

# Phylloxera Risk Management

Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of SA  
Support Paper No. 4:



## The National Phylloxera Management Protocol

### The development of the Protocol

Until the mid-1990's, the regulations and interpretations of key legislation about Phylloxera varied among the states of Australia. Variations included different terminology for legislated districts and different certificates and requirements for the movement of equipment. This situation, combined with the rapid expansion in the grape and wine sector, made the task of regulating safe practice difficult, particularly on a national basis, and posed an increased risk to accidental infestation of vineyards.

In 1994, the Plant Health and Regulation Working Group (PHRWG), was established as a sub-committee under the direction of the Plant Health Committee (PHC), of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Resource Management (SCARM), and had an objective 'to review regulations relating to plant health issues between States with a view to harmonisation of regulations across Australia.' The States of South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria were charged with the responsibility of establishing a Tri-State Phylloxera Working Group. Their task was to prepare a paper aimed at stimulating discussion and informed debate, with the intention of establishing a consensual national approach to the control of Phylloxera in Australia. In developing the paper, the Tri-State Phylloxera Working Group were to:

- Assess the risks of infestation of grape growing regions by Phylloxera
- Further develop the appropriate quarantine regulations and actions required to minimise risks
- Support the development of action plans to detect, contain and control any new infestations of Phylloxera
- Achieve full support of Australia's viticultural industries.

The Tri-State Phylloxera Working Group developed the 'Co-ordinating quarantine strategies for Phylloxera' paper and in July 1995 a two day meeting was convened with key industry groups and regulators from the three States to discuss issues and directions.

A draft document was circulated to industry nationally in early September 1995 for comment. Feedback was reviewed by the working group and a final version printed and distributed to industry in November 1995, and these National Protocols were endorsed by SCARM with all State regulators enacting the recommendations for the 1996 vintage. For South Australia, this was the first activity under the newly revised *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act of 1995*. The changes in regulations were prepared through the *Plant Health Act* and the Plant Quarantine Standard of 1996.

The Tri-State Phylloxera Working Group support the development of action plans to detect, contain and control any new infestations of Phylloxera.



Phylloxera and Grape Industry  
Board of South Australia

Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia  
46 Nelson St, Stepney SA 5069

P: 08 8362 0488

F: 08 8362 0499

M: 0428 260 430

E: [admin@phylloxera.com.au](mailto:admin@phylloxera.com.au)

W: [www.phylloxera.com.au](http://www.phylloxera.com.au)

# Phylloxera Risk Management

## Support Paper No. 4:

### Key directions and their foundation principles

#### The “Co-ordinating quarantine strategies for Phylloxera” paper recommended:

- Developing standard names for legislated zones - Phylloxera Infested Zone (PIZ) and Phylloxera Exclusion Zone (PEZ)
- The introduction of a Phylloxera Risk Zone (PRZ), to help the management of Phylloxera risk
- A 5km buffer zone between infested and clean vineyards
- A Phylloxera Code of Practice be developed and nationally endorsed so that “any movement of grape material or viticultural equipment is in accordance with disinfestation treatments as appropriate to the perceived risks”.

Having completed its work, the Tri-State Working Group recommended that a national committee be formed to oversee the continuous development of the Protocol. In 1999 the National Vine Health Steering Committee (NVHSC) was established. The committee was comprised of industry stakeholders and its role was to provide leadership in the areas of vine health biosecurity matters.

The NVHSC established a sub-committee known as the Phylloxera Technical Reference Group (PTRG) to focus on fine-tuning the protocol with accountability to the NVHSC. From 1997 through to 2009, there was a continuous improvement of the National Management Phylloxera Protocol by the National Vine Health Steering Committee, with significant financial support from industry through the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC).

In summary, the current national protocol was developed over a period of 12 years and at a cost of \$2.7 million, with significant industry engagement. The National Phylloxera Management Protocol was endorsed by the Board in 2000 and was the basis of consultations at growers meetings over the next five years. It is not in South Australia’s interest to undermine the National Phylloxera Management Protocol, but it is also important that the protocol doesn’t unintentionally downgrade South Australian’s current Plant Quarantine Standards. The National Phylloxera Management Protocol can be found at [www.gwrdc.com.au](http://www.gwrdc.com.au)

#### References

National Phylloxera Management Protocol, July 2009  
[www.gwrdc.com.au](http://www.gwrdc.com.au)

2

The current national protocol was developed over a period of 12 years and at a cost of \$2.7 million with significant industry engagement.

