

Varroa Destructor Response Plan

PROJECT AGREEMENT ON PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule

Parties	Commonwealth New South Wales
Duration	<p>This Schedule is expected to expire on 31 December 2026.</p> <p>For the purposes of Clause 10 of the Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness Programs, this Schedule also expires if the National Management Group (NMG) determines that the Varroa Destructor Response Plan (the Response Plan) should be terminated early. However, in those circumstances this Schedule still allows for the processing of any payments for milestones met up to termination, consistent with cost-sharing and reconciliation obligations under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.</p>
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of the activities under the National Varroa Destructor Response Plan.</p> <p>On 19 September 2023 NMG agreed that Varroa Destructor was no longer technically feasible to eradicate. The activities under this schedule will also support the transition to management activities that will occur under revised versions of the response plan.</p>
Project Elements	<p>New South Wales will deliver the actions set out in Varroa Destructor transition to management Response Plan (the Response Plan), which was approved by the NMG on 9 February 2024.</p> <p>The project elements for the Program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Treatment: The recommended control technique for Varroa mite is destruction of all infected premises of European Honeybees. This will be offered for a limited time following the transition to management plan taking effect. (b) Surveillance activities, undertaken through miticide strips/sticky mats and in some circumstances alcohol wash. (c) Transition to management activities will be undertaken to limit the impacts and slow the spread of varroa mite. The NSW Department of Primary Industries, Australian Honeybee Industry Council and other impacted industry groups will be communicating with beekeepers and businesses relying on pollination services.

Estimated financial contributions

The agreed maximum financial contribution for the Varroa Destructor Eradication Program is outlined in Table 1 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 2. All payments are exclusive of GST.

The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the States of \$60.0m in respect of this Schedule.

Table 1

(\$ million)	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Australian Government	30.45	6.02	3.53	40.00
Industry contributions	15.22	3.01	1.77	20.00
<i>Almond Board of Australia</i>	4.18	0.83	0.48	5.49
<i>Apple and Pear Australia</i>	3.28	0.65	0.38	4.31
<i>Australian Honey Bee Industry Council</i>	0.84	0.17	0.10	1.11
<i>Australian Lychee Growers Association</i>	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.05
<i>Australian Macadamia Society</i>	0.97	0.19	0.11	1.27
<i>Australian Mango Industry Association</i>	0.17	0.03	0.02	0.22
<i>Australian Melon Association</i>	0.78	0.16	0.09	1.03
<i>AUSVEG</i>	0.61	0.12	0.07	0.80
<i>Avocados Australia</i>	1.19	0.24	0.14	1.57
<i>Canned Fruit Industry Council of Australia</i>	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03
<i>Cherry Growers Australia</i>	0.65	0.12	0.08	0.85
<i>Grain Producers Australia</i>	0.86	0.17	0.10	1.13
<i>Passionfruit Australia</i>	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03
<i>Raspberries and Blackberries Australia</i>	1.20	0.24	0.14	1.58
<i>Strawberries Australia</i>	0.11	0.02	0.01	0.14
<i>Summerfruit Australian</i>	0.30	0.06	0.03	0.39
- Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory	45.67	9.03	5.30	60.00

Note: this differs to financial year of payment. See clause 2.3 for information on payment arrangements relating to industry contributions. Figures rounded to two decimal places.

Additional terms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Program will be conducted as a EPPRD response. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Reporting obligations are set out in Table 2, but circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought in accordance with the EPPRD arrangements. 2. Each party will contribute funding in accordance with the financial commitments approved by the National Management Group up to and including 9 February 2024. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Final contributions will be based on actual expenditure and determined by the custodian (Plant Health Australia) in accordance with the EPPRD and the Response Plan. 2.2. The Commonwealth's maximum potential payments are set out in the Table 2 milestones but, where applicable, will be adjusted to match the Commonwealth's share of actual expenditure as determined under additional term 2.1. This schedule will be amended in the event that an amount becomes payable to a jurisdiction other than NSW for activities undertaken. 2.3. 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 subsequently 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). 2.4. The Commonwealth Minister may, at their discretion, move all or part of an underspend against a milestone in a financial year to a milestone in another financial year. Such a circumstance may arise where the NMG has agreed that the Response Plan can be varied to include additional cost-shared activities, or extend duration, without increasing the overall maximum contribution under this schedule. 3. This Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the Varroa Destructor and decisions by the NMG.
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Table 2A: New South Wales – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Control and slow the spread of Varroa Destructor, and transition Varroa to a management plan from seeking eradication under the response plan.	<p><i>Milestone 1 – 2022-December 2023</i></p> <p>Annual progress report (2022-2023) endorsed by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan.</p> <p>Claimed expenditure to support the progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan for the period 08 July 2022 to 30 December 2023 verified by Plant Health Australia as eligible for cost-sharing.</p>	June 2024	Up to \$45,672,655 subject to the additional terms.
	<p><i>Milestone 2 – 2023-24</i></p> <p>Annual progress report (2023-24) endorsed by CCEPP as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan.</p>	September 2024	Up to \$9,029,913 subject to the additional terms.
	<p><i>Milestone 3 – 2024-25</i></p> <p>Annual progress report (2024-25) endorsed by CCEPP as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Final report endorsed by CCEPP.</p>	September 2026	Up to \$5,297,432 subject to the additional terms.

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

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



Senator The Honourable Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

20 May 2024

Signed for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by



The Honourable Tara Moriarty MP
Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW and Western NSW

20 May 2024