

Prohibited matter

Prohibited matter can be biosecurity matter like a disease, exotic fish, insect pest, pest animal or a weed that is not found in Queensland. If it was to enter Queensland it would significantly impact our health, way of life, the economy and the environment.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) lists prohibited matter in Schedule 1 of the Act.

Identifying prohibited matter

It will be the responsibility of all Queenslanders, as well as visitors from interstate and overseas, to be aware and take steps to prevent prohibited matter from entering our state. You will be expected to know about the prohibited matter that you may come across as part of your environment, business or hobby.

For example:

- Producers should be aware of, and a vet is expected to know, symptoms of exotic diseases such as bluetongue, foot-and-mouth disease or highly pathogenic avian influenza
- People bringing fruit and vegetables into the state will need to ensure they don't introduce carriers of prohibited matter
- A citrus farmer will be expected to know about citrus canker.

Reporting prohibited matter

If you become aware of prohibited matter or you believe, or ought reasonably believe, that something is prohibited matter you need to report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland unless you are aware that it has already been reported. You must also take all reasonable steps to minimise the risks of the prohibited matter and not make the situation worse.

If you are unsure if it is prohibited matter, contact Biosecurity Queensland for more information.

For example, if you have livestock that you know or ought to know are showing signs of an exotic disease such as foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza or nipah virus or that you consider may be an exotic disease or pest, you must:

- isolate them from other livestock on your property to reduce the risk of making it worse
- report it to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23
- not move any animals off your property to reduce the risk of the disease spreading.

Once notified of potential prohibited matter, Biosecurity Queensland will take steps to confirm the nature of the issue. If it is prohibited matter Biosecurity Queensland will decide the most appropriate action to take based on the risks posed by the disease and its likely impact on the economy, environment, human health and public amenity.



Prohibited matter permits

It will be an offence to deal with prohibited matter unless you have a permit. If you need to deal with prohibited matter or a potential carrier, there are currently two types of permits that you can apply for. These are for:

- scientific research
- controlled dealings.

For example, a farmer may apply for a controlled dealings permit if their crop requires harvesting and their farm has a pest weed present that is prohibited matter.

To apply for a prohibited matter permit you will need a permit plan. The plan proposes how you plan to deal with the prohibited matter. It also:

- identifies any potential risks to animal or plant life, the economy, the environment and the community
- describes how you will minimise the risks.

Further information

To find out more about the Act, visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.



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