

Banana Freckle Response Program

PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule

Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory (NT)
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2028. For the purposes of Clause 10 of the <i>Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness and Response Programs</i>, this Schedule also expires if the National Management Group (NMG) determines that '<i>Response Plan for the Transition to Management (T2M) of Banana Freckle (Phyllosticta cavendishii)</i>' (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 activities under the Response Plan. On 10 December 2024, the NMG agreed that banana freckle was no longer technically feasible to eradicate (TFE). The activities under this Schedule (AP2) will ensure an orderly stand down from an eradication program and move to a T2M phase as detailed in the Response Plan version 3.0. This Schedule (AP2) replaces Schedule (AP) – '<i>National Banana Freckle Response Plan</i>' signed in June 2024, which expired on 30 October 2025.
Project Elements	The NT will deliver actions as detailed in the Response Plan approved by the NMG on 17 July 2025. The project elements for the Response Plan are: (a) Treatment: Removal of host plant remains the most effective way to control the pest. Newly infected properties will be advised of best practice for on-farm management. (b) Surveillance: T2M program establishing an ongoing monitoring program in support of official control requirements. (c) Community engagement: Develop and deliver a targeted engagement strategy with various identified stakeholders and the community aimed at informing that the Response Plan is moving to the 'next stage' and to garner support for an ongoing monitoring program. (d) Containment: Incorporate the establishment of control programs to contain banana freckle within known areas of the NT.

	(e) Policy and planning: The NT response will operate under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). Surveillance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Plant Health Act 2008 (NT)</i>, with the response governance provided in line with NT government legislative and policy frameworks. (f) Support services: The response will work closely with Industry, property owners and community in the development and format of training packages, providing support and assistance to all growers, and raising community awareness.																																				
Estimated financial contributions	The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the NT of \$4.725 million in respect of this Schedule. The agreed maximum financial contribution for the Banana Freckle Response Program is outlined in Table 1A and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 2. <table><tr><th>Table 1A (\$ million)</th><th>2022–23</th><th>2023–24</th><th>2024–25</th><th>2025–26</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Australian Government</td><td>0.438</td><td>0.722</td><td>0.232</td><td>0.183</td><td>1.575</td></tr><tr><td>Affected Industry Parties</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Australian Banana Growers’ Council Inc.</td><td>0.826</td><td>1.361</td><td>0.439</td><td>0.365</td><td>2.991</td></tr><tr><td>Greenlife Industry Australia Inc.</td><td>0.051</td><td>0.083</td><td>0.025</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.159</td></tr><tr><td>Maximum Australian Government contribution to the NT</td><td>1.315</td><td>2.167</td><td>0.696</td><td>0.548</td><td>4.725</td></tr></table> Note: Table 1A reflects financial year in which response activities are conducted and differs to financial year of payment which is shown in Table 2 below. All payments are exclusive of GST. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and are outlined in full in Table 2.	Table 1A (\$ million)	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	Total	Australian Government	0.438	0.722	0.232	0.183	1.575	Affected Industry Parties						Australian Banana Growers’ Council Inc.	0.826	1.361	0.439	0.365	2.991	Greenlife Industry Australia Inc.	0.051	0.083	0.025	0.000	0.159	Maximum Australian Government contribution to the NT	1.315	2.167	0.696	0.548	4.725
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Additional terms	1. The Program is conducted as a response under the EPPRD as agreed by the NMG on 17 July 2025. 1.1. Reporting obligations are set out in Table 2, however, circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought. The NT will provide additional reporting at the request of the Commonwealth as is reasonable. 2. Each party will contribute funding in accordance with the financial commitments approved by the NMG on 17 July 2025. 2.1. Final contributions, of ‘Up to’ the Commonwealth’s maximum, will be based on actual expenditure and determined by the deed 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 Table 2 - Performance requirements, reporting, and payment summary and may, where applicable, be adjusted to match the Commonwealth’s maximum share of actual expenditure as determined under additional term 2.1.																																				

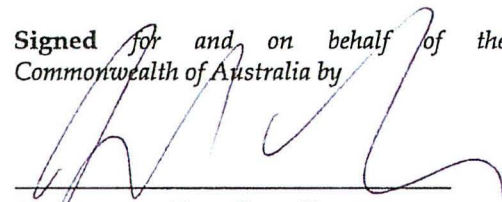
	2.3. Where the Affected Industry Party cannot meet its cost-sharing obligations either directly, or from funds held on its behalf, the Commonwealth will initially meet that Affected Industry Parties cost-sharing obligations as set out in clause 10.4.2 of the EPPRD. 2.4. Each Affected Industry Party will subsequently meet its cost-sharing obligations to the Commonwealth, arising as a consequence of the Commonwealth meeting the Affected Industry Party's obligations pursuant to clause 10.4.2, as set out in Part 1 of Schedule 7 of the EPPRD (clause 10.4.3). 2.5. An Upper Limit on Expenditure was agreed by NMG as set out in Part 2, Schedule 10 of the EPPRD. The NMG will monitor and maintain oversight of expenditure ensuring that 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. 2.6. 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 reassessed in conjunction with reviews of the status of the Response Plan and decisions made by the NMG.
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Table 2: Northern Territory – Performance requirements, reporting, and payment summary			
Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
To enable transition from eradication to management, monitoring and minimising the impact of banana freckle nationally; and maintain international market access.	Milestone 1 Commonwealth acceptance of Annual Progress Reports (2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25) endorsed by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards T2M of the Response Plan; and full expenditure report as agreed in the Response Plan.	May 2026	Up to \$4,177,151.01 subject to the additional terms.
	Milestone 2 Commonwealth acceptance of Annual Progress Report (2025–26) endorsed by the CCEPP or Final Report and Financial Audit demonstrating satisfactory completion of the T2M Phase.	October 2026	Up to \$547,848.99 subject to the additional terms.

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

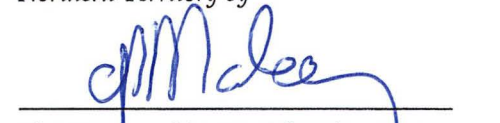
Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by



The Honourable Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

[Day] [Month] 2026
21/5/2026

Signed for and on behalf of the
Northern Territory by



The Honourable Gerard Maley MLA
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

[Day] [Month] 2026
15-6-26

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