Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy

2013-2017

Department of
Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Tasmanian Government

2013-2017

Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy

This document is the strategic plan for the implementation of the Tasmanian Biosecurity Policy.

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Outcomes and Actions that Apply at the Border

2. Border Protection

Background: Quarantine activities conducted at the border are designed to help prevent the entry of biosecurity threats. Quarantine Tasmania, through the Biosecurity and Product Integrity Division (BPID) of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), provides a range of domestic and international import and export quarantine services under various Commonwealth and State legislation. Services under Commonwealth legislation are provided under a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Biosecurity. Activities are supported by a team of quarantine officers and detector dogs located at various points of entry throughout the state.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- Effective and appropriately resourced quarantine activities that provide levels of protection from biosecurity threats based on risk-return.
- Best practice tools and processes to complement other State biosecurity system activities.
- Appropriate tools and infrastructure to handle illegal imports/quarantine risk materials detected at the barrier.
- Electronic certification systems in relation to imports and exports.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Maintaining an effective quarantine barrier as a component of the biosecurity continuum.
- Providing audit services as part of co-regulatory approaches to biosecurity regulation.
- Developing and implementing digital systems of certification and record keeping.

Outcome 2:
Effective risk-based border protection from pest incursions that pose a biosecurity threat to the State.

Outcome 3:
Surveillance and monitoring programs in place to provide sufficient probability of detection and diagnosis of pests and diseases and opportunities to formally demonstrate freedom at a national and international level.

Outcomes and Actions that Apply Post-Border

3. Surveillance and Monitoring

Background:

As an island state with natural geographic barriers, Tasmania can prevent many biosecurity threats being realised. The Strategy recognises the need for internationally-compliant surveillance and survey systems delivered by a range of stakeholders to provide confidence in determining pest and disease status in Tasmania. An essential component is being aware well in advance of the possibility of threats and this is achieved in part by national and international networks identifying potential incursions at an early stage. The role of the broader community, including landholders and Natural Resource Management organisations in surveillance activities through active and passive surveillance programs, citizen science initiatives, and general awareness campaigns is yet to be fully realised but will be built on in this Strategy. The other essential component to survey and surveillance mechanisms is a contemporary diagnostic capacity supported by modern laboratory infrastructure and skilled staff.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- An advanced integrated early warning system for pests and diseases based on a combination of field surveillance and technological assessments.
- Effective gathering of community observations as part of a State surveillance system.
- Survey and surveillance technologies and systems that are employed as they become available to ensure a leading edge surveillance system.
- Nationally-agreed and internationally-consistent surveillance standards.
- Suitably accredited and modern diagnostic tools and laboratories to support survey, surveillance and biosecurity response activities in Tasmania.
- Government participation in national diagnostic networks.
- Appropriate sharing of information and knowledge on biosecurity issues between stakeholders both locally and nationally.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Developing a partnership approach to survey and surveillance work using available advanced trapping technologies and digital capture of survey data.
- Using nationally consistent approaches to survey and surveillance activities that meet national standards and allow for data aggregation.
- Pursuing and maintaining national accreditation of government biosecurity diagnostic laboratories including the maintenance of appropriately registered quarantine facilities.
- Community participation in surveillance activities resulting in a much more alert and aware population.

4. Biosecurity Emergency Management

Background: The key to maintaining a high biosecurity status includes maintaining the capability to respond to incursions and outbreaks that threaten Tasmania's biosecurity status.

'Capability' means trained people; partnerships; systems; agreed arrangements; equipment and supplies ready for safe, efficient and effective response and recovery operations.

