

*From 2020 to 30 June 2023, the banana industry – through grower levies – will contribute to the delivery of the Panama TR4 Program (Program).*

*The Australian Banana Growers' Council (the ABGC) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) will jointly fund, govern and deliver the Panama TR4 Program until June 2023.*

## **Key facts**

### **How will DAF and the ABGC jointly fund, govern and deliver the Panama TR4 Program?**

The Panama TR4 Program Management Board (TR4 Board) will oversee the delivery and governance of the Program until 2023.

The Board will meet for the first time on 1 April 2020 and will continue to meet quarterly. A legal cost-sharing agreement between DAF and the ABGC for the joint funding of the Program until 2023 is in the final stages of development.

### **How will the Panama TR4 Program be funded under the new collaborative arrangement?**

In 2019, the Queensland Government committed a further \$12.089 million from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2023 to control and contain Panama TR4 in the Far North Queensland banana production areas. The ABGC has committed the following, through grower levies, for the period, 2020 to 30 June 2023:

- 2019/20 – 10%
- 2020/21 – 25%
- 2021/22 – 40%
- 2022/23 – 50%

## **Who is on the board?**

The Board has equal government and industry representation.

### **The Board comprises:**

#### **Chair:**

Malcolm Letts, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Deputy Director-General and Chief Biosecurity Officer

#### **Board members:**

Stephen Lowe, ABGC Chair and Tully grower

Andrew Serra, ABGC Board member and Tableland grower

Jim Pekin, ABGC Chief Executive Officer

Mike Ashton, DAF, General Manager and Chief Plant Protection Officer, Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity

Lynne Turner, DAF, General Manager, Horticulture and Forestry Science

## **How will the TR4 Board make decisions?**

The Board gives the banana industry an opportunity to make key decisions on the future management of the disease, and to oversee an effective and efficient Panama TR4 Program.

The ABGC secured the support of growers to proceed with the jointly funded and delivered model. Growers will have an opportunity to provide input to the Board through their ABGC representatives. The industry and the government will have equal decision-making responsibilities.

Questions? Call Sarah Flenley, BQ, 0400  
867 264 or Sonia, ABGC 0428 038 330

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## How will the TR4 Board communicate decisions to growers?

The Board will meet quarterly and is committed to keeping the banana industry informed on all key decisions and Program deliverables.

The board will provide:

- A quarterly snapshot report via ABGC e-bulletins and Panama TR4 Program updates;
- A yearly update in the *Australian Bananas* magazine; and
- A dedicated page on the ABGC website including information on board members, board purpose, timeframes and deliverables.

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