



Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance

Gateway Pests of NSW eLearning modules

The Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance team have developed a suite of six Gateway Pests of NSW eLearning modules in collaboration with Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), Tocal College, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and staff across BFS.

These online learning modules have been designed to build capacity among people working in freight, logistics, ports, agricultural sectors and the community to build networks and increase:

- awareness of priority pests,
- surveillance networks, and
- reporting capacity.

Background

Each year, relevant local council staff and contractors to Local Government Areas (LGAs) surrounding Port Botany are trained in the recognition, surveillance and reporting of cargo pests, priority exotic plants pests and new incursion species.

However, the high turnover of staff in LGAs means face to face training is becoming inefficient, hence the need to develop an accessible generic induction and training

package to boost post-border surveillance, detection and reporting of pests.

The development of the Gateway Pests of NSW eLearning modules is geared to meet not only the training and education needs of LGAs in port-side councils but has the added benefit of also being applicable to other council areas, freight and logistics workers, agricultural sectors and the broader community.

Throughout the online course, 'Gateway' refers to the points of entry in which pests, diseases and contaminants could enter Australia and NSW. These include:

- Sea ports,
- Airports,
- Postal services,
- Passenger terminals, and
- Overseas travellers.

Gateway pests are also known as cargo, exotic, non-indigenous, contaminating pests, stowaways, or hitchhikers. They are animals or diseases that are not native to, or established in NSW, and could have a negative impact on plants, animals, or people.

What we did

Six eLearning modules have been developed focusing on pests of concern, their pathways of introduction, their

impacts and hideouts and the action to take if detected. The six modules are:

- **Module 1:** Introduction to gateway pests
- **Module 2:** Invasive ants, sharpshooters, and pine tree pests
- **Module 3:** Exotic reptiles, stink bugs and plane tree pests
- **Module 4:** Exotic mammals, Khapra beetle, Tomato potato psyllid and Myrtle Rust
- **Module 5:** Exotic amphibians, Citrus bacterial diseases, and Asian Gypsy moth
- **Module 6:** Introduction to aquatic gateway pests.

The modules focus on the economic, environmental, agricultural, and community impacts of the pests and offer a call to action on reporting if detected.

What do the modules look like?

The modules feature front-line detection squad characters to capture a broad section of the community that are key to the notification of gateway pests. These include:

- Council staff,
- Operations Managers,
- Arborists,
- Warehouse staff,
- Greenkeepers, and
- Landscapers and horticulturists.



The modules also feature environments where gateway pests could potentially be found. These include:

- Parklands, open areas, and golf courses,

- Warehouses and depots, and
- Community and backyard gardens.



Outcomes

The initial enrolment rollout of the modules is targeted at 10 LGAs located close to the high-risk pathways, including Botany, Port Kembla and Sutherland. It is expected that 250 council workers from the 10 LGAs will be enrolled to complete the modules in the first year.

What's next?

It is intended that the modules will be available for ports workers, community groups and the general public in 2022.

Acknowledgments

The Gateway Pest eLearning modules program is a collaboration between Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance, Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), Tocal College, and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE).

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