Therefore the Tasmanian Biosecurity System includes an emergency preparedness program. Its objective is to '*develop and maintain a Tasmanian capability to effectively respond to and recover from biosecurity emergencies affecting people, terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals in production industries and the natural environment*'.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- Formalised cost-sharing arrangements for biosecurity incursions and outbreaks.
- Defined authority, roles and responsibilities for biosecurity emergency management.
- Active and constructive partnerships for biosecurity emergency management between Governments, industries and relevant organisations.
- Pre-agreed state-wide arrangements for all biosecurity hazards with complementary issue-specific contingency plans where appropriate.
- A preparedness program that provides for a Tasmanian capability and addresses national targets.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Implementing and maintaining appropriate funding arrangements that enable effective response to biosecurity incursions and outbreaks.
- Advocating for, and contributing to, a comprehensive, consistent and sustainable national approach to biosecurity emergency management for Tasmania.
- Growing and refining the existing Tasmanian biosecurity emergency management capability, especially with regard to trained and competent people.

Outcome 4:

A sustained and resilient Tasmanian response capability that addresses the national capability target appropriate for Tasmanian biosecurity risks.

Outcome 5:
Co-ordinated and co-operative approach across whole-of-government to ensure effective risk-based policy and planning underpins investment in and implementation of the biosecurity system.

Outcomes and Actions Applying to the Whole of the Biosecurity Continuum

5. Policy and Planning

Background: Biosecurity responsibilities are spread across the private sector and a range of State Government agencies. For example, animal diseases that may infect humans (zoonoses) involve the DPIPWE and the Department of Health and Human Services as well as emergency services such as the Department of Police and Emergency Management. Strategic biosecurity approaches require policy and planning that complement the biosecurity activities of all organisations. This minimises conflict and improves the efficiency of the whole biosecurity system. Though biosecurity policy is a complex area, policies that are transparent, consistent and science-based are defensible at an international level.

The Strategy is built on eight policy principles (Appendix B). This ensures the State's approach to biosecurity is consistent with the rest of Australia and the world while clearly identifying the basis for maintaining and improving on the high level of biosecurity in Tasmania. Tasmania participates in the biosecurity policy development process at a national level through its representation on relevant Government technical committees, standing committees and ministerial councils. Biosecurity matters are routinely discussed and addressed across all states/territories and in conjunction with the Australian Government.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- The Tasmanian Biosecurity Committee (TBC) as the lead committee to develop policy advice for the Tasmanian Government and to oversee the implementation of a strategic approach to biosecurity in Tasmania.
- Co-ordination of biosecurity activity across the whole-of-Government with appropriate stakeholder engagement via oversight of the TBC.
- A consistent approach to biosecurity risk prioritisation and investment to address Tasmanian biosecurity policy objectives.
- Engagement with national biosecurity developments with State representation guided by the Tasmanian Biosecurity Policy.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Operation of the TBC on behalf of the Tasmanian Government by Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and Environment.
- Consistently applying Tasmania's risk analysis framework when making biosecurity related decisions.
- Ensuring appropriate State representation in the national biosecurity forum through participation in national biosecurity advisory and decision-making committees.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Background: All Tasmanians and visitors to Tasmania have a role to play in protecting the biosecurity status of Tasmania. For example:

- Importers must be aware of, and comply with, quarantine regulations.
- Those entering the State have a responsibility to abide by Tasmania's quarantine laws and declare items of quarantine concern or dispose of those items before they enter the State.
- Transport industries have a responsibility to comply with quarantine regulations and adopt sound hygiene procedures.
- Tourism operators must abide by quarantine regulations and address biosecurity issues in the conduct of their business.
- Primary producers in Tasmania are responsible for good farm biosecurity planning and practice. They are required to advise the appropriate authorities of anything unusual and to manage biosecurity risks on their properties.
- All land managers should be vigilant and report anything unusual or of concern and manage biosecurity risks on their land.
- Private animal health providers and crop advisers should report anything unusual in animals and crops.
- Hobby farmers and those with small blocks of land should understand and act on the importance of biosecurity.
- Recreational users of our environment should be alert to anything unusual that may pose a biosecurity threat and report it.
- Government has a responsibility to raise awareness and provide information to assist stakeholders to identify and report the unusual and to implement appropriate regulatory structures. All sections of Government must work together to address biosecurity matters to maintain maximum efficiencies.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- A Biosecurity State Consultative Committee to advise Government and facilitate co-operative decision-making.
- Defined roles and responsibilities for all biosecurity stakeholders especially in biosecurity policy, planning, operational delivery and emergency management with supporting agreements and memoranda-of-understanding where appropriate.
- Recognition and acceptance by all stakeholders (government, industry, broader community and users of the environment) of their responsibilities in protecting Tasmania's biosecurity status.

