

Non-Indigenous Plant Species Diversification Permit Application Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I apply for a permit to grow non-indigenous plant species on my pastoral lease?

- a. Liaise with your local Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) office for assistance regarding the types of plants you would like to cultivate on your station.
 - DPIRD officers can help you with determining pastoral potential and weed risk and the best location on your lease for the permit.
- b. Download the [Pastoral Lease Diversification Permit Application Form](#) from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) website.
- c. Speak to DPLH if you have any questions regarding the form and what is required, and whether you do require a diversification permit. The application form and the [Contacts page](#) for applicants for non-indigenous plant diversification permit have the relevant contact details.
 - The [Checklist](#) and [DPLH website](#) will also guide you through the process.

2. Can I apply to cultivate any plant species I wish?

- a. No. Plants have a legal status of Permitted s11 in WA. To find out whether the plants you are looking to cultivate are permitted in Western Australia, please check the [Western Australian Organism List](#) (WAOL) managed by DPIRD.
- b. Any other plants that are listed on WAOL as Prohibited **will not be approved**, under any circumstances.
- c. If the species you are interested in is not listed on WAOL you may request to have it assessed. [Pest and Disease Information Service \(PaDIS\) | Agriculture and Food](#) (Note: Any species in this category should be applied for in advance or it could delay the processing of your application.)
- d. In addition, weed risk also needs to be taken into account. Refer to the next question.

3. Some of the plants I wish to cultivate on my pastoral lease are rated as “high” or “very high” weed risk on the [DPIRD Environmental Weed Risk Assessment webpage](#). Can I still apply to plant them?

- a. Yes. While the Pastoral Lands Board (PLB) is the ultimate decision-maker regarding your permit application, it takes into account the scientific and other advice (such as productivity, economic benefit, etc.) received from DPIRD and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) as part of its risk-based deliberations.
- b. If the PLB approves your application, it is likely you will be required to develop a suitable Biosecurity Plan that demonstrates how you will manage the weed risk associated with those “high” or “very high” weed risk plants as a condition of that approval.
 - If you do not produce a suitable Biosecurity Plan as required, your approval to plant those “high” or “very high” weed risk plants may be revoked.

- c. The **template Biosecurity Plan** has been developed by DPIRD, DBCA, DPLH, and the PLB, in order to clarify the PLB's expectations and requirements. The elements of this template reflect industry best practice and should be considered the *minimum requirements* for a Biosecurity Plan.

4. Some of the plants I wish to cultivate on my pastoral lease are rated as “low” or “medium” weed risk on the **DPIRD Environmental Weed Risk Assessment webpage. Can I apply to plant them?**

- a. Yes. As noted above, the PLB receives advice from DPIRD and DBCA on weed risk and other factors, which are taken into account when making a final decision. In general, plants rated “low” or “medium” will be approved for cultivation by the PLB with a set of standard conditions.
- b. While not mandatory, developing and implementing a Biosecurity Plan is recommended by the PLB as part of a best-practice risk mitigation approach to farm management.

5. What if one or more of the plants I want to cultivate have not been through an Environmental Weed Risk Assessment?

- a. If a plant **has not** been through an Environmental Weed Risk Assessment, it may increase the **amount of time** the application process takes, because you will have to wait for an assessment to be undertaken.
 - You may wish to consider which unassessed plants you *really* want to plant, and prioritise those.

6. Do I need other environmental approvals?

- a. You will most likely be required to apply to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for a **permit to clear native vegetation** in order to cultivate non-indigenous plants on your pastoral lease. You should commence this process at the same time as you apply to the PLB for your Diversification Permit.
- b. If you intend to irrigate your permit area, you need to contact DWER to **apply for a water licence**.

7. How long will it take to have my diversification permit application considered by the Pastoral Lands Board?

- a. The **DPLH website** will guide you through the steps, and includes timeframes for each step, up to PLB decision.
- b. These timeframes are indicative only and depend on a number of factors:
 - State Government referrals and approvals
 - the complexity of your application
 - the types of plants you propose
 - whether the area in which you propose to cultivate is environmentally sensitive and
 - other considerations
 - The PLB **Cultivation of Non-Indigenous Plant Species on a Pastoral Lease Policy** outlines the PLB's considerations and requirements in processing your application.