

# General surveillance via public reporting

Annual Surveillance Workshop (Virtual)

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On behalf of the Plant Pests and Diseases Team –  
Chief Plant Health Office Branch

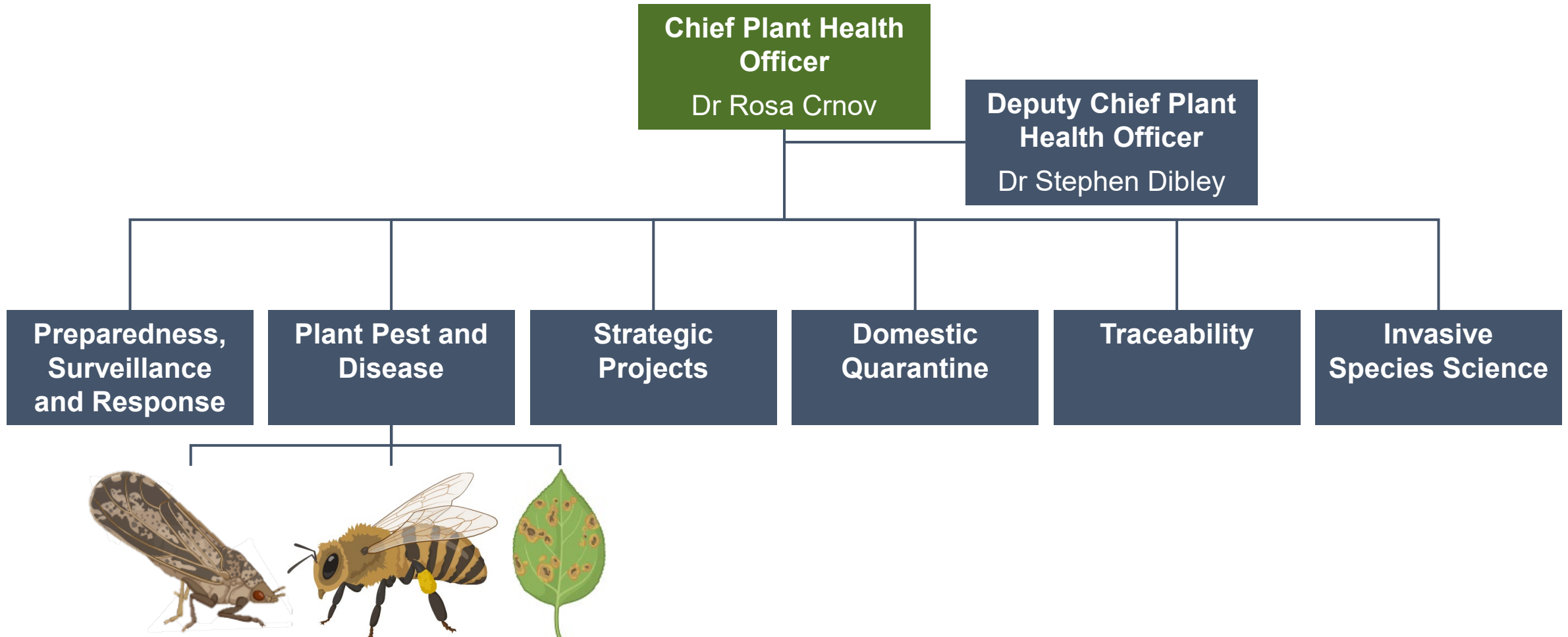
10 June 2025

**AGRICULTURE VICTORIA**



# Who are we?

## Chief Plant Health Officer Branch, Agriculture Victoria



# How do the public report to our team?



Exotic Plant Pest Hotline  
1800 084 881



DEECA CCC  
136 186



MyPestGuide  
Reporter



AgVic online  
reporting form

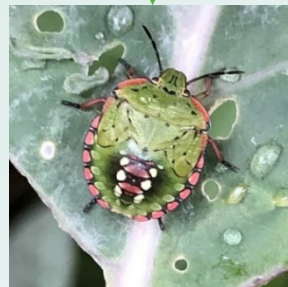


Locust online  
reporting form

Plant Pest and Disease  
Team triage



Invasive Species



Entomology



Locusts



Pathology



Apiary



DAFF



# What do we do with these reports?

1. Photos! So important that we had to make a photo guide
2. Gather more information if needed
3. Assessment
  - Is the pest/pathogen exotic to Victoria or Australia (priority)?
  - Is the pest/pathogen on a High Priority Pest in any Industry Biosecurity Plan?
  - Can we resolve the report internally?
  - Consult with experts if needed – i.e. AgVic Research and diagnostic team members, other experts
4. Reasonable suspicion – sample collection and laboratory confirmation