Outcome 6:

Awareness and acceptance by all stakeholders of their roles and responsibilities in protecting and enhancing Tasmania's biosecurity, and meeting the strategy objectives.

- Baseline infrastructure standards (facilities, capacity and capability) are met as required under national agreements and cost-sharing deeds that the Tasmanian Government is party to.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Informing biosecurity stakeholders of biosecurity developments and providing them the opportunity to contribute to the biosecurity system development through consultation wherever possible.
- Communication programs that inform stakeholders of their biosecurity responsibilities and obligations.
- Maintaining appropriate biosecurity system infrastructure to deliver on State responsibilities.
- Maintaining a mechanism for the reporting of unusual biosecurity events and diseases.

7. Legislation and Regulation

Background: A number of pieces of legislation (many with accompanying regulations) impact on biosecurity capacity and the delivery of an effective biosecurity system (Appendix C). Tasmania's emergency management legislation, the *Emergency Management Act 2006,* provides a framework for a whole-of-government approach to planning, preparedness, operational coordination, community participation, and recovery in an emergency response. Compliance and investigation activities in the lead biosecurity agency, DPIPWE, are covered by an overarching compliance and enforcement policy. Investigative activities are currently conducted according to the relevant legislation but consistent with this policy.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- Comprehensive, complementary and current State legislation that both protects and enhances Tasmania's biosecurity.
- Published and accessible import requirements and regulations.
- Ongoing review of all existing legislation that contributes to the biosecurity system in Tasmania.
- Co-regulatory approaches to import requirements investigated and adopted where appropriate with recognition of competent third party inspection.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Developing and implementing a review program for biosecurity related legislation to ensure laws and regulations supporting the Tasmanian Biosecurity System are contemporary and current.
- Develop, publish, and maintain electronic and searchable databases of quarantine import requirements.
- Work with stakeholders to identify and develop co-regulatory opportunities for equivalence to biosecurity regulations to ensure application of regulation is least-restrictive but meets biosecurity system requirements.

Outcome 7:

Comprehensive and complementary State legislation that assists domestic trade, helps Tasmania comply with its rights and obligations in international trade, provides risk-based protection for Tasmania's natural environment, and effectively protects and enhances Tasmania's biosecurity status.

Outcome 8:
Relevant stakeholders effectively engaged in partnerships with Government to manage biosecurity risks.

8. Partnerships

Background: Biosecurity issues generally impact on a range of stakeholders. Partnership approaches to developing preventative and responsive mechanisms can have significant benefits for all involved. Some formal partnerships exist, e.g. Biosecurity Technical Group (BTG), industry-government working groups, and a range of informal partnerships also have been established.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- Formal partnerships of stakeholders (Government and non-Government) involved in biosecurity system implementation to maximise efficiency and effectiveness.
- Effective working relations with jurisdictions in other States/Territories and the Commonwealth as well as with Local Government.
- Co-regulatory approaches to import requirements investigated and adopted where possible with recognition of competent third party inspection.
- Recognition of stakeholder responsibilities implementing the Tasmanian Biosecurity System.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Formation and operation of a Biosecurity State Consultative Committee with membership of government, industry, and other stakeholders who are partners in the effective operation of the Tasmanian Biosecurity System.
- Investigation of co-investment opportunities for stakeholders to assist in delivering on Tasmanian Biosecurity System requirements.
- Work with stakeholders to identify and develop co-regulatory opportunities for equivalence to biosecurity regulations to ensure application of regulation is least-restrictive but meets biosecurity system requirements.

