Australian Truffle Industry Association

“The National Voice for the Australian Truffle Industry”

Contents of this ATIA Newsletter Edition:

- **A Message from the ATIA President**: RD&E Survey and AGM Invitations
- **Australia’s National Biosecurity System and the Deed**
- **Biosecurity Update:** Polyphagous Shothole Borer - Lessons from California
- **Industry Icons:** Meet your ATIA Committee - Abby Graham
- **Earthly Insights:** The latest truffle research
- **Truffle Treasures:** Thank you to our ATIA Sponsors

A Message from the ATIA President

Welcome to our latest Edition of the ATIA Newsletter.

After another winter and spring truffle season, I am sure many of you are still undertaking your annual farm maintenance activities. My Instagram feed has been full of everyone's tree pruning and cultivation activities, quite a flurry of activity across the country! For others, it is time for a well-deserved rest or for reflection and analysis of the season's business activities and performance.

Our ATIA Committee has recently worked together to refine key research and development priorities for our industry, seeking feedback and input from the Truffle Producers of Western Australia (TPWA) and AgriFutures Australia. I am thrilled to share with you all that AgriFutures Australia, through their Emerging Industries Program, have committed to supporting these strategic RD&E goals for the national truffle industry over a five-year collaborative research project. I am sure you would all agree that this is an exciting opportunity and project for our industry.

AgriFutures Australia are currently calling for Research Organisations and Industry Participants to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) to be involved in the project. You can find more information about this opportunity and exciting project on the AgriFutures Australia website or by clicking the button below.

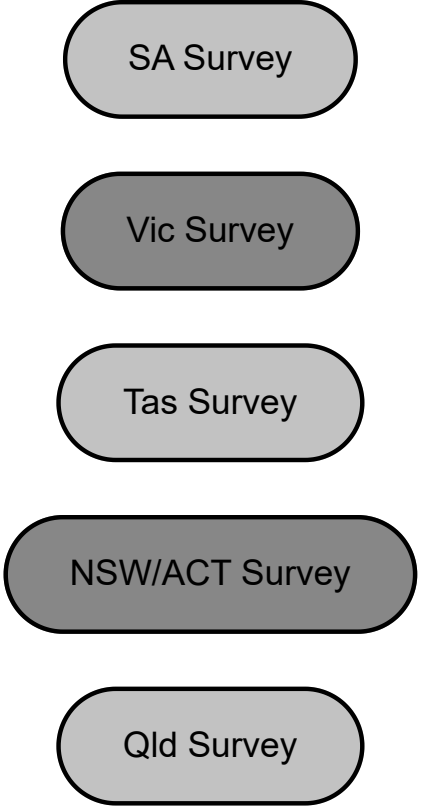
AgriFutures Expression of Interest

RD&E Strategic Priorities Survey

Included within our industry's key RD&E strategic priorities are Improved Grower Operations, Market Expansion and Logistics Optimisation, Phenology and Environment, and Biosecurity. We now have an opportunity to capture further input and feedback on these strategic priorities ahead of the scheduled workshop with prospective service providers on 28th-29th November. If you wish to provide feedback and input, please access an online survey below. Your feedback and input is important and all survey responses will be collated and presented to AgriFutures Australia to ensure the voice of our Australian truffle industry is represented during ongoing discussions and planning sessions.

To provide your feedback/input please click on a survey button below **for the State in which you primarily conduct your truffle-related business and activities**, to help us ensure we capture feedback from across the country. These surveys will be open for the next two (2) weeks.

WA Survey



We look forward to watching this project unfold and to disseminating more information and progress updates throughout the duration of the project.

Over the coming Newsletter Editions, we will also be sharing information about Australia's national biosecurity arrangements, with a focus on exotic plant pests and diseases under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).

Through our industry's Biosecurity research priority, we hope to strengthen our industry's resilience to biosecurity threats and improve sector-wide data management. It is our aim to update our industry's Biosecurity Plan and also submit a Statement on behalf of the truffle industry, regarding biosecurity policies and programs for inclusion in the *Government and Plant Industry Cost Sharing Deed in respect of Emergency Plant Pest Responses*.

In the September Edition of the TruffleCare™Newsletter, we took a closer look at Environmental and Biosecurity Best Practice in the Australian truffle industry. In this Edition of the ATIA Newsletter, we will begin introducing Australia's national biosecurity system and unpacking the Deed (EPPRD).

