

# NSW - Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) obligations

NUMBER IND-O-199

AUTHORISED BY Director Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity

ISSUED BY Biosecurity & Food Safety NSW

VERSION 2

AUTHORISED DATE  
29/01/2021

EFFECTIVE DATE  
01/02/2021

## Policy Statement

The State of New South Wales, as a signatory to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) is legally obligated to give formal notification to the Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer (ACPPPO) within 24 hours of having a suspicion or becoming aware of a plant pest or disease biosecurity incident.

## Scope

This policy applies in all circumstances where any NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) staff, or Local Land Services (LLS) staff becomes aware of, or holds a reasonable suspicion of the presence of an emergency or exotic plant pest occurring in NSW. NSW DPI is an office of the NSW Department of Regional NSW.

NSW DPI staff may in the course of their duties collect or receive diagnostic samples from another State or Territory. Staff must be aware that this policy applies whether the emergency or exotic plant pest originated from within the state of NSW or from another jurisdiction.

## Requirements

1. *Plant pests and events which must be reported*
  - a. Plant pests that are classified as prohibited matter listed in Schedule 2 to the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).
  - b. Biosecurity events – events that have or are likely to have a significant biosecurity impact as per section 39 of the Act and clause 44F of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017. For example, an unexplained and significant increase in plant death or an unexplained and significant fall in plant production Plant pests that are notifiable, but are not prohibited matter, listed in Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (the Regulation).
  - c. A plant pest which is or is suspected to be a scheduled Emergency Plant Pest (EPP) under Schedule 13 of the EPPRD.
  - d. Any plant pest not included in Schedule 13 of the EPPRD or listed as prohibited matter in Schedule 2 of the Act, or listed as notifiable in Schedule 1 of the Regulation, but which is or is suspected to be,
    - i) a known exotic plant pest that does not occur in NSW or Australia, or
    - ii) a plant pest of unknown or uncertain origin which may, on the evidence at the time, be an entirely new plant pest in NSW or Australia, or
    - iii) a serious and distinguishable variant form of a plant pest already established or sporadically present in NSW or Australia, or
    - iv) a known plant pest that already occurs sporadically in NSW or Australia but is occurring in such a severe outbreak form that an emergency response may be required to ensure

there is neither a large scale epidemic of regional or national significance, nor serious loss of market access.

2. *Confidentiality of reports and diagnostic results for suspect and emergency plant pests*
  - a. All information pertaining to a plant pest reported in accordance with this policy must be treated as confidential.
  - b. Any required external discussion or distribution of information regarding the reported plant pest must only occur under the direction of the New South Wales Chief Plant Protection Officer (NSW CPPO).
  - c. Diagnostic results must be disclosed only to the NSW CPPO.
  - d. The diagnostic result must not be distributed or released regardless of the source of the sample (internal or external client), unless approved by the NSW CPPO.
  - e. All staff working on the diagnosis must maintain strict confidentiality.
3. *Authorisation to publish*
  - a. Reporting the detection of an emergency or exotic plant pest in line with this policy does not exclude subsequent first report publication regarding the plant pest.
  - b. Written authorisation by email must be obtained from the NSW CPPO before any information or data associated with the reported emergency or exotic plant pest and any response activities undertaken is prepared for publication, whether for an internal or external publication.
  - c. This authorisation is in addition to NSW DPI processes for approval for publication.

#### **Procedures**

- Biosecurity – reporting plant pests and diseases Procedure

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

- ACPPO: convenes CCEPP
- NSW CPPO: liaise with ACPPO and lead the response in NSW
- All staff: report suspect EPP within 24 hours and assist according to expertise and role

#### **Safety considerations**

Nil.

#### **Delegations**

Nil.

#### **Definitions**

- ACPPO: Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer
- CCEPP: Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests
- CPPO: Chief Plant Protection Officer or a person acting in that position
- EPP: Emergency Plant Pest
- EPPRD: Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed
- Incident: the occurrence of a confirmed or reasonably held suspicion of an EPP

#### **Legislation**

- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- Biosecurity Regulation 2017
- *State Records Act 1998* (NSW)
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act)

#### **Related policies**

- Work Health and Safety Policy (IND-P-185) - 2016

#### **Other related documents**

- EPPRD (Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed).
- PLANTPLAN

- Superseded documents
- This policy replaces:
- Reporting emergency and exotic plant pests O-038.

#### Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	23/08/2016	New policy.	Leader Plant Biosecurity Preparedness & Programs
2	01/02/2021	Update legislation under requirements and Department names and inclusion of LLS.	Manager Plant Biosecurity Prevention & Preparedness

#### Review date

29/01/2023

#### Contact

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