

Biosecurity Regulations Development Update

June 2014

Awareness Program

The initial Awareness Program for the Biosecurity Act has focused on the nature of the changes from existing legislation, the reasons for those changes and benefits to Queensland businesses. The Awareness Program has also focused on ensuring interested parties are familiar with the new legislation including powers, regulatory tools and their obligations and rights.

The next stage of the Program is to incorporate details of how the Act will operate on a day-to-day basis, and how we can all support and shape the change process. Your feedback will assist with the ongoing improvement and refinement of the ongoing awareness process.

Education and Training

A seamless transition to the new Act can only be achieved if staff and critical interested parties, especially local government, are provided with the appropriate training and support to administer the new legislation.

A tender has been issued to develop a training package for local and state government employees and peak industry bodies so they are ready when the new legislation commences.

Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

There are 13 pieces of subordinate legislation (mostly Regulations) that sit under the Acts that will be repealed when the new Biosecurity Act commences. All of this subordinate legislation must be reviewed and, if required, new regulations developed and implemented before the new Act commences.

Biosecurity Queensland commenced reviewing the subordinate legislation earlier this year to determine which provisions were still needed, could be discontinued or if alternative arrangements could be considered.

The Queensland Government is committed to reducing red tape. Regulatory best practice principles are applied to ensure that regulation is efficient, effective and in the public interest.

With the governments regulatory reform agenda in mind, Biosecurity Queensland considered each piece of subordinate legislation in relation to three categories:

1. Provisions proposed to be discontinued because they are obsolete, duplicative, are no longer required under the framework of the Act or cannot be justified in context of the Government's red tape reduction initiative.
2. Provisions proposed to be maintained because they are required under the framework of the Act, they are required to meet a national agreement or they are effective and proportionate to the biosecurity risk.

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3. Provisions under which alternative viable regulatory or non-regulatory approaches could be used to meet biosecurity objectives. The RIS will provide options under this category and a cost/benefit analysis for each option.

Ordinarily a Consultation RIS would only be required for category three issues as the objective is to provide the opportunity for the community to consider the proposed options and their impacts. Responses to the Consultation RIS provide government with valuable information on which to base policy decisions and to avoid unintended consequences and unnecessary compliance burdens.

Biosecurity Queensland is considering including all three categories in the RIS to ensure interested parties are fully informed about the content of the proposed new Regulations and how biosecurity risks will be managed.

In addition to the policy provisions provided, the RIS will also propose a new fees and charges structure. This new structure would reduce the number of fees by over 57 per cent.

The RIS proposes options that will enhance capabilities and flexibility for front-line staff and provide for more cost-effective responses, while reducing burdens. The regulations will help deliver the flexibility and responsiveness that Queensland businesses want, with private sector efficiency and demonstrate Biosecurity Queensland's commitment to working together to manage biosecurity risks.

For more information about the RIS process, or to make a submission when the RIS opens for consultation, send your questions and comments to BiosecurityAct@daff.qld.gov.au

Further Information

You can register to receive updates about the [Biosecurity Act here](#).

You can read the *Biosecurity Act 2014* at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2014/14AC007.pdf>

Further information on the *Biosecurity Act 2014* can be obtained at <http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/biosecurity/about-biosecurity>

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