



PineNet Newsletter

The newsletter for biosecurity readiness and response teams in the forestry sector connecting you to the [National Biosecurity Capability network](#).

Issue 8/March 2019

Another successful Forest Biosecurity Conference and joint MPI/FOA forum

Those who attended both the MPI/FOA Joint Forum, and then the Biosecurity Conference will be aware the theme was operational biosecurity, and the responsibility we all need to take as a sector, as individuals, and as businesses, for forest biosecurity within New Zealand.

Our keynote speaker, Dr John Roche, talked through the lessons learned from the *M. bovis* outbreak, and the need for systems and processes to track movements. He provided insight into how both government and the sector can make the system more robust.

Image – Panel discussion members for session on what other sectors do (Paco Tovar, Will Halliday, Edwin Massey, Karyn Froud, Matt Dyck, Brendan Gould, and Dave Cormack)



Dr John Roche, MPI Chief Science Advisor, giving the keynote address.

Other sessions explored new tools and innovative techniques for molecular diagnosis and analysis of plant material, and how other sectors manage biosecurity. Guest speakers from Australia, the wine growing sector, kiwifruit, farming, and government officials also provided insight and lessons for the forestry sector. Scion provided technical displays on tools for molecular diagnosis, and others highlighted red needle cast treatments, and cleaning boots systems for farms and forests.

Delegates came away from the conference with thoughts and actions we can all take for biosecurity readiness and response into the future.

Papers for the conference and the keynote address are located [at this link](#) on the FOA website.

The date for the next Biosecurity Conference is likely to be early June 2020, FOA will send out a save the date in the next month or so.

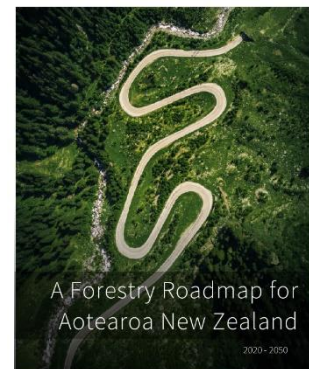
[Australia's Biosecurity Symposium](#) is being held on 12 and 13 June in the Gold Coast.

Biosecurity Levy Application submitted to MPI

This has now been submitted formally to MPI and FOA will work through the process with government over 2019, with the levy expected to be approved by the Minister in late 2019 or early 2020.

Forestry Roadmap to 2050

The FOA has released our roadmap to 2050 which contains our vision: that forestry will be New Zealand's number 1 primary sector and exemplify the best plantation forest management in the world. It sets out five key goals which centre around meeting our net carbon zero goals, productivity, expanding our range of products, making forestry more attractive to young people, and telling our good news stories better. The [roadmap](#) is on the FOA website.



Launch of the Forestry Careers website

The new website includes information about careers in science and [biosecurity](#). See the brand-new website at www.forestrycareers.co.nz

GIA updates

Learn about the Plant Health and Environmental (PHEL) Lab.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/lyQcfX3-4BA> and what they do to protect plant health.

Angela Brownie has been appointed the new manager of the Readiness Group at MPI and the GIA team has two new members, Alessandro Marin and Pariya Tork.

Since the last newsletter, the Deer Industry and Tomatoes New Zealand have joined GIA, bringing the total number of partners to 21.

Forest Biosecurity Review enters second stage

The first stage of the review was completed in late 2018 and undertook an investigation into the operational aspects of the forest biosecurity system, including the inter-relationships between FOA, MPI, Scion, forestry companies, and other stakeholders.

Now we are looking at the strategic aspects of the forest biosecurity system, and Andrew Harrison is undertaking this work for us. The second phase of the review will explore the scope and role of the FBC, and linkages with other organisations.

Nursery Biosecurity Standard Development – working with MPI and NZPPI

NZ Plant Producers Incorporated is developing a Plant Production Biosecurity Standard on behalf of MPI. The FOA is represented on the steering committee and work on this is progressing.

A component of this standard is a phytophthora module that will have immediate application to reduce the spread of kauri dieback. An FOA representative is on the steering committee for this module and will investigate how best to apply it to plantation forestry. In the case of kauri, we definitely do not want *Phytophthora agathadicida* transferred in planting material to conservation land. In the case of plantation forestry, it is more complex as there are already several species of phytophthora in our forests (some which are native) and there is no single phytophthora that we are especially concerned about. However, a phytophthora module will provide us with a tool that we can apply to new and existing phytophthora in situations where an area is currently free of a specific species. When it is developed the module will be circulated for consultation.

Incursions affecting plantation species

MPI has been particularly busy in the last few months dealing with a number of new incursions, many of which have been publicised in the media. Fortunately, none of these are an issue for our main plantation forestry species, but one is a threat to poplar. This is the poplar sawfly (*Cladius grandis*), discovered in Dunedin in late January and reported in the [Otago Daily Times](#). MPI and GIA partners will be making a decision on whether to respond or not in the very near future.

Find A Pest app makes reporting suspicious forestry symptoms easy



Dr Steve Pawson provided information and training on the new Find-A-Pest general surveillance app at the Biosecurity Conference. The app has a dedicated forestry section and makes it easy to report signs and symptoms of possible pest and pathogen damage.

The pilot aims to have as many people who are regularly in and around forests using the app and reporting anything suspicious. Reports are sent to experts in forestry and evaluated before any concerning finds are sent to MPI and escalated. The app provides users with the facility to take photos and geolocate the pest or pathogen which then sends them a notification and feedback from experts very quickly.

More information, including links to downloads from the Google Play and Apple Store here www.findapest.nz/. We encourage forestry companies to share this app with those people who are in the forests and can provide eyes and ears and smartphones on the ground.

Biological Heritage Science Challenge

The Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) and Knowledge Brokers held a workshop in Christchurch last week to plan the lead in to Tranche 2 from July 2019. Of particular focus was the upcoming work on co-development of an investment prospectus for each of seven [Strategic Outcomes](#), and how they'll be shaped by recently appointed scoping groups. An eighth group will run a similar process to focus on kauri dieback and myrtle rust.

The National Science Challenge conference is being held at Te Papa on 20 and 21 May, details are [here](#). A phytophthora symposium is planned for August, details [here](#).

Interesting videos and newsletters

[Scion Connections newsletter](#) – find out what Scion is working on, including revolutionising the toilet.

[Smell you later stink bugs](#) – video showing biocontrol Samurai wasps. Lots of good close shots of the stink bug and the parasitic wasp. Your enemy's enemy is your friend.

[FSC newsletter highlights young FBC member](#) – Alfred Duval

[Innovations for better biosecurity](#) from Plant and Food (a series of five podcasts)