9. Training and Education

Background: Biosecurity is of great importance to Tasmania. It is essential all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the what, why and how of the biosecurity system. Importantly, stakeholders need to have the appropriate knowledge of what they can do on an individual basis and the measures available to them to manage biosecurity risk or to achieve their biosecurity goals.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

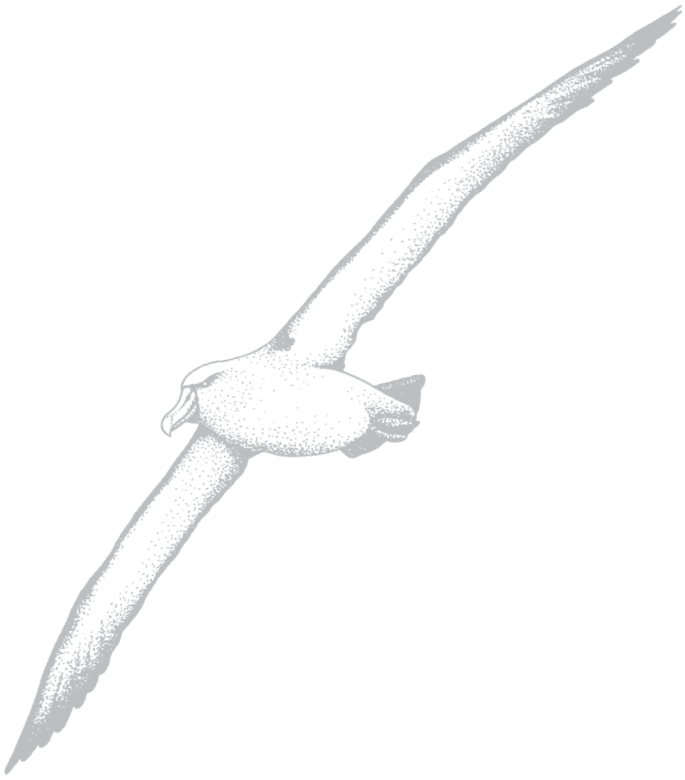
- Access to biosecurity educational and training material.
- Internet based training and awareness systems available for all biosecurity stakeholders.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Development of a State biosecurity system portal with easy access to available online biosecurity training and awareness material.
- Participation of relevant industry biosecurity representatives in State biosecurity emergency preparedness training activities.
- Formal recognition of non-government biosecurity stakeholders who are leaders and champions in contributing to the operation of the Tasmanian Biosecurity System.

Outcome 9:

Biosecurity stakeholders understand how the Tasmanian Biosecurity System operates and contributes to the minimising of biosecurity risks and threats.



Outcome 10:
State, National and International biosecurity research that supports and improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the Tasmanian Biosecurity System.

10. Research, Development and Extension

Background: Research, development and extension activities are important to generate, refine and disseminate new knowledge relevant to biosecurity. Pest and diseases pose an evolving threat with emerging invasive species, new strains of existing species and changed distribution of species potentially altering biosecurity risk. Biosecurity requirements for import and export may periodically change and it is important to update and disseminate knowledge relating to risk of incursions, regional pest and disease status and disinfestation processes. It is also important to continually improve diagnostic capabilities to support these processes.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- Research, development and extension capacity and activities that support the identification, evaluation and management of biosecurity risks.
- Targeted surveys and surveillance for pests and diseases of biosecurity interest to support area freedom status, monitor pest and disease incidence and spread, early detection of potential threats to the natural environment, and provide early warning of incursions.
- Development and implementation of models to evaluate risk of invasive species if incursion occurs.
- Development and implementation of improved diagnostic systems for pest and disease detection and differentiation.
- Continual improvements in knowledge of the biology, strain diversity and pest risk of evolving biosecurity threats.
- Development and implementation of new or improved disinfestation or eradication procedures as appropriate.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Alignment of State biosecurity research, development, and extension programs with national institutions and programs wherever possible to ensure maximum leverage in generating information to support the Tasmanian Biosecurity System.
- Review of current survey and surveillance activities to ensure such activities are contemporary, apply available technologies, and are consistent with State and national standards for data collection.
- Application of contemporary diagnostic procedures in operation of State animal and plant health diagnostic facilities.

