**Introduction**

Citrus Australia is the national Peak Industry Body for the citrus industry. Citrus Australia is member owned company limited by guarantee, governed by a skills-based Board and supported by a staff of eleven passionate employees.

Citrus Australia is strongly committed to ensuring the citrus industry effectively reduces the potential for incursions of emergency plant pests and diseases that could adversely impact on domestic trade and international trade, market access, regional and national economy, and the environment. The citrus 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.

Citrus is grown in all Australian mainland states and the Northern Territory with 27,000 Hectares of citrus planted by 1,500 producers, the citrus industry is a major contributor to regional economies. The five year average annual production is approximately 750,000 tonnes, in 2019 the crop value was $AU1 billion, around 40% (304,000 tonnes) of production was exported with a value of $AU 541 million.

Citrus is widely grown in home gardens and biosecurity preparedness includes consideration of urban and peri-urban citrus plantings.

Citrus Australia has established a Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee comprised of industry and agency members to facilitate new directions and initiatives to improve and protect the industry from exotic pest incursions and the spread of endemic pest and diseases considered of commercial importance by industry. The Committee is encouraged to challenge industry biosecurity preparedness activities with a view to constant improvement of preparedness on farm and at a state and federal government level.

**Industry Biosecurity Plan – Citrus Industry**

The citrus industry through Citrus Australiahas worked with Plant Health Australia (PHA), and a range of government agencies including DAWE, QDAF, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Agriculture Victoria, PIRSA/SARDI, DPIRD, and Northern Territory DPI to develop a comprehensive national approach to managing biosecurity risks in the citrus industry.

The National Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Citrus Industry*,* consistent with PHA’s *National Industry Biosecurity Planning Guidelines*, was officially published on19th of April 2004, following endorsement by Government and industry.

Copies of the plan have been made available to key industry representatives, the Citrus Australia Board, and to members of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee. The current version of the National Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Citrus Industry is 3.0 July

2015. Work is expected to commence on a review of the National Citrus Industry Biosecurity Plan in 2021.

The plan is available on the Citrus Australia website <https://citrusaustralia.com.au/>.

The National Industry Biosecurity Plan comprises of an executive summary, an introduction explaining roles, processes, the citrus industry, the EPPRD, and an overview. There are key areas including threat identification, pest risk assessments, and categorisation.

A comprehensive list of 145 citrus industry threats is detailed in Appendix 1, *(tables 21 citrus invertebrate threat summary table and 22 citrus pathogen and nematode threat summary table)* of the plan.

The priority pest list contains 21 high priority plant pest threats, 6 bacteria, 9 fruit flies, 6 other insects, and 2 viruses *(table 6 citrus Industry high priority plant pest threat list).*

Twelve citrus EPPs have been formally categorised, *(table 9 formal categories for pests of the citrus industry biosecurity as listed in the EPPRD as at August 4th 2014).*

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

A range of existing fact sheets or other sources of information for the high priority pests is identified in the risk mitigation plan.

The contingency plans and response management procedures section details key industry contacts and communication procedures, relevant counselling and financial counselling providers. Some details require updating when the plan is reviewed, Citrus Australia has current contact details.

These Contingency Plans underpin, and will be used in conjunction with the general management structures of PLANTPLAN. Each contingency plan includes pest or industry specific details relating to the management/control/eradication of individual pest threats.

Citrus Australia maintains a matrix of Contingency Plans, National Diagnostic Protocols, and Fact Sheets for identified Citrus EPPs including international plans, protocols and other resources to assist the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests decision making in the event of an incursion.

Citrus Australia also maintain a database of national citrus plantings.

Citrus Australia will continue to work with Plant Health Australia and provide appropriate resources to the ongoing maintenance and reviews of the plan.

**Pest Categorisation**

Of the 21 pests identified as high priority plant pest pests in the Industry Biosecurity Plan, 12 have been categorised and are listed in Schedule 13 of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed. Citrus Australia commits to ensuring appropriate industry technical experts will be available to participate in Categorisation Groups to consider pest categorisation or funding weight calculations for Emergency Plant Pests with multi-industry impacts.

**National Decision Making Processes/Plantplan**Citrus Australia 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.

Citrus Australia will ensure senior and qualified industry delegates are available at short notice to participate in meetings of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests and the National Management Group and to take up roles in Local Control Centres or the State Coordination Centres. Citrus Australia will also ensure all delegates participate in relevant training delivered through Plant Health Australia’s National Emergency Plant Pest Training Program.

**Biosecurity Awareness**

Citrus Australia has been involved in promoting biosecurity within the citrus industry and have distributed and promoted the Biosecurity Manual for Citrus Producers, Plant Health Australia *(Version 2.0 December 2014)* through national and regional forums and workshops. The manual contains an overview of biosecurity, fact sheets to identify the high priority pests of a crop, tips on crop management, and how to manage people, vehicles and equipment to minimise biosecurity risks. It also contains a biosecurity self-assessment list, and templates to record pest surveillance records and visitors.

Biosecurity information is also distributed through the industry newsletter Australian Citrus News, the Citrus Australia web page, and social media.

The April 2018 outbreak of citrus canker in Darwin and subsequently in northern Western Australia has increased biosecurity awareness and preparedness in the citrus industry.

The citrus industry believes its major threat is Huanglongbing (HLB) and its psyllid vectors, the Asian Citrus Psyllid *Diaphorina citri,* and the African Citrus Psyllid *Trioza erytreae* and much effort has been put into raising awareness of the threat. A study tour was organised to attend the VI International HLB conference in Riverside California in March 2019 and subsequent industry visits in Florida and California to see the pests, its impacts, and

strategies to manage it firsthand. The tour was supported with funding from Hort Innovation Project CT 18003.

**Other Activities**

A National Citrus Surveillance Coordinator was appointed in August 2018 with funding from Plant Health Australia, Hort Innovation, and the Federal Government White Paper. The coordinators actions have included

* Reinvigorating the First Detector Network of industry and agency people regularly in citrus orchards and providing information on exotic pests and how to report them
* Having key exotic pest threats included in the surveillance protocols for export markets
* Developing an industry led surveillance program for Asian Citrus Psyllid, initially in orchards but subsequently extended to nursery and peri-urban locations.
* Collaboration with the Agvic Urban Plant Health Network, a web based tool for engaging urban home gardeners
* Developing links to TPP surveillance programs
* Participation in the development of the Tropical Plant Industries Biosecurity Strategy and Implementation Plan
* Participation in the Huanglongbing (HLB) Task Force

Citrus Australian and Plant Health Australia are currently negotiating an MOU to manage the PHA citrus levy through projects with activity focused on delivering biosecurity outcomes for the citrus industry.