



Department of  
Primary Industries

**BIOSECURITY ACT 2015**

# **Supplementary Information Paper: Banana Industry**

July 2016



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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

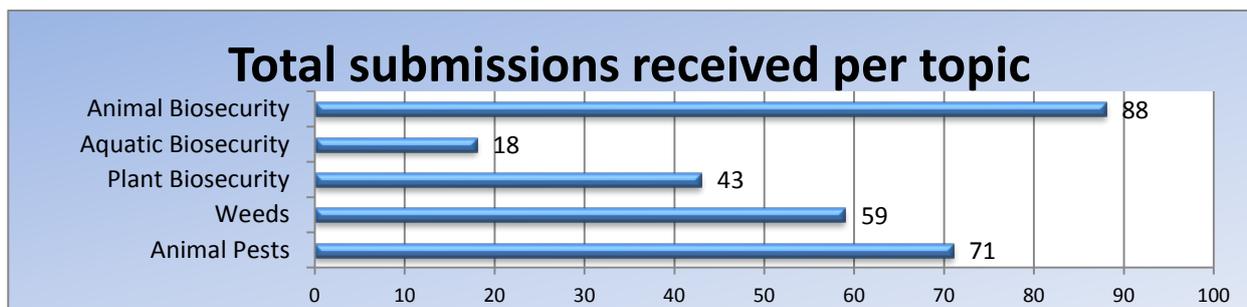
The *Biosecurity Act 2015* ('the Act') will repeal the *Plant Diseases Act 1924*, which provides for the regulation of various biosecurity risks that affect the NSW banana industry

This paper follows on from the previous [Discussion paper: Banana Industry](#) ('the Discussion paper') published in December 2015 and provides some further details of regulatory proposals for the implementation of the Act. Following the principle that **biosecurity is a shared responsibility**, these developments have been informed by submissions received from various industry stakeholders including the Australian banana industry peak industry body, the Australian Banana Growers Council ('the ABGC').

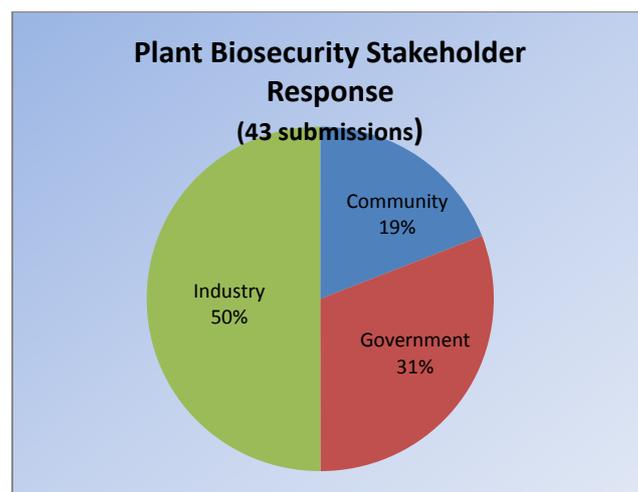
## Background Information

### 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 (Figure 1).



The majority of submissions from plant biosecurity stakeholders on the topic of plant biosecurity came from Industry (Figure 2).



Specifically, the *Discussion paper: Banana Industry* received seven submissions, six submissions from Industry and one from government. Some of the comments received were on the proposed management approach, the need for additional communication, education and training and proposed compliance activities.

## Proposed management under the NSW Biosecurity Act

### Prohibited Matter

The proposal to include banana bract mosaic virus, spider mite, black sigatoka, blood disease, banana freckle, eumusae leaf spot, moko and Panama disease TR4 as prohibited matter was widely supported.

The proposal to regulate potential carriers of banana freckle and Panama disease TR4 such as bananas, banana plant material and soil coming into NSW from other states and territories using the General Biosecurity Duty with Mandatory Measures was also widely supported. The proposed regulation will recognise that bananas are not a carrier of Panama disease TR4 if free of soil.

### Control Order for the Banana Bunchy Top Virus Eradication Zone

Successive eradication programs funded by the Australian Banana Growers Council, and now Horticulture Innovation Australia and supported by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, have reduced the incidence of BBTV infections in NSW to historically low levels. The NSW Department of Primary Industries will continue to support the industry's effort to eradicate BBTV from NSW.

After careful consideration of the submissions, the proposed BBTV Eradication Zone of Tweed and Byron Local Government Areas will also include the Local Government Areas of Lismore and Ballina following confirmation of several BBTV infections in those areas since 2009.

The proposal to also declare a Nambucca Protected Zone is not considered necessary, as the rest of the State of NSW outside the proposed BBTV Eradication Zone is deemed free of BBTV. More specifically:

- the movement of banana planting material out of the BBTV Eradication Zone into the rest of NSW including the southern banana growing area, will be prohibited. This will protect the Nambucca area from the introduction of BBTV; and
- the movement of banana planting material from Queensland into NSW will be restricted to planting material from "Clean Planting Material Scheme" sources only or any other measures that meet the NSW requirements, which will provide additional protection to all NSW banana growers; and
- an authorisation or permit system to regulate the movement of banana planting material on account of endemic strains of Panama disease is not supported as these strains can be moved by a wide range of carriers including soil, vehicles, footwear and used farm machinery. In areas where it is endemic the distribution of the disease is generally unknown; and
- the risk of endemic strains of Panama disease to the NSW banana industry is best managed through a combination of strategies aimed at preventing its spread and introduction on clean farms. The wide range of potential carriers of the disease (plant material, soil, footwear, vehicles and used farm machinery) emphasises the fact that good on farm biosecurity measures aimed at preventing disease movement on and off farm, are the most important actions for minimising the risk of Panama disease.

The proposed Control Order for the BBTV Eradication Zone will comprise many of the existing requirements including:

- prohibition on the movement and planting of Musaceae propagative material within the Zone, unless the material is from 'Clean Planting Material Scheme' sources or free from BBTV

- notification of proposed movements and plantings within the Zone
- destruction of infected Musaceae plants and aphids infesting those plants
- limitations on the movement of the Musaceae plant product within or out of the Zone consistent with current requirements; and
- notification of BBTV and suspected BBTV for all NSW.

Bananas will be free to move within and out of the BBTV Eradication Zone.

We will continue to consult with stakeholders on the proposed control measures for this Zone.

### **The General Biosecurity Duty ('the Duty')**

It is important that we work with Industry and communities to emphasise why biosecurity is important to the banana industry and to let people know what their duties are in relation to protecting the banana industry. This is and will continue to be a challenging task.

In most circumstances this would include, adoption of good on farm biosecurity practices outlined in the *Australian Banana Growers Council Farm Biosecurity Manual*, or by completing the *Banana Industry Panama Disease Prevention Checklist*. It is important that growers have a high standard of on-farm biosecurity to manage biosecurity risks moving in and off their properties.

[NSW DPI will continue to conduct research activities to support banana biosecurity management to enable market access.](#)

Authorised Officers will also be on the ground to provide advice about how a person can discharge their general biosecurity duty. In high risk situations an authorised officer may also issue a Biosecurity Direction clearly outlining the actions the person must take to discharge their duty and mitigate the risk. Where a person does not comply with the direction, compliance action may be initiated.

### **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)

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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).

Appendix 1 – Proposed Management Approach

