

Fruit Fly Operational Agreement Q&As

What is an operational agreement?

Operational agreements provide for joint decision-making and investment between GIA Deed Signatories, in order to achieve specific outcomes for enhanced readiness and response. They involve the Ministry for Primary Industries and one or more industry Signatory and focus on achieving agreed biosecurity outcomes.

What is the fruit fly operational agreement?

It is an agreement between the Fruit Fly Council and government to jointly undertake readiness activities to reduce the impact of fruit fly incursion on the horticulture sector.

Do all Deed Signatories need to be involved in an operational agreement?

There is no obligation on Deed Signatories to enter into an operational agreement - it is not a requirement for signing the GIA Deed. Deed Signatories can enter into one or more Operational Agreements, or they may choose not to enter into any.

What does the fruit fly operational agreement aim to achieve?

The overarching outcome sought from the OA is that Signatories will work together to reduce impacts to the horticulture sector from fruit fly by:

- Demonstrating, on an ongoing basis, New Zealand's freedom from fruit flies and detecting any fruit flies early enough to ensure a successful response
- Successfully managing a detection and/or eradicating any incursion
- Reducing the impact of an incursion and eradication response on market access.

What is the role of the Fruit Fly Council and are its members?

Members of the interim Fruit Fly Council (IFFC) include a mix of Deed Signatories and Non-Signatory Beneficiaries that are affected by the fruit. They have been working together to develop an Operational Agreement that will ultimately lead to the reduction of the impacts of fruit fly. Only GIA Signatories can sign the operational agreement.

Members are listed below:

- Philip Manson, New Zealand Winegrowers (Chair of IFFC) representing the grape grower and wine production sectors.
- Alan Pollard, Pipfruit NZ representing the Pipfruit and Nashi/Asian Pear sectors.

- Barry O’Neil, Kiwifruit Vine Health representing the kiwifruit and kiwiberry sectors.
- Jen Scouler, New Zealand Avocado Growers Association Inc. representing the fresh avocado grower sector.
- Stephen Odgen, New Zealand Citrus Growers Inc. representing fresh citrus grower sector.
- Marie Dawkins, Summerfruit NZ representing Summerfruit sector consisting of apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach and plum growers.
- Gisele Irvine, Market Access Solutionz Ltd, representing Vegetables New Zealand, Strawberry Growers New Zealand, Tomatoes New Zealand, and the New Zealand Buttercup Squash Council.
- Richard Palmer, Horticulture NZ, representing Blackcurrants, Blueberries, Boysenberry, Feijoa, Persimmon, and Tamarillo industry groups.
- David Talbot, Geoff Gwyn and others representing MPI.

Who is a signatory to the agreement?

Only GIA Signatories can sign the agreement. Signatories to the agreement include:

- Kiwifruit Vine Health representing the kiwifruit and kiwiberry sectors
- Pipfruit New Zealand Incorporated, representing the Pipfruit and Nashi/Asian Pear sectors
- New Zealand Avocado Growers Association Inc. representing the fresh avocado grower sector
- New Zealand Citrus Growers Inc. representing fresh citrus grower sector
- MPI, representing the Government.

How binding is this OA?

This is a legally binding agreement on all of the parties.

Is the OA available to view?

There is a summary document of the OA available on the GIA website. A copy of the full operational agreement is available upon request.

How does this project relate to the GIA initiative?

The primary mechanisms for implementing the GIA Deed are Operational Agreements. They provide for joint decision-making and investment between Deed Signatories, in order to achieve specific outcomes for enhanced readiness and response.

The parties to the operational agreement are all GIA Signatories. Through their membership of the FFC they will govern fruit fly management activities and represents a good example of how the GIA partnership changes the way biosecurity threats are managed and how services are delivered.

Why has this taken so long and why are there no other signed OAs?

GIA is not scheduled to be fully operational until the introduction of the response cost-sharing from mid-2017. The negotiation of the fruit fly operational agreement has been a ground-breaking good faith exercise between government and industry groups, agreeing matters not previously negotiated. Given the newness of the approach and the number of different parties involved, the negotiation process has taken some time to reach a consensus. With the first operational agreement now signed, much of the underlying GIA policy work has been agreed and we expect future OAs for other pests and sectors will soon follow.

How will non-Signatory beneficiaries be treated?

MPI will seek to cost recover from non-Signatory beneficiaries identified in the Operational Agreement when the cost recovery mechanism has been implemented, and where it is cost effective to do so.

How will the cost- sharing be allocated?

- Cost sharing for fruit fly readiness and response activities commences when the OA comes into full effect in 2017. In the meantime, industry and government have agreed a programme to co-fund any related activities.
- The costs will be shared by the Government and industry as follows:
 - 70% Govt:30% Industry for readiness (annual cost)
 - 70% Govt:30% Industry for a Level 1 response
 - 80% Govt:20% Industry for a Level 2 response
 - 90% Govt:10% Industry for a Level 3 response
- The Government will pay the first 20% of costs on behalf of risk exacerbators
- Industry cost shares will be shared based on industry value (first point of sale averaged over 4 years), which will be updated annually.
- Contributions can also be made to readiness and response activities in the form of in-kind contributions.
- Costs associated with readiness will occur every year, but costs for responses will occur only when fruit fly is detected in New Zealand.

What is GIA and who has signed up?

The Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity Readiness and Response (GIA) is a partnership between government and industry for improving New Zealand's biosecurity.

The GIA Deed (the Deed) establishes the basis for the partnership and came into effect in May 2014. Primary industry organisations join GIA by signing up to the GIA Deed. The scope of the GIA Deed covers joint decision-making, sharing of costs for agreed readiness and response activities and engagement across the end-to-end biosecurity system. Under GIA, Signatories share in decision making, costs, and responsibility in preparing for and responding to biosecurity incursions.

There are currently nine Signatories to the Deed and a number of other industry groups are in the process of joining. Current signatories include: Kiwifruit Vine Health, Ministry for Primary Industries, NZ Pork, Pipfruit New Zealand, New Zealand Equine Health Association, Onions New Zealand, NZ Forest Owners Association, New Zealand Avocado Association Incorporated, and New Zealand Citrus Growers' Incorporated.

How can I find out more about the project?

You can find out more about the project on the activities page of GIA website www.gia.org.nz and in upcoming editions of the GIA newsletter. Industry Signatories to the OA will also have information available on their websites.