

# **Report to Forest Biosecurity Consultative Committee**

## **Update on Current MAF Incursion Response Activities for meeting 9 March 2006**

### **PAINTED APPLE MOTH and FALL WEBWORM, AUCKLAND (Eradication)**

- Combined PAM FWW TAG was held 17 February 06:
  - The TAG has made recommendations to the CTO regarding the progress of the PAM and FWW eradication programmes.
  - Consideration of the trapping network around the trap catches of 2005 going forward
  - The role of SIT in the PAM programme going forward.
  - Forensics –discussion on emerging and potential tools.
  - The need or otherwise for an early warning trapping programme
- PAM surveys completed 13/01/06. No further trap catches since 18 December 05.
- FWW Surveys completed 13/01/06. No further finds reported since 09 June 05

### **DUTCH ELM DISEASE, AUCKLAND (Disease Management programme)**

- In 2005/06, BNZ and the programme co-funders are implementing the Dutch elm disease management programme with the aim to (a) control the impacts of the disease within the current controlled area and (b) slow or prevent the spread of the disease out of the current controlled area.
- Response activities over the winter 2005 were confined to responding to public inquiries. The first visual disease detection survey of all elms listed in the elm database in the four Auckland Cities and the Papakura District had commenced mid-December 2005. The second survey of all the DED ‘hot-spots’ and high risk areas commenced by mid February 2006.
- The deployment of traps lured with the vector beetle attractant was completed in the second half of December 2005. The trapping grid, initially consisted of 23 traps deployed in the highest risk areas, was increased to 27 traps following detection of a diseased beetle at the North Shore.
- As at the beginning of March 2006 six diseased elms (three elms next to each other at the Auckland Zoo; one elm on each of two locations in the vicinity of the Waikumete Cemetery and one elm in Northcote, North Shore) were detected and promptly removed.
- Diseased beetles were recorded only from the North Shore. Over 20 diseased beetles were captured on three closely spaced traps during late January and in February 2006. BNZ responded to the initial capture of a diseased beetle by deploying additional traps in the area which greatly assisted in the detection of the diseased tree in Northcote area. The area is now under continual scrutiny by the operational team.

### **GUM LEAF SKELETONISER (Transition to pest management)**

- Tech Transfer process well underway. A number of information sheets on GLS will be available at FI2006. A booklet is being produced for reference, the MAF website will be updated and pheromone traps will be made available.
- Biological control continues and a proposal is to be submitted to the SFF for funding to see the work through to completion.
- The Controlled Area remains in place and activity has yet to be detected outside the Auckland region.