



ALMOND BOARD
OF AUSTRALIA

Australian almond **Biosecurity action plan**

Tim Jackson – ABA CEO
Australian Almond Conference – October 2026



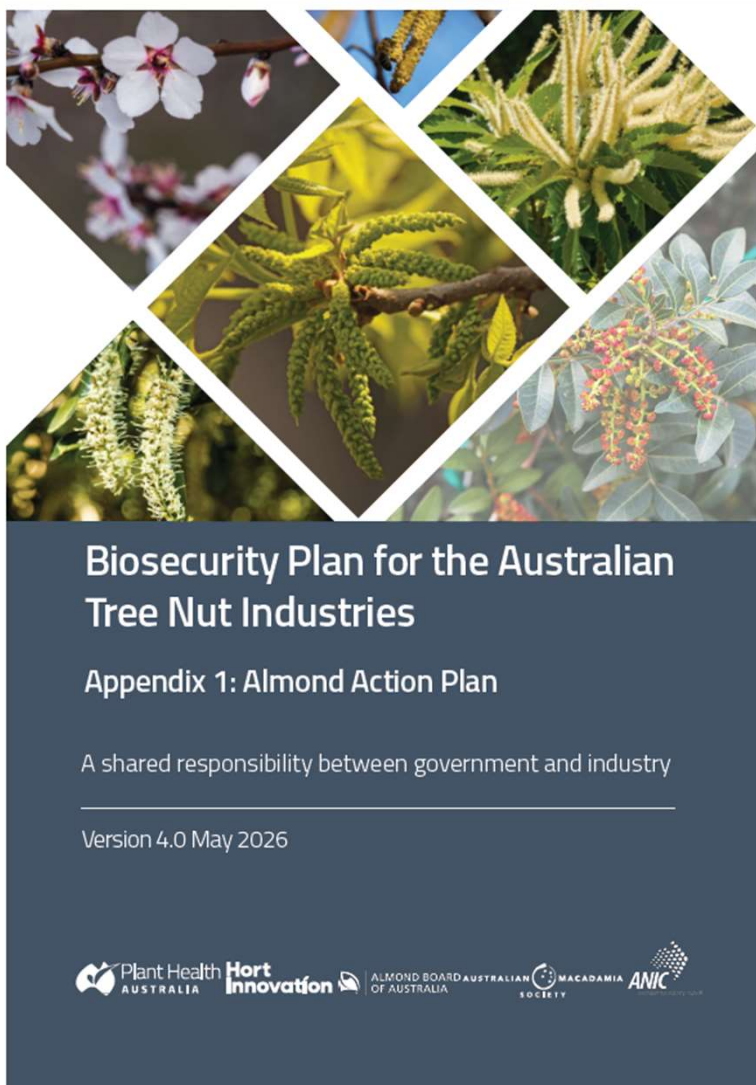
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Tree Nut Industries Biosecurity Plan – May 2026

- Coordinate biosecurity activities and investment in Australia's tree nut industries.
- Identifies and prioritises exotic plant pests and pathogens.
- Shared responsibility: gov & ind
- Almond Biosecurity Action Plan



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Almond Biosecurity Action Plan – 2026 – 2036

Aim: protecting industry and limiting trade impacts



Prepare

- Assessing high-priority pest impact and economic feasibility to eradicate
- Establish Biosecurity Incident Standard Operating Procedures
- Foster strategic alliances & collaborations
- Education - overseas study tours
- Awareness – supply chain, general public and growers
- Training – Identification & response
- Industry coordination & reference panel, funding



Detect

- Continue National Bee Surveillance Program - Tropilaelaps mites are an emerging threat
- Assist in developing diagnostic and surveillance protocols for almond pests
- Boost real-time surveillance and diagnostic capabilities & technologies.
- Regional weather station networks – almond pest forecast/ prediction models.



Respond

- Emergency Response - Fast decisions
- Grower participation and compensation
- Build in recovery/ minimise distress
- Limit trade impacts / business continuity – e.g. cross-border tri-state trade agreement, chemical pre-approvals APVMA.



Increasing pressures on the Australian biosecurity system

- Currently facing multiple threats on multiple fronts, including from our near north.
- Border and import controls remain critical but other risk pathways are increasing in importance.
- Contributing factors:
 - shifting climate & environmental conditions affecting pest distribution
 - complex interconnected risk pathways
 - accelerated movement of products and people, mail orders
 - limitations in detection and diagnostics capabilities.