11. Communication

Background: Communication programs help prevent biosecurity risks by raising awareness among stakeholders, the community and visitors to Tasmania. DPIPWE's stakeholder advisory service has more than 750 registered biosecurity stakeholders. It provides regular updates on relevant biosecurity-related matters. There are a broad range of approaches available to ensure the community is aware of the Tasmanian biosecurity system in operation including the traditional print, radio and TV media as well as the new media including social networking.

Tasmanian Biosecurity Requirements:

- Increased awareness of biosecurity issues and the importance of the biosecurity system in the community and among Tasmanian stakeholders.
- Targeted communications programs for industry and other stakeholder groups, with emphasis on small holders/hobby farmers, importers, exporters, and recreational users of the environment.
- High profile communication vehicles such as publications, books and web-based resources profiling biosecurity activity in Tasmania.
- Biosecurity information consolidated on a dedicated website in Tasmania to provide public access to all relevant information as well as training/educational material.
- Identified, trained and credible spokespeople to act as the public face of biosecurity in Tasmania delivering consistent biosecurity messages.
- Active participation in the development and implementation of the national engagement and communication framework.

This outcome will be achieved and requirements met through actions including:

- Development and delivery of a State Biosecurity Communications plan of activities and developments that target biosecurity stakeholders with an objective of influencing behaviours and improving understanding.
- Use of a range of traditional communication channels including various media such as print, radio and television.
- Application of contemporary communication tools and technologies such as social media, mobile information technology applications and information delivery.
- Alignment of biosecurity communication activities amongst stakeholders such as government, industry, and Natural Resource Management groups.
- Integration into national biosecurity engagement and communication frameworks through the development of complementary communication activities and adoption of national communication messages.

Outcome 11:

Community awareness of biosecurity and confidence in the capability and effectiveness of the Tasmanian Biosecurity System.

Implementation, Review and Evaluation

The Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy guides the Tasmanian Government's action on biosecurity issues. The Strategy outcomes will be achieved through the development and delivery of organisational work plans at a government and non-government level.

Government biosecurity programs and plans will be guided by the Strategy to ensure maximum synergies are achieved.

A set of milestones will be developed in order to track the progress of implementation of the Strategy. The milestones will be reported in an annual progress report to TBC. This information will be used to update all biosecurity stakeholders in Tasmania.

Interim reviews will be conducted by TBC on an annual basis with a formal review and evaluation by TBC and other biosecurity stakeholders during 2016 ahead of strategy finalisation in 2017.

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www.weeds.org.au

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www.planthealthaustralia.com.au

Animal Health Australia
www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au

Biosecurity New Zealand
www.biosecurity.govt.nz

AQUAVETPLAN
www.affa.gov.au/aquavetplan

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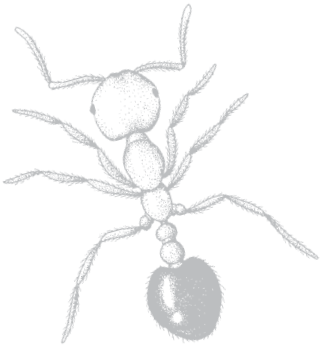
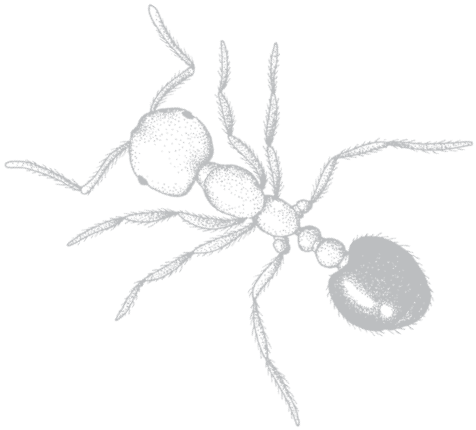




