

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

# Supplementary Information Paper: Citrus Red Mite

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**For more information**

See: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact)

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July 2016). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser

## Summary

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* will repeal the *Plant Diseases Act 1924* which currently regulates the movement of citrus red mite host plants out of the counties of Cumberland and Northumberland in order to prevent the mite spreading to other citrus production areas.

This paper is an update of the previous [Discussion Paper: Citrus Red Mite](#) published in December 2015 and provides some revised details about proposals for the implementation of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

## Consultation

Consultation on discussion papers across a range of biosecurity issues concluded in February 2016. The responses from plant biosecurity stakeholders have come from many and wide ranging stakeholders. The majority of submissions from plant biosecurity stakeholders on the topic of plant biosecurity came from industry (Figure 1).

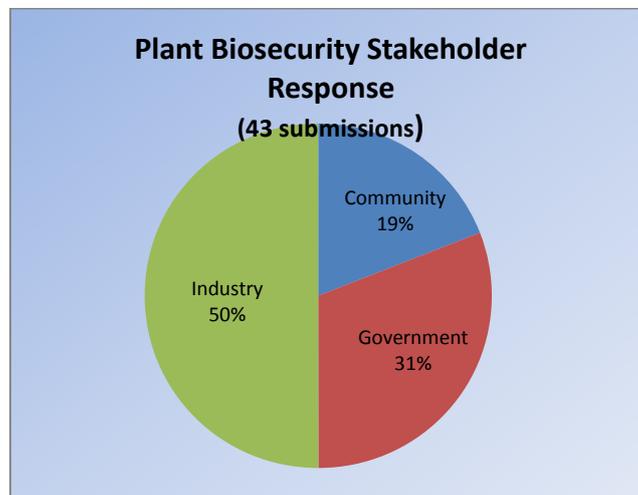


Figure 1. Responses to Plant Biosecurity Discussion Papers

Specifically, the *Discussion Paper: Citrus Red Mite* received five submissions, three from industry and two from government. Some of the comments included positive feedback on the continuation of the current Certification Assurance arrangements, recommendations for industry initiatives such as increasing awareness of citrus red mite, improving mite identification skills, and increasing surveillance for citrus red mite. Concerns were raised about the appropriateness of the proposed management of citrus red mite using the General Biosecurity Duty.

## Proposed Management under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*

Following this feedback, it is proposed that management arrangements may be better reflected in a **Control Order** made under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. A control order can be valid for up to five years unless reviewed earlier.

Under the Control Order, a 'Citrus Red Mite Control Area' will be created encompassing the counties of Cumberland and Northumberland (see Appendix 1). The rest of the State of NSW is deemed free of citrus red mite. Restrictions on the movement of host plants out of this control area will be imposed consistent with current requirements.

The [General Biosecurity Duty](#) will also apply to dealings with citrus red mite host plants and other carriers. It requires that everyone who knows or ought reasonably to know that their activities pose a biosecurity risk must ensure that those risks are prevented, eliminated or minimised as far as is reasonably practicable. For example, maintaining good hygiene when visiting or working in orchards, such as '[come clean, go green](#)'.

The challenge now is for government and industry to work together to promote education and awareness of the biosecurity risks associated with citrus red mite to minimise and manage those risks.

The [Biosecurity Manual for Citrus Producers](#) developed by Plant Health Australia contains guidelines for biosecurity best practice. This manual details the kinds of actions which might contribute to the discharge of a General Biosecurity Duty in relation to citrus red mite (for example, equipment used to store or transport propagation material or fruit is cleaned on arrival and exit from the property).

As with the enforcement of current legislative requirements, Authorised Officers will provide advice and where necessary issue directions, so that industry and the community are clear about what action they need to take to discharge their General Biosecurity Duty.

## Certification Assurance Schemes for Citrus Red Mite

In Australia, each state and territory maintains its own legislation that regulates the entry of produce susceptible to certain plant pests and diseases into their state or territory. These entry requirements often refer to certification schemes such as *Interstate Certification Assurance* arrangements and *Certification Assurance schemes*.

These certification schemes have been developed to facilitate market access by allowing an accredited business to self-certify that its produce meets specified requirements and allow the movement of plants and their products from one location to another.

There is one certification assurance scheme with respect to Citrus Red Mite, *CA-16 Treatment of Citrus, Fortunella or Poncirus for Citrus Red*. This scheme includes requirements on the appropriate use of chemicals in the protection of crops.

The Act recognises and strengthens these schemes and includes provisions for certificates, accreditation, auditing and compliance.

A separate discussion paper on certification and accreditation matters is in development.

## Further feedback

We value your feedback. If you would like to provide feedback on this ongoing process please contact us through the following:

[Submissions.biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Submissions.biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au) ; or

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For more information about the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and regulatory framework, please visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact).

