

## PSNAP Surveillance Residential Program Application Form 2020

This form should be used to apply for Surveillance Residential Project funding.

Refer to the [Guidelines for the PSNAP Surveillance Residential Program 2020](#) and [Host Commitments document](#) while completing this form.

Applications must include endorsements from their line manager and a manager at the host organisation. The endorsement can be in the form of signing this form or through supporting emails provided with this application form.

Applications close at **midnight Sunday 13 September 2020**.

APPLICANT DETAILS	
<b>Full name:</b>	Callum Dowie Fletcher
<b>Organisation name:</b>	AUSVEG
<b>Position:</b>	Biosecurity Coordinator
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	

ENDORSEMENT FROM APPLICANT'S LINE MANAGER			
<b>Full name:</b>	Zarmeen Hassan		
<b>Organisation name:</b>	AUSVEG		
<b>Position:</b>	National Manager, Engagement and Extension		
<b>Phone:</b>			
<b>Email:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>Endorsement</b> – In signing this form, you are acknowledging support from your organisation for the applicant to undertake the described project and complete the associated reporting requirements.			
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

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ENDORSEMENT FROM HOST ORGANISATION			
<b>Organisation name:</b>	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy.		
<b>Full name:</b>	Dr Darren Peck		
<b>Position:</b>	Director		
<b>Email:</b>			
<b>Address: (not PO Box)</b>			
<b>Host commitment</b> <sup>1</sup> – In signing this form, you agree to the time and resource commitments associated with this project and to provide feedback to the PSNAP Coordinator about the project.			
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

### Surveillance Residential Project Details

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Overview of proposed activities (in less than 200 words)
<p>Subject to COVID-19 restrictions being lifted for travel, and dependant on DAWE COVID-19 approvals and safety considerations, I would like to be based with the NAQS team in Cairns and to participate in their annual biosecurity surveys scheduled in the period between March and June 2021, pending clarification of NAQS' field schedule/operational plan. I would travel to Cairns and to be based in the DAWE research station at the airport for a period of at least two weeks. I would like to join any survey NAQS deems appropriate. I want to participate in multi-host tropical plant surveillance activities in order to better prepare the vegetable industry for potential exotic and notifiable plant pest incursions. I am an entomologist with a background in conducting insect surveillance in temperate climates. The industry I represent as Biosecurity Coordinator is subject to pest incursion threats that include many significant tropical pests and pathogens. We conduct temperate climate surveillance with industry and urban communities. I would like to better understand the overlap between the two environments and the engagement approaches taken by NAQS. Along with learning how to determine symptoms of exotics in field samples, I would also like to receive some lab training in insect pest diagnostics in the NAQS laboratories.</p>
OBJECTIVES
Detail the specific Surveillance Residential Project objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain practical skills and experience in the identification of tropical plant pests with the intention to better identify the distinctive characteristics of relevant high priority exotic plant pests to the vegetable and broader horticultural industries.</li> <li>• Learn from the NAQS teams how they engage and collaborate with the indigenous ranger groups and the communities in which they operate.</li> <li>• Share any diagnostic and engagement skills and insight that I have developed with the NAQS teams.</li> <li>• Receive morphological identification skills training for relevant exotic and notifiable plant pests that have the potential to impact the vegetable industry and establish in the temperate areas of Australia.</li> <li>• Establish or build on professional relationships with the staff at NAQS so that my organisation can better aid them in the work that they are doing.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the [PSNAP Surveillance Residential Program Host Commitments](#) document for further details.

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- Develop vegetable industry specific communications intended to detail the vital work being conducted in protecting their interests by NAQS.
- Develop the skills needed to improve and consolidate the national vegetables industry surveillance and reporting framework as it currently stands.
- Improve my ability to train AUSVEG staff and associated industry extension officers in the detection of relevant high priority plant pests.
- Aid the decision making on determining the direction and focus for further work on industry and urban plant health surveillance programs.
- Gain a better understanding of potential EPPs and notifiable pests that may be detected by a prospective industry run, yellow sticky trapping surveillance program that I am developing.

List which pests or group of pests will be covered in the project

This will be determined by NAQS and the conditions on the ground, but I would like to develop some of the skills necessary to distinguish these high priority pests from similar endemic ones:

*Trioza apicalis*

*Bactericera trigonica*

*Diaphorina citri*

*Homalodisca vitripennis*

Other vectors of *Xylella fastidiosa* that may be caught in yellow sticky traps.

Exotic Leafminers including:

*Liriomyza bryoniae*

*Liriomyza cicerina*

*Liriomyza huidobrensis*

*Liriomyza sativae*

*Liriomyza trifolii*

Will this project address a known gap or target alternative surveillance capability/capacity? Provide details

Vegetable Industry led surveillance is fragmented and is generally not focused on exotics but is widespread and could be better harnessed to provide evidence of area freedom and early detection of the arrival of new exotic plant pests.

Yellow sticky traps are a simple, cheap and effective tool currently used by industry. It would be beneficial for Australia's plant health preparedness if these could be better leveraged to support improved plant biosecurity outcomes.

NAQS has a very strong reputation and a long history in community engagement in gaining the social licences required to conduct plant pest surveillance in their local area. This is missing for much engagement work being conducted in the vegetable and wider horticultural industries in the temperate areas of the country. I wish to lean from NAQS to better incorporate their skills and knowledge into the surveillance extension work we conduct.

