

Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness Program 2006-08

Department of Primary Industries and Water
Biosecurity Policy Branch



Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness Program 2006-08

OBJECTIVE

To further develop Tasmania's capability to effectively respond to and recover from biosecurity emergencies¹.

BACKGROUND

The biosecurity status of Tasmania is central to its marketing advantage, a core requirement of the Government's *State of Growth* policy, and underpins several *Tasmania Together* goals and benchmarks.

Considerable progress in developing preparedness for response to emergency animal diseases was made both nationally and within Tasmania in the period 2002–05. However, the need to take a more strategic approach to biosecurity was inherent in the July 2004 recommendations of the Gorrie Review of Tasmania's biosecurity systems.

The *Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness Program 2006–08* (BEPP) has continued previous work in relation to emergency (terrestrial) animal diseases while initiating similar coordinated action to develop preparedness for response to all potential biosecurity threats including:

- plant pests,
- aquatic animal diseases, and
- marine pest emergencies.

The Program's objective has been:

To further develop Tasmania's capability to effectively respond to and recover from biosecurity emergencies.

Planned Program outputs essentially consist of:

- a reserve of personnel trained to mount and manage an operation to combat the incursion of a disease or pest that threatens Tasmania's biosecurity,
- plans, supporting procedural guidance and legislative provisions, and
- a series of relationships with stakeholders and other agencies.

Development of credible emergency response capability needs a structured holistic approach based on a continuum that delivers basic and advanced individual skills training, functional team development and finally, collective training to provide practice and experience. One hundred and fifty DPIW personnel have been identified for emergency response roles and delivery of the continuum of training is on-going. Maintenance and further development of plans, procedures and relationships will also continue as part of normal agency business.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A comprehensive approach to emergency management recognises the

¹ As defined in appendix A

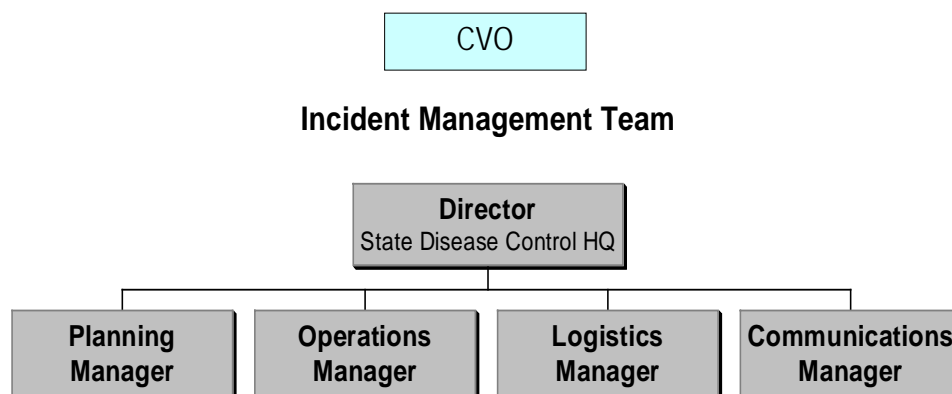
following four types of activities that contribute to or reduce the susceptibility and increase resilience of a community subject to the impact of those hazards:

- **Prevention** - *keeping an emergency from happening*
- **Preparedness** - *getting ready just in case*
- **Response** – *eliminating / reducing the problem should an emergency occur*
- **Recovery** - *getting back to normal*

A range of national and local plans outlines emergency management principles and processes as well as guidance in relation to many known diseases and pests. Any response operation would be managed through an incident control system similar to that in widespread use by emergency management agencies.

In the event of a biosecurity emergency in Tasmania, DPIW would assume responsibility as the lead response agency. The management structure to be applied in an emergency would be:

Control Centre Structure



BIOSECURITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

DEFINITIONS

Within the context of this Program the following definitions apply.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity is defined as the protection of industries, including but not limited to primary industries, the environment, and public well-being, health, amenity and safety from the negative impacts of pests, diseases, and weeds.

Emergency²

An event, actual or imminent, which endangers or threatens to endanger life, property or the environment, and which requires a significant and coordinated response.

