

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 in 2013-14 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 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 agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and will expire on 30 June 2014 or on completion or termination of the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program as determined by the NMG, including acceptance of the final Project 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 V8.1* (the Response Plan) as endorsed by the NMG on 28 January 2014. The following response activities will be carried out:
 - (a) *Delimiting surveillance*
 - i. Delimiting surveillance activities will focus on visual inspection of all banana host plants for infection symptoms as per the Response Plan V8.1.
 - ii. Targeted surveillance will be conducted at appropriate sites based on the distance from the Infected Premises (IPs) as per the Response Plan. All nurseries within a 5km radius of the Howard Springs IPs will be ground surveyed and all commercial nurseries in Darwin, Palmerston and the Greater Darwin Rural Area (GDRA) will be phone surveyed to identify any stocks of banana host plants with delimiting surveillance to be conducted accordingly. All delimiting teams will be provided with training prior to entering the field.

- (b) *Destruction of Banana Plant Material*
 - i. All Non-Cavendish and Cavendish banana host material within a radius from IPs specified in the Response Plan will be eradicated under best practice methods (effective and environmentally sound) to reduce the pathogen's host populations.
 - (c) *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.
 - (d) *Science*
 - i. Research activities to provide information on the pathology and accurate identification methods, effective control methods, local ecology, and dispersal of the target species in invaded ecosystems may be included in the response activities if agreed by NMG.
 - (e) *Containment (risk management and security)*
 - i. This element seeks to foster social responsibility through the engagement of communities, industry and government in achieving compliance with movement controls and in early reporting of suspect plants. Continued activities to achieve containment including signage, vendor hygiene declarations and active promotion of best practice pathogen spread prevention techniques.
 - (f) *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.
 - (g) *Owner Reimbursement Costs*
 - i. The NMG agreed on 28 January 2014 for Owner Reimbursement Costs to be paid to the current single affected commercial banana grower.
8. To qualify for the associated payment, the Northern Territory must meet the following milestone:

Table 1: Milestone

Milestone	Due date	Payment
Acceptance by the Commonwealth of a progress report which demonstrates satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan.	13 June 2014	\$498,388

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 provided directly to the Northern Territory and 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: Agreed financial contributions 2013-14

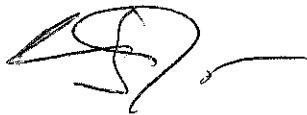
National Partnership payment	\$498 388.75
Contributions paid on behalf of affected industry parties [†]	\$996 777.16
Australian Banana Growers Council	\$944 750.58
Nursery and Garden Industry Australia	\$52 026.58
Total Commonwealth liability	\$1,495,165.91

[†] 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

26 - 6 - 14

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

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by



Signature

Date

12 JUNE 2014.

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