### TIMEFRAME AND LENGTH

What is the proposed length of the residential and dates?

Minimum of two weeks in March 2021 or whenever the annual surveillance surveys are conducted that year.

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## Outcomes and outputs of the residential

*Responses should be limited to 100 words per field.*

BENEFITS
Describe the personal benefits this project will provide in terms of professional development.
I have a background in conducting insect surveys in temperate environments in Australasia. This has been primarily in horticultural and grains growing regions, or ecological surveys in New Zealand national parks for native insect species. I lack sustained experience in conducting surveillance in tropical environments and knowledge of common insects from these ecosystems. I work on pest threats that impact industries throughout Australia. The lack of tropical experience is a significant gap in my expertise. I want to improve this knowledge to aid Northern growing industries better and improve my ability to detect any tropical based incursions in the South.
Describe the benefits of this project to your organisation
AUSVEG is the nationally focused Peak Industry Body for the vegetable industry. Based in Melbourne and Adelaide, it has a natural bias towards the temperate production regions in South-Eastern Australia. Although we make a sustained effort to engage with all vegetable growing regions, the tropical regions do not receive as much attention as they should. This also means that the knowledge and skills resources built by the organisation tend to also focus on the temperate climates. The skill sets developed by undertaking this residency will help right the imbalance and aid in training AUSVEG staff in tropical plant health surveillance.
Describe the benefits of this project to the host organisation
I hope to provide benefit to NAQS through sharing the skills and knowledge I possess from twenty years of working in agricultural science. Particularly my work on TPP surveillance design and implementation. I would also be able to provide my labour and surveillance experience to the surveys they conduct. We have a very strong communications resources at AUSVEG and I would like to use those networks to draw attention to the work conducted by NAQS in the form of magazine articles and social media posts, subject to DAWE's preferred communications strategy. My experience in conducting urban biosecurity extension and outreach programs, may also be of benefit.
Describe how this project will contribute to the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific
This project will allow for the establishment or enhancement of professional bonds and networks between those working in plant health surveillance in the temperate and tropical area of Australia. It will improve the national capability and capacity to detect plant pests by developing stronger communications and knowledge transfer connections between those working in these areas. My project will help better link AUSVEG and vegetable extension staff with those working in NAQS and on the Indigenous Rangers program.
Detail any additional linkages or contacts expected to be developed from the residential project
I expect that I will develop a strong personal and professional network of bonds with those I am lucky to work with during my residency experience.
OUTPUTS
Detail any outputs, documents, reports, presentations, manuscripts, protocols etc. to be developed as a result of the residential project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A project report detailing my learning and experiences in residency with NAQS</li><li>• Multiple social media posts covering the time spent in the North</li><li>• At least one Vegetables Australia article on the placement</li><li>• A public presentation at workshop or conference detailing my experiences</li><li>• A document detailing any insect identification training I have received</li></ul>

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**COMMUNICATION**

Describe how you will communicate the outcomes of the residential project to your own organisation, the host organisation and wider PSNAP.

I will communicate the outcomes resulting from my residency period in Northern Australia by providing multiple social media posts, a Vegetables Australia article on the placement, a public presentation at workshop or conference and a final report detailing my learnings and experiences. These will be made as widely available as possible, including to AUSVEG, NAQS, PHA and the PSNAP members.

**TRAINING**

How will you transfer the knowledge gained with others in your organisation on the skills, techniques, information, etc. obtained from the residential project?

I intend this to aid in a wider program of surveillance communication and extension. While at NAQS, I will do what I can to aid their people and others I come into contact with the skills I currently have. Once I return, I will train others in the Science and Extension team at AUSVEG on what I can pass on from my learnings to them. If we are able to fund and deploy an industry focused yellow sticky trap based surveillance program, then the training I receive will be passed on to the surveillance staff working on that, as well as the participating industry members, such as growers, IPM specialist and agronomists. I also have a lot to do with the national vegetables extension team of Industry Development Officers. I will work with these ten individuals to help pass on my experiences and learnings that I gained from the residency program. In particular, I will aim to improve their diagnostic capacity to improve the change of early detection of an emergency plant pest in their region. Similarly, the work I do on an ongoing basis involves interactions with hundreds of growers and agronomist each year. The skills gained from this experience will help me to better train them on what they should look out for so that we can detect and eradicate industry pests before they have a chance to establish.

**NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROTOCOL (NSP)**

Will the described project contribute to the development, review or validation of a NSP?

If yes, provide details on how this project will contribute to an NSP.

No

Is the SNPHS Executive<sup>2</sup> aware of this project application?

No

<sup>2</sup> The SNPHS Executive can be contacted at [SNPHS@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:SNPHS@agriculture.gov.au)

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**Budget**

ITEM	INCLUSIONS	FUNDING REQUESTED (GST exclusive)
Travel	Flights (\$755), airport transfers (\$85) and 14 days rental car (\$1610)	2450
Accommodation	14 nights accommodation @ \$180 a night	2520
Meals and allowance	Breakfast/lunch/dinner @ \$115 per day (ATO reasonable travel allowance rate) for 14 days.	1610
Consumables	Fuel (\$250)	250
Other	General costs associated with participating in the surveys	1000
<b>Total</b>		7830

In kind support or costs covered by your agency or the host organisation (e.g. wages and consumables)
AUSVEG will cover all my wages and provide standard workplace employer support.