

## Minutes

### Meeting Thirteen of the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group

Teleconference held on Tuesday 28 May, 2013

**Attendees:** Tom Aldred, DAFF (Chair); Luke Osbourne, DAFF; Nin Hyne, DAFF; David Forsyth, DSEWPaC; Alex Blanden, DSEWPaC; Karen Butler, DSEWPaC; Rod Turner, PHA; Jenna Taylor, PHA (Secretariat); Suzy Perry, DAFF Queensland; Angus Carnegie, NSW DPI; Graham Wilson, OEH; Russell McMurray, DEPI; Gabrielle Vivian-Smith, DEPI; Hugh Bramwells, DEPI; Lucy Sutherland, ASBP; Gavin Matthew, AFPA.

**Apologies:** Colin Grant, DAFF; Vanessa Findlay, DAFF; Chris Howard, DAFF; Andrew Wilson, DAFF; Louise Clarke, DAFF; Rose Hockham, DAFF; Melissa Hart, DAFF; Belinda Brown, DEWHA; Greg Fraser, PHA; Jim Thompson, DAFF Queensland; Mark Panitz, DAFF Queensland; Geoff Pegg, DAFF Queensland; Gordon Guymer, DSITIA; Bruce Christie, NSW DPI; Satendra Kumar, NSW DPI; Kathy Gott, NSW DPI; Stuart Holland, DEPI; Anne Dennis, DEPI; Andrew Greenwood, DEPI; Shaun Suitor, DEPI; Peter Grist, AFPA.

#### Item 1 – Welcome by the Chair

Tom Aldred welcomed all Members of the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group (MRTMG) and introduced himself as Chair. Tom explained that he has recently taken over the role of First Assistant Secretary for Plant Biosecurity and that it had been intended that he would chair the MRTMG from the next meeting onwards. However, Colin Grant had been called to Parliament House at short notice this afternoon and, as such, Tom would be chairing today also. He passed on Colin's apologies.

#### Item 2 – Endorsement of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

It was discussed that the draft minutes from Meeting Twelve had been circulated for comment out of session. Members were given a final opportunity to comment or request that an amendment be made. There were no further comments or amendment requests and the minutes were taken to be endorsed. PHA will make them available on the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Program website.

#### Item 3 – Action Items from the Previous Meeting

The Chair went through the action list from Meeting Twelve and the status of each action item was discussed.

#### Item 4 – Report from PHA

##### Contracts

Rodney Turner reminded Members that all but one of the contracts for the Australian Government funded projects in the Plan for Transition to Management of Myrtle Rust have been signed and the researchers are actively undertaking work.

PHA has not received any progress reports from researchers since the last meeting. There was a progress report due at the end of April which is now overdue. Jenna Taylor is following this up and will circulate the report to both the MRTMG and the MRSAG as soon as it is received by PHA.

Two researchers have contacted PHA to request extensions to allow sufficient time for the contracted work to be completed. PHA has discussed this with DAFF and the extensions have been granted.

PHA is working to finalise the remaining contract and the contract is currently with the research organisation for signing. The contract has been approved by the finance department and is currently with the legal team for approval. The researcher has already commenced work.

## Minutes

As has been advised previously, PHA is also working to organise a Myrtle Rust workshop in Sydney. This workshop will be funded by the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Program and will provide an opportunity to discuss the Program's research projects, the outcomes of this science, as well as future directions. Acelino Alfenas from the Federal University of Viçosa in Brazil is travelling to Australia to assist with some of the Australian Government funded research and will attend the workshop as keynote speaker. Elodie Nakamura from the Department of Veterinary, Food, and Rural Affairs in New Caledonia will also be in attendance and will provide an update on the recent detection of Myrtle Rust in New Caledonia. Rodney advised that the dates have been changed from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of July to the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of July. A venue has been secured and Jenna will send invitation to the MRTMG next week.

### **Item 5 – Report on Myrtle Rust Activities in Queensland**

Suzy Perry gave an update on Myrtle Rust activities in Queensland. Her report is attached at Attachment A.

### **Item 6 – Report on Myrtle Rust Activities in NSW**

Angus Carnegie and Graham Wilson gave an update on Myrtle Rust activities in NSW. Their report is attached at Attachment B.

### **Item 7 – Report on Myrtle Rust Activities in Victoria**

Gabrielle Vivian-Smith gave an update on Myrtle Rust activities in Victoria. Her report is attached at Attachment C.

### **Item 8 – Report on National Myrtle Rust Activities**

David Forsyth gave an update on national Myrtle Rust activities. His report is attached at Attachment D.

