

7 March 2024

Plain English summary

Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No 3) 2024

Note this is a summary only. All activity should be guided by the order, which is available online.

Why is an Emergency Order in place?

The Emergency Order addresses the biosecurity risk that fire ants will damage the economy, environment and community if they are introduced, present or spread within NSW.

The emergency zones have been revised

Due to the high-risk nature of the Currumbin Waters detection, and the complexity of the border region, NSW DPI has created a new zone. The *NSW fire ant infested area* includes the parts of NSW within the 5km radius of the Currumbin Waters nest. The QLD zones are now the *QLD fire ant infested area*. Essentially, the rules for this area mirror those for the *QLD fire ant infested area* for moving carrier materials into NSW (see part 2 of the Order).

When referring to fire ant infested areas, the Order is referring to both the *QLD fire ant infested area* and *NSW fire ant infested area*.

The remainder of NSW was renamed *NSW Protection Zone* (previously the Emergency Zone) to avoid confusion. Areas in the 5km radius of the NSW detections remain the *fire ant movement control area*.

New definitions as follows:

- the *NSW Protection Zone*, which is the whole of NSW excluding *fire ant infested areas*
- the *QLD fire ant infested area*, which includes 5km around all detections in QLD (See Part 3 of the Order)
- the *NSW fire ant infested area*, which includes areas in NSW within 5km of the detection in QLD (See Part 2 of the Order)
- the *fire ant movement control areas* in South Murwillumbah and Wardell, which includes 5km around all NSW detections (See Part 3 of the Order).

If you are...

Moving material out of the *fire ant movement control area* in South Murwillumbah or Wardell (See Part 3 of the Order)

1. Check the definition of your carrier material (Part 1, Clause 9)
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2. Check whether the material has always been kept in preventative conditions (Part 3, Clause 44)
3. If it hasn't, ensure that it meets treatment requirements (Part 3, Clauses 32-43)
4. Complete a Record of Movement declaration (Part 3, Clause 31) (excluding green waste and clean machinery)

Moving material from the *QLD fire ant infested area* in Southeast Queensland or the *NSW fire ant infested area* in the Cobaki/Piggabeen region to the *NSW Protection Zone* (See Part 2 of the Order)

1. Check the definition of your carrier material (Part 1, Clause 9)
2. Ensure it has met treatment requirements (Part 2, Clause 15-27) and
3. Ensure it has been kept in preventative conditions if required (Part 1, Clause 10) and
4. Ensure it has a biosecurity certificate such as a plant health certificate (Part 2, Clause 15-27) and
5. Complete a Record of Movement declaration (Part 2, Clause 12) and
6. If fire ants have been on the premises it originates from in the past 7 years, declare that a fire ant treatment regime is in place (Part 2, Clause 14)
7. If it is turf ensure it is treated when laid (Part 2, Clause 24)

See the searchable map at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants

What are preventative conditions?

- Keeping the carrier material completely covered or inside an enclosed building, and
- High enough off the ground that none of it is touching the ground, or
- On hard ground treated with bifenthrin, or
- On concrete or bitumen or heavy plastic where the edges are treated with bifenthrin

Moving fire ant carriers from South Murwillumbah or Wardell

Carriers can move through the *fire ant movement control area* in preventative conditions

If material (for example hay) has been moved into the *fire ant movement control area* and kept in **preventative conditions**, it can be moved out again without having to be treated or have a record of movement form completed. See Part 3, Clause 43 and Part 1, Clause 10.

Treatment requirements

Each carrier needs to be treated in a certain way. This process is outlined in Part 3 of the Emergency Order. The table below is a summary only – use the [Emergency Order](#) to inform your decision.

If you see red imported fire ants in NSW, report online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants or call 1800 680 244.

For businesses supplying into other states and territories

Are you selling or supplying fire ant carrier material from the *NSW fire ant infested area* or *fire ant movement control area* to Victoria or to other states or territories?

Other states and territories have entry requirements that you need to be aware of if you're supplying fire ant carrier material from within 5 kms of a place where fire ants have been found. We can help you understand these requirements and how to comply with them, such as how to obtain a plant health certificate from NSW DPI.

Find the entry requirements for each state or territory below:

- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

Fire ant carrier material includes mulch, compost, growing media, soil, hay, chaff, silage, potted plants, turf, agricultural and earth moving equipment, sand, gravel, decomposed granite, chitters/coal stone and fines/overburden, and grass/vegetation/clippings, however you should check the definitions in each state's requirements as they may be different.

