

Guidelines to developing a Biosecurity Plan for Weed Risk Management

1. Awareness and education

Make sure you, your farm workers and contractors have been provided with a briefing of the conditions of the permit and have access to photo ID of the plants that you are permitted to grow under your permit. Encourage staff to pay attention to strange plants or insects and take photos if they are unsure. (Insert link to the Pest and Disease helpline)

Ensure staff are briefed on the biosecurity protocols and action plan.

Download the [FarmBiosecurity app](#) – it is a useful tool to implement the Biosecurity Plan. Please contact Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for further information or assistance as per the [Contacts page](#) for applicants for non-indigenous plant diversification permit.

2. Use ‘clean’ farm inputs

Ensure all seed and other farm inputs brought onto the permit area are clean and weed seed-free. Keep records of your farm inputs and their source. Do paddock inspections before baling hay to identify problem plants.

Note: there will be no requirement to control seeds from permitted plants in hay made on site.

3. ‘Come Clean Go Clean’

Practicing good farm hygiene will help prevent the entry and movement of pests onto your property. Workers, visitors, vehicles and equipment can spread pests, so make sure they are de-contaminated before they enter and leave your farm.

Have a designated visitor’s area and provide wash-down facilities for machinery, vehicles and people. Keep up-to-date with recommended protocols for wash-down.

4. Control volunteers in border zones and off site areas at risk

Keep your farm free of volunteer plants (permitted plants growing outside the permit area) at all times. The buffer zone will be inspected [X] monthly for volunteer plants and any other weed threat. If any plants are found, then the following actions will be implemented.

[Insert action plan for outbreaks and planned control measures].

5. Check your crop

Monitor your crop frequently. Being familiar with the usual appearance of your crop and local pests will help you recognise new or unusual symptoms and pests. Keep written and photographic records of all unusual observations. Vigilance is vital for early detection of any exotic plant pest threat.

6. Abide by the law

Be aware of and support laws and regulations established to protect your industry.

7. Report anything unusual

If you suspect a new pest – report it immediately to the Pest and Disease Hotline.

8. Access Management

8.1 Designate distinct zones

Establish distinct zones where varying levels of protection are needed. Define these zones with fences (or other features) and identify them with signs.

8.2 Control movements in and between designated zones

Control movements of people, animals, equipment and vehicles:

- into a designated zone,
- out of a designated zone, and
- between the designated zones.

This can be done using controlled access points using signs, gates, fences and traffic control points.

9. Plan and train

Have a written biosecurity plan that is updated regularly. Ensure that employees receive proper training and training materials so they can continue to follow the plan.

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