

The Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed

The Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) is a formal, legally binding agreement between Plant Health Australia (PHA), the Australian Government, all state and territory governments and plant industry signatories, covering the management and funding of responses to Emergency Plant Pest (EPP) Incidents.

The development and implementation of the EPPRD has key drivers, including:

- A **shared role** in EPP response decision making between government and industry.
- Shared costs for an EPP eradication, based on the **public versus private benefits**.
- A **nationally consistent** and agreed approach to incursion management across Australia.
- Potential liabilities surrounding EPP eradication are **agreed in advance**.
- A requirement that all funding Parties **remain engaged** in Cost Sharing until the EPP eradication response is completed or no longer feasible.
- Provision for **reimbursement to growers** for direct costs incurred during an approved eradication response.
- Requirement for **trained and accredited personnel** to work on a response.
- All jurisdictions define a **base level of resources** for managing an EPP response.
- Commitment of signatories to **implement risk mitigation** activities.
- Provision of **accountability and transparency** to all parties.

When does the EPPRD operate?

Signatories to the EPPRD are committed to implement risk mitigation activities and promote reporting of suspected EPPs. However, in relation to plant pest responses, the EPPRD operates only for the eradication of pests meeting the EPP criteria.

What is an Emergency Plant Pest?





An EPP is a plant pest that has a nationally significant impact, either economic or environmental. An EPP must also be one of the following:

- A known exotic plant pest.
- A variant form of a plant pest already established in Australia.
- A previously unknown pest.
- An officially controlled pest.

The full definition of an EPP is described in Clause 1 of the EPPRD.

Pest Categorisation

Government and Industry Parties share the costs of the approved Response Plan based on the EPPs potential impacts on public health, environment or amenity values, regional and national economies, trade and market access, and control or production costs. Based on these potential impacts, the Categorisation Group can assign EPPs to one of four Categories, which determine the funding ratio.

	Category	Funding	Examples
Public Impact	Category 1	100% Government	 Swedish Oak Death
	Category 2	80% Government : 20% Industry	 Khanna Beetle
Private Impact	Category 3	50% Government : 50% Industry	 Banana Freckle
	Category 4	20% Government : 80% Industry	 Verticillium Crownrot

If there is an Incident concerning an uncategorised EPP, Cost Sharing between Affected Industry and Government Parties will commence at a 50:50 (Category 3) basis until the EPP is formally Categorised.

A list of the current Categorised EPPs can be found in Schedule 13 of the EPPRD.



PLANTPLAN

PLANTPLAN is the nationally endorsed operational guidelines for an EPP incursion response. The purpose of PLANTPLAN is to provide:

- Guidelines for the **consistent management** of EPP incursions.
- **Compatibility** of operations and procedures.
- National **consistency of decision making** procedures.
- The framework for the development of **standard operating procedures**.
- Improved consistency in **technical assumptions**.
- A focus for appropriate **training** of personnel involved in operational response procedures.

PLANTPLAN is part of Schedule 5 of the EPPRD.

Owner Reimbursement Costs

The EPPRD has an underlying principle that no one should be better or worse off due to an EPP incursion. Therefore, the owner of a direct crop or direct property which is damaged or destroyed as a result of implementing an approved Response Plan may be eligible for reimbursement payments under the EPPRD.

These Owner Reimbursement Costs (ORCs) are made on an agreed valuation approach and are designed to provide incentive for growers and other stakeholders to report suspected EPPs.

Who is responsible for the decision making?

No single party is exclusively responsible for decision making under the EPPRD. Decisions are made by three groups:

- National Management Group.
- Consultative Committee for Emergency Plant Pests.
- Categorisation Group.

Each group has representation drawn from all Affected Government and Industry Parties.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is a key commitment by all participants in an incursion. The purpose of confidentiality is to protect:

- The identity of individuals directly affected.
- Commercial in confidence information.
- Details of members deliberative inputs or positions as part of the decision making groups.
- Market access.

Further information

For further information on the EPPRD and PLANTPLAN, contact the PHA office on 02 6215 7700 or email biosecurity@phau.com.au

Full details surrounding these topics can be obtained from the EPPRD, which can be downloaded from www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/epprd

If you suspect a new plant pest, report it immediately to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline.



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