

PLANT HEALTH QUADRILATERALS METHYL BROMIDE ALTERNATIVES PROJECT WORKING GROUP

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The Montreal Protocol seeks to reduce the use of methyl bromide worldwide because it is an ozone depleting fumigant, replacing its use with alternative phytosanitary treatments.

In March 2018 Australia proposed to elevate the status of the Plant Health Quadrilaterals (Quads) Methyl Bromide Alternatives Project Working Group (MBAPWG) to prioritise acceptance of methyl bromide alternative quarantine and pre-shipment phytosanitary treatments internationally. This was adopted at the March 2018 Quads meeting in Rome. The Quads member countries are Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. The MBAPWG has operated via teleconferences, an annual face-to-face meeting and informal correspondence as appropriate.

The implication of this category change is that the MBAPWG would have direct Quads oversight and be expanded from being an information sharing group (category 3) to one that has deliverables and a timetable (category 1). The outcome of this is that the Project Brief for the working group has been re-written to include a range of objectives and outcomes for Quad member countries to achieve.

This presentation will focus on the proposed work plan for the working group.