

Biosecurity checklist

for landholders and resource companies



Good biosecurity starts with understanding the property, the risks that may already exist, and the steps needed to prevent pests, weeds, diseases, and contaminants from spreading.

Prepare a property map

A property map should show:

- key structures** such as houses, offices, pools, sheds, stockyards, quarantine areas, fences, gates, access roads, dams, waterways, troughs, feeding points, parking areas, clean-down areas and other farm infrastructure
- areas where **invasive species, pests, diseases, contaminants or pathogens** are known to be present
- high-risk areas** that may be more vulnerable to biosecurity threats such as production areas, stockyards, grain or produce stores, water-courses and animal quarantine areas

Prepare a farm biosecurity plan

Suggested inclusions could include:

- the **name and description** of any invasive species, pests or disease found in known infestation areas
- existing biosecurity measures** and controls for each known invasive species, pest, disease, pathogen, contaminant, or high-risk area
- biosecurity risk assessment** for each known invasive species, pest, disease, contaminant, and high-risk area, including the risk of spread
- identification of animals entering the property**, including livestock and feral animals
- a **gate register** for high-risk properties to record who enters the property and when
- biosecurity signs** at all property access points (download a [gate sign](#) template from the Farm Biosecurity website)
- a **biosecurity induction and training plan** for people visiting or working on the property
- visitor and vehicle risk assessment procedures**
- clean-down procedures** for visitors, vehicles, and equipment to reduce the risk of spreading pests, weeds, and diseases

- procedures** for managing waste, including high-risk matter such as meat-derived products
- a **chemical use record** that documents the location, date, and withholding period of any chemicals used to control biosecurity matter on the property
- procedures for safely storing chemicals, batteries, and equipment** to prevent livestock exposure and residues in crops
- a **weed management strategy**, including treatment methods to prevent outbreaks before weed seeds reach maturity
- seasonal weed surveys** to establish a baseline of weed occurrence
- rehabilitation procedures for disturbed areas** including methods, techniques, timing, and ground covers to be used
- checks to ensure **incoming materials** such as gravel, sand, feed, fertiliser, mulch, hay, and pasture seed are certified as pest and weed free.

The Farm Biosecurity Awareness campaign, an initiative of Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia, provides farm biosecurity planning tools and templates. Visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au for more information.

Discuss arrangements and assign responsibilities

Landholders and resource companies should work together to agree how biosecurity risks will be managed on the property. This should include:

- coordinating resource company activities to reduce biosecurity risks
- discussing the property's biosecurity plan and clearly agreeing who is responsible for what
- making sure the biosecurity plan is referenced in the Conduct and Compensation Agreement (CCA)
- considering how long each responsibility will apply, and when weed control activities should be carried out
- agreeing who is responsible for weed control around resource company infrastructure and access roads
- agreeing on a clear process for raising biosecurity concerns with the resource company, so any issues or breaches of the biosecurity plan can be addressed quickly
- holding regular meetings to discuss and resolve any biosecurity issues.

Checking into farms to reduce biosecurity risks

The Department of Primary Industries' [Farm check-in](#) is a tool for visitors to help identify and understand their biosecurity risks, minimise the spread of pests, diseases and contaminants, and fulfil their general biosecurity obligations.



For more information

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