring business continuity is maintained whilst minimizing the spread of TPP.
3. Supports the development of an ongoing TPP monitoring program for the coming growing season in collaboration with all jurisdictions, Plant Health Australia (PHA), the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and industry stakeholders.

The specific jurisdictions (NSW, Qld, SA and Vic) all have the necessary legal powers within their respective legislation to ensure business continuity within and between jurisdictions.

For further information please contact your respective state jurisdiction.

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