Acronyms

ALOP: Appropriate Level of Protection

BTG: Biosecurity Technical Group

DPIPWE: Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Tasmania)

EADRA: Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement

EPPRD: Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed

IGAB: Inter-Governmental Agreement on Biosecurity

IMO: International Marine Organisation

SPS: Sanitary Phytosanitary Agreement

TBC: Tasmanian Biosecurity Committee

WTO: World Trade Organisation

Glossary

Appropriate Level of Protection: In the context of international agreements, the Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP) defines a WTO member's accepted level of risk in the context of international trade. Risks associated with imports, for example, are subsequently assessed against the ALOP. Where risks are deemed not to satisfy ALOP, mitigation measures would be imposed to the point where the ALOP is reached. If risk cannot be mitigated to the level of the ALOP, the activity (import) is deemed unacceptable. Tasmania's ALOP is set at a 'very low risk' level.

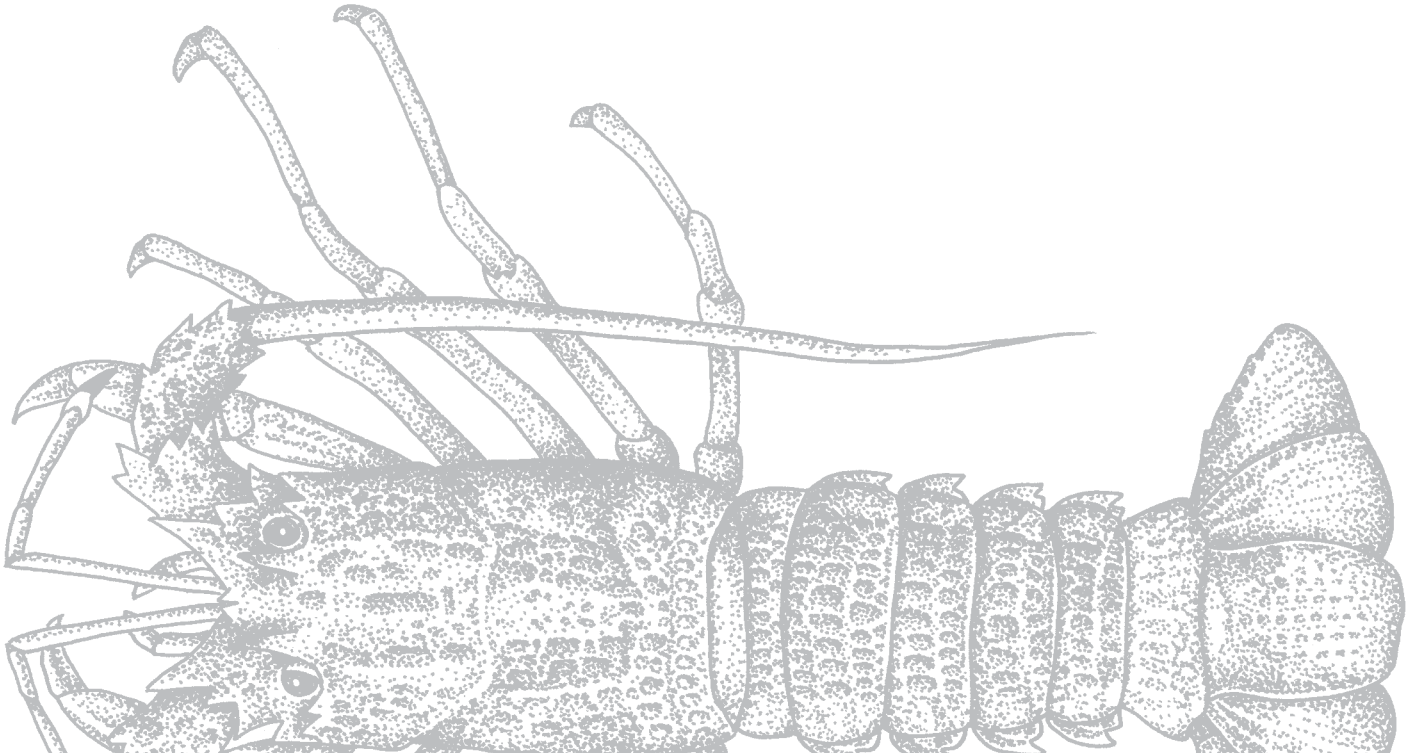
Biosecurity: Biosecurity is the protection of industries, the environment and public well-being, health, amenity and safety from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds.