Annual General Meeting Invitation

This year's ATIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held online on Saturday 9th November at 11.00am AEST. The meeting should not exceed 60 minutes in duration. I invite you to put a placeholder in your calendar and to keep an eye out for a Zoom invitation/link to join this meeting closer to the date. Our ATIA Committee Members look forward to sharing their annual reports and updates with you during this meeting.

Meantime, please enjoy this Edition of our ATIA Newsletter and update on our national truffle industry.

Katherine Faull
ATIA President and Truffle Grower

Australia's National Biosecurity System and the Deed

In this article, you will learn about Australia's national biosecurity system and how we respond to emergency plant pest (EPP) incidents, including:

- what is being done to protect Australia from exotic plant pests and diseases
- our national plant biosecurity arrangements
- the role growers play in our national plant biosecurity system.

Key Points

- Keeping Australia's plant industries free of unwanted exotic pests and diseases is an ongoing process undertaken overseas, at our border, and within Australia and our external territories.
- Growers can actively participate in our national plant biosecurity system by implementing good biosecurity practices, monitoring their property for unusual pests, and reporting suspected exotic pests and diseases.

Australia's National Plant Biosecurity System

Australia is free from many pests and diseases that in other parts of the world have severely impacted crop production, natural environments and communities. Australia has a world-class plant biosecurity system that works hard to protect our lifestyles, natural environment and livelihoods.

The national plant biosecurity system includes activities overseas, at our borders, and within Australia. Protecting Australia from pests and diseases is only possible when everyone works together and every Australian has a role to play.

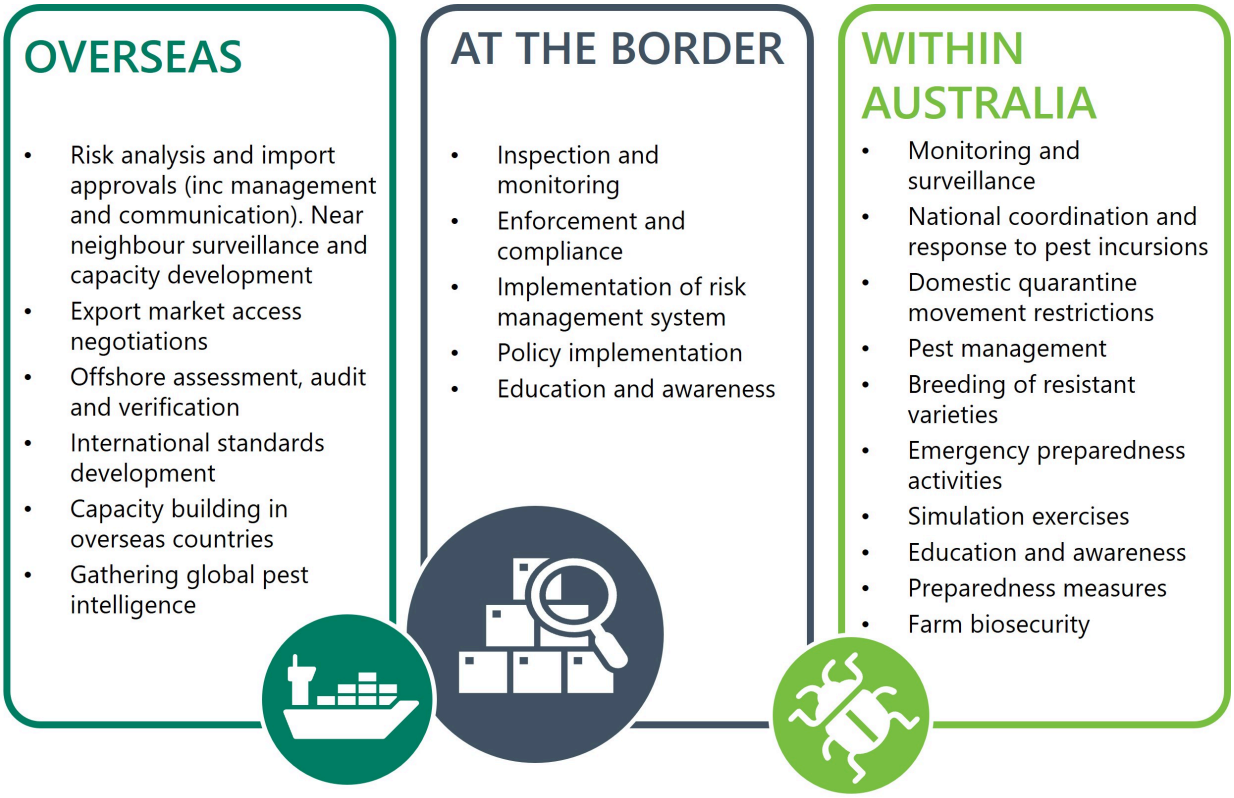


Image One: Protecting Australia from plant pests and diseases through activities undertaken overseas, at our borders, and within Australia

Overseas and at the Border

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry works to minimise the likelihood of pests and diseases entering the country pre-border and at the border. Their role is to coordinate national biosecurity policy to reduce the risk of pest entry into Australia and carry out quarantine inspections at the border.

