

INDUSTRY RESOURCE TOOLKIT SERIES: RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY PLANT PEST UNDER THE EPPRD

Responding to an Emergency Plant Pest under the EPPRD

In this article, you will learn how we respond to a [Emergency Plant Pests](#) (EPP) under the [Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed](#) (EPPRD) including:

- who the decision makers are in a response
- how are decisions made
- the role of the Australian Lychee Growers Association (ALGA) in a response.

Also refer to Article #1 'National biosecurity arrangements' and Article #2 'What happens when you report something unusual'

Key points

- The EPPRD provides a consistent and agreed national approach for the eradication of EPPs.
- An EPP is an unwanted plant pest or disease that has a significant national impact on our crops, bees or edible fungi. A full definition of an EPP can be found in the EPPRD available on Plant Health Australia's [website](#).
- During a response, decisions are made by national committees including the [Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests](#) (CCEPP) and the [National Management Group](#) (NMG).
- The Australian government, all state and territory governments and peak plant industries including ALGA are members of these national committees and work to develop, implement and review a response plan that supports eradication of an EPP.

Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed

The EPPRD provides a consistent and nationally agreed approach to the management and funding of a response to an EPP incursion. The EPPRD:

- is a legally binding agreement between the Australian government, all state and territory governments, peak plant industry bodies and Plant Health Australia
- enables industries who are signatories to have a key role in the decision-making process
- provides accountability and transparency to all parties affected by the EPP
- covers the potential for Owner Reimbursement Costs (ORC) for growers
- commits all signatories to implement risk mitigation strategies and maintain trained personnel and technical expertise.

ALGA became a signatory to the EPPRD in 2018 in recognition of the significant benefits to our industry in preparing for and responding to an EPP.

Simply put, an EPP is a plant pest that would likely have a nationally significant impact, either economic or environmental, and must fulfill one of the following criteria:

- a) a known plant pest not previously detected (or previously eradicated) in Australia
- b) a variant form of an established plant pest that can be distinguished by appropriate investigative and diagnostic methods
- c) a newly identified plant pest of unknown or uncertain origin
- d) a plant pest already found in Australia that:
 - is restricted to a defined area through regulatory measures to prevent further spread of the pest; and
 - has been detected outside the defined area; and
 - is not a native of Australia; and
 - is not the subject of any instrument for management which is agreed to be effective risk mitigation and management at a national level.

The full definition of an EPP can be found on Plant Health Australia's [website](#).

What is an EPP?

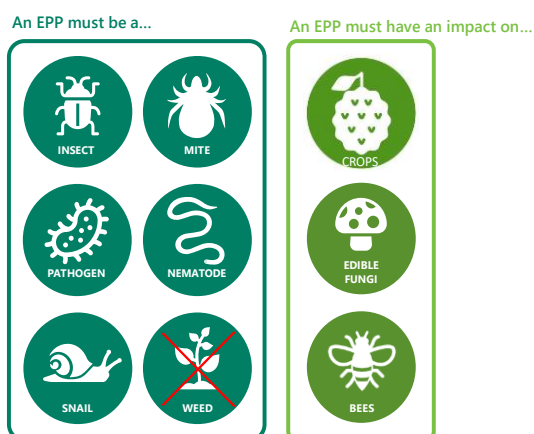


Image caption: The EPPRD is only applied where the pest or disease has been identified as an Emergency Plant Pest.

Lychee industry high priority exotic pest list

White spotted longicorn beetle (*Anoplophora maculata*)

Lychee longicorn beetle (*Aristobia reticulata*)

Citrus longicorn beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*)

Lychee fruit borer (*Conopomorpha sinensis*)

Flighted spongy moth formerly known as Asian Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar* (Syn. *Bombyx dispar*))

ALGA's decision making role during a response

As a signatory to the EPPRD, ALGA has representation in the decision making that supports the development and delivery of a response to eradicate an EPP. If the lychee industry is directly impacted by an EPP the Australian Lychee Growers Association will be a member of the CCEPP and the NMG which are formed to manage the response. The lychee industry may also provide support via industry liaison roles (Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) or Coordinator (ILC)).