### Australia's National Priority Plant Pests (NPPPs)

The Plant Health Committee has identified National Priority Plant Pests (NPPPs) that are exotic to Australia, under eradication, or have limited distribution and are under official control. Our NPPP highlights the threats Australia faces from plant pests and diseases. The NPPP guides national action and investment of public funds to address these threats. This effort often has broader benefits to the system than just in preparedness for the specific pest or disease. While by no means the only plant pests of biosecurity concern, the NPPP serve to highlight the sort of threats Australia faces.

**Indicators**

- Some species present in Australia (including external territories), with limited distribution and under official control
- Strains and biotypes present in Australia
- Species within the group present in Australia
- Also listed in the National Priority List of Exotic Environmental Pests, Weeds and Diseases (EPWED)

**Images of the whole insect or invertebrate are useful to assist with identification**

**Live pests (if you have captured them) can be placed in the freezer for an hour to enable photographing**

**Using a macro lens**

to get higher quality, close-up

then take

### Biosecurity Plan for the Summerfruit Industry

A shared responsibility between government and industry

Version 2.2 October 2020

### Biosecurity Plan for the Vegetable Industry

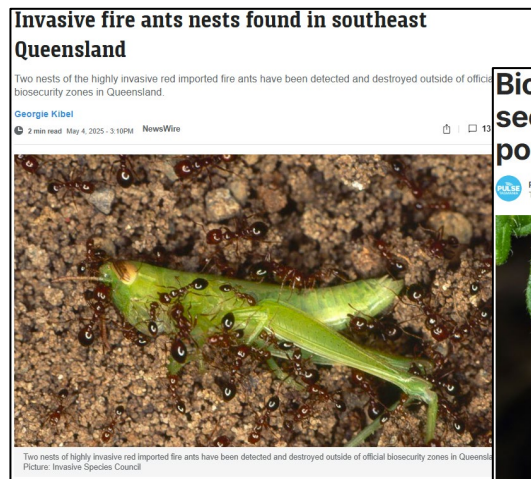
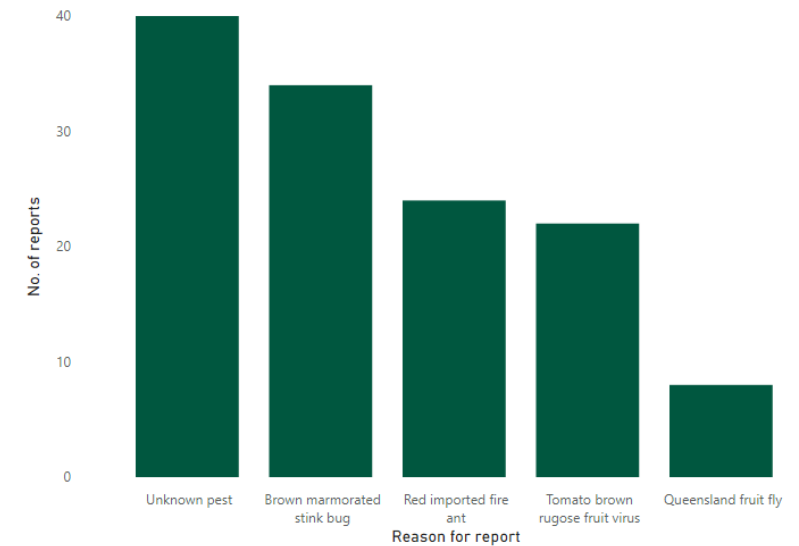
A shared responsibility between government and industry

Version 3.2 January 2021

# How many reports do we receive?

- Number of public reports per year/day (Vic reporting form, CCC, MPG only)
  - 2023 - 545 reports (approx 2 a day)
  - 2024 - 614 reports (approx 2-3 a day)
  - 2025 (up to May 2025) - 277 reports (approx 3-4 a day)
- Media, websites and campaign pages influence the reports we receive

Top 5 reported pests In 2025



**THE GREAT BIOSECURITY**

**Quest**

**The Quest continues!**

Thanks everyone for taking part in the 2024 Great Biosecurity Quest! This year our Great Biosecurity Quest expanded, with visits to community field days and road shows bolstering our online Quest. We were joined by a lot of people who were keen to learn more about biosecurity, become Watchout Warriors, and play a role in protecting our beautiful natural landscapes.