Biosecurity Emergency

An emergency event resulting from the occurrence of either

- a. an emergency animal disease,
- b. an aquatic animal disease emergency,
- c. an emergency plant pest, or
- d. a marine pest emergency,

as defined in the respective national cost sharing arrangements or response plans. – see below

Emergency Management Capability

Capability is the ability to conduct the operations required for effective response to an emergency. Capability is generated through the combination of a response structure appropriate to the situation and preparedness of the required resources. Development of capability involves the following inputs:

- organisation,
- command and management,
- personnel,
- individual and collective training,
- support,
- equipment and facilities,
- supplies,
- systems.

Aquatic Animal Disease Emergency³

² Source: Australian Emergency Manual No 43 Emergency Planning, Emergency Management Australia 2004

A disease outbreak emergency exists when a population of aquatic animals is recognised as having undergone severe mortality events or significantly decreased productivity **and** the responsible authority within the State or Territory believes that the cause may be an infectious agent. The responsible authority **may also** consider latent events, such as presence of an infectious agent but not the disease, as emergencies.

Marine Pest Emergency⁴

A reported sighting is likely to trigger a marine pest emergency alert when:

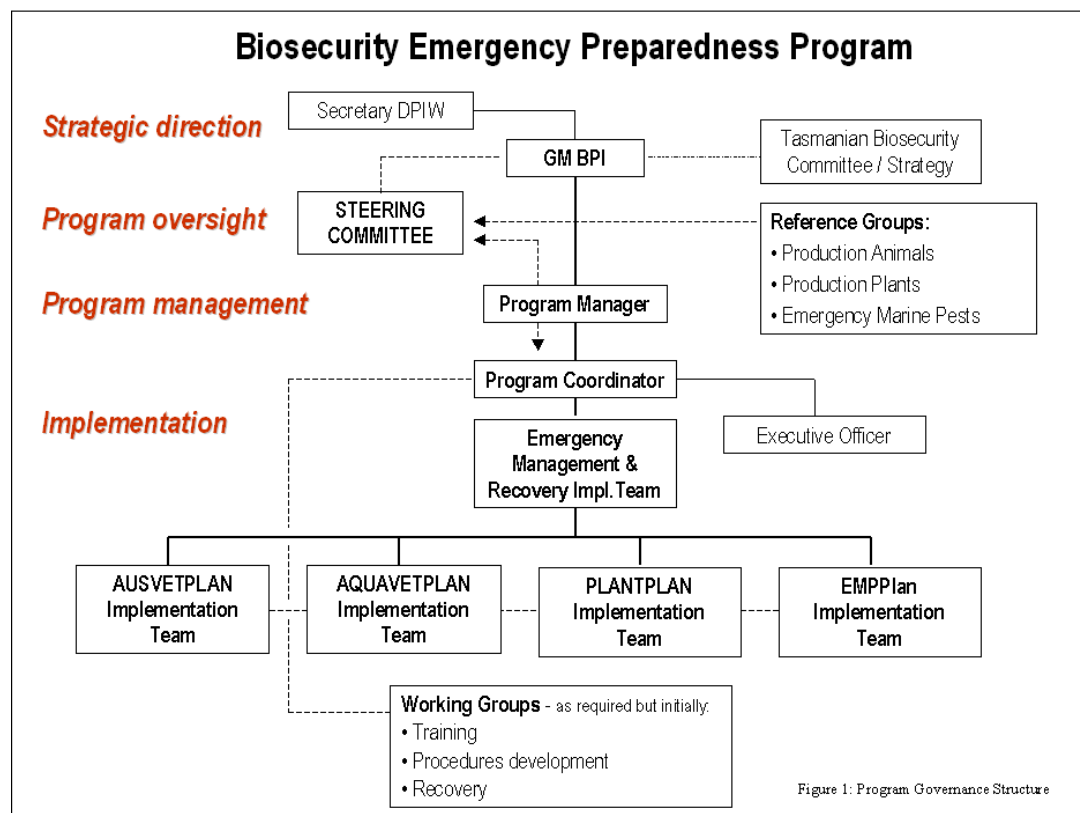
- a. The description matches a species represented on the CCIMPE target species list and the report is a new outbreak well beyond established Australian populations of the species.
- b. Species detected is not on the target list but meets one or more of the following criteria:
 1. Demonstrable invasive history,
 2. One or more relevant transport vectors are still operating;
 3. Demonstrable impact in native or invaded ranges on:
 - ◇ Economy,
 - ◇ Environment
 - ◇ Human health, or
 - ◇ Amenity.
 4. Inferred as likely to have major impacts in Australia based on the overseas data and characteristics of Australian environments and marine communities.