### **Item 9 – Report on the Australian Seed Bank Partnership**

Lucy Sutherland gave an update on the Australian Seed Bank Partnership's Myrtle Rust activities. Her report is attached at Attachment E.

### **Item 10 – Report on Forestry Activities**

Gavin Matthew gave an update on the Forestry industry's Myrtle Rust activities. His report is attached at Attachment F.

### **Item 11 – Legacy Document**

The Chair reminded the Members that Colin Grant had previously asked Jenna Taylor to draft a Legacy Document outlining both the outcomes of the Transition to Management Program and the work that can be done as a result of these outcomes. A draft Legacy Document has been circulated to the MRTMG as a basis for discussion. It was noted, however, that the majority of the research has not yet been completed and several of the projects will continue until October. As such, the draft lacks detail at this stage. Outcomes will be added to the document as final reports are received from researchers. In the meantime, however, comments on the structure of the document are welcome as are comments on the points listed under "Future Activities". The "Future Activities" section was pulled from the draft Cessation Strategy and has been updated based on discussions during the previous Meeting and comments that had been received since. Suzy Perry reminded Members that she has formed a small working group which was meeting via teleconference the following week to discuss four of the points in this section.

It was suggested that the Legacy Document should:

## Minutes

- indicate who will be responsible for the future governance of the Program;
- outline the KPIs identified at the start of the Program and list the deliverables and resultant outcomes of each research contract against these in order to evaluate the success of the Program;
- identify gaps in the research to inform future activities; and
- identify who will be responsible for future activities and whether there is funding or the work will be done in kind.

It was decided that much of this could be discussed in detail at the workshop in Sydney and PHA would put this on the agenda for the workshop. The Chair requested that any comments on the draft document be emailed to Jenna Taylor over the next two weeks so that the document can be updated accordingly and circulated to the MRTMG for discussion at the next Meeting and prior to the workshop.

### **Item 12 – Next Meeting**

Members were reminded that the next meeting was scheduled for 3.00-4.00pm AEST on Tuesday 25th June 2013 and were asked to add this time and date to their diaries.

The Chair advised Members that although the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Program will come to a formal conclusion on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013, many of the research contracts will run beyond this date. As such, it was proposed that the MRTMG continue to meet after the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June to discuss topical issues. The Members agreed with this approach. It was decided that PHA would select dates in September and December in line with Asian Honey Bee Transition to Management Group meetings and advise Members by email.

### **Item 13 – Close of Meeting**

Before closing the meeting, the Chair advised that Colin Grant had requested that he pass on Colin's thanks and appreciation to the Members of the MRTMG for their participation in the MRTMG to date.

## Minutes

### Attachment A

#### **Myrtle Rust in Queensland – report from DAFF Queensland for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Meeting Thirteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 28 May, 2013**

#### **Reports**

Reports of Myrtle Rust in Queensland have been steady over the past few weeks..

To date, 4550 reports or enquires regarding Myrtle Rust have been received by DAFF Queensland's Myrtle Rust On-line Reporting System. This reporting system commenced on 5 January, 2011, after the disease was first detected in Queensland, and the Customer Service Centre continues to receive and collate calls and public enquiries relating to detections of Myrtle Rust, disease management, and requests for advice and information.

#### **Geographic Range**

There has been no change to the geographic range of Myrtle Rust in Queensland since the last meeting in April 2013. The geographic range of Myrtle Rust in Queensland now extends from the Queensland/New South Wales border in the South, to Cooktown in the North of the state.

There continues to be no records of Myrtle Rust being established in the environment West of the Great Dividing Range.

#### **Host Range**

Three new species have been identified as hosts of Myrtle Rust in Queensland since the last meeting in April 2013. These are:

- *Eugenia natalitia*
- *Gossia bamagensis*
- *Syzygium minutiflorum*

The known host range in Queensland now covers 160 species from 39 genera within the Myrtaceae family.

#### **Research Activities**

##### **Impact**

A monitoring program has been established for investigating changes in species susceptibility over time at a site at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens including assessments for:

- Overall impact and % impact caused by the disease
- Disease impact on new flush
- Presence/absence of disease on flowers/fruit

15 different tree species have been selected and will be assessed every month.

Site assessments for the impact on *Melaleuca quinquenervia* are ongoing with the second year of flowering now well underway.

An additional site has been established investigating the impact of Myrtle Rust on coppice production and survival (e.g. following fire or storm damage).