We all have a part to play in protecting Victoria's biosecurity so that we can

Hi! I'm Aggie, the biosecurity mascot!



**Public reports of  
significance**

**Some case studies**



# Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP), 2024

- Initial report received – Psyllids at a commercial facility
- PPD team triage – reasonable suspicion of TPP
- Sample collection (insects and leaves)
- Diagnostic confirmation– morphological and molecular
- Reported nationally
- CLso screening – Negative
- Surveillance and Restricted Area established
- Surveillance will continue



# Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA), 2023

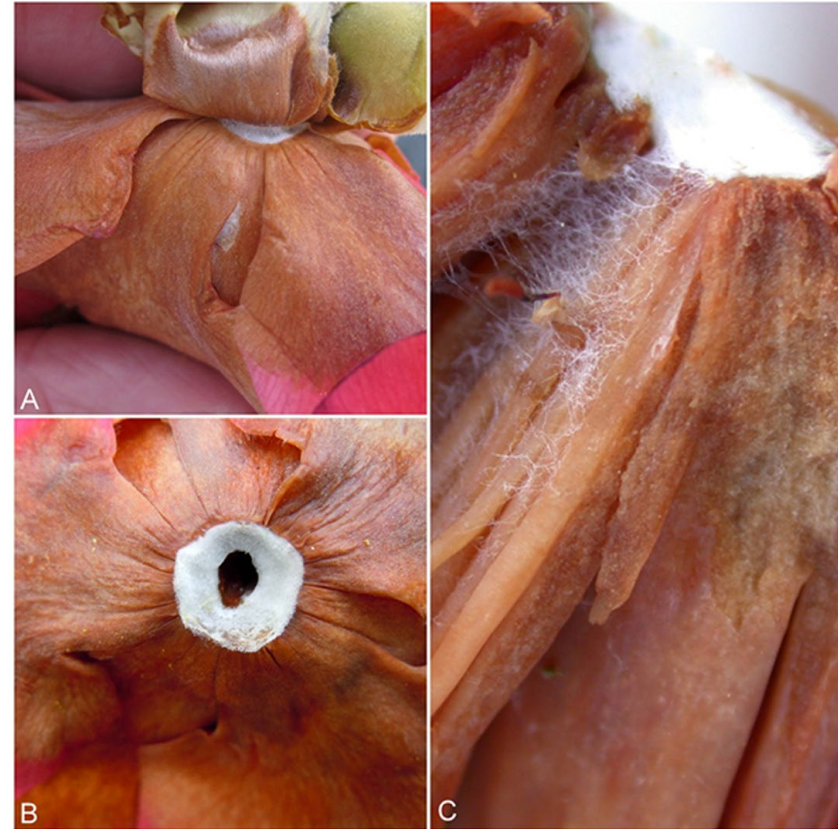
- Initial report received – Ants in a plant consignment
- PPD team triage – reasonable suspicion of RIFA
- Sample collection (soil and insects), surveillance and insecticide sprays at site
- Diagnostic confirmation, RIFA queen – morphological and molecular
- Reported nationally
- Trace back to source property, investigation into compliance
- Surveillance
  - For 2 years from Oct-Mar
  - No further specimens found





# Camelia Petal Blight, 2023

- Initial report received – Suspect Camelia Petal Blight (*Ciborinia camelliae*) – not known to occur in Australia at the time
- PPD team triage – reasonable suspicion of Petal Blight
- Sample collection, Diagnostic confirmation
- Reported nationally
  - Determined to not be an EPP
  - Not feasible to eradicate (public gardens)
- First confirmed detection of Camelia Petal Blight in Australia



# Bumblebee, 2025

- Initial report received – Suspect bumblebee
- PPD team triage – reasonable suspicion of bumble sighting
- Forwarded to Invasive Species Team (CPHO)
- Reported nationally
- Surveillance (traps and sweep netting), public comms released
- No bumblebee specimens found, no further reports



# Public Reporting Outcomes

- Community engagement
- Its better to have public reports coming in
  - 7.6% of reports this year have been sampled and tested in the lab
  - Collecting negative data
- Public reports can lead to important things:
  - Establishing a restricted area in an LGA
  - Investigations into noncompliance
- Biosecurity continuum shared responsibility model requiring biosecurity being everyone's responsibility (people are engaged in the process)

