

Notes from the Board

The Board met in Far North Queensland banana country for the first time, convening at South Johnstone for a busy and productive session. It was good to meet face-to-face as our previous meetings had been held by video link.

The Board also attended an industry meeting in Innisfail on 19 October, where we talked with growers and stakeholders about the future management of Panama TR4.

At the industry meeting, Rhiannon Evans, Program Leader, shared how the Panama TR4 Program is currently managing the disease, Stewart Lindsay, Team Leader Banana Production Systems, gave an overview of research developments, and Malcolm Letts, Chief Biosecurity Officer, set the scene for how government and industry plan to work together for an industry led Program.

Focus on the future

In the Board meeting we discussed how to manage Panama TR4 into the future, and how industry and government will work together to transition from a government-led to an industry-led model by 2023.

To help prepare the industry for the change, a working group will be set up to develop a transition and implementation plan.

In addition, a new role will be created to work with the Program to develop options for the industry model.



Board members

L-R Top: Andrew Serra, Jim Pekin, Lynne Turner.
Bottom: Mike Ashton, Stephen Lowe, Malcolm Letts.

Growers can contact the Board via [Jim Pekin](#) (07) 3278 4786.

Next meeting 16 December 2020

Reports and activities

- finance, human resources and quarterly reports were received to 30 September
- the Program is on budget
- it was a busy period with a new detection and the Program working with the affected grower
- surveillance and compliance activities are on schedule
- growers advised of the new surveillance schedule and changes are now in effect.

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