

Hon Andrew Hoggard

Minister for Biosecurity
Minister for Food Safety
Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills)
Associate Minister for the Environment



OIA078

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Dan Moskovitz
danmosknz@gmail.com

Dear Dan Moskovitz

Thank you for your email of 23 October 2024, requesting information relating to funding challenges for future biosecurity responses. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

"Note providing this funding will make it challenging for MPI to fund responses to unanticipated activity during the course of this financial year, including (but not limited to) medium to large scale biosecurity incursions such as High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), Queensland Fruit Fly or Brown Marmorated Stink Bug."

- *If HPAI, Queensland Fruit Flies, Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs, or other threats arrived in New Zealand over the next financial year, what options are available to MPI for funding its response?*
- *Can you please provide all official advice regarding these funding challenges.*

Generally, the funding for biosecurity responses is dependent on the size, scale and likely duration of the response as well as what other responses are being managed at the same time. Small biosecurity responses are likely to be funded from existing budgets and in some cases partly funded through a joint Government Industry Agreement (GIA).

The *"Report back on accelerated programme and the future management of exotic Caulerpa"* was noting that Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) would not be able to fully fund a medium or large-scale biosecurity response solely through baseline funding. In the event that a medium to large scale biosecurity incursions were to occur, decisions requiring further funding would be considered depending on the size and scale of the event.

In the past, if a large-scale response was likely to require further support, my Office would receive advice from Biosecurity New Zealand officials on an approach and any decisions that require further funding from the Government. My Office has not received any advice on funding challenges for future biosecurity responses.

Information in relation to our preparedness for Biosecurity responses to pests and diseases is set out under the New Zealand Government Biosecurity Response Guide. It describes how all-of-government biosecurity responses work and provides the strategic context and guidance for responses to all types of biosecurity threats. As an example, in the event of a major response, a wide range of agencies are likely to be called upon to assist, each with their own responsibilities and tasks. Specific plans have been and will continue to be developed for threats that pose a

significant risk to New Zealand. The New Zealand Government Biosecurity Response Guide is publicly available and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/31917-The-New-Zealand-Government-Biosecurity-Response-Guide>

However, Biosecurity New Zealand has strict rules and strong protections in place to prevent the establishment of pests and diseases entering the country and damaging our \$53.3 billion primary sector export industry. The biosecurity system has a number of measures in place to limit the risk and prevent the establishment of pests and diseases through offshore audits, import standards and permits, border inspections and post entry quarantine. All of this is supported and underpinned by assurance monitoring, intelligence assessments, diagnostics (labs), readiness, data and digital systems, policy advice, compensation, verification, compliance, and regulatory systems.

Biosecurity New Zealand also actively engage with New Zealand's industry groups, wider sector and government agencies for response preparedness to ensure system wide readiness. Domestically surveillance programmes enable early detection of high-risk pests and diseases so that we can act quickly to limit the impacts when found. If eradication is not possible, long-term pest management options will be considered instead.

Finally, I can assure you that MPI have robust surveillance and awareness programmes. Surveillance programmes are designed to detect and prevent the establishment of pests and diseases and provide proof of freedom from key pests and diseases which enables international trade. This includes targeted surveillance programmes designed to look for specific organisms in specified hosts or high-risk places and public awareness campaigns (such as Fruit Fly or Brown Marmorated Stink Bug) and includes targeted engagement with members of the public to report any risks through the Biosecurity New Zealand Exotic Pests and Disease Hotline (0800 80 99 66).

You are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Hon Andrew Hoggard
Minister for Biosecurity