Pre-border activities undertaken in Australia and overseas include:

- undertaking risk analyses on the likelihood of imported goods hosting exotic pests and diseases
- issuing import approvals to companies and individuals who have met our import requirements
- developing international standards that our trading partners must maintain when importing goods into Australia
- gathering intelligence on global pests that require monitoring
- working with our trading partners to develop agreements to allow our producers to export their goods to international markets.

At border activities undertaken at Australian ports and other authorised quarantine premises include:

- inspecting and if needed treating goods, equipment and vehicles entering the country for unwanted pests and diseases
- inspecting people and their luggage for unauthorised goods and those that may be carrying unwanted pests and diseases
- prioritising exotic pests with targeted inspection and monitoring activities
- educating incoming passengers about the importance of biosecurity.

Within Australia

Within Australia, prevention and detection is the role of every Australian and we all have a responsibility to report unusual pests and diseases.

Activities undertaken within Australian borders include:

- ongoing surveillance for pests and diseases
- movement restrictions on certain high risk plant material to stop the spread of pests and diseases
- preparing for a biosecurity emergency through education and planning
- an agreed national coordination strategy when responding to pest and disease incursions.

The Australian government, state and territory governments and industry actively work together to reduce the risks of exotic pests and diseases impacting Australia.

Responding to a National Biosecurity Incident

Australia's biosecurity system is robust, but it is not infallible. When a plant pest or disease biosecurity incident does occur, it is managed through a partnership agreement between the Australian government, state and territory governments, national plant industry bodies and Plant Health Australia.

An essential part of our biosecurity system is being able to respond effectively to eradicate or contain a pest or disease. In Australia we have established agreements to support national response measures to pest and disease detections, increasing the likelihood of successful containment and eradication.

What are the 'Arrangements'?

Response arrangements are agreements between parties that outline decision making and cost-sharing arrangements to enable a coordinated, effective and efficient response.

There are three national biosecurity response agreements in Australia:

- The Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). The Australian government, all state and territory governments and peak plant industries are signatories. The EPPRD covers exotic insects, mites, pathogens (disease), nematodes and snails that have potential to impact on our crop, bee, and edible fungi industries. Plant Health Australia is the custodian.
- The Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA): The Australian government, all state and territory governments and peak animal industries are signatories. The EADRA covers diseases that have a significant impact on livestock. Animal Health Australia (AHA) is the custodian.
- The National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA) is an agreement amongst government signatories and covers pests that impact our environment and way of life. Non-government entities may participate in incidents covered by the NEBRA on an incident-by-ident basis, subject to the requirements of the agreement. The custodian is the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Image Two: There are three national biosecurity response agreements in Australia

Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed

So, what is the EPPRD? In short, it:

- is a legally binding agreement between the signatories which (as at 23rd September 2024)are the Australian government, all the state and territory governments, 43 national plant industry bodies and Plant Health Australia – soon to include the Australian truffle industry
- outlines the shared role signatories play in managing and funding emergency responses
- ensures there is accountability and transparency in decision making
- outlines the potential for growers who are affected by response actions to be reimbursed for defined losses and costs
- commits all signatories to implement processes to reduce the risk of a biosecurity incident and maintain trained personnel, technical expertise and capacity to respond.

What is an Emergency Plant Pest?

Any pest or disease that isn't native to or established in Australia may be considered exotic. However those exotic pests and diseases with the potential to cause significant damage across Australia's primary production, environmental or amenity landscapes are considered an Emergency Plant Pests (EPP). This is also relevant for pests and diseases that may affect European Honey Bees (Apis mellifera), which many of Australia's plant industries rely on for pollination of different plants.

Determining whether a pest or disease is an EPP is important as the EPPRD is only applied where the pest or disease has been identified as an EPP. If an exotic pest doesn't meet the criteria of an EPP, it doesn't signify inaction allowing it to become established. The state or territory where the pest is detected may work with their industries to eradicate the pest in order to retain their proof of freedom for market access. However, this work is not carried out under a national coordinated response plan.

