MAF Biosecurity New Zealand is currently leading the development of a strategy for a cross-sector national biosecurity surveillance system that will set the direction for New Zealand’s future biosecurity surveillance activities.

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand intends to conduct public consultation on the draft Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy from 9 September to 5 November. The draft strategy is a high level document that provides a vision for the future and goals to achieve, and is presented as a framework for discussion. In order to complete the strategy and ensure that it provides a useful vision to guide biosecurity surveillance in New Zealand in the future, input is required from everyone who has an interest or role in biosecurity surveillance.

The key reason for developing the strategy is the recognition that, while MAF Biosecurity New Zealand holds a central role in the biosecurity surveillance system, there are opportunities to improve New Zealand’s biosecurity surveillance further through working more collaboratively, effectively and efficiently with other government agencies, local government, industry groups, and other participants in the biosecurity surveillance system.

The draft strategy was developed following a review of the current state of biosecurity surveillance, and consultation with key stakeholders involved in biosecurity surveillance. While feedback has been sought from other government agencies and a small reference group of stakeholders about the overall structure and direction of the strategy, it is crucial that we receive input from all those with a role or interest in biosecurity surveillance at this point to ensure the strategy meets New Zealand’s needs for biosecurity surveillance in the future.

Aspects on which we particularly seek comment are:

- A vision for the future of biosecurity surveillance
- Some goals for biosecurity surveillance in the areas of
  - leading biosecurity surveillance
  - working together
  - delivering quality surveillance
  - sharing information
- Priority areas for action
- Mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the strategy

While the strategy has some suggested actions to help focus discussion, implementation planning (the details of how the goals in the strategy will be achieved, which actions will be undertaken and when) will commence once the overall goals and vision for the strategy have been agreed on and the strategy is finalised.

Workshops will be held in several locations around New Zealand to present the draft strategy, explain the approach taken, answer questions and provide information. The planned dates and locations are as follows:

- Auckland: 30 September and 8 October
- Christchurch: 16 October
- Rotorua: 1 October
- Wellington: 9 October and 14 October

Please contact us for further details and to indicate your intention to attend.

Once released for consultation, the draft Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy will be available via a link from our webpage (www.biosecurity.govt.nz/surveillancestrategy), or directly at the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Strategy and Consultation web page (www.biosecurity.govt.nz/strategy-and-consultation/consultation/current).

If you have questions or comments, would like a hard copy of the draft Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy or wish to attend a workshop, please email us (NZBiosecuritySurveillance@maf.govt.nz). For more information, visit our website (www.biosecurity.govt.nz/surveillancestrategy).

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