Arrivals each year...



Result: Increase in detections of exotic plant pests with potentially serious consequence

Almond priority pests

- **Khapra beetle**
 - *Trogoderma granarium*
- **Almond leaf scorch – three strains of *Xylella fastidiosa* affect almonds**
 - *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* (with vector)
 - *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* (with vector)
 - *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* (with vector).



Khapra beetle

Trogoderma granarium

Damage and impact

- Beetles consume and contaminate the product; cast skins, faeces and hairs can cause health issues e.g. asthma, impacting trade.
- Storage pest of grains, rice, oilseeds and dried foods e.g. almonds.
- Surveillance under National Priority Plant Pest Program – 3 successful eradication responses to detections in imported goods (refrigerators, malt barley, high-chairs, nappies) from 2020 – 2025 under the EPPRD.
- Not yet established and remains a high risk.

Monitoring and surveillance

- Inspect stored almonds and around storage areas.
- On arrival of all imported goods, check packing material, and freight containers between cracks and wall lining – very small.
- Khapra beetle will not be present in the field.

Adult 2-3mm



Larvae up to 7mm



Xylella – almond leaf scorch

Xylella fastidiosa subsp. (with vector)

Damage and impact

- Tree death - early signs of leaf yellowing, leaf burn can look like salt damage or water stress, with stunted growth and smaller fruit.
- Multiple plant hosts (ornamental & commercial). Delayed symptom onset.
- Cannot control. Relies on prevention measures to minimise infection & spread e.g. tree removal.
- Zoning and movement restrictions of planting material enforced in Europe.

Monitoring and surveillance

- Quarantine - imported plant material.
- Surveillance under National Priority Plant Pest program for insect vector - Glassy-winged sharp-shooter (GWSS – hitchhiker pest).
- Hyperspectral imaging in Europe, early investigations in Australia Melb Uni.
- Research into potential insect vectors in Australia.



Almond pests to monitor

24 listed – including 17 invertebrates and insects, 4 bacteria and 3 fungi.

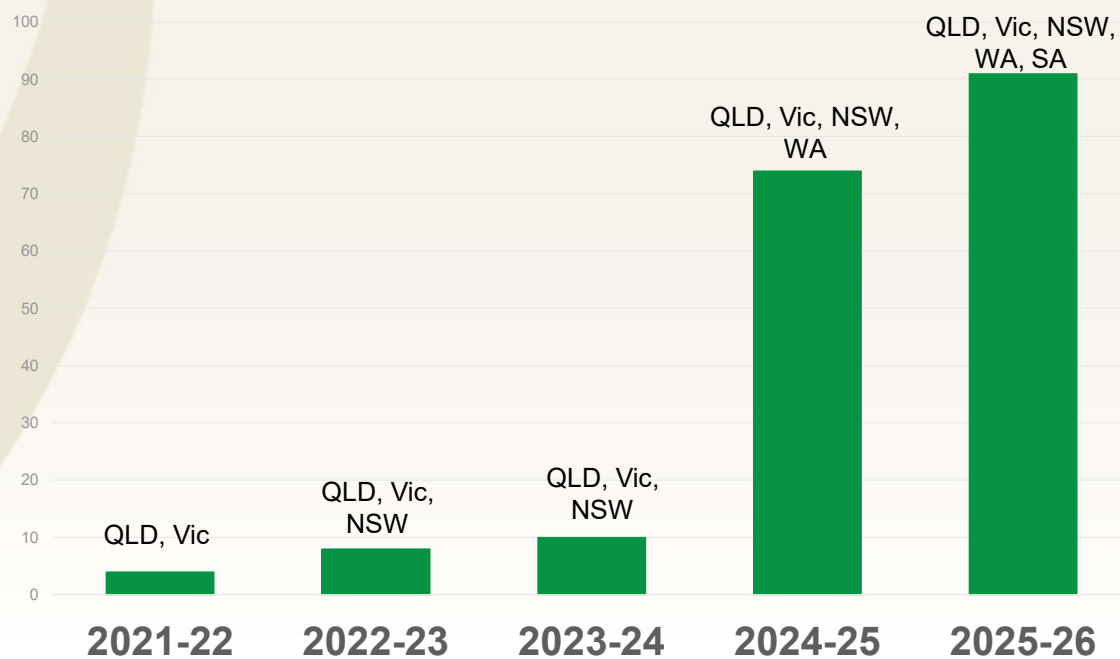
- Brown Marmorated Stink Bug - *Halyomorpha halys*