Who makes the decisions during a response?

The Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests

The CCEPP is a technical committee that is responsible for the effective and efficient coordination of the response. Members of the CCEPP include representatives from affected industries that are signatories of the EPPRD, the Australian government, state and territory governments and Plant Health Australia. During the investigation stage, the CCEPP determines if the incident relates to an EPP and whether it is technically and economically feasible to eradicate. Throughout the response, the CCEPP monitors response progress and makes recommendations to the NMG for their approval.

ALGA will consult with our board and executive management team when making decisions on behalf of your industry. There will be open communication with members of the lychee industry via the industry's various medium channels. Growers will be kept informed to understand why a decision or action has been made and how success of a decision is measured in order for it to be effective.

The National Management Group

The NMG is the key decision-making group that among other things, approves a response plan and its associated budget, which is then funded through the cost sharing arrangements under the EPPRD by the governments and affected industries. Members of the NMG include senior delegates from the Australian, state and territory governments and the appropriately authorised person from affected industry organisations. ALGA is represented on the National Management Group by both the ALGA President and Executive Officer.

Decisions made by the NMG are by consensus except for those that relate to financial (cost sharing) matters which must be unanimous.

Industry Liaison Officers

[Industry Liaison](#) Officers (ILO) are a key conduit of information between the lead agency implementing the response plan, and the national peak industry body. Throughout the response an ILO will:

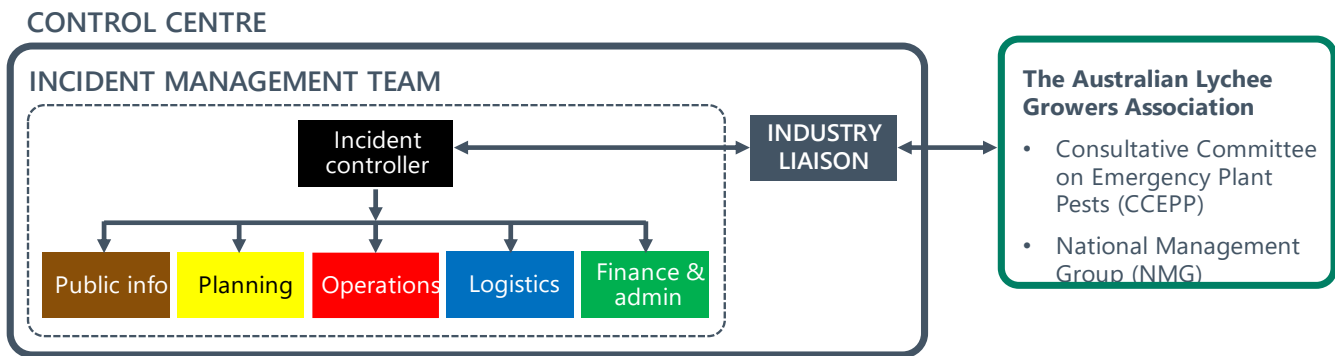
- assist the lead agency in understanding their industry and minimise impacts on business continuity
- provide their industry perspective on aspects of response activities
- provide an industry perspective to support communication and engagement activities.

How are decisions made during a response?

The Australian government and all state and territory governments are represented at the CCEPP and NMG for every response as the impact of the pest has national consequences. The industry membership of the CCEPP and NMG varies based on which industries are impacted by the EPP that is being responded to. Only industries that are directly impacted will have representation on the CCEPP and NMG and therefore have a say on how a response is managed.

