

# Policy

## Vehicle, Plant and Material Hygiene

<b>Responsible portfolio</b>	Biosecurity (Weeds)	<b>Document Register ID</b>	250.2018.483.2
<b>Policy owner</b>	Coordinator Biosecurity	<b>Review date</b>	14/06/2027
<b>Date of Council Meeting</b>	6 September 2018	<b>Resolution Number</b>	308/18
<b>Legislation, Australian Standards, Code of Practice</b>	<i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> <i>Biosecurity Regulations 2017</i>		
<b>Aim</b>	Council is committed to meeting its requirements under the Biosecurity Act 2015 and to protecting the region's economic and environmental sustainability.		

### 1 Purpose

The objectives of this policy are:

- To provide a framework for Snowy Monaro Regional Council (Council) to ensure compliance with its biosecurity obligations
- To ensure consistency in the implementation of hygiene practices by staff and its contractors
- To provide the Snowy Monaro community with confidence that Council takes biosecurity seriously and implements practices designed to protect its community from biosecurity threats

### 2 Scope

This policy applies to all staff and contractors who operate vehicles and machinery or are involved in the purchase or movement of construction materials into or throughout the region.

### 3 Implementation

Biosecurity matter loosely refers to any pest, weed or pathogen that adversely impacts on the economy, environment or community. Biosecurity matter readily attaches to construction material, vehicles, machinery and equipment and can be introduced and spread throughout the region very quickly if undetected and in the absence of structured hygiene protocols.

The *Biosecurity Regulations 2017* (the regulations) reference a large number of high risk species to which certain prohibitions apply. Council must not knowingly move, purchase, sell, carry or otherwise deal with these species. In contravening this requirement Council exposes itself to significant liabilities and threatens the region's sustainability.

A variety of pests, weeds and pathogens commonly occur throughout the region that have the potential to impact on community values, yet are not identified within the regulations and are not subject to movement prohibitions. Council takes all reasonable precautions to limit the spread of these species, though acknowledges that operational needs often outweigh the biosecurity risk posed by commonly occurring species.

Council employs a Biosecurity team primarily for the purpose of searching for and destroying high risk weed species in accordance with its obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Biosecurity team advises Council of emerging biosecurity threats and initiates response efforts.

## 4 Council Resources

Council provides adequate resources to ensure this Policy is enacted and that effective vehicle, plant and material hygiene practices are implemented Council wide.

## 5 Related Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

### Documentation

List the name and document reference number of any other document referred to in this document, including any related policies and procedures

250.2020.13.1 – SMRC-AP-44- Cleaning Plant and Vehicles, (Biosecurity Hygiene)

250.2024.307.1 - SMRC Vehicle, Plant and Material Hygiene Procedure.

### Variation

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy and should be reviewed periodically to ensure it is relevant and appropriate.