



**Pistachio Growers' Association**

## **PISTACHIO INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY STATEMENT**

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc is strongly committed to ensuring the Pistachio industry effectively reduces the potential for incursions of emergency plant pests and diseases that could adversely impact on domestic trade, international trade, market access, public health, food safety, regional and national economy and the environment. The Pistachio Industry is also strongly committed to ensuring responses to any pest incursions that may occur are undertaken as rapidly and effectively as possible to minimise costs to growers, the industry, other plant industries, government parties and the wider community.

The main pistachio production areas of Australia are along the Murray River Valley between Swan Hill in Victoria and Waikerie in SA and in the Murray Mallee around Pinnaroo SA. Small amounts are produced in WA.

In 2012, 950 ha were under cultivation with pistachio trees. The average annual production is 1400 tonnes of pistachio nuts. Currently the pistachio industry is worth approximately \$15.0 million.

Australian pistachio production only meets 40 per cent of domestic consumption, with the remainder imported from countries of major production including Iran and the USA. The domestic production of pistachio is expected to increase to 3,000 tonnes by 2020.

### **INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY PLAN – PISTACHIO INDUSTRY**

The Pistachio Industry through Pistachio Growers' Association Inc is/working with Plant Health Australia (PHA), and a range of government agencies NSW Department of Primary Industries, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia and Victorian Department of Primary Industry to develop a comprehensive national approach to managing biosecurity risks in the Pistachio Industry.

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc has agreed to utilise the National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan rather than develop a specific pistachio industry plan.

The National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan, consistent with PHA's *National Industry Biosecurity Planning Guidelines*, was officially launched in 2010 by the Australian Nut Industry Council, and copies of the plan have been made available to key industry representatives on the Executive Committee of Pistachio Growers' Association Inc. Work has commenced on a review of the National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan and is due to be completed in 2014.

The National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan comprises an introduction and four other key sections.

The threat identification section has involved the development of a priority pest list, developed through the identification, analysis and prioritisation of twenty four (24) exotic pests and eleven (11) exotic pathogens.

There is one completed Pest Risk Review and a full review of the Pest Risk list is currently being undertaken with the aim of providing more detailed information on the biology of individual priority pests, potential hosts, overseas distribution, symptoms, entry/establishment/spread potential and likely economic and environmental impacts of the pest.

The risk mitigation section outlines a range of pre-emptive strategies at the national, state, regional and property levels to ensure the exclusion/management of serious plant pests which are again under review.

The contingency plans and response management procedures section details key industry contacts and communication procedures, relevant counselling and financial counselling providers which are currently under review. PLANTPLAN will be included as an attachment in the next version of the Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan. The Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan presently includes no contingency plans for Pistachios. . The awareness section identifies a range of existing fact sheets or other sources of information for the eight (8) high priority pests identified in the priority pest list. Where no existing fact sheets or information was available on particular pests, fact sheets are being developed.

In addition, no diagnostic standards have been/are being developed and will form part of future Biosecurity plans.

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc will work with Plant Health Australia and provide appropriate resources to the ongoing maintenance and at least yearly reviews of the plan. The next review of the plan is due to be conducted in June 2014.

## **PEST CATEGORISATION**

Of the eight (35) pests identified in the priority pest list of the National Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan, two (2) have been categorised and are listed in Schedule 13 of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.

AND/OR

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc commits to ensuring appropriate industry technical experts will be available to participate in future meetings of the Categorisation Group to consider either pest categorisation or funding weight calculations for Emergency Plant Pests with multi-industry impacts.

## **NATIONAL DECISION MAKING PROCESSES/PLANTPLAN**

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc has endorsed PLANTPLAN (Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan) and will use this document to work effectively with government parties to manage any agreed responses to an EPP.

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc will ensure senior and qualified industry delegates are available at short notice to participate in meetings of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests or the National Management Group and to take up roles in Local Pest Control Centres or the State Pest Control Headquarters. Pistachio Growers' Association Inc will also ensure all delegates participate in relevant competency and non-competency based training to be delivered through Plant Health Australia's Emergency Plant Pest Preparedness Training Program.

## **BIOSECURITY AWARENESS**

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc has been involved in promoting biosecurity within the Pistachio industry via participation in Plant Health Australia's National Plant Health Awareness Campaign. Pistachio Growers' Association Inc undertook Plant Health Australia EPPRD Training for relevant industry representatives at an industry workshop held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at Mildura, Victoria.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc has employed an Executive Officer and one of the roles is to undertake biosecurity activities including:-

- a) Representation of Pistachio Growers' Association Inc at relevant Plant Health Australia meetings,
- b) Preparation of a draft On-Farm Biosecurity Training Manual
- c) Reviewing the pest list within the Nut Industry Biosecurity Plan

The position of the Executive Officer is funded through the Pistachio Growers' Association Inc.

Chris Lee  
President  
Pistachio Growers' Association Inc

June 2014