

Minutes

Meeting Fourteen of the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group

Teleconference held on Tuesday 25 June, 2013

Attendees: Tom Aldred, DAFF (Chair); Chris Howard, DAFF; Luke Osbourne, DAFF; Karen Butler, DSEWPaC; Greg Fraser, PHA; Rod Turner, PHA; Jenna Taylor, PHA (Secretariat); Suzy Perry, DAFF Queensland; Satendra Kumar, NSW DPI; Gabrielle Vivian-Smith, DEPI; Hugh Bramwells, DEPI; Liz Minchinton, DEPI; Gavin Matthew, AFPA.

Apologies: Andrew Wilson, DAFF; Rose Hockham, DAFF; Nin Hyne, DAFF; Melissa Hart, DAFF; David Forsyth, DSEWPaC; Alex Blanden, DSEWPaC; Mark Panitz, DAFF Queensland; Geoff Pegg, DAFF Queensland; Bruce Christie, NSW DPI; Kathy Gott, NSW DPI; Graham Wilson, OEH; Angus Carnegie, NSW DPI; Russell McMurray, DEPI; Peter Grist, AFPA; Lucy Sutherland, ASBP.

Item 1 – Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed all Members of the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group (MRTMG).

Item 2 – Endorsement of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

It was discussed that the draft minutes from Meeting Thirteen 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 advised that all of the action items from the previous meeting were either complete or addressed later in the agenda. As such, the status of each action item was not discussed here.

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.

Since the last meeting, PHA has received a progress report from one of the researchers. This has been circulated to the MRTMG for their information. It has also been circulated to the members of the Myrtle Rust Scientific Advisory Group (MRSAG) who have been invited to provide comment on the report if they wish to.

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.

Workshop

Jenna Taylor has sent out invitations to the Myrtle Rust workshop in Sydney on the 24th and 25th of July. 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

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of Myrtle Rust in New Caledonia. Rodney advised that there is capacity to accommodate additional participants and requested that members advise Jenna as soon as possible if they know of others in their organisation that would like to attend.

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

Satendra Kumar gave an update on Myrtle Rust activities in NSW. His report is attached at Attachment B.

Suzy Perry commented that she relies on Geoff Pegg to forward her updated versions of Jonathan Lidbetter's national host list. She suggested that a more official means of sharing the list would be useful.

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

Karen Butler advised that she had nothing additional to report on behalf of DSEWPaC since the last meeting.

Item 9 – Report on the Australian Seed Bank Partnership

As there was no representative from the Australian Seed Bank Partnership in attendance, the Australian Seed Bank Partnership's Myrtle Rust activities were not reported.

Item 10 – Report on Forestry Activities

Gavin Matthew advised that he had nothing additional to report on behalf of the Forestry industry since the last meeting.

Item 11 – Legacy Document

The Chair reminded the Members that it was agreed at the previous meeting that they would email any comments that they have on the draft Legacy Document to Jenna Taylor. Jenna has since updated the document taking into account these comments as well as discussions from the teleconference that Suzy Perry had held to consider four of the points in the "Future Activities" section.

The Chair advised that, being relatively new to the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Program, he felt that the document would benefit from inclusion of an extract from earlier material setting out the core themes to be addressed by the Program.

The Chair also acknowledged the fact that the majority of the contracts were yet to deliver and, as such, suggested that the MRTMG pause work on the document until after the conclusion of the contracts at which time more information would be available regarding the outcomes of the research. The MRTMG agreed with this proposed approach.

In the meantime, however, the Chair asked if there were any broad comments that members would like to make.

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Hugh Bramwells agreed with the Chair with regards to including an extract from earlier material setting out the core themes to be addressed by the Program as this would allow the Legacy Document to be a standalone document. Hugh also made some suggestions regarding the formatting of the section on evaluation.

Karen Butler advised that she had some minor comments to make and would send them to Jenna in track changes.

Suzy Perry raised the issue that there has been no input from those jurisdictions that are not yet affected by Myrtle Rust. She questioned how the document would sit once these directions get Myrtle Rust. It was discussed that jurisdictions that are not yet affected by Myrtle Rust have been invited to attend the workshop in July and that they could be engaged at the workshop.

There was also some concern regarding the term "Legacy Document" as there was the potential for the document to become a prospectus for future direction but it was agreed that this issue would be revisited once work on the document recommences.

Item 12 – Next Meeting

Members were reminded that, although the Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Program will come to a formal conclusion on 30th June 2013, many of the research contracts will run beyond this date. As such, it was agreed at the last meeting that the MRTMG would continue to meet after 30th June to discuss topical issues.

The Chair advised Members that the Asian Honey Bee Transition to Management Group had agreed to meet next on Thursday 26th September and proposed that the MRTMG meet on this date also. The MRTMG agreed. As such, the next meeting of the MRTMG is now scheduled for 3.00-4.00pm AEST on Thursday 26th September 2013. Jenna Taylor will email Members to remind them of this.

Item 13 – Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked the Members of the MRTMG for their participation in the teleconference and closed the meeting.

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Attachment A

Myrtle Rust in Queensland – report from DAFF Queensland for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Meeting Fourteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 25 June, 2013

Reports

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

To date, 4571 reports or enquires regarding Myrtle Rust have been received by DAFF Queensland's Myrtle Rust On-line Reporting System.

Geographic Range

There has been no change to the geographic range of Myrtle Rust in Queensland since the last meeting in May 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

No new species have been identified as hosts of Myrtle Rust in Queensland since the last meeting in May 2013.

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

Research Activities

Disease monitoring and host screening activities continue.

Plant Biosecurity CRC Project

DAFF Queensland's CRC project "Development of a nationally standardised disease rating system to help manage Myrtle Rust in Australia" has now been approved by the Plant Biosecurity CRC Board. The aim of this project is to develop and deliver a nationally standardised Myrtle Rust rating system for a range of myrtaceous species growing under different environmental conditions which will enable affected stakeholders to better manage myrtle rust and its consequences in Australia. This project will determine whether a standardised disease rating system can be applied across a range of genera and species of Myrtaceae, for both field and glasshouse based systems in Australia.

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Attachment B

Myrtle Rust in NSW – report from NSW DPI for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Fourteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 25 June, 2013

Host Range

As has been advised previously, Jonathan Lidbetter is collating and maintaining an unofficial national host list for Myrtle Rust. He has been given approval to continue with this work but is reliant on collaboration with Queensland and Victoria.

Workshop

A number of researchers from NSW DPI are presenting at the Myrtle Rust workshop in Sydney on the 24th and 25th of July. Additional representatives from NSW DPI will be in attendance at the workshop.

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Attachment C

Myrtle Rust in Victoria – report from DEPI for Myrtle Rust Transition to Management Group Fourteen held by teleconference on Tuesday 25 June, 2013

Host Range

There have been no new hosts identified since the last meeting in May 2013.

Geographic Range

There has been no extension of geographic range since the last meeting in May 2013.

The disease has not yet been detected in natural bush.

Surveying

DEPI is resurveying a number of properties on which Myrtle Rust has been detected previously. 75% of these properties have come up negative for Myrtle Rust when resurveyed.

Workshop

Liz Minchinton will represent DEPI at the Myrtle Rust workshop in Sydney on the 24th and 25th of July.