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Halyomorpha halys

National surveillance program, post-border detections – Sept to May



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Halyomorpha halys

- Hitchhiker pest – escaping northern hemisphere winters
- BMSB season Sept to May for imports from: Asia, North America, Europe
- Import detections mainly associated with machinery, vehicle and parts but it can harbour in any cargo and highlights the importance of inspecting deliveries to farm.



BMSB under
plastic wrapping



Heavy infestation
on container floor



Biosecurity Hotline
1800 900 090

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Halyomorpha halys

Damage and impact

- Early season (Sept) – crop drop
- Mid season (Oct-Feb) – brown staining of kernel

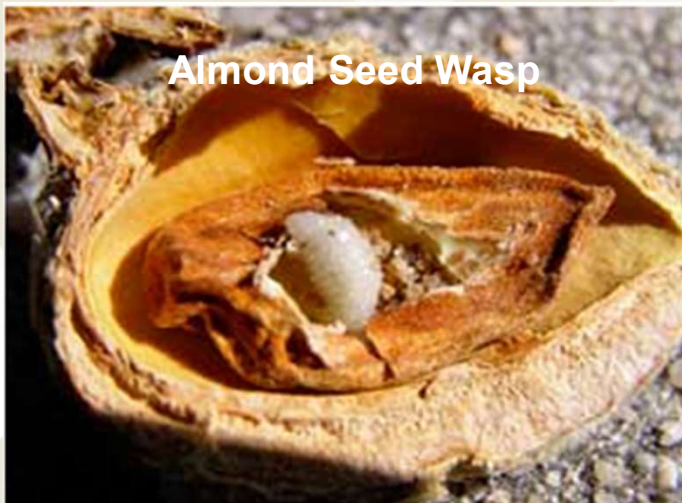
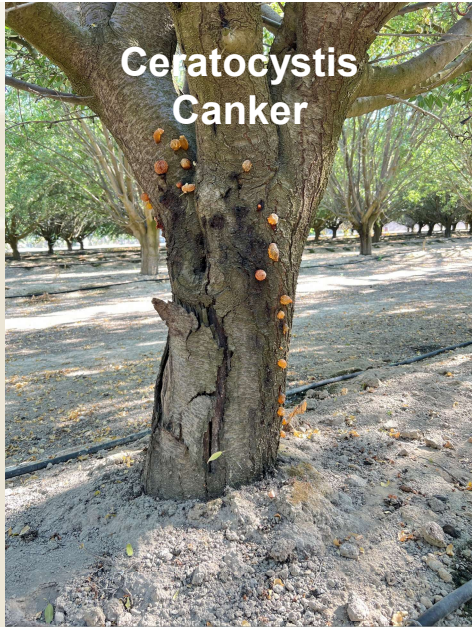
Monitoring and surveillance

- Pheromone + sticky traps – orchard borders and farm delivery areas
- Border rows – fortnightly looking for eggs and gumming on fruit
- Inspection of goods received and container deliveries

Potential additional control

- Early season – additional insecticide spray Sept
- Mid-season - border sprays depending on monitoring but could be up to 3 sprays, smaller farm will have higher border exposure
- Additional sprays for mite flare ups likely.





Summary

- Biosecurity pressures are increasing through climate shifts and global movement and trade.
- Increased frequency, spread, and complexity of detections means the risk of border escape and establishment is imminent.
- Shared responsibility and partnership arrangement with Government and Industry – approach and resourcing challenges need to be worked through.
- Almond Action Plan developed and ready to implement to improve preparedness to protect and support industry while limiting trade impacts over the next 10 years.
- HPP are a real risk with serious consequences.
- Pest and Disease Guidelines provide more detail.
- Heightened importance for all farms to inspect delivery of goods on arrival including containers and packaging (cardboard boxes) and report anything unusual!





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Innovation**
Strategic levy investment

**ALMOND
FUND**

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