³ As defined by the Australian Aquatic Animal Diseases Veterinary Emergency Plan (AQUAVETPLAN)

⁴ As defined by the Australian Emergency Marine Pest Plan (EMPPlan)

BIOSECURTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Program Governance



The Program governance structure is illustrated by Figure 1.

Strategic Direction

Through DPIW's General Manager Biosecurity and Product Integrity, the Tasmanian Biosecurity Committee will provide broad strategic direction in relation to matters including, but not limited to:

- relevant issues under the Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy, and
- other State emergency / security planning issues.

Program Steering Committee

A Program Steering Committee comprising skills-based representation of main Tasmanian stakeholders will meet biannually to provide Program oversight. The Committee's roles are to:

- take responsibility for program feasibility, business plan and achievement of outcomes,

- b. ensure program scope aligns with stakeholder requirements,
- c. advise and guide those directly involved in the program on program business issues,
- d. ensure effort and expenditure are appropriate to stakeholder expectations,
- e. address any issue that has major implications for the project,
- f. keep the project scope under control as emergent issues force changes to be considered,
- g. reconcile differences of opinion and approach and resolve disputes arising from them,
- h. report on project progress to the Secretary DPIW, and
- i. take responsibility for any whole-of-government issues associated with the program.

Steering Committee membership (subject to agreement of parties):

- a. General Manager Biosecurity and Product Integrity, DPIW
- b. Manager Biosecurity Policy, DPIW
- c. Representative, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA)
- d. Chief Executive, Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council (TFIC)
- e. Deputy Director Policy, Department of Premier & Cabinet
- f. Planning Manager or representative, State Emergency Service
- g. Deputy Regional Chief South, Tasmania Fire Service
- h. Coordinator Emergency Management, Dept of Health & Human Services
- i. Chief Veterinary Officer, DPIW
- j. Manager Diagnostic Services DPIW, as Chief Plant Health Manager
- k. Senior Marine Environmental Officer (Pests), DPIW
- l. Emergency Management Coordinator, Biosecurity Policy Branch, DPIW

Reference Groups

Reference Groups will be formed in relation to:

- a. Production animal diseases,
- b. Production plant pests, and
- c. Emergency marine pests.

The primary function of the Reference Groups is to assist the Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness Program by:

- Acting as a resource to the Steering Committee and providing input to issues as required.
- Providing opportunity for consultation as a contact point for stakeholders.
- Providing a view to the Steering Committee about relevant industry sector issues and priorities.
- Acting as a sounding board for implementation teams and working groups on technical and industry-specific issues in the work program.

Reference groups membership is as follows (subject to agreement of parties listed):

Production Animal Diseases Reference Group

- a. Chief Veterinary Officer (Chair)
- b. Representative, Australian Veterinary Association
- c. Representative, TFGA
- d. Livestock Manager, Roberts Ltd (representing livestock agents)
- e. Representative, Tasmanian Aquaculture Council
- f. Representative, Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council
- g. Representative, Tasmanian poultry industry
- h. Representative, Tasmanian Abalone Council

Production Plant Pests Reference Group

- a. Manager Biosecurity Policy, DPIW (Chair)
- b. Manager Diagnostic Services / Chief Plant Health Manager, DPIW
- c. Representative, Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group
- d. Representative, Fruit Growers Tasmania
- e. Representative, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
- f. Representative, Primary Industries Division, DPIW
- g. Representative, Nursery and Garden Industry Tasmania
- h. Representative, Forestry Tasmania
- i. Representative, Tasmanian wine grape industry

Emergency Marine Pests Reference Group

- a. Marine Environmental Management Project Leader, Primary Industries Division, DPIW, (Chair)
- b. Senior Marine Environmental Officer (Pests), DPIW
- c. Representative, Tasmanian Aquaculture Council
- d. Representative, Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council
- e. Representative, Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd (TasPorts)

Implementation Teams

Implementation teams will be formed within DPIW in relation to emergency management and recovery and each of the national biosecurity emergency plans.

Broadly the role of implementation teams is to:

- a. contribute to the identification of Program priorities and development of the work schedule,
- b. undertake subject-specific tasking identified in the program work schedule,
- c. provide specialist input to the Program,
- d. collaborate and/or maintain links with DPIW operational branches, other jurisdictions, relevant industry bodies and other stakeholders,

- e. communicate project objectives, outputs and outcomes, and
- f. report on outputs and achievement of targets.

For more information about the Program please contact the Program Manager:

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