In brief, for an exotic pest or disease to be identified as an EPP, it must have a nationally significant impact, whether economically or environmentally, and must also meet one or more 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.

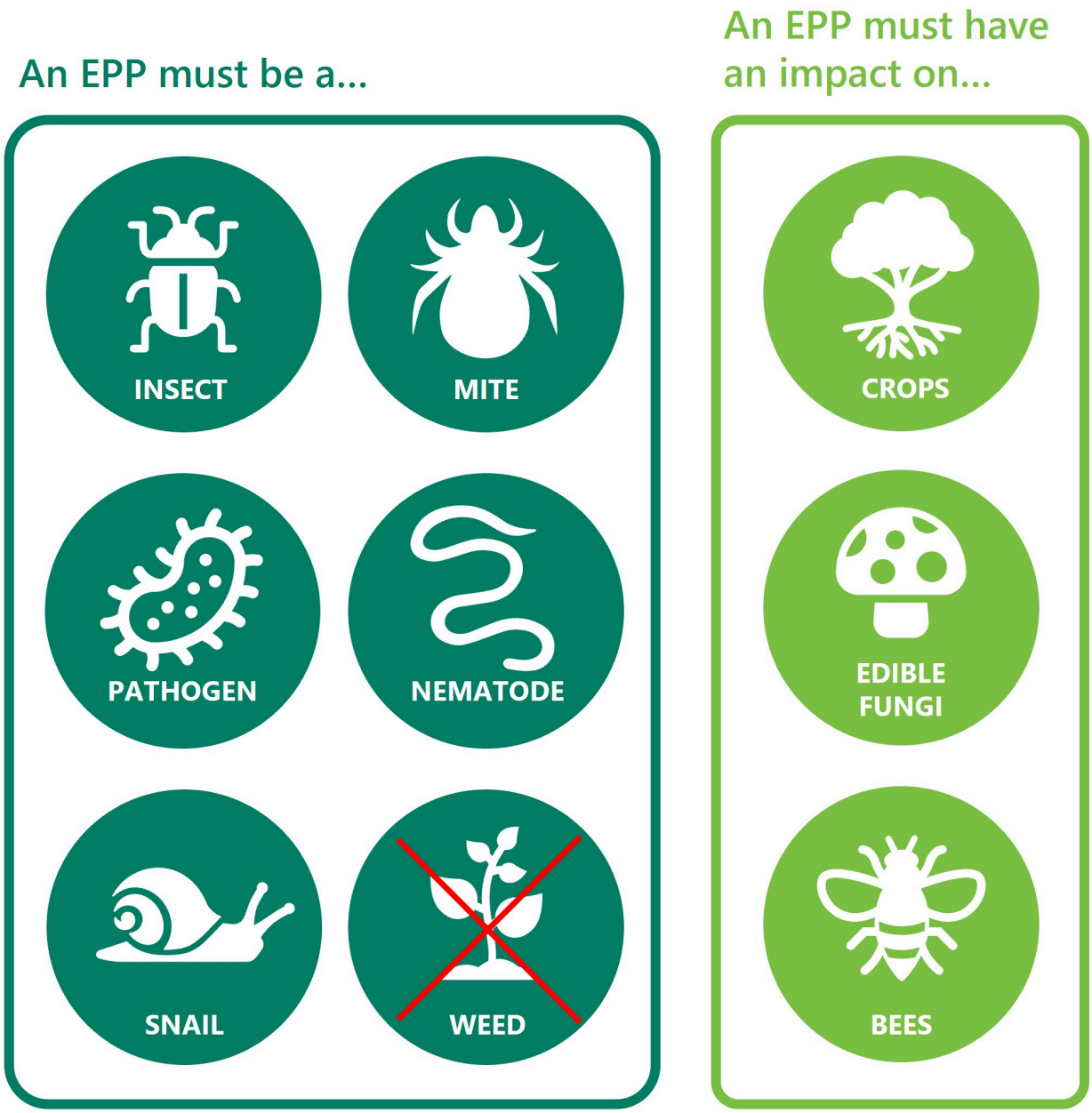


Image Three: The EPPRD is only applied where the pest or disease has been identified as an Emergency Plant Pest

Role of Growers in the National Biosecurity System

For those of us who are growers, we play a key role in protecting Australia's agricultural industries from pests and diseases by detecting potential threats and decreasing the risk of a new plant pest or disease entering and establishing on our properties.

Minimising biosecurity risks

There are actions we can take every day to minimise the risk of plant pests and diseases entering and establishing on our properties. Prevention, as they say, is better than a cure.

