

GIA Benefits

Here's a summary of some of the benefits to being a signatory of the Government Industry Agreement (GIA):

Pre-public notification

When a biosecurity incursion occurs that is not a public health risk, the Government is obligated to bring this to the attention of the signatories affected as the emerging risk is identified, whether already in New Zealand, or off shore.

This allows early intervention where possible and an ability to prepare a response plan in advance. This can mean the difference to an industry's survival.

Discussion privilege

Once they are notified of the risk or incursion, signatories can have their say during response discussions. This gives them a voice to air industry concerns about the incursion effects, concerns about other industry/government proposed responses to the incursion, or to put forward an industry proposal for a response.

Signatories can also begin discussion for readiness against any potential biosecurity threat to this industry. An example would be discussions regarding any potential establishment of an Import Health Standard relating to the importation of unsafe bee products into New Zealand.

Voting rights

In addition to the above, signatories have voting rights on proposed response plans where no operational agreement exists. No single party holds veto rights, so majority rules when this occurs. There is also a process for disputes between industries to be taken to the Governance Group where each industry signatory has a representative.

Fiscal Caps

Each signatory is responsible to fund their share of the GIA Secretariat, the independent body established to serve the interests of GIA Signatories and facilitate the implementation of the partnership.

In preparation for a potential biosecurity incursion resulting in a response, signatory industries have the right to set the maximum financial commitment they are willing to invest.

All industries affected by an incursion share a maximum of 50% of the response cost. The remaining 50% is funded through MPI, who will take action to recover costs from all benefiting non-signatory industries. This outcome will be formalised mid-2018. There is no fiscal cap set by government on costs to be recovered from benefiting non-signatories. As

noted previously, non-signatories also have no rights to be included in discussions, votes, or response plans; *their industry future is not under their control.*

When a fiscal cap is reached, the signatory has the right to elect to extend their financial contribution, or to withdraw from the response and incur no further financial obligation.

Because the cost is shared based on agreements with other industries based upon industry impact, size and benefit, a signatory is not bearing the full financial burden nor are they burning through their fiscal cap quickly during an incursion response.

Apiculture is fortunate in that it plays an important pollination role delivering benefit to many sectors in the horticulture and agriculture sector.

Operational Agreements

Signatories can create agreements with Government and other benefiting industries outlining what will happen when an incursion occurs. The Kiwifruit industry is a very good example of this, and more information of their operational agreements can be found here: <http://www.kvh.org.nz/GIA>

The sector operational agreement (SOA) also allows signatories to nominate industries that will benefit from incursion responses in their SOA, and where they are signatories, cost-sharing is pre-agreed before an incursion takes place. Additionally, the SOA allows the signatory to nominate non-signatory industries that would benefit from a response, ensuring that the non-signatory becomes financially responsible under MPI cost recovery.