To support ALGA’s decision making during a response your representatives on the CCEPP and NMG engage with our board and our members. ALGA also undertakes preparedness planning to ensure we can make decisions quickly by engaging with our members in peacetime. ALGA will communicate with growers via the industry’s various medium channels. Growers will be kept informed as to why a decision or action has been made and how success of a decision is measured in order for it to be effective.

Control centre structure

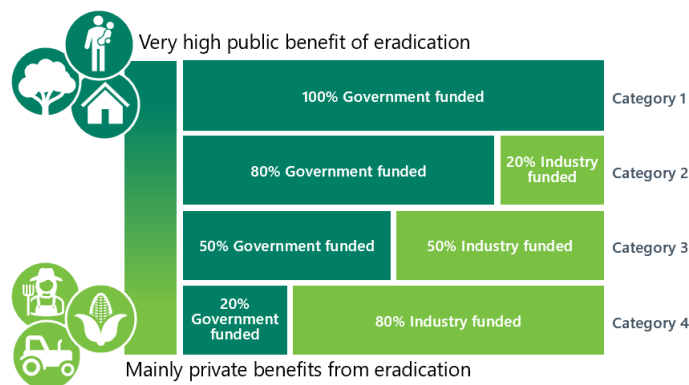


Caption: An Incident Management Team is established to respond to a plant pest or disease incursion.

How are responses under the EPPRD funded?

The EPPRD outlines how the cost of a response is equitably shared between governments and industries based on the relative public and private benefit of eradicating the EPP. Industry will pay a higher proportion of costs to eradicate an EPP that will mainly impact production compared to an EPP that impacts households, the environment and regional and national economies. Based on the relative public and private benefits of eradication each EPP is assigned one of four Categories that identifies the government/industry funding ratio.

Industry’s funding ratio may be paid through statutory levy arrangements or other voluntary means and in consultation with their members. ALGA has proposed a change to the current industry grower levy with a request submitted to the Minister of Department of Agriculture to approve a slight reduction in both the R&D and Marketing levy which will then allow for a Plant Health Australia (PHA) levy to be established for future industry biosecurity requirements & cost sharing arrangements. How a response is funded will be covered in more detail in a future article.



Caption: Based on the relative public and private benefits of eradication each EPP is assigned one of four Categories that identifies the government/industry funding ratio.

PLANTPLAN

The Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan, commonly known as [PLANTPLAN](#) is a companion document to the EPPRD that outlines the key roles and responsibilities of industry and government parties throughout the life of the response and provides nationally consistent guidelines for managing a response to an EPP.

Job cards within PLANTPLAN list the roles and responsibilities of [CCEPP representatives](#), [NMG representatives](#) and [ILO](#). Find out for more information on [PLANTPLAN](#).

How the Australian Lychee Growers Association keeps you updated during a response

Throughout a response, the ALGA Executive Officer will provide accurate up to date information on response activities, keeping growers well-informed of the situation. This will include, email alerts, social media, website updates, industry journal and newsletters and face to face meetings.

What you can do now

The industry resource toolkit is an education resource developed by PHA to help Plant Industry Members to assist the Lychee industry in educating growers and members about the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). The toolkit is a collection of 12 articles that can be used to improve understanding of national biosecurity arrangements and to prepare for plant pest incursions.

This content has been developed in collaboration with Plant Health Australia to increase awareness of national response arrangements under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).

Resources

Read: [Want to learn more?](#)

- [Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed](#)
- [PLANTPLAN](#)
- [Emergency Plant Pests](#)
- [National priority plant pests \(DAFF\)](#)

Watch: [View videos online to find out more](#)

- [Biosecurity Bite: Exotic Plant Pests](#)

Learn: [Free training available on BOLT](#)

Free training is available on [Biosecurity Online Training platform \(BOLT\)](#). Register your free account to get started.

- [National EPP response management course](#)
- [Plant Surveillance](#)
- [Plant Biosecurity in Australia course](#)

Also refer to Article #1 'National biosecurity arrangements' and Article #2 'What happens when you report something unusual'