## Minutes

### **Host differential set**

Clones have been made of resistant and susceptible seedlings from *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Melaleuca quinquenervia*. Species to be added include: *Eucalyptus pellita* and *Eucalyptus globulus*.

### **Host screening**

Screening completed for Simon Southerton/CSIRO resistance marker studies on: *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Eucalyptus pellita*, *Eucalyptus dunnii* and *Eucalyptus nitens* (to be assessed next week).

Additional screening is underway for provenance and family variation for: *Eucalyptus pellita*, *Eucalyptus urophylla*, *Eucalyptus grandis* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.

## Minutes

### Attachment B

#### **Myrtle Rust in NSW – report from NSW DPI and OEH for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Thirteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 28 May, 2013**

##### **Geographic Range**

Despite Myrtle Rust being considered endemic in NSW, the disease is yet to be reported in natural vegetation in the west of the Great Dividing Range.

##### **Host Range**

Jonathan Lidbetter is maintaining a national host list for Myrtle Rust, based on the state lists from NSW, Queensland and Victoria. There are approximately 270 hosts recorded in Australia and approximately 350 globally.

##### **Surveillance Activities**

Myrtle Rust has been found in *Eucalyptus* plantations but little impact has been observed. Surveillance and reporting by environmental management agencies (Forestry Corporation, OEH) continues in native forests.

##### **Monitoring Activities**

Angus Carnegie has been monitoring *Rhodamnia rubescens* in native forest on the Central Coast for the last 18 months in collaboration with Geoff Pegg from DAFF Queensland. He has been monitoring the impact on growth and survival in a disease-exclusion trial.

##### **Management**

OEH is writing a best practice protocol to help minimise national spread of Myrtle Rust and other plant diseases and has just employed someone to undertake this work for the next five months.

##### **International Collaboration**

A forest pathologist and a botanist from Scion in New Zealand visited Australia in May. They used this visit as an opportunity to meet with Angus Carnegie and Geoff Pegg and learn from them what they could about Myrtle Rust, including detection on a wide range of hosts and key systems required in an emergency response.

## Minutes

### Attachment C

#### **Myrtle Rust in Victoria – report from DEPI for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Thirteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 28 May, 2013**

##### **Reports**

There have been three new detections of Myrtle Rust since the last meeting in April 2013. These consisted of a detection in the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens; one at Rippon Lea National Trust House and Gardens; and one at a private residence in Drouin.

A new host species (*Lophomyrtus obcordata*) was reported at the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

The Drouin detection is the first report in the Shire of Baw Baw with trace back indicating a possible source from plants purchased from a retail nursery up to 18 months ago.

The weather conditions over Autumn were conducive to the spread of the disease.

##### **Geographic Range**

There are 76 detection sites. Most are located in Melbourne, with outliers in Shepparton, Lorne, Bairnsdale, Ballarat and now Drouin. Not all of these sites are currently active.

The disease has not yet been detected in natural bush.

##### **Training and Communication**

Approximately 110 people in total attended six information sessions held in May.

There is continuing demand from local councils and land management groups for Myrtle Rust awareness, hygiene and identification information. Further sessions are scheduled to be held in June.

##### **Surveillance and Tracing**

There has been good participation from stakeholder groups in the surveillance program.

Over 150 sentinel sites have now been established and data from these sites is being provided by land managers for collation by DEPI.

##### **Market Access and Compliance**

Due to a recent detection in a retail nursery, a letter to the nursery industry has been drafted and will be made available for distribution through industry networks before the end of May.

## Minutes

### Attachment D

#### **National Myrtle Rust activities – report from DSEWPaC for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Thirteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 28 May, 2013**

#### **Workshop**

A summary of the outcomes of DSEWPaC's "Myrtle Rust in natural ecosystems" National Workshop is now available from the DSEWPaC website.

## Minutes

### Attachment E

#### **The Australian Seed Bank Partnership's Myrtle Rust activities – report from the Australian Seed Bank Partnership for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Thirteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 28 May, 2013**

##### **Caring for our Country Update**

Lucy Sutherland advised that the ASBP was not invited to expand on the Expression of Interest that was submitted to Caring for our Country for funding for the building of an *ex situ* collection of Myrtaceae species to support species recovery.

##### **Additional Funding Applications**

Lucy is still trying to secure resources and is waiting to hear back regarding two additional applications for funding that were submitted recently; one with the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and the other with the Dahl Trust.

## Minutes

### Attachment F

**The Forestry Industry's Myrtle Rust activities – report from the Australian Forest Products Association for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Thirteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 28 May, 2013**

### Situation Update

AFPA will participate in Suzy Perry's "Future Activities" working group.