



# GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR BIOSECURITY INCURSIONS IMPACTING ON-FARM

## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The purpose of central government assistance is to provide short-term relief following the initial shock of an incursion. The nature of biosecurity incursions means community or industry recovery may take decades or be irreversibly changed. The purpose of government assistance is therefore short-term and focused on providing some initial support to allow communities and industry time to gather information to make decisions and develop their recovery plans.

Below are central government recovery assistance measures that may be available in a localised or a medium-scale or larger biosecurity incursion. A declaration of a medium-scale or larger biosecurity incursion by the Minister for Primary Industries is required for access to the associated recovery measures listed, however no declaration is required to access the localised incursion recovery measures.

## LOCALISED INCURSION RECOVERY MEASURES

### TAX RELIEF (MAY BE SELF DECLARED)

Inland Revenue has a number of tax relief assistance measures including late deposits or early withdrawals from the income equalisation scheme, late re-estimates of provisional tax, extensions of time for filing, instalment arrangements, and remission of penalties. For more information, contact your tax agent or Inland Revenue.

### WORKING FOR FAMILIES ASSISTANCE

If your income has changed as a result of a biosecurity incursion, you may be eligible to receive money through Working for Families. Working for Families package is made up of three components:

- » **WORKING FOR FAMILIES TAX CREDITS:** These are paid to families with children aged 18 years or under to help with the cost of raising a family. They are made up of four types of payments: family tax credit, in-work tax credit, minimum family tax credit and parental tax credit.
- » **CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE:** This can help with the cost of childcare for preschool and school aged children. It is made up of two types of payments: Childcare subsidy; and OSCAR subsidy (out of school care).
- » **ACCOMMODATION SUPPLEMENT:** This can help with the cost of your rent, mortgage, board and other essential household costs. You don't have to have children to get an accommodation supplement.

To see if you're eligible for assistance through Working for Families go to [www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz](http://www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz) and check how much you may receive by using the calculators. You can also call Work and Income for more information on housing and childcare, or Inland Revenue for more information on tax credits..

### LABOUR ASSISTANCE

- » **JOB SEARCH SERVICE:** If you have lost employment or income to support your family due to a biosecurity incursion your local Work and Income office may be able to assist.

Individuals from rural communities and industries have responsibilities for their readiness, response and recovery to biosecurity incursions.

As an island nation, New Zealand is largely free of many of the pests and diseases found in other countries so it's important we all do our part to protect our industries and environment.

If you suspect you have found an unwanted pest or disease please call 0800 80 99 66.

Most of the time, if an incursion occurs, recovery needs will be limited and government recovery assistance will not be required. However on rare occasions when recovery issues are beyond the community's capacity to cope, central government recovery assistance may be necessary.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- » Work and Income may provide financial assistance to both farming and non-farming families whose incomes have been affected by a biosecurity incursion. This financial assistance may include:
- » **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT:** This provides income support for people who are looking for work or training for work.
- » **EMERGENCY BENEFIT:** This is an income and asset tested benefit payable to people who are in hardship and who are unable to earn enough income for themselves (or any dependent family) and cannot receive another benefit.
- » **SPECIAL NEEDS GRANTS:** This provides a non-taxable, one-off recoverable or non-recoverable payment to meet immediate needs.
- » **RECOVERABLE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS:** This provides non-taxable, interest free, financial assistance to meet essential immediate needs for special items or services. This assistance has to be paid back but may be paid back in instalments.

### MENTORING/ADVICE

Financial negotiation and counselling/mentoring services may be available via Rural Support Trusts for families and individuals who need to talk with an independent person experienced in farm, forestry or orchard management or alternatively contact your industry representative (such as Horticulture New Zealand or Federated Farmers) as they can link you to help available in your industry or region.

## MEDIUM-SCALE INCURSION RECOVERY MEASURES

The Minister for Primary Industries (MPI) must declare a medium-scale or larger biosecurity incursion for the medium-scale incursion recovery measures to be made available. All the medium-scale recovery measures are available for a limited time period.

In a declared medium-scale biosecurity incursion central government may provide assistance as outlined under the localised incursion recovery measures, plus additional assistance including:

### RURAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

Work and Income may provide payments to assist with essential living expenses. These payments are set at the same rate as the unemployment benefit; an income and asset test applies. For more information contact your local Work and Income office or local Rural Support Trust.

### TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ASSISTANCE

MPI may provide grants for education workshops, meetings and media information to provide technical and financial advice regarding biosecurity incursions. This technology transfer would often be administered via industry organisations or community groups.

### COMMUNITY EVENT ASSISTANCE

MPI may provide grants to help sponsor local community events aimed at boosting morale and relieving stress.

### RECOVERY FACILITATOR

Facilitators may be appointed to coordinate the initial stages of some recovery operations. They often work via a pastoral care provider such as a Rural Support Trust or nominated industry representative. These facilitators help identify at risk farming families and help these farming families access applicable assistance.

### LABOUR ASSISTANCE

Labour assistance may be provided via Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG) if deemed appropriate and its availability does not pose any further biosecurity risks. ETFG is an enhanced labour assistance scheme that covers the wages of workers and supervisors to help with the clean-up operation in areas where there is too much damage for the local community to manage alone. ETFG can help with clearing trees and debris and general clean-up. ETFG workers can be local jobseekers, students, and workers who may not be able to work because of the constraints caused by biosecurity incursion. ETFG is funded by Work and Income, and organised in partnership with local councils and communities. For more information about ETFG, contact your local Work and Income office or council.