Phytosanitary Measure: Any legislation, regulation or official procedure with the purpose of preventing or minimising the introduction and/or spread of plant quarantine pests.

Risk Analysis: Refers to the consistent application of a process of assessing the risk of an activity/situation, determining if the risk can be managed (mitigated) to an acceptable level, and communicating the results of the risk assessment and possible mitigation measures. In the Tasmanian biosecurity system this is undertaken using the Tasmanian Biosecurity Risk Analysis Framework.

Standard Operating Procedures: Formal set of documented procedures designed to ensure consistency, efficiency, and effectiveness across an organisation in undertaking a range of activities.

Zoonoses: Diseases of animals, such as rabies or psittacosis that can be transmitted to humans.



Appendices

Appendix A: Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) - Schedule Summary

The purpose of the IGAB is to "*enhance Australia's biosecurity system and strengthen the collaborative approach between the Commonwealth of Australia and state and territory governments to address Australia's broad range of biosecurity issues*"[11].

Schedules describing areas of collaboration:

- **Schedule 1:** Refers to governance and administrative arrangements of the Agreement.
- **Schedule 2:** A consistent approach to biosecurity risk prioritisation and investment to address economic, environmental and social objectives across the biosecurity continuum.
- **Schedule 3:** A collaborative approach to collecting, collating, analysing, storing and sharing biosecurity information to improve decision-making and enhance operational efficiency.
- **Schedule 4:** Early detection and accurate, timely diagnosis of pests and diseases of concern to reduce economic, environmental and community impacts using an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach.
- **Schedule 5:** A strategic, consistent, scientific, risk-based approach to managing the impacts of established pests and diseases.
- **Schedule 6:** Improved cooperation between the Parties to increase stakeholder and beneficiaries awareness, and enhance the effectiveness, of biosecurity activities through communication and engagement.
- **Schedule 7:** An enhanced level of preparedness and consistent response arrangements across jurisdictions to assist in the effective and timely management of biosecurity incidents and emergencies.

[11] Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity: An agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia, state and territory governments to strengthen the national biosecurity system. 2011. P-2

Appendix B: Tasmanian Biosecurity Policy

Tasmania's biosecurity policy objective is "*to protect and enhance Tasmania's biosecurity status for the benefit of Tasmania's industries, environment and public well-being, health, amenity and safety.*"

This policy objective is to be realised through the effective adoption of the following eight policy principles. The policy objective and these principles form the Tasmanian Biosecurity Policy.

1. Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP)

Tasmania's ALOP is set at a 'very low level of risk'. Each World Trade Organisation (WTO) member country determines its own ALOP. The ALOP is applied through the setting of sanitary and phytosanitary measures on imports. These measures must be scientifically based, transparent and consistently applied. The Australian Government's ALOP is stated as "*a high or very conservative level of protection aimed at reducing risk to very low levels, while not based on a zero risk approach*." Similarly, Tasmania recognises that zero risk is not possible and a managed approach to risk is practical and desirable. The Australian Government's ALOP statement is considered acceptable as an over-arching statement provided that it is suitably qualified so as to avoid arbitrary interpretation and outcomes. The Tasmanian Government has determined an ALOP that is consistent with the Commonwealth's ALOP. In practical terms: *Tasmania's appropriate level of protection (ALOP) is a high or very conservative level of protection aimed at reducing risk to very low levels, while not based on a zero risk approach.*

Tasmania's ALOP requires that for any disease/pest, one of three criteria must be met before the importation of a commodity will be permitted:

The disease/pest must be assessed by the hazard identification step in the biosecurity decision-making process as not being a disease/pest of concern; OR

The risk estimate for the disease /pest in association with a particular commodity must result in a "very low risk" (acceptable without additional risk management) or lower on the risk evaluation matrix ; OR

"Risk management measures" are implemented to reduce the risk estimate for the disease/pest associated with a particular commodity so that it results in a "very low risk" or lower on the risk evaluation matrix.

2. Least Restrictive Sanitary and Phytosanitary Requirements

The Tasmanian Government applies a range of sanitary and phytosanitary measures that are the least trade-restrictive measures available that will satisfy our ALOP. This approach is consistent with our international obligations.

3. Evidence-Based Risk Analysis

The Tasmanian Government's biosecurity decision-making is founded on a scientific-based risk analysis framework consistent with Tasmania's ALOP. Tasmanian biosecurity decisions and subsequent quarantine measures and/or management are based on processes that employ a combination of qualitative and quantitative risk assessments based on expert opinion, published information and risk assessment models. Methodology is applied consistently and in a transparent manner. This forms the Tasmanian Biosecurity Risk Analysis Framework.

4. Regional Difference

The Government believes that as an island State, Tasmania has a genuine regional biosecurity difference. This is with respect to not only current pest/disease status and potential for establishment but potential differences in consequence and Tasmania's ability as an island State to implement quarantine measures that may not be available to States without similar geographic barriers.

5. Risk-Based Resource Allocation

In assessing, and responding to biosecurity risks, the Tasmanian Government recognises that resources should be allocated according to risk. Thus resources for pre-barrier, barrier and post-barrier services are allocated to achieve the greatest reduction in the highest priority risks.

6. Cost-Benefit Decision-Making on Control and Eradication

The Tasmanian Government bases its decisions on the control and eradication of pests, diseases, and weeds on cost-benefit considerations. Public resources therefore are only allocated to the control and eradication programs that provide the most cost-effective benefit for the community.

7. Whole-of-Government Approach to Biosecurity

The Tasmanian Government recognises that the maintenance and enhancement of Tasmania's biosecurity status can be effectively addressed only with a whole-of-Government strategic approach. Progressing this approach is the prime responsibility of the Tasmanian Biosecurity Committee.

8. Shared responsibilities

The Tasmanian Government has a leadership role in biosecurity but a strong and active biosecurity system is a shared responsibility of Government, the Tasmanian community, the corporate sector and visitors to Tasmania. All levels of Government, public sector agencies, primary producers, importers, exporters, transport industries, environmental managers (State and private), non-Government organisations, service providers, tourism operators, visitors to Tasmania, and the Tasmanian community have a role to play. Our relative freedom from pests, diseases and weeds that occur elsewhere is a part of what makes Tasmania a good place to live. It also provides a strong competitive marketing advantage for our primary produce both in Australia and overseas. Recognising this, all who benefit from Tasmania's biosecurity status should share in the resourcing and management of Tasmania's biosecurity system.

Appendix C: Statutes that provide legislative support to the Tasmanian Biosecurity System

State

- *Plant Quarantine Act 1997*
- *Animal Health Act 1995*
- *Seeds Act 1985*
- *Weed Management Act 1999*
- *Inland Fisheries Act 1995*
- *Animal Welfare Act 1993*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995*
- *Gene Technology Act2001*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- *Vermin Control Act 2000*
- *Biological Control Act 1985*
- *Living Marine Resource Management Act 1995*
- *Genetically Modified Organisms Control Act 2004*
- *Police Powers (Public Safety) Act 2005*
- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*
- *Forestry Act 1920*
- *Cat Management Act 2012*
- *Public Health Act 1997 (Tas)*
- *International Health Regulations Act 1974*

Commonwealth

- *Quarantine Act 1908*[12]
- *Export Control Act 1982*
- *Imported Foods Control Act 1992*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

[12] At time of writing this document, the Australian Government was seeking comment on the Biosecurity Bill 2012 intended to replace the *Quarantine Act 1908*.