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier out of South Murwillumbah or Wardell	Reference in order
Organic mulch, soil, compost and manure	<p>Heat all parts to a min of 65.5° Celsius; or agitate it by spreading it out to 15 cm and piling it back up; or vigorously disturb by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing. Place in preventative conditions immediately after treatment.</p> <p>For small amounts of soil attached to other waste, cover with a tarp or wrap in plastic and move directly to an approved waste management facility listed in the order.</p> <p>Council waste management services continue.</p>	Part 3, Clause 32
Soil samples prepared for laboratory analysis	Check and ensure free of fire ants, freeze for 48 hours to minus 18° Celsius. No more than 1 kg soil per sample.	Part 3, Clause 33
Growing media	<p>Heat all parts to a min of 65.5° Celsius; or agitate by spreading it out to 15 cm and piling it back up; or vigorously disturb by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing. Place in preventative conditions immediately after treatment.</p> <p>Alternatively, treat with an APVMA approved chemical.</p>	Part 3, Clause 34
Hay (grown in the control area)	Ensure bales are dry and free of soil. Treat with APVMA approved chemical (fumigate with methyl bromide if intended for use as livestock feed); or vigorously disturb it. Place in preventative conditions immediately after treatment.	Part 3, Clause 35
Chaff	Hammer mill or cut with a chaff cutter. Keep in preventative conditions (bag) immediately after milling or cutting. Check every bag for rips or tears.	Part 3, Clause 36
Silage (made in the control area)	<p>Wrap bales in at least 6 layers of silage wrap or film and make sure it remains undamaged and intact.</p> <p>Wait until 6 weeks after making before moving.</p> <p>Check every bale for holes or tears or soil stuck to wrapping.</p>	Part 3, Clause 37
Potted plants	<p>Treat the potting media with an APVMA approved chemical and ensure the treatment remains effective until the potted plant enters NSW.</p> <p>This does not apply to movement of 5 or less potted plants or a potted plant kept in preventative conditions.</p>	Part 3, Clause 38
Indoor potted plants	Keep indoors for a minimum of 3 months, then move directly from indoors to a vehicle without being placed on	Part 3, Clause 39

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier out of South Murwillumbah or Wardell	Reference in order
	<p>the ground; or uproot the plant and remove the soil or any other fire ant carrier material.</p> <p>Check for any signs of fire ants.</p> <p>Keep in preventative conditions and then keep indoors for a minimum of 3 months after moving out of the area.</p>	
Turf	Treat with APVMA approved chemical and ensure the treatment remains effective until the turf moves out. Harvest in accordance with label directions and permit conditions. Keep in preventative conditions immediately after harvesting until it moves out of the area.	Part 3, Clause 40
Agricultural equipment and earth moving equipment	Clean and visually check to ensure it is free from soil and other fire ant carrier material (not required if new and unused).	Part 3, Clause 41
Grass, vegetation or clippings	Cover with a tarp or wrap in plastic before moving and take directly to Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre. Council waste management services continue.	Part 3, Clause 42
Mining or quarrying materials	Agitate material and keep in preventative conditions.	Part 3, Clause 43

Moving fire ant carriers from the *QLD fire ant infested area* (Southeast Queensland) and the *NSW fire ant infested area*

Treatment requirements

Each carrier needs to be treated in a certain way. This process is outlined in Part 2 of the Emergency Order. The table below is a summary only – use the [Emergency Order](#) to inform your decision.

If you see red imported fire ants in Queensland, report to the National Fire Ant Eradication Program on 13 25 23 or complete the online form at fireants.org.au.

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier into NSW	Reference in order
Organic mulch, soil, compost and manure	Heat all parts to a min of 65.5° Celsius; or vigorously disturb (by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing). Keep in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until arrival in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 15

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier into NSW	Reference in order
Soil samples prepared for laboratory analysis	Check and ensure free of fire ants, freeze for 48 hours to -18° Celsius. No more than 1 kg soil per sample.	Part 2, Clause 16
Growing media	Heat all parts to a minimum of 65.5° Celsius; or vigorously disturb by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing. Keep in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until arrival in NSW Alternatively, treat with an APVMA approved chemical.	Part 2, Clause 17
Hay	Ensure bales are dry and free of soil. Treat with APVMA-approved chemical (fumigate with methyl bromide if intended for use as livestock feed). Keep in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until arrival in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 18
Chaff	Hammer mill or cut with a chaff cutter. Keep in preventative conditions (bag) immediately after milling or cutting until arrival in NSW. Check every bag for rips or tears.	Part 2, Clause 19
Silage	Wrap bales in at least 6 layers of silage wrap or film and make sure it remains undamaged and intact. Wait until 6 weeks after making before moving into NSW. Check every bale for holes or tears or soil stuck to wrapping.	Part 2, Clause 20
Potted plants	Treat the potting media with an APVMA approved chemical and ensure the treatment remains effective until the potted plant arrives in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 21
Indoor potted plants	Keep indoors for a minimum of 3 months, then move directly from indoors to a vehicle without being placed on the ground; or uproot the plant and remove the soil or any other fire ant carrier material. Check for any signs of fire ants. Keep in preventative conditions until arrival in NSW and then keep indoors for a minimum of 3 months in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 22
Turf	Treat with APVMA approved chemical. Harvest in accordance with label directions and permit conditions. Keep in preventative conditions immediately after harvesting until arrival in NSW. Receivers of turf in NSW must either treat the turf immediately after it is laid with an APVMA chemical or keep the turf in preventative conditions until it is laid.	Part 2, Clause 23, 24

