

# Biosecurity Legislation Review

## BIOSECURITY TASMANIA FACT SHEET

Date: October 2016  
BLP-004

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water has announced a review of biosecurity legislation within Tasmania to ensure we maintain a world class biosecurity system.

The review will cover all legislation administered by **Biosecurity Tasmania** and seeks to reach an agreed position on what an effective and strong biosecurity framework looks like for Tasmania.

The review will involve wide consultation between government, industry and community to ensure that all needs are reflected.

This update outlines progress to date on the review of Tasmania's biosecurity framework

### What has happened since spring 2015?

Through the review of Tasmania's biosecurity framework we have identified gaps and opportunities for improvement to provide benefits to business, community and the environment.

So far Government positions on the following key policy issues have been jointly developed with key stakeholders:

- Contents and Structure of a Revised Biosecurity Framework
- General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) and its implementation
- Reimbursement/Compensation
- Co-investment and Co-funding principles and mechanisms
- Precautionary principle
- Environmental Biosecurity
- Definitions and Concepts
- Governance
- Listing
- Authorisations
- Programs
- Zones
- Business Level Controls
- Codes
- Emergency Management

The Minister supported the further development of these positions and we have sought public input into them in early 2016.

After consideration of public consultation, a single piece of framework legislation will be proposed for consideration by Government that establishes sets of rules, principles and approaches to support the regulation of biosecurity.

If approved, a Biosecurity Act will be developed in 2016-17 with a view to introduction into parliament in mid-2017.

### What is framework legislation?

Framework legislation is enabling legislation that provides the necessary powers and functions to allow a biosecurity system to operate efficiently and effectively. It contains principles and overarching functions with biosecurity management components that operate across the biosecurity continuum (e.g. registration, authorisations, zones, etc.). It would be supported by detailed Regulations and administrative practices.

Framework legislation would cover all areas of biosecurity (i.e. animal, plant and invasive species). Therefore multiple legislation for each area would no longer be required.

Some other jurisdictions have already adopted the approach of a

single Biosecurity Act (e.g. NSW, WA and Queensland) and we would aim for consistency with these states and the Commonwealth as far as practicable.

## What does this mean for the Biosecurity Legislation Review timeline?

A position paper for framework legislation was released for public consultation in March 2016.

By winter 2016 we are aiming for a whole-of-government position to be agreed to. This will allow us to begin the task of drafting of new legislation over the 2016-17 summer.

## Opportunities for input

In addition to consultation on the policy positions to be used in biosecurity regulation there will be extensive consultation on draft legislation in early 2017 prior to Parliament considering it in late 2017.

Information on how you can get involved will be available on DPIPW's website in due course.

## Further information

### Project Manager

Allison Woolley

Senior Policy Officer  
Biosecurity Tasmania

☎ (03) 6165 3084

✉ Allison.Woolley@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

