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# PCN NEWS

## Potato cyst nematode at Thorpdale

### Interstate trade negotiations

- The national Plant Health Committee has established a scientific advisory panel to provide technical direction following the Thorpdale detection of PCN. The panel's first decision was to agree on PCN surveillance and diagnostic protocols.

### Trace forwards

- Trace forward sampling is soon to commence in other states, now that the sampling protocol has been agreed.

### Minister's visit to Thorpdale

- The Minister for Agriculture, Joe Helper, visited the owners of the property on which the first detection occurred, and also met with local industry leaders in Thorpdale, on Friday 24 October.
- The Minister indicated that DPI would assist with the collection and processing of soil samples in time for the onset of the export season.

### Soil surveys

- Sampling to determine the limits of the spread of PCN will be done on a 5x5m grid and 4kg of soil per hectare is to be collected. Sampling will firstly be concentrated on properties that are linked to the affected paddock.
- It has been agreed that, to facilitate soil sampling, farmers could provide resources to assist the DPI survey teams.
- Preliminary assessment of diagnostic needs for this incident indicates that the DPI Knoxfield laboratory would have to run seven days a week on two shifts for the remainder of the year to test all of the necessary samples.
- DPI's Crop Health Services group is contacting interstate counterparts to request diagnostic assistance for the Knoxfield laboratory.

### Acknowledgements

DPI would like to acknowledge the support of ViCSPA, Seed Potatoes Victoria, the Victorian Potato Growers' Council and the Baw Baw Shire Council in the response to the PCN detection.

For information about the movement of potato plant material, machinery and other equipment, please contact DPI Plant Standards on (03) 8371 3500 or [plant.standards@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:plant.standards@dpi.vic.gov.au)

Other information is available on the DPI website at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb)