

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

Notification

Biosecurity means protecting the economy, environment and community from negative impacts of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants. The *Biosecurity Act 2015* provides provisions to manage such risks that could cause a significant biosecurity impact on the economy, environment or community of NSW. The provisions of the Act include a duty to notify the presence or suspect presence of prohibited matter, a biosecurity event or a notifiable pest or disease.

What is prohibited matter?

Prohibited matter could have a significant adverse effect on the economy, environment or community and is considered as high risk. Prohibited matter is listed in Schedule 2 of the Act and includes pests, diseases and weeds which are not found in either throughout Australia, or more particularly, throughout NSW. This includes pests and diseases such as foot and mouth disease, anthrax, citrus canker, khapra beetle and red imported fire ant.

What is a biosecurity event?

A biosecurity event is something that has, is having or could have a significant biosecurity impact. In terms of the Act, a biosecurity event does not involve prohibited matter, for example a biosecurity event could be the sudden death of a flock of birds or a herd of cattle. A person is required to immediately notify a biosecurity event.

What is a notifiable pest or disease?

The *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* includes requirements for the notification of certain pests and diseases. These are not listed as prohibited matter because they are already found in NSW but still could have a severe effect on the economy, environment or community if not managed appropriately. This list can be found in Schedule 1 of the Regulation.

Who is required to notify a pest or disease?

In the case of a pest or disease that is listed as prohibited matter in Schedule 2 of the Act or a biosecurity event, the duty to notify applies only if the person has anything to do with the premise in which the pest and disease is identified or suspected. This could include the owner or occupier of the premise or a consultant.

In the case of a pest or disease that is listed as notifiable in Schedule 1 of the Regulation, the duty to notify applies to any person who is aware of the presence or suspected presence of the pest or disease.

Notification must occur within one working day of first becoming aware.

Pests and diseases that require notification are listed in:

- Schedule 2 of the Act
- Schedule 1 of the Regulation

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

W www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact

E biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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- Some biosecurity matter the subject of a biosecurity zone. This includes citrus red mite and water hyacinth.
- Some biosecurity matter the subject of a control order such as banana bunchy top virus.

How do I Notify?

Notification to the NSW Department of Primary Industries can be made using several different contact points. Determining which contact number you use will be dependent on what you are notifying. Notification can be made by:

- Notification via reporting form on the NSW DPI website
dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityriskreporting
- Emergency Animal Disease Watch
Hotline: 1800 675 888
- Invasive Plants & Animals Hotline 1800 680 244
- Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881
- Local Land Services on 1300 795 299
- DPI Biosecurity general enquiries number 1800 808 095
- contacting an office of NSW DPI or Local Land Services.

This notification needs include the following information:

- the person's full name and contact number
- details of the notifiable matter
- the location of the notifiable biosecurity matter
- details of the significant biosecurity impact if applicable
- any other requested information required.

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