

# National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Programme – Port Botany

## PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this Schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Programme –Port Botany from 2014-15 to 2015-16 and to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contributions to New South Wales, the combatant state for this eradication programme.
2. The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Programme –Port Botany is being conducted under the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA) as agreed by the National Biosecurity Management Group (NBMG) in 2014.
3. The emergency response plan (*Emergency invasive animal response plan for an outbreak of red imported fire ants at Port Botany NSW – December 2014*) and budget is approved by the NBMG in accordance with the NEBRA.
4. If required, this Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Programme – Port Botany in accordance with the provisions of the NEBRA.

## PART 2: FORMALITIES

5. The Parties to this Schedule are the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of New South Wales.
6. This Schedule will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth and New South Wales ministers with portfolio responsibility for national biosecurity emergency management, and will expire on 30 June 2016, or upon on completion or termination of the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Programme – Port Botany as determined by the NBMG, including the final Project Report and processing of final payments against milestones, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties.

## PART 3: PROJECT ELEMENTS AND MILESTONES

7. The project elements of the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Programme – Port Botany, are:
  - (a) *Surveillance*
    - i. As per the Response Plan V1.2 agreed by the NBMG, surveillance will be divided into 3 zones: 0-2km, 2-4km, and 4-6km (distances measured from 1P).
    - ii. The location of all at-risk properties in the control area will be identified and mapped; surveillance of high priority sites within the control area will be by both visual surveillance and using detector dogs.

- iii. Visual surveillance of a random sample of 600 out of an estimated 2200 residential properties in the local government areas of Randwick, Botany Bay and Rockdale will be undertaken.
  - iv. A second round of surveillance will be conducted 6 months later on a revised random selection of all the 2200 properties initially surveyed.
- (b) *Containment*
- i. Issuance of 'Notice of Infestation' to all owner/lessees/occupiers of land infested with fire ant;
  - ii. establishment of a restricted area;
  - iii. implementation, maintenance and audit of Approved Risk Management Plans of high risk businesses;
  - iv. maintaining and monitoring compliance with movement controls to mitigate the risk of human-assisted spread of fire ant; and
  - v. provision of information on detections of fire ant to facilitate management of interstate entry requirements.
- (c) *Treatment*
- i. Where suspect fire ant samples are taken, baiting will be undertaken out to 20 m radius from the suspect nest using an IGR (pyriproxyfen).
  - ii. Where fire ants are detected, direct nest injection will be conducted with the contact insecticide ( fipronil) to kill the nests. Broadcast baiting will be undertaken out to 50 m radius from the confirmed nest using an IGR (pyriproxyfen).
  - iii. Aerial baiting of the five known infested properties was conducted in late January 2014 with another IGR (S-methoprene).
- (d) *Tracing*
- i. Tracing investigations will be conducted with the owners of infested land to identify potential sources or spread of infestation and to inform surveillance priorities. All properties identified as 'at risk' through tracing activity will be investigated.
- (e) *Community engagement*
- i. This element seeks to foster social responsibility through the engagement of communities and industry in achieving compliance with movement controls and in early reporting of suspect ant. A Communications Plan for the eradication of fire ant in Port Botany has been developed. Ongoing engagement will follow on from the initial response approach which has been highly effective in establishing strong relationships with key stakeholders. A higher frequency of engagement will be scheduled in the first two years. This will be reduced in the third year and increased slightly in the fourth year to cater for the declaration of eradication.
- (f) *Policy and planning*
- i. ongoing review of eradication program/management strategies to ensure they remain effective to eradicate the current pattern of infestation
  - ii. reporting response results to cost-share partners
  - iii. preparation of the pest-free area submission.

(g) *Support services*

- i. Mapping, program office and administrative services as required, will be provided to support the response.

8. To qualify for the associated payment, New South Wales must meet the following milestones:

**Table 1: Milestones**

| Milestones  | Due date   | Payment  |
|---|------------|--|
| Certification of eligible costs by the Commonwealth as custodian of the NEBRA   | April 2015 | Reimbursement of approved eligible actual expenses up to \$676 022 |
| Demonstration, through provision of a progress report, of satisfactory progress towards the above project elements in 2014-15 to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth | April 2016 | Reimbursement of approved eligible actual expenses up to \$348 289 |

#### PART 4: REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

9. New South Wales will report against the agreed milestones as outlined in Table 1 above and reports will be provided to the NBMG as required.
10. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought in accordance with the NEBRA.

#### PART 5: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

11. The agreed financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth to the New South Wales Government for the National Red Imported Fire Ant – Port Botany - Eradication Programme is outlined in Table 2 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 1. All payments are exclusive of GST.

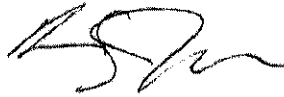
**Table 2: Estimated financial contributions**

| Commonwealth contribution | 2014-15   | 2015-16   | Total       |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
|                           | \$676 022 | \$348 289 | \$1 024 311 |

**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*



Date 3-6-15

**Signature**

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

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



25-6-15  
Date

**Signature**

**The Honourable Niall Blair MLC  
Minister for Primary Industries**