

BiosecurityNews

Spring 2016

Hi,

The past quarter has been a landmark time for biosecurity in Queensland with the introduction of new laws under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. This is the first time in 100 years that we've seen such a significant change in regulations, and provides a more modern and responsive system for the state.

A key driver of the Act is the General Biosecurity Obligation, which is about sharing responsibility—the practical acknowledgement that we all have a role to play in protecting our environment and lifestyle from risks. It's a truly empowering position, giving us all the flexibility to put in measures that suit the situation and our circumstances.

We have also introduced the new *Exhibited Animals Act 2015*, which has simplified laws supporting businesses. The new Act replaced six licensing schemes and parts of four existing Acts with one scheme under one piece of legislation. It has also strengthened risk management to protect animal welfare and prevent animals becoming pests.

To ensure we continue to build on these legislation gains, we are improving Queensland's biosecurity capability with the implementation of actions from the independent review released earlier this year. The first draft of the new Biosecurity Strategy and Action Plan for the next five years is underway (see the below story on this). I look forward to your feedback on the future vision when it is released.

Thank you to everyone who has joined us in what has been a transformative journey for biosecurity in Queensland. I look forward to continuing to work with you on real benefits for business and the community.

Jim Thompson

Chief Biosecurity Officer
Biosecurity Queensland



Latest biosecurity news



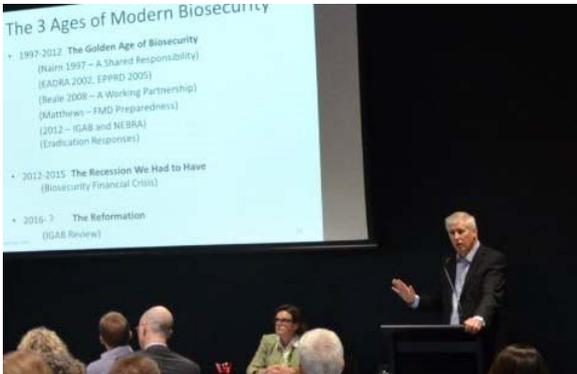
The dawn of a new era in biosecurity

The [Biosecurity Act 2014](#) and [Exhibited Animals Act 2015](#) commenced on 1 July 2016. Under the Acts, Queensland will be better positioned to manage



biosecurity risks, minimising impacts and costs to business and the community.

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New biosecurity strategy for Queensland

Biosecurity Queensland hosted industry representatives and employees from across Queensland at a recent forum to plan a new biosecurity strategy for all of Queensland.

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Changes to horse registration and movement requirements

Biosecurity Queensland has introduced new and improved laws to help protect Queensland from biosecurity risks associated with moving horses and other livestock.

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New cattle tick laws for Queensland

A new risk-based cattle tick management framework commenced in Queensland on 1 July 2016. The new framework is designed to ensure the tick free zone remains tick free and also provides greater flexibility for producers moving stock across the tick line.

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Favourable vote to buyout infected banana farm

The Panama TR4 Program will be busy over the coming months assisting the Australian Banana Growers' Council (ABGC) to develop a closure strategy for the Panama disease tropical race 4 infested property in the Tully Valley.

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Bee surveillance continues in Townsville

Biosecurity Queensland is continuing surveillance activities in areas around Townsville following recent detections of varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni*) on Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*).

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Biosecurity updates



Being a good neighbour

Prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*) and other declared weeds, can easily spread across property boundaries, creating new infestations, expanding existing infestations and threatening the investments made by landholders to control their weeds.

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Very hungry caterpillars help control Parkinsonia

The latest biological control agent in Queensland comes in the form of a leaf-eating caterpillar, known as *Eueupithecia cisplatensis*, or UU for short.

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Gladstone declared fire ant free

Thanks to the tireless efforts of every Gladstone resident, Biosecurity Queensland is pleased to announce that Gladstone has been declared free of fire ants, and the fire ant restricted areas have now been revoked and restrictions on the movement of fire ant carriers are lifted.

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Biosecurity Queensland is taking the sting out of summer

This month, Biosecurity Queensland will start fire ant bait treatment in high-risk areas across South East Queensland to stop their spread south into the Gold Coast, and west into farming areas in the Lockyer.

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The future of WIDT management in Queensland

A decision regarding the future management of West Indian drywood termite (WIDT), which was open for feedback via consultation in January 2016, has now been finalised.

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Giving blueberries a helping hand

To help the expanding blueberry industry in Queensland with easier access to interstate markets with plant quarantine entry restrictions, Biosecurity Queensland has now released a new procedure for self-certification under the Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) scheme.

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