

# BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

## Biosecurity Regulation 2017

## Visitors to your farm & the general biosecurity duty

### Minimising biosecurity risks is a shared responsibility

Anyone entering your property has the potential to spread pests, diseases and weeds. Minimising these risks is a shared responsibility between you and visitors to your property.

The general biosecurity duty means that anyone who knows or ought to know about a biosecurity risk has a duty to prevent, eradicate or minimise such a risk

As the land manager, you should never assume visitors to your property are aware of potential biosecurity risks. You need to be proactive and take your own steps to reduce these risks.

Due to the nature of many farms, the size of a farming enterprise can mean that farmers are unaware of entry from the public or company employees (such as utility companies, contractors, or the government, such as DPI or LLS officers, etc.).

### How can you manage the risk?

Development and implementation of an on-farm biosecurity plan for your property will go a long way to making it clear to potential visitors what their biosecurity responsibilities are in relation to your property and business. Make sure your visitors are aware of your plan and what they can do to help protect the property from biosecurity risks.

### Signs to inform visitors

Signs both on the property and at the boundaries are an effective way to advise visitors of their biosecurity responsibilities prior to coming onto your property. Signs can inform visitors of your biosecurity status and advise what they need to do before and during the visit.

Never assume that visitors know the appropriate biosecurity measures for your property.

*Example of signs that can be placed around property.*



### Limiting access

By limiting and restricting access to your property, you can reduce the risk of pests, diseases and weeds establishing and spreading.

Proactive activities can include the following:

- Minimising the number of vehicles entering the property by arranging pick up from a gate or designated parking spot. Restricting entry into areas of high risk on the property.
- Use designated "on-farm only" vehicles.
- Ensuring visitors stick to designated roads and paths.

For more information about the Act, visit our website or contact us:

W [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact)

E [biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

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### “Come clean, go clean”

Ensuring people and vehicles are not carrying any unwanted pests, diseases and weeds is a simple yet highly effective way of minimising the risk.

You can implement a “come clean, go clean” strategy by:

- providing on farm vehicle wash down facilities that;
- are readily accessible
- have sealed or packed gravel surface
- have access to high pressure water, wash down product and power
- are away from production and other sensitive areas and
- do not drain into waterways or cropping areas.
- providing facilities to scrub and wash down boots before entering or leaving production areas.

Any visitor who refuses to clean vehicles, equipment and boots, or can't demonstrate that their clothing is clean should be refused entry.

### People

Asking visitors some simple biosecurity questions can uncover other potential risks they might not even be aware of. Ask your visitors the following questions;

- Have you visited any other farms within the last 48 hours?
- Have you been in contact with any stock that you suspect might have been sick in the past 48 hours?
- Have your boots and clothes been washed since you last entered a farm or came in contact with stock?
- You might consider providing fresh clothes or boots, or perhaps disposable overalls or booties to visitors who may carry potential risks.

### On farm equipment

It may be practical to assign equipment only for use on the farm. This could include tools, clothing, footwear and vehicles. This way you can be confident the equipment used is clean, know its history and significantly minimise the risk of spreading pests, diseases and weeds.

### Biosecurity breaches

If you feel someone's actions are posing a biosecurity risk to your property, remind them of your on-farm biosecurity plan and if necessary ask them to leave the property. If the problem persists, contact NSW DPI - Biosecurity and Food Safety on 1800 084 881 or report online via DPI's biosecurity website at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation>

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