### VOLUNTEER COSTS

In some recovery operations, the travel and accommodation costs for volunteers from outside the region are met.

### PASTORAL CARE

A provider(s) may be funded by MPI to help coordinate many of the activities outlined in this brochure and provide services to support social wellbeing. The provider(s) would be identified if this recovery measure was activated.

## HOW CENTRAL GOVERNMENT A

The classification of biosecurity incursion matrix is used as a guide by the government. An incursion is assessed using the criteria, and is classified depending on where the major

### CLASSIFICATION OF BIOSECURITY INCURSION MATRIX

		LOCALISED (The majority of the impact is contained within this column)
THEMES	CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT/CLASSIFICATION
RISK MANAGEMENT OPTIONS	Does the party have a "Government-Industry Agreement"?	Yes/No
	Consider any government assistance made already	Yes/No
	Were reasonable steps taken to manage or mitigate risk?	Yes/No
	Risk of incursion	Likely
	New or pre-existing pest or organism	Been here many years, from cumulative conditions
	Was a cost benefit analysis carried out?	Yes/No
	Expected duration of incursion	Short-term
MAGNITUDE OF INCURSION	Scale - consider both physical impact & movement controls	Minor proportion of industry affected, moderate impact across a district
	Degree of environmental impact	District level/localised/industry
	Degree of economic impact	District/isolated industry impact. Export market access, value and price affects are considered but minor impact
CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY TO COPE	Degree of social impact	Localised impact. A few displaced or affected in industry/area
	Are recovery needs beyond the industry or community's ability to cope?	Significant at a local level
EXAMPLES		Painted apple moth Red imported fire ants
		Localised incursion recovery measures
POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE		



# ASSISTANCE IS TRIGGERED

for determining which recovery measures may be made available. Each priority of the criteria sit within each column.

SCALE OF BIOSECURITY INCURSION		
Criteria sit	MEDIUM-SCALE (The majority of the criteria sit within this column)	LARGE-SCALE (The majority of the criteria sit within this column)
LOCATION OF THE INCURSION		
	Yes/No	Yes/No
	Yes/No	Yes/No
	Yes/No	Yes/No
	Unlikely	Rare
Impact on industry	May have been here many years, but impact is sudden	Sudden appearance, previously unknown
	Yes/No	Yes/No
	Medium-term	Long-term
Industry is severely affected and minor impact	Moderate proportion of industry is severely affected and significant impact across the region	Nationally important industry/sector, which is significantly affected across the nation
Isolated	Regional level/moderate	National level/significant
Volume of impact occurring	Regional impact. Trade restrictions in place for a short period of time. Export market access, volume and price affects are moderate and affecting multiple groups of significance	National - impact on GDP. Trade restrictions are in place for an extended period of time. Export market access, volume and price affects are significant. Down-stream industries significantly affected
How people are affected	Regional employment affected. Communities isolated due to movement restrictions. Psychosocial issues becoming evident and far-reaching in the community affected	National unemployment affecting many industries. Communities isolated for extended periods of time. Psychosocial issues ongoing for years and evident across a range of stakeholders or community groups
Level of impact	Significant to a number of industries/to a region	Significant at a national level
	Varroa	Foot and Mouth BSE Pine Pitch Canker
Recovery measures	Localised incursion recovery measures + Medium-scale incursion recovery measures	Localised incursion recovery measures + Medium-scale incursion recovery measures

Compensation under the Biosecurity Act 1993

Assist with restoring market access where necessary

## LARGE-SCALE INCURSION RECOVERY MEASURE

In a large-scale declared biosecurity incursion the above-mentioned recovery measures apply. The Government will also contribute significant resources and focus in restoring market access as this will be a key aspect of recovery following a large-scale biosecurity incursion.

## HOW CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IS TRIGGERED

The Minister for Primary Industries gathers information around availability of risk management options, the magnitude of the incursion and the capacity of the community to cope and whether government assistance is necessary.

The scale of the incursion and potential availability of recovery measures is guided by the "Classification of Biosecurity Incursions Matrix".

## REQUESTING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

If you feel you or your industry require Government recovery assistance your first port of call would likely be your industry body representative. A request for government assistance for recovery can be compiled by this representative and lodged with the Ministry for Primary Industries or Minister for Primary Industries directly.

## COMPENSATION

The Government uses powers under the Biosecurity Act for the purpose of managing or eradicating any unwanted organism during a biosecurity response. If, in exercising powers, a person's property is damaged or destroyed, or the movement of goods is restricted, that person is entitled to compensation of verifiable losses that directly results from the Crown's actions.

For more information on compensation under the Biosecurity Act visit the link below [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/pol/compensation](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/pol/compensation) or ring **0800 80 99 66** and ask for the Compensation Co-ordinator.



## CONTACTS

To find out more about qualifying for assistance and how to request government support.

<b>INLAND REVENUE</b>	General enquiries	<b>0800 227 774</b>
	Working for Families (e.g. tax credits assistance)	<b>0800 227 773</b>
<b>WORK AND INCOME</b>	General enquiries	<b>0800 559 009</b>
	Working for Families	<b>0800 774 004</b>
<b>MPI</b>	Biosecurity Pests and disease hotline	<b>0800 809 966</b>
<b>MPI</b>	General enquiries and animal welfare complaints	<b>0800 008 333</b>
<b>0800 GOVERNMENT HELPLINE</b>	Only available when activated – depending on scale of incursion	<b>0800 779 997</b>
<b>RURAL SUPPORT TRUST</b>	Pastoral care/link to regional services	<b>0800 787 254</b>

November 2012