



**Report** 03.182  
**Date** 3 April 2003  
**File** Y/19/0/4

**Committee** Rural Services and Wairarapa  
**Author** Wayne O'Donnell, Manager, Biosecurity

## Submission - Draft Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the submission submitted to MAF on the Draft Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand.

### 2. Background

The Draft Biosecurity Strategy (the Strategy) has been developed over a two year period. A dedicated Development Team was approved by the Biosecurity Council to lead a review of current practices and develop a series of recommendations for improving biosecurity management in New Zealand.

The Strategy is not central Government policy. It was prepared to initiate consultation with the public, and affected industries and organisations, including regional government.

The Strategy Development Team undertook a nation-wide consultation process prior to completing the draft document. Public meetings were held as well as group meetings with specific industries and organisations. The writer attended an industry meeting in Wellington and a public meeting in Masterton with the Team.

### 3. The Draft Strategy

The Strategy provides a good summary of the current problems facing New Zealand's biosecurity systems. The key issues are identified as

- Providing clear leadership for biosecurity with effective communication systems, and better integration and co-ordination across the biosecurity agencies;
- Decision making must be at the appropriate level, and is based on good science and adequate knowledge of values and risks;
- Appropriate levels of capability and funding to deliver. Correct incentives must be in place for industry and individuals to fund biosecurity activities.

The Strategy makes a significant number of recommendations for change. Most of these have been supported by the submission. However, there are a number of areas where the Strategy could be improved. These issues have been discussed in the submission.

Unfortunately, the submission could not be considered earlier by the Committee as the MAF closing date fell between Committee meetings.

#### **4. The Final Strategy**

Central Government intends to finalise development of the final Strategy before July 2003. However, it is highly unlikely that this will be achieved given the widespread interest shown by New Zealanders. In recent years there has been a significant upsurge of interest in New Zealand's biosecurity following wide publicity concerning new exotic incursions and methods of treatment. Not all of these incursions have been properly managed. The Biosecurity Strategy presents a unique opportunity to improve our systems.

#### **5. Recommendation**

*That the report and attached submission be received.*

Report prepared by:

**Wayne O'Donnell**  
Manager, Biosecurity

Report approved by:

**Colin Wright**  
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa