

New Zealand Winegrowers Biosecurity Strategy

Maximizing the protection to members afforded by
New Zealand's biosecurity system



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Purpose

New Zealand Winegrowers biosecurity activities support sustainable diversified value growth and help to protect the and enhance the reputation of the New Zealand wine industry.

Biosecurity Outcome

New Zealand Winegrowers activities will maximize the protection afforded to members by New Zealand's biosecurity system

Key objectives

- ✔ Members' influence on decision making and activities across the scope of the biosecurity system is maximised
- ✔ Members' awareness of biosecurity risks and mitigations is maximised
- ✔ Members' capacity and capability to participate in biosecurity activities is maximised

Why is New Zealand Winegrowers involved in biosecurity?

To date, the New Zealand wine industry has developed with relatively little impact from unwanted pests and diseases, due in part to New Zealand's geographical isolation from the rest of the world. However, as New Zealand becomes increasingly connected in a global world, the biosecurity risk is also increasing, as evidenced recently by many high-profile incursions including *Mycoplasma bovis*, myrtle rust, Psa (in kiwifruit) and *Bonamia ostreae*. For all primary industries in New Zealand, biosecurity has become a high priority. Biosecurity not only protects our livelihood and way of life, it also protects our natural environment, vulnerable native and threatened species, and the health of our animals and people.

Activities to ensure the sustainability of the wine industry are a key part of New Zealand Winegrowers mission and purpose. It is critical that our sector is as prepared as possible to respond to anything that may threaten the sector's long-term sustainability.

There are a range of strategic biosecurity threats to the wine sector, including:

- > Volume and dynamics of imported goods for trade
- > Volume and dynamics of international passenger arrival
- > Climate change
- > The import of risk goods via international online shopping and the mail pathway
- > Lack of genetic diversity amongst vines planted in New Zealand; heavy reliance on few clones and monoculture plantings
- > Increased demand for exotic products
- > The international spread of significant threats (BMSB and *Xylella fastidiosa*)
- > Infectious disease affecting labour supply and business continuity

Consequently, work to improve biosecurity outcomes forms part of the 'industry good' activity of New Zealand Winegrowers.

Progress against biosecurity objectives

In 2016 New Zealand Winegrowers appointed a full-time biosecurity manager, and in 2017 the initial Biosecurity Strategy was signed off by the Board. Since that time, significant progress

has been made across all three key strategic biosecurity objectives, and the biosecurity staff allocation at NZW has expanded to two FTE from September 2018.

Members' influence on decision-making and activities across the scope of the biosecurity system is maximised

- ✔ In May 2017, New Zealand Winegrowers joined the Government-Industry Agreement (GIA) for biosecurity readiness and response. This was a key achievement that enabled significant improvement in how NZW influences biosecurity decision-making on behalf of its membership.
- ✔ New Zealand Winegrowers also became a party to the brown marmorated stink bug operational agreement (BMSB OA) and has helped to develop and shape the readiness work programme for this high-risk pest. Influence exerted through the BMSB council has seen MPI significantly strengthen the biosecurity rules and regulations to further reduce the risk of this pest establishing in New Zealand.
- ✔ New Zealand Winegrowers is a member of the Plant Biosecurity Council, established in 2019 through the GIA. Plant Council membership provides further opportunities to collaborate with government and other industries on biosecurity issues relevant across several plant-based sectors and allows for a collective 'plant sector voice' to be developed, further increasing influence.
- ✔ In 2019, New Zealand Winegrowers led some initial readiness work on *Xylella fastidiosa*, the pathogen which causes Pierce's disease of grapevine. A literature review was conducted which allowed the identification of other New Zealand primary sectors likely to be impacted by the arrival of *Xylella*. As a result, those sectors have now come together to progress an operational response plan and will sign an operational agreement for this work in mid-2020.
- ✔ New Zealand Winegrowers has been part of the Steering Group for the development of the Plant Production Biosecurity Scheme and is likely to become a signatory to the operational agreement under negotiation in 2020. This scheme will sit alongside the GGS in managing biosecurity risk in vine nurseries, as well as managing residual risk associated with the movement and propagation of plants from nurseries outside of the wine industry.
- ✔ New Zealand Winegrowers has been involved alongside MPI and other industry groups in the Nursery Stock Import Recovery Project, which aims to find ways to make the plant imports system more efficient and alleviate issues in the short-term, while longer-term fixes are devised and implemented.
- ✔ New Zealand Winegrowers is a member of the National Biosecurity Capability Network (NBCN), a network of organisations that help Biosecurity New Zealand respond to biosecurity outbreaks in New Zealand.
- ✔ New Zealand Winegrowers has developed relationships with crown research institutes and the Better Border Biosecurity (B3) initiative, in order to remain linked into biosecurity research happening in NZ and overseas, enabling potential access to new biosecurity tools that emerge.

Members' awareness of biosecurity risks and mitigations is maximised

The biosecurity team has developed a range of awareness material that is available to members electronically through the nzwine.com website, as well as in hard copy. This material includes:

- ✔ Vineyard Biosecurity Best Practice Guidelines
- ✔ Top 10 Most Unwanted organisms poster and supporting information
- ✔ Vineyard biosecurity site assessment
- ✔ A regular 'pest of the month' feature on the NZW website and in the newsletter
- ✔ Factsheets on biosecurity considerations for members undertaking international travel and members employing international staff

Further resources are under development, to be rolled out to members in 2020

- Vineyard Pest and Disease Identification Guide
- Biosecurity Plan Template for vineyards
- Biosecurity advice for wineries
- Updated and improved pest and disease information to be made available on the NZW website

Biosecurity articles are written regularly for the NZ Winegrower and Winepress magazines, as well as reminders and important notices added monthly to the NZW newsletter What's Fermenting.

Advertisements are placed in NZ Winegrower and Winepress, generally to increase awareness of BMSB risk and the Biosecurity NZ pest and disease hotline number.

In early 2019 a biosecurity and sustainability industry Facebook group was established, the NZ Wine Kaitiaki group. This group enables NZW to post important updates to members as well as receive communication back from members.

Members' capacity and capability to participate in biosecurity activities is maximised

The biosecurity team piloted a successful engagement plan in 2019 and will continue to modify and adapt this to encourage the participation of industry members in biosecurity activities. The engagement plan includes:

- Biosecurity focused workshops in wine regions, generally working with regional associations or grower's groups to tailor content to their requirements
- The 'Being a Biosecurity Champion' programme run through the Young Viticulturist of the Year education days
- Engagement with students studying viticultural courses at polytechnics and universities
- A 'Biosecurity Week' featuring biosecurity competitions and members NBCN/response workshop
- Biosecurity focused presentations and/or workshops at major industry events such as Grape Days and Bragato
- New Zealand Winegrowers signed the Biosecurity Business Pledge as a supporting partner in late 2019 and plans to encourage member businesses to take the Pledge also; this will encourage active consideration of (and participation in) biosecurity activities.

Achievement of biosecurity goals to date

In 2016, the NZW Board set a series of key biosecurity goals to be achieved by end 2019, as follows:

| ✓ GOAL | ACHIEVED | PARTIALLY ACHIEVED |
|--|----------|--------------------|
| Negotiating or have signed a further Operational Agreement with MPI | ✓ | |
| Have incorporated vineyard health biosecurity best practice guidelines into SWNZ or SWNZ CI | | ✓ |
| Developed and implemented a Biosecurity Levy Order to enable funding of a biosecurity response where the industry's share exceeds the available reserve | | ✓ |
| A member of the National Biosecurity Capability Network (NBCN) | ✓ | |
| Enabling the development of the wine sector's own biosecurity capability network | | ✓ |
| Effectively linked in with New Zealand and overseas biosecurity researcher providers enabling potential access to new biosecurity tools. | ✓ | |
| Providing biosecurity awareness and training to viticultural students as part of their education and training | ✓ | |
| Deploying an improved industry wide crisis management plan template in response to a large-scale adverse event | ✓ | |
| Promoting our biosecurity messages with other organisations that are integral to the wine industry | ✓ | |
| Rated by 80% of members 4/7 or higher for its biosecurity activities | ✓ | |

Achievement of biosecurity goals to date (cont.)

The majority of goals in the table on the preceding page have been achieved; those only partially achieved are further explained below:

- Have incorporated vineyard health biosecurity best practice guidelines into SWNZ or SWNZ CI. Two basic biosecurity questions have been included in the SWNZ scorecard; feedback from members' surveys has suggested that including the best practice guidelines is not a popular option and members feel it is unnecessary to add further requirements to SWNZ. With the establishment of the Sustainability Guardians programme (which will replace SWNZ CI) there is opportunity to include biosecurity as an option for members to pick up on within the Pest and Disease focus area.
- Have developed and implemented a Biosecurity Levy order to enable funding of a biosecurity response where the industry's share exceeds the available reserve. The Levy order was developed and submitted to MPI in mid-2019 and is expected to be finalised mid-2020.
- Enabling the development of the wine sector's own biosecurity capability network. Work has begun on this and this goal will be carried forward to be achieved by end of calendar year 2022.

In addition, the following goals represent ongoing commitments for the biosecurity team and will continue to form part of the core work programme:

- Providing biosecurity awareness and training to viticultural students as part of their education and training
- Providing biosecurity advice to members through industry events such as Grape Days and Bragato
- Promoting our biosecurity messages with other organisations that are integral to the wine industry
- Rated by 80% of members 4/7 or higher for biosecurity activities

Goals for 2022

New goals to be achieved by end of calendar year 2022 are as follows:

- Enable the development of the wine sector's own biosecurity capability network
- Members are actively participating in biosecurity research work to gain better understanding of pests and disease or test new biosecurity tools
- In conjunction with the Bragato Research Institute, progress has been made towards establishing a healthy and diverse National Collection of grapevine cultivars, as insurance against a biosecurity incursion
- The industry-wide crisis management plan is reviewed and amended as necessary in the wake of Covid-19, and basic biosecurity/emergency response training provided to all NZW staff
- NZW has key influence in the redevelopment of New Zealand's plant import system, including ensuring the time and cost involved with importing new grapevine germplasm stays static or decreases
- Readiness work for other high priority risk organisms is underway through GIA (spotted lanternfly and spotted wing drosophila as examples)
- 30% of NZW (grower) members have done a biosecurity plan for their vineyard
- 30% of NZW members have signed the Biosecurity Business Pledge
- Members participating in the Sustainability Guardians programme have the opportunity to include biosecurity as an area of focus and showcase the biosecurity measures they have in place, including a site biosecurity plan and opportunities for further capability training

Budget

At this time two full time staff members seems appropriate for the workload as described above. In 2019-2020 the budget was \$170k. This funds the biosecurity team's operational expenses, including travel to events and member engagement opportunities, as well as NZW's GIA commitments and ongoing maintenance of both the Vineyard Biosecurity Register and Grafted Grapevine Standard. It also allows for a funding contribution to biosecurity research projects. For the 2020/21 year the operating budget is reduced from 2019/20 to take account of the financial impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the industry.

**Ensuring the health
of our vineyards
through proactive
biosecurity.**



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