

President : Assoc.Prof. Will Figueira
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7 June 2017

Mr James Lavender
Aquatic Pest and Health Policy
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
Canberra ACT 2601
james.Lavender@agriculture.gov.au

Dear Mr Lavender,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised *MarinePestPlan 2017-2022 (v2.0)* 12/5/17.

The Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) is a professional society of more than 800 members nationwide, committed to promoting marine sciences. Our members are from universities, museums, private sector and government agencies and have expertise spanning all disciplines related to marine science.

AMSA has made previous submissions in the development of the National Strategic Plan for Marine Pest Biosecurity and it is pleasing to see the *MarinePestPlan 2017-2022* and Implementation Plan coming to fruition. The development of a national marine pest strategy has been sorely lacking and it is refreshing to see the plan promoting a national collaborative approach to the issue of marine biosecurity.

We note that at this stage of the process you are seeking final comments and endorsement of the revised *MarinePestPlan 2017-2022 (v2.0)*.

- *Objective 1 - Strengthen the national marine pest surveillance system.* This objective is critical because surveillance and early detection is the key to eradication of marine pests. However, active surveillance is missing from the activities which have been identified. The plan should include active surveillance targeted at high risk ports.
- *Objective 2 - Minimise the risk of marine pest introductions, establishment and spread.* AMSA endorses this objective and the proposed activities
- *Objective 3 -Enhance Australia's preparedness and response capability for new marine pest introductions.* AMSA endorses this objective and the proposed activities.
- *Objective 4 - Support marine pest biosecurity science and research.* AMSA welcomes the inclusion of this objective. The involvement of marine scientists in research in the biology, taxonomy and ecological consequences of marine pests, and new genomic or proteomic-based approaches for the eradication of established marine pests, is critical to the success of the *MarinePestPlan 2017-2022*. Understanding the biology of marine pest species is a key component of risk analyses of marine pest vectors (Activity 4.4).

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- *Objective 5 - Engage stakeholders to better manage marine pests.* AMSA endorses this objective and the proposed activities.

AMSA looks forward to the implementation of the *MarinePestPlan 2017-2022* and the ongoing involvement of our members in this National Strategic Plan for Marine Pest Biosecurity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Figueira". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Assoc. Prof Will Figueira