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier into NSW	Reference in order
	<p>A range of chemical treatments are approved by the APVMA for treating fire ants in turf in areas such as lawns, parks, sports grounds and these are readily available for use in NSW.</p> <p>Onsellers must ensure that turf is clearly labelled outlining the treatment and reporting requirements for the purchaser.</p>	
Agricultural equipment and earth moving equipment	Clean and visually check to ensure it is free from soil and other fire ant carrier material (not required if new and unused).	Part 2, Clause 25
Dump trucks and bins moved into the infested area to dump or unload	Dump or unload to empty, check it is free of all carrier material, then immediately cover before returning to NSW.	Part 2, Clause 26
Mining or quarrying materials	Move or turn every 21 days if stockpiled, then prior to moving into NSW vigorously disturb material (through crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing) and keep in preventative conditions immediately after disturbing until arrival in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 27

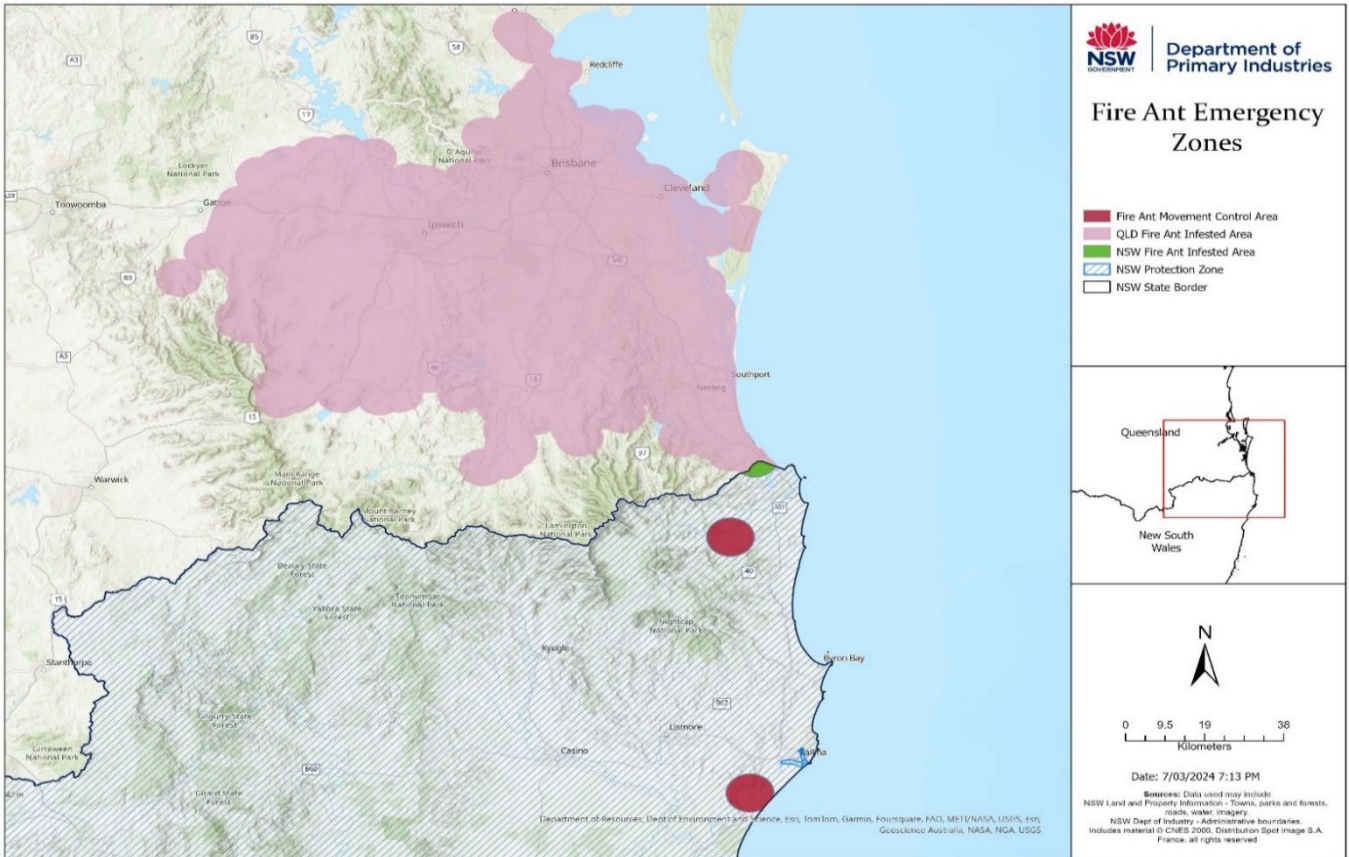
Transiting through the area

Keep fire ant material in preventative conditions while it is in the fire ant infested area and until the material is out of the fire ant infested area.

More information

Online: Visit the NSW DPI website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants

Report suspected fire ant sightings: Online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants or by phone on the NSW DPI Biosecurity hotline at 1800 680 244.



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