



## ADVANCING RURAL QUEENSLAND

### Understanding how Queensland's new Biosecurity regulations affect you

#### ***Everyone has a 'General Biosecurity Obligation' to minimise pests, weeds and diseases***

Queensland's biosecurity regulations changed in July 2016. Under the new *Biosecurity Act 2014*, everyone has a statutory duty of care to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks. Biosecurity relates to all animal and insect pests, weeds, animal and plant diseases and contaminants.

Everyone who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier, has a **General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO)** to minimise risks of transporting, growing, harbouring, buying or disposing of biosecurity matter that can affect the economy, environment, social amenity or human health.

GBO can apply to any biosecurity matter that has an adverse effect and does not need to be listed in legislation. This enables a rapid response to new incursions or localised management of regional pests, weeds or diseases.

#### **Do you know your biosecurity risks?**

Every land manager is expected to stay informed about pests, weeds and diseases that may affect their property, livestock or crops. Transport companies are expected to know risks associated with transporting agricultural produce and animals. Utility service providers are expected to know weed and disease spread risks associated with traversing corridors.

However not everyone who visits your property or you deal with will "know" or "ought reasonably know" about the risks they may pose or preventative actions they should undertake. In these cases, it is important that you provide or direct them to relevant information about biosecurity risks, decontamination and methods to minimise spread or risks.

AgForce suggests due diligence could include an awareness checklist and identification sheet as part of your **farm biosecurity plan**, farm gate signs indicating all visitors must report to the homestead for a biosecurity awareness induction before proceeding anywhere on the property (example templates available from <http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/>). In the case of a subsequent outbreak of a disease or weed, do you have visitor details that would enable trace back to potential sources of the biosecurity risk? A Visitor Register which records name, contact details, vehicle registration and previous location may assist if a trace back is required.

#### **Complying with GBO for high risk biosecurity matter**

Local and state government may use regulations, codes of practice or hygiene protocols for significant biosecurity risks and impose biosecurity orders if an individual breaches their GBO for high-risk biosecurity matter. Through an order, an authorised biosecurity officer can direct a person to treat, control, eradicate, destroy or dispose of biosecurity matter or a carrier or to clean and disinfect. Not complying with the GBO or a biosecurity order is an offence.

*For more information, contact your Local and State Government Pest Management Officers or Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au)*

## Pests, weeds and diseases now classified as Prohibited and Restricted Matter

Change in Queensland's Biosecurity legislation also means change in how we describe declared weeds, pests and exotic diseases. No longer do we refer to Class 1, 2 and 3 declared pests. The new description is "Prohibited Matter" and "Restricted Matter" which includes seven "Categories".

Most existing declared pests and weeds have transferred across into the new Restricted Matter – Category 3 list. Pests and weeds can be listed in more than one "Category".

All exotic diseases, parasites and viruses of animals and plants, noxious fish and insect pests have been centralised into one list under the new Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014*. The "General Biosecurity Obligation" requires everyone to know what Biosecurity Matter they may come across and to comply with category requirements, unless otherwise authorised by a regulation or permit.

**Prohibited Matter** is not present in Queensland. Examples include blue tongue, brucellosis, foot-and-mouth disease, equine influenza, Nairobi sheep disease, sheep pox, screw worm fly, karnal blunt of wheat, resistant strains of bacterial leaf blight, sorghum mosaic virus, serrated tussock grass, tropical soda apple.

### Restricted Matter

Category	What is required	Examples
1	Isolate and report within 24 hours. Ph 132523	Imported red fire ants, electric ants, animal diseases such as anthrax, Johne's disease, Hendra virus, West Indian drywood termite
2	Report within 24 hours. Ph 132523	Noxious fish, certain weeds & pests such as spotted gar fish
3	Must not distribute, be traded or released into the environment	Most invasive weeds, pest animals, noxious fish
4	Must not move	Certain weeds, pest animals, noxious fish such as feral pigs, feral deer, rabbits, Hudson pear and jumping cholla cactus,
5	Must not possess or keep	Rabbits, carp, bunny ears cactus
6	Must not feed (except if undertaking a control program)	Feral deer, wild dogs, rabbits, foxes, noxious fish (tilapia, gambusia)
7	Must kill & bury carcass or put in waste disposal bin	Noxious fish (carp, climbing perch, tilapia, gambusia)

Contact Biosecurity Queensland ([www.daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurity](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/biosecurity)) or phone 132523 for more information and the full list of Prohibited and Restricted Matter.