

## Managing propagation material

In recent weeks there have been inaccurate communications (emails) relating to propagation material. These include issues relating to:

1. The movement of green material into South Australia
2. The introduction of the new Plant Health Act 2009 and its impact on the Board's role/activities.
3. The role of the National Vine Health Steering Committee and its sub-committees.

### 1. The movement of Green material into South Australia

The Board, at its meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009, reaffirmed its position that “no green material is allowed into South Australia” and that current regulations for propagation material, including hot water treatment, continue to apply.

### 2. The introduction of the new Plant Health Act 2009 and the impact on the Board's role/activities.

When the new Act and the Regulations are proclaimed they will come into force sometime in July. Originally this was to be July 1; however, the new Regulations are still being drafted by Parliamentary Counsel and State Cabinet must then approve the proposed Regulations before the proclamation process can be undertaken.

With the proclamation of the Act and Regulations, the *Fruit and Plant Protection Act 1992* will be repealed together with the *Noxious Insect Act 1934*. (The latter Act relates to Australian Plague locust and small plague grasshopper responses within the State and is very much out of date.)

There will be new Regulations under the *Plant Health Act 2009*. These will include packaging and labelling requirements for wholesale commercial produce and plant material, business accreditation requirements, importer registration requirements, a new schedule of fees and charges, and a range of fines and penalties for offences relating to the Regulations (Serious penalties—up to \$100,000 per offence—will apply).

The current import conditions for grapes, grape products, planting material, machinery and equipment will remain under the new legislation. The new Act is designed to strengthen the current pest and disease protection for the State. The new legislation will see the introduction of additional requirements for imports of “at risk” products. These requirements will involve checks to ensure that the imports meet the specified import conditions. Such checks can either be undertaken by a government inspector or a business accredited with PIRSA for that purpose. The latter process involves a business signing up to the Import Verification Compliance Arrangement (IVCA) system. PIRSA will be auditing such businesses to ensure compliance. (A copy of the IVCA document is available on the PIRSA website.)

The Board welcomes the introduction of the new Plant Health Act 2009, which will improve protection of our State's plant industries by tightening controls over imported produce that might carry pests and diseases. The new Act will require all importers to be registered, and that all consignments are to be inspected on arrival, which will greatly enhance Biosecurity across the agricultural and horticultural industries. In effect, the system affords everyone (in the grape industry) the protection that the Board has been providing for many years but adding consequences, by way of penalties, if regulations are not adhered to. Therefore, the current importation register held by the Board will no longer operate as of the date of commencement of the Act in accord with the Proclamation process.

### 3. The role of the National Vine Health Steering Committee (NVHSC) and its sub-committees.

The National Vine Health Steering Committee (NVHSC) was established in November 1998 and is charged with providing high level technical advice on safeguarding the health of Australian viticulture. Current understanding requires industry ‘health’ to also include product and input integrity, biosecurity and sustainability.

The NVHSC is a consultative group involving all major stakeholders with an interest in grapevine health. The stakeholders represented are: the Commonwealth, State Governments and Territory (NT), PHA, national peak levy paying industry bodies for wine-makers, wine, table and dried grapes; and GWRDC. The vine nursery and vine improvement entities are represented via invitation. Permanent

observer status has been granted to The Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia (PGIBSA) status due to its leadership and experience in 'regulated pest' management. NVHSC's current (2009) Chair is Dr Lois Ransom, the Chief Plant Protection Officer.

### **NVHSC Terms of Reference**

- 1. To provide strategic leadership in, and serve as a focal point for, identifying grapevine biosecurity and integrity issues, of national significance.**
- 2. To provide a national forum for exchange of information and ideas between stakeholders, on grapevine health and integrity issues of national relevance.**
- 3. To provide scientific and technical input to co-ordinated responses to grapevine health and integrity issues of national relevance, that include exotic and endemic pests.**
- 4. To provide a first point of reference for emerging issues.**
- 5. To provide advice on potential grapevine health and integrity issues of national and/or international importance.**
- 6. To provide advice to industry peak bodies, governments and other agencies (eg. APVMA (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority), CRCNPB (Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity), research funding and provider organisations) on grapevine biosecurity.**
- 7. On behalf of industry to provide advice to Plant Health Australia (PHA)**

Membership of NVHSC includes representatives from:

Winemakers Federation of Australia (3 delegates)  
Wine Grape Growers Australia (3 delegates)  
Plant Health Australia (1 delegate)  
Australian Dried Fruit Australia (1 delegate)  
Australian Table Grapes Association (1 delegate)  
Australian Vine Improvement Association (1 delegate)  
Vine Industry Nurseries Association (1 delegate)  
Grape & Wine Research and Development Corporation (1 delegate)  
All State Domestic Quarantine services (7 delegates)

Chairs of subcommittees:

- Variety Collections and Propagation Technical Reference Group (VCPTRG) and
- National Phylloxera Technical Reference Group (NPTRG) (2 delegates)

The Technical Reference Groups (TRGs) provide technical input derived from scientific, technical and research backgrounds and expert opinions based on risk assessments to the NVHSC and other national committees (e.g. DQMAWG, PEPICC). The TRGs provide sound, high level communication links, and a scientific foundation for future decision-making by all members, regulatory or otherwise.

Membership of the NPTRG (National Phylloxera Technical Reference Group) is:

Mr Bruce Baker	PIRSA
Mr Malcolm Campbell	Grower, PIZ region
Mr Gary D'Arcy	DPI Victoria
Dr Peter Dry	PGIBSA
Dr Richard Hamilton	Grower PEZ region / Chair
Dr Andrew Loch	DPI NSW
Dr David Oag	DPI&F Queensland
Ms Jan O'Connor	Grower, PEZ region
Dr Kevin Powell	Researcher, DPI Victoria
Mr. Mark Walpole	Grower, PIZ region

From time to time other members are co-opted, depending on the expertise required.

If you require any further clarification on any of these issues, please contact me at [alann@phylloxera.com.au](mailto:alann@phylloxera.com.au)

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June 2009*