Here are a few simple ways you can keep your property pest-free:

- monitor people, vehicles and equipment that goon and off your property, making sure they are clean and free from dirt and weeds
- implement good farm hygiene practices such as controlling weeds and feral animals, monitoring water sources, using and storing chemicals according to their labels, and keeping production and storage areas clean and tidy
- make biosecurity a part of your day-to-day business by educating yourself and your staff on how to implement good biosecurity practices

Report anything unusual

All states and territories have a legal obligation requiring you to report potential biosecurity risks as soon as possible. The Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881 will link you directly to the state or territory agriculture department in the location you are calling from and advise you on the next steps. Reporting early is critical in increasing our chance of eradication and supporting a return to business as usual as quickly as possible.

What You Can Do Now

- Familiarise yourself with the high-priority pests for our truffle industry.
- Prepare a Biosecurity Action Plan for your property.
- Learn more about what happens when you report a suspected plant pest or disease – we will be covering this topic in the next Edition of our ATIA Newsletter.

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).

Biosecurity Update

Polyphagous Shothole Borer: Lessons from California

The Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB) again made the news in Australia in August of this year.

We do, however, have an opportunity to learn from experiences with PSHB in California. Please follow the link to the lecture given by Dr Shannon Lynch of the University of California on 24th September 2024 in Perth about lessons in the management and treatment of the PSHB.

Link to YouTube Lecture Recording

Industry Icons

Meet your ATIA Committee

In this section of the ATIA Newsletter, we will begin introducing you to your ATIA Committee Members. When you have met all your Committee Members, we will begin to put a spotlight on YOU, our Association Members from the truffle industry around the country! You will soon receive an invitation to be included in one of our future ATIA Newsletters (and on our Association's Social Media channels) as one of our Industry Icons.

In this Edition of your ATIA Newsletter, it is with great pleasure we introduce **Abigail Graham**! We caught up with Abigail to get to know her a little better and we are excited to introduce her to you.

What is your full name?
Abigail Graham.

What is your preferred name/nickname?
Abby.

What is your role or position on the ATIA Committee?
I am the Treasurer, Best Practice Sub-Committee Member and 2025 Conference Sub-Committee Member.

In what State do you live?
Victoria.

What stakes do you have in the truffle industry?
I am a Grower.

How long have you been in the industry?
We planted our first trees in 2021.

Why did you join the Australian Truffle Industry Association?
We joined to meet people in the truffle industry, learn about growing truffle and to maximise the returns from our truffiere.

What is your favourite truffle species?
All truffles are appreciated!

What is your favourite truffle dish?
That's too hard to answer, I think for me it's about food combinations…..creamy truffle ice cream with a crunchy pastry tart and fruit; crispy wagyu steak with truffle butter; scallops with truffled mash and shavings of truffle on top……the list could go on and on!

Outside of the truffle industry we can find you?

Riding my horse in the bush that surrounds us here in Neerim….getting covered in blobs of wattle, meeting the wildlife, spotting new banksia blooms.

Can you tell us something people may not know about you?
In my working and community life I have been a secondary school Principal and involved in community engagement and economic transition. I've also been a chestnut farmer and beef producer.

Also, my partner in life (and husband) is Graham **Dewhurst**. He has never been Graham **Graham**!

Thanks for telling us a bit more about you, Abby!

Earthly Insights

The latest truffle research

We all work in a unique industry where many knowledge gaps remain but where new information and research developments are emerging regularly. Here, we share a snapshot of some of the latest research outputs from our truffle colleagues from around the world.

Volatilome changes during black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*) ontogeny

Published October 2024

Effect of different coating materials on black Perigord truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*) aroma profile and its shelf-life

Published September 2024

Potential of a smart gelatine hydrogel-based package to extend fresh black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*) shelf-life preserving its aroma profile

Published June 2024

Changes in black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*) aroma during storage under different conditions

Published May 2024

Niche construction by two ectomycorrhizal truffle species *(Tuber aestivum* and *T. melanosporum*)

Published February 2024

Truffle Treasures

Thank you to our ATIA Sponsors

Our Association is grateful to our Sponsors for their ongoing support and for the excellent resources, products and services they make available to our members and the truffle industry as a whole. To learn more about what benefits our Sponsors receive, or to apply to become an ATIA Sponsor please visit the ATIA website via the button below.

Becoming an ATIA Sponsor

Click on our Sponsor icons below to learn more about the resources, products and services they provide:

Australian Truffle Industry Association