

National Banana Freckle Response Plan

PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule

Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 October 2025. For the purposes of Clause 10 of the <i>Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness Programs</i>, this Schedule also expires if the National Management Group (NMG) determines that the National Banana Freckle 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.
Purpose	This Schedule will support the delivery of the Banana Freckle Response Plan to delimit, contain and eradicate banana freckle, caused by the exotic fungus <i>Phyllosticta cavendishii</i> (<i>P. cavendishii</i>) from known infected areas in the Northern Territory. On 9 February 2023, the National Management Group agreed to increase the previously set upper limit of expenditure from \$1.65 million to \$5.5 million with eligible shared costs incurred in implementing the Response Plan.
Project Elements	The Northern Territory will deliver the actions set out in the Response Plan, which was approved by National Management Group on 9 February 2023. The project elements for the Eradication Program are: a) Treatment: Treatment options include the removal and destruction of infected and non-infected host materials, and application of chemical treatments. b) Surveillance: Ongoing surveillance of each affected property and properties in close proximity including publicly reported properties will be conducted. Surveillance will continue through until the end of the 2023-24 wet season.

	c) Community engagement: An integrated and comprehensive community engagement strategy will provide information on the response, engage with industry, schools, and community groups. To maintain confidence self-reporting will be encouraged. Enhanced communication strategies will enable analysis and mapping which will link surveillance data and planning. d) Containment: The response strategy includes destruction of host plants and plant materials, tracing, surveillance, and community engagement. e) Policy and planning: The Northern Territory response will operate under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). Surveillance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Plant Health Act</i> (NT), with the response governance provided in line with NTG legislative and policy Frameworks. f) Support services: The response will work closely with the Northern Territory Farmers Association as the jurisdiction’s peak horticulture industry body to ensure industry is updated in a timely manner, providing support and assistance to all growers through education and Owner Reimbursement Costs (ORC) claims.																									
Estimated financial contributions	The agreed maximum financial contribution for the Banana Freckle Response Plan 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 \$1.375m, with a further \$2.75m available to meet any initial shortfall in the contributions of Industry Parties that are contributing to the response (see clause 2.3 of the Additional terms). <table><tr><th>Table 1 (\$)</th><th>2022-23</th><th>2023-24</th><th>2024-25</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Australian Government</td><td>\$666,757</td><td>\$570,206</td><td>\$138,037</td><td>\$1,375,000</td></tr><tr><td>Australian Banana Growers Council</td><td>\$1,256,437</td><td>\$1,074,495</td><td>\$260,117</td><td>\$2,591,050</td></tr><tr><td>Greenlife Industry Australia</td><td>\$77,077</td><td>\$65,915</td><td>\$15,957</td><td>\$158,950</td></tr><tr><td>Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory</td><td>\$2,000,271</td><td>\$1,710,616</td><td>\$414,112</td><td>\$4,125,000</td></tr></table>	Table 1 (\$)	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total	Australian Government	\$666,757	\$570,206	\$138,037	\$1,375,000	Australian Banana Growers Council	\$1,256,437	\$1,074,495	\$260,117	\$2,591,050	Greenlife Industry Australia	\$77,077	\$65,915	\$15,957	\$158,950	Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/Territory	\$2,000,271	\$1,710,616	\$414,112	\$4,125,000
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Additional terms	1. The Program will be conducted as an EPPRD response. 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 on 9 February 2023. 2.1. Final contributions will be based on actual expenditure and determined by the custodian Plant Health Australia (PHA) 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. 2.3. Where an 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 and Schedule 7 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. An upper limit on expenditure was endorsed by National Management Group as set out in Part 2, Schedule 10 of the EPPRD. The National Management Group will monitor and maintain oversight of expenditure ensuring actual expenditure remains within the agreed conditions of the response plan. Expenditure by parties above the set upper limits may not be approved for cost sharing by the NMG. 2.5. At their discretion, a Commonwealth Minister may, 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 National Management Group has agreed that the Response Plan can be varied to include additional cost - shared activities, or extend
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	duration, without increasing the overall maximum contribution under this schedule.
3.	This Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the National Banana Freckle Response Plan and decisions by the NMG.

Table 2: Northern Territory – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
To delimit, contain and eradicate banana freckle, caused by the exotic fungus <i>Phyllosticta cavendishii</i> (<i>P. cavendishii</i>) from known infected areas in the Northern Territory (NT), and to inform the ongoing feasibility of eradication from Australia.	Milestone 1 – 2022-23 Annual Progress report (2022-23) endorsed by Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan.	August 2023	Up to \$2,000,271 subject to the additional terms.
	Milestone 2 – 2023-24 Annual progress report (2023-24) endorsed by CCEPP as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan.	August 2024	Up to \$1,710,617 subject to the additional terms.
	Milestone 3 – 2024-25 Annual progress report (2024-25) endorsed by CCEPP as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan or Final Report.	April 2025	Up to \$414,112 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

[Day] [Month] [Year] 24/4/24

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by

The Honourable Mark Monaghan MLA
Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries

[Day] [Month] [Year] 7.6.24.