

Notes from the Board

The final Panama TR4 Program Management Board meeting on Monday marks the end of an era for Government leadership of the control and containment program for Panama disease tropical race 4 (Panama TR4).

From 1 July 2023, the Australian Banana Growers' Council (ABGC) will lead the ongoing management of Panama TR4 in Queensland. Government will continue to support industry through compliance, research and development, and extension activities.

A new regulatory approach to disease management will take effect from 1 July 2023 with industry's [Code of Practice for the management and control of Panama disease tropical race 4 on an infested property in Queensland \(Code of Practice\)](#) being adopted into Regulation. Based on the principles of a successful Queensland Government strategy, the Code of Practice has been developed by industry to outline the measures commercial banana growers must comply with to manage Panama TR4 on their properties.

Biosecurity Queensland officers will be visiting each infested property owner to discuss the legislative changes and what it means operationally for them on their farms. This will be followed by communications from ABGC about the new TR4 Control Program.

Calls to actions – we still need your help

Everyone will continue to play an important role in protecting the Queensland banana industry from Panama TR4. It's worth a staggering \$564 million to our economy.

- Continue to report suspect plants to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23
- Contact Geoff Wilson, TR4 Control Program Manager, for information about the ABGC's management program on 0418 644 068 or geoff@abgc.org.au
- For information about the disease, head to panamatr4protect.com.au.

Remember - All growers should be protecting their farms at the front gate with effective on-farm biosecurity measures.

An ongoing relationship between the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the ABGC at the Board level will continue past 30 June 2023 for the management of the disease. The ABGC will lead a steering committee represented by both parties. Discussions around management of the disease will include advice from subject matter experts whenever possible.

The Panama TR4 Program Management Board first convened in April 2020 to formalise the joint industry and government partnership and has provided oversight to the Panama TR4 biosecurity response in Far North Queensland. The Board meeting on 26 June 2023 was the final meeting of this group of industry and government representatives. The Panama TR4 Program Management Board would like to thank all who have contributed over the years to the establishment of an effective disease management strategy for industry leadership.

General enquiries about this notice: Call Rhiannon Evans, Program Leader 0419 026 030 or Sonia Campbell, ABGC on 0428 038 330

Grower enquiries to the Board: Call Leanne Erakovic on (07) 3278 4786

The Panama TR4 Program is a joint initiative between the Queensland Government and the Australian Banana Growers' Council.

**Panama
disease
tropical
race 4**

