

# Biosecurity Regulations Development Update

*March 2014*

## Recent Developments

On 13 March 2014, the Biosecurity Bill received assent from the Governor and became the Biosecurity Act 2014 (the Act), paving the way for the Act to commence no later than 1 July 2016.

Planning is now underway to develop the Biosecurity Regulation, which will detail the biosecurity rights and obligations of people and businesses in Queensland.

Implementation of the Act will be a significant task. It will involve not only development of a new Biosecurity Regulation, but also education on the shared responsibility and new obligations for biosecurity in Queensland.

## Who is developing the regulation?

Biosecurity Queensland has already begun discussing with some stakeholders how various biosecurity risks could be addressed in the Biosecurity Regulation.

The Biosecurity Regulation Reference Group (BRRG) includes representatives of peak industry bodies, production industries, natural resource management groups, and local government and has been meeting monthly since late 2013.

BRRG members are working with Biosecurity Queensland to design a comprehensive consultation strategy. This group will continue to play a key role across their diverse networks to ensure industry and community participation in the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) being developed for public consultation, as well as the subsequent design of the regulations.

## What will the Biosecurity Act address?

The Act will require any person who deals with biosecurity matters or a carrier of biosecurity matter, or who undertakes another activity that could pose a biosecurity risk, to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise that risk.

This general biosecurity obligation to minimise risks applies to all biosecurity risks including those addressed specifically in the current regulations. Consequently, many of these risks may not need to be mentioned in the Regulation. There may be some cases, however, where the Regulation may need to include specific provisions about how to meet the general biosecurity obligation due to the nature or seriousness of a risk.

## When will the regulation be completed?

Following the Government's consideration of feedback on the RIS, drafting of the Regulation will be completed by the Office of Queensland Parliamentary Counsel. The aim is to have the Biosecurity Regulation finalised by the third quarter of 2015.



## How will the Act affect local government?

Biosecurity Queensland will partner with local government in implementation of the Act. This shared decision-making in policy and service delivery is critical given local government's key role in managing weeds and pest animals under the Act.

There is no substantive change to local government's role under the Act, but it will change how they manage weeds and pest animals in their area. Educational material and training for local government officers who will exercise powers under the Act will be developed as part of the implementation process.

## How can you get involved?

It is proposed that the RIS will be released in the third quarter of 2014. This will provide a major opportunity for extensive industry and community consultation.

Specific consultation will be undertaken with local government, natural resource management groups, industry and other peak interest groups about what the Regulation might include in relation to weeds and pest animals.

Biosecurity Queensland will also consult with advisory bodies, liaison groups, peak bodies for production groups and natural resource management groups matters of specific relevance to them.

Working groups on sugar pests and diseases and banana pests and diseases and cattle ticks were established in early 2014.

Consultation has also commenced with stakeholders on other specific issues such as grape phylloxera, mangoes and potatoes.

At its March meeting, the BRRG discussed what current regulation needs to be transitioned into the Regulation, and what is not required under the Act. The government's commitment to remove red tape is a key consideration in these decisions.

Be sure to regularly visit [www.daff.qld.gov.au](http://www.daff.qld.gov.au) for updates on the regulation.

## Further Information

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