

# National Banana Freckle Eradication Program

## PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this Schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program from 2014-15 to 2017-18 and to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contributions to the Northern Territory, the combatant state for this eradication program.
2. The National Banana Freckle Eradication Program is being conducted under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) as agreed by the National Management Group (NMG) on 28 January 2014.
3. The emergency response plan (Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries Northern Territory Banana Freckle Response Plan (v12 of 18 September 2014)), and budget is approved by the NMG in accordance with the EPPRD. Financial commitments are also approved by the NMG.
4. This Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program in accordance with the provisions of the EPPRD.

## PART 2: FORMALITIES

5. The Parties to this Schedule are the Commonwealth of Australia and the Northern Territory.
6. This Schedule will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory ministers with portfolio responsibility for national biosecurity emergency management, and will expire on 30 June 2018 or on completion or termination of the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program as determined by the NMG, including the final progress report and processing of final payments against milestones, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

## PART 3: PROJECT ELEMENTS AND MILESTONES

7. The project elements for the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program are described in the *Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Northern Territory Banana Freckle Response Plan V12* (the Response Plan) as endorsed by the NMG on 8 October 2014. The following response activities will be carried out:
  - (a) *Quarantine and movement control*
    - i. The movement of host material or banana fruit is not permitted out of the NT. Movement controls of host material and banana fruit will apply in each zone and will be maintained throughout the response until national Proof of Freedom for *P. cavendishii* is recognised. Penalties will apply for non-compliance.

- ii. Compliance tools will be applied throughout the response, including community education and awareness, formal warnings, infringement notices and enforcement where required.
- (b) *Surveillance and monitoring*
  - i. Delimiting surveillance activities will focus on visual inspection of all banana host plants for infection symptoms as per the Response Plan V12.
  - ii. Targeted surveillance will be conducted at appropriate sites based on the distance from the Infected Premises (IPs) as per the Response Plan. All delimiting teams will be provided with training prior to entering the field.
- (c) *Destruction and eradication*
  - i. All Non-Cavendish and Cavendish banana host material, irrespective of infection, will be eradicated within the prescribed zones.
  - ii. Destruction and eradication of host material will be done in conjunction with the first surveillance visit, with a sample collected where there are visible or suspected signs of infection. The samples will be stored for later reference if required.
  - iii. Host material will be disposed at dedicated dump sites which are predominantly local waste disposal stations or other such arranged sites.
- (d) *Host free period*
  - i. Following the removal of all host material from a zone, a host free period will apply for a period a minimum of six months including a full wet season. This is to ensure that zones remain free of any potential host material for at least 2 full life cycles of *P. cavendishii*, including during optimal development conditions.
- (e) *Controlled reintroduction of host material*
  - i. Following the mandatory host free period, a controlled re-introduction of disease-free host material sourced from an approved supplier will be authorised under permit, subject to a full risk assessment.
  - ii. Surveillance and monitoring of these sentinel plantings will be undertaken in accordance with a specifically designed controlled replanting and monitoring program developed by the SCC in consultation with NT Plant Pathology, the CPHM and biometricians and endorsed by CCEPP.
- (f) *Assessment of proof of freedom*
  - i. With no detection of the pathogen in any zone, a proposal declaring Area (Zone) Freedom will be prepared by the State Coordinator and submitted to CCEPP for consideration. Such a proposal will be completed in accordance with the Plant Health Australia's national guidelines for Area Freedom and will include a pest risk analysis to determine whether the response has established "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the NT is free of the pathogen.
- (g) *Community engagement*
  - i. Community engagement with a number of broad stakeholder groups will include the declaration prohibiting the growth, propagation and/or planting of any banana plant material for 12 months within the Restricted Area from the date of eradication of all hosts, except otherwise approved by the Chief Inspector of Plant Health. The erection of road signs at all access points to the Control Areas; and industry and public education and passive delimitation

including activities to encourage awareness, identification, reporting and containment measures.

- ii. A communications strategy will be developed for the Investigation and Alert Phases of the response to suit the immediate needs including establishment of a 1800 Banana Freckle Hotline. All media enquiries and interviews requested are to be conducted by the Incident Controller/Chief Plant Health Manager.

(h) *Monitoring*

- i. A monitoring program will be implemented once the eradication phase has been completed as per the Response Plan. Monitoring will be conducted for 12 months and will be used to demonstrate proof of area freedom from *Phyllosticta cavendishii* on Cavendish bananas.

(i) *Owner Reimbursement Costs*

- i. Owner Reimbursement Costs to be paid to affected commercial banana growers.

- 8. To qualify for the associated payment, the Northern Territory must meet the following milestones:

**Table 1: Milestones**

Milestone	Due date	Payment
Annual progress report (2013-14) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan.	May 2015	\$9 009 759
Annual progress report (2014-15) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan	May 2016	\$2 587 458
Annual progress report (2015-16) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan	May 2017	\$2 473 125
Annual progress report (2016-17) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan	May2018	\$38 940

## PART 4: REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

- 9. The Northern Territory will report against the agreed milestone as outlined in Table 1 above and to the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests as required.
- 10. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought in accordance with the EPPRD.

## PART 5: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 11. The agreed financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth to the Northern Territory for the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program is outlined in Table 2 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 1. All payments are exclusive of GST.
- 12. If required, the Commonwealth may initially underwrite industry contributions in accordance with section 10.4.2 of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed. In this case

the same milestone for the Commonwealth contribution to the Northern Territory will be used for payment of the industry contribution outlined in Table 2.

**Table 2: Estimated financial contributions**

	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
Commonwealth contribution	\$3 003 253	\$862 486	\$824 375	\$12 980
Australian Banana Growers Council contribution <sup>†</sup>	\$6 006 506	\$1 724 972	\$1 648 750	\$25 960
<b>Total Commonwealth liability</b>	<b>\$9 009 759</b>	<b>\$2 587 458</b>	<b>\$2 473 125</b>	<b>\$38 940</b>

<sup>†</sup> Where the Industry Party is not able to meet its cost sharing obligations either directly, or from funds held on its behalf, the Commonwealth will initially meet that Industry Party's Cost Sharing obligations as set out in section 10.4.2 of the EPPRD. Each Industry Party will meet its cost sharing obligations to the Commonwealth, arising as a consequence of the Commonwealth meeting Industry Party obligations pursuant to clause 10.4.2, as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 7 of the EPPRD (Section 10.4.3).

## PART 6: SIGN OFF

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by*



**Signature**

**Date**

3-6-15

**The Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP  
Minister for Agriculture**

*Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by*

**Signature** 

**Date**

10-6-15

**The Honourable Willem Rudolf Westra van Holthe MLA  
Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries**