

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

Biosecurity Regulation 2017

BANANAS

NSW produces around 9,000 tonnes of bananas annually, worth over \$14 million. There are a number of plant pests and diseases that are not currently found in NSW, but would threaten the productivity of the NSW banana industry, if they were introduced.

The biosecurity framework and tools safeguard our economy, environment and community.

This factsheet provides a summary of management arrangements for banana biosecurity risks in NSW. More detailed information is available in the Biosecurity Regulation 2017, Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017 and other documents at dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact



! GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY

● OUTCOME IS TO PREVENT, ELIMINATE & MINIMISE RISKS

- Any banana farmer or person working with bananas has a responsibility for managing biosecurity risks that they know about, or could reasonably be expected to know about such as endemic strains of Panama disease
- Implementing an on farm biosecurity plan and/or implementing 'come clean go clean' practices are some ways to discharge your general biosecurity duty
- Farm Biosecurity Manual for the Banana Industry sets out good biosecurity guidelines

! CONTROL ORDER

● OUTCOME IS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL WITHIN A DEFINED ZONE/S

- Notification of presence or suspected presence of banana bunchy top virus for all NSW
- Prohibition on the movement and planting of banana propagative material unless certain conditions are met
- Requirement that land is kept free of vegetation
- Banana bunchy top virus control zone for Tweed, Lismore, Ballina and Byron Local Government Areas
- Destruction of banana aphids and infected banana plants
- Notification of proposed movement and planting within the banana bunchy top virus control zone

! MANDATORY MEASURES

● OUTCOME IS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL THE RISK

- Restrict importation into NSW of carriers such as plant material, soil, used agriculture production equipment and coverings
- Applies to potential carriers of banana freckle and Panama disease tropical race 4

! PROHIBITED MATTER

● OUTCOME IS TO PREVENT ENTRY INTO NSW

- Listed in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act
- Includes banana freckle, banana bract mosaic virus, spider mite, black sigatoka, blood disease, eumusae leaf spot, moko and Panama disease tropical race 4
- Duty to not deal with the matter
- Duty to notify presence or suspected presence immediately
- Duty not to test or attempt to test unless certain conditions are met

DEFINITIONS

General biosecurity duty

The general biosecurity duty can apply to anyone. It provides that any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier, who knows (or ought reasonably to know) of the biosecurity risk posed (or likely to be posed), has a biosecurity duty to ensure that the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised – so far as is reasonably practicable.

Control orders

A control order is an order made by the Minister (or delegate) that establishes one or more zones to prevent, eliminate, minimise or otherwise manage a biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.

Generally, a control order will be made to prevent the introduction of, or to eradicate, particular biosecurity matter.

A control order can be made quickly so that a timely response can be mounted to a biosecurity risk or impact that does not require an emergency response, or while longer term management arrangements are being developed.

For example, a control order could require containment, treatment or disposal of soil, stock, plants or products from a contaminated area, to prevent the contaminant entering the human food chain. It could prohibit grazing or, plant and livestock production on the contaminated area, and require decontamination actions such as removal or deep burial.

A control order can remain in place for up to five years. If it is clear that longer term management is required, a biosecurity zone could be established.

Mandatory measures

Mandatory measures are requirements set out in regulation for a person who deals with biosecurity matter or carriers to take specified actions to prevent, eliminate or minimise a biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing.

Prohibited matter

Prohibited matter is biosecurity matter that is listed in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act. This listed matter is biosecurity matter that could have significant adverse consequences to the economy, environment or community. Examples of prohibited matter include foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, citrus canker, and parthenium weed.

Notification obligations apply with respect to prohibited matter. It is also an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

Dealing

Dealing is used in the context of 'dealing with' biosecurity matter or a carrier or to 'engage in a dealing'.

A Dealing can include to keep, possess, care for, have custody of, control, produce, manufacture, supply, import, acquire, buy, sell, dispose of, move, release, use, treat, breed, propagate, grow, raise, feed, culture, experiment with, display, enter into an agreement that deals with, agree to deal with, and/or cause or permit a dealing.

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

W dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact

E biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au