



NATIONAL
FOREST
BIOSECURITY
SURVEILLANCE
STRATEGY
2018-2023

SUMMARY

2018

This initiative is part of the Australian Government's
Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper,
the government's plan for stronger farmers
and a stronger economy

National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy



Australia has a robust plant biosecurity system designed to protect plant production systems, including agriculture and forestry, which together are worth an estimated \$25 billion dollars annually³. Australia's forests represent the seventh largest forest estate in the world encompassing native, planted and urban forests⁴.

These forests make a significant contribution to Australia's economy, environment and community^{1,4} with over 109 stakeholder groups⁵. Stakeholders range from Federal, state and local government to the forest wood products sector, the forest non-wood products sector, the building industry and the general community.

Increasing levels of trade, movement of people and commodities as well as climate change are all contributing to an upward trend in the number of exotic forest pests establishing in Australia⁶. New pests result in significant economic, environmental and amenity costs^{1,7}.

Adding to these challenges, reductions in staffing levels and structural changes of infrastructure and financial resources across many forest stakeholders have resulted in capacity and capability gaps in the forest sector and Australia's biosecurity arrangements^{1,5,6,8}.

As a result of these factors, Australia's plant biosecurity system faces pressure in mitigating the risks posed by exotic forest pests^{1,5,6}. Stakeholder feedback has emphasised that nationally coordinated surveillance programs, supported by an effective diagnostic network,

are needed to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of detection of exotic forest pests, mitigate the risk of exotic forest pests establishing in Australia and provide evidence to support claims of area freedom. Ensuring that forest stakeholders and government agencies work together in partnership is critical to achieving these aims.

Confronting these challenges, the National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy (NFBSS) has been designed to complement and address aspects of the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy, the National Plant Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy and the National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostic Strategy^{3,9,10} for the forest biosecurity sector.

Objectives

The objectives of the NFBSS are:

OBJECTIVE 1

Improve forest and timber pest surveillance coordination, capacity and capability across stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 2

Maximise resource efficiency through stakeholder partnerships.

OBJECTIVE 3

Optimise forest surveillance efforts³ using a risk-based approach.

Goals, actions & outcomes

Goals	Actions	Outcomes
Goal 1 Provide forest biosecurity leadership and coordination	1.1 Establish national forest biosecurity leadership that includes major forest stakeholders 1.2 Develop sustainable funding mechanisms for surveillance that are equitable for all forest stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National coordination of forest biosecurity surveillance Equitable and sustainable funding arrangements for forest biosecurity activities Partnerships that build capacity and capability
Goal 2 Engage with stakeholders in forest biosecurity	2.1 Implement an engagement plan to broaden the range of forest stakeholders supporting forest biosecurity surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships that build capacity and capability Improved awareness of forest biosecurity issues and risks
Goal 3 Improve forest biosecurity capacity and capability	3.1 Update and review forest pest knowledge 3.2 Improve diagnostic capacity and capability to support forest biosecurity surveillance 3.3 Improve surveillance capacity and capability across all forest stakeholders 3.4 Identify, enhance and establish opportunities for integration of surveillance efforts, information and training across forest stakeholders to support forest biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved forest pest knowledge Improved diagnostics capability and capacity Improved surveillance capability and capacity Integrated forest biosecurity surveillance activities, data and training
Goal 4 Reduce the risk of establishment of exotic forest pests in Australia	4.1 Improve risk mitigation of exotic forest pests along the biosecurity continuum 4.2 Establish a National Forest Pest High Risk Site Surveillance Program 4.3 Develop incursion preparedness plans for key forest pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk-based resource optimisation for forest biosecurity surveillance Improved forest pest detection along the biosecurity continuum Improved incursion responses to the detection of exotic forest pests

Implementation

The implementation of the Actions presented in the NFBSS will require strong stakeholder partnerships, robust governance and an equitable funding model that is fair to all forest stakeholders. An accompanying NFBSS Implementation Plan 2018-2023 has been prepared that addresses these issues. It provides further details of the actions and tasks necessary to achieve the objectives, goals, and outcomes set out in this document.

Successful implementation of the NFBSS through stakeholder partnerships will result in an improved plant biosecurity system that provides sustainable protection from pests to Australia's forest products and services, and environment whilst maintaining market access for forest-derived products.

Further Information

Strategy

<http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/National-Forest-Biosecurity-Surveillance-Strategy.pdf>

Implementation Plan

<http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Forest-Biosecurity-Surveillance-Strategy-Implementation-Plan.pdf>



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