



Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy

2013-2017

Emergency response

An essential part of the Tasmanian Biosecurity System is the capability to respond quickly and effectively to an emergency pest or disease that, somehow, "beats the system" and turns up in Tasmania or emerges here.

Emergency response capability means DPIPWE having people trained and ready to be deployed. It also means an ongoing relationship with other emergency response agencies, such as Police Tasmania and the State Emergency Service. Importantly, it also means our biosecurity partners being adequately prepared for an emergency response.

A sustained and resilient emergency response capability is a high priority in the TBS.

Policy, legislation and compliance

Biosecurity policy, legislation and regulations must be kept up-to-date if they are to support the Tasmanian Biosecurity System effectively while, at the same time, being least-restrictive.

It is also important that stakeholders are actively engaged in the process of ensuring policy, legislation and regulation are "fit for purpose".

The TBS provides for a program of regulatory review involving stakeholders. The TBS also provides for government to work with stakeholders to identify and develop co-regulatory opportunities for key industry organisations to self-regulate to the standards required by the Tasmanian Biosecurity System.



This pamphlet is a brief summary of the Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy 2013-17.

The complete document can be found on the DPIPWE website.

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The Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy 2013-17 was formally launched in May 2013.

It retains, and in some cases expands, the elements of the 2007-12 Strategy.

It has been developed in consultation with stakeholder organisations.

The key elements of the Tasmanian Biosecurity Strategy (TBS) are:

The Tasmanian Biosecurity Continuum

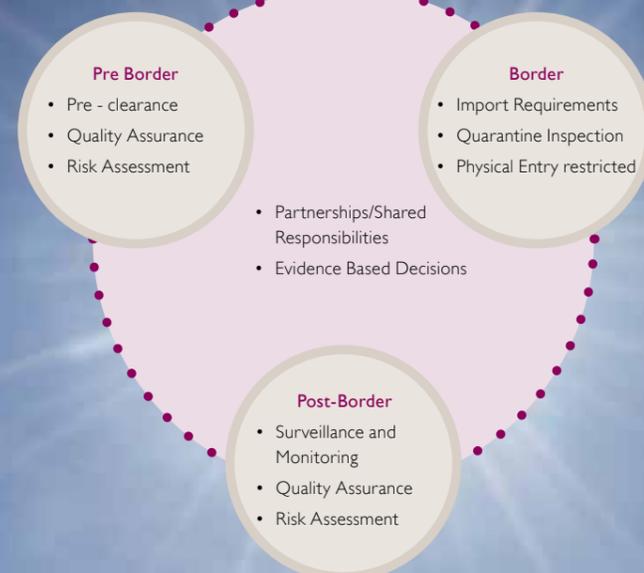
Tasmania's Biosecurity System is a continuum. That means a lot of work is done pre-border and post-border to manage biosecurity risks as well as at the border.

Pre-border activities are centred on identifying and mitigating pest and disease risks for Tasmania. Pest and disease risks are assessed scientifically and import requirements are developed to minimise those risks turning up at the border. Import requirements may involve evidence of treatment, certification that the consignment is from an area free of the pest or disease or other measures required to mitigate the risk. In some cases, the import may be prohibited altogether.

Pre-border activities also include pre-clearance for most commercial imports. This means our quarantine staff at the air and sea ports can concentrate their efforts on visitors and returning Tasmanians.

Post-border activities include a lot of work done in monitoring and surveillance for signs of exotic pests or disease. For example, we have around 900 insect traps around Tasmania that are checked regularly for fruit fly and other exotic pests.

We use a range of surveillance measures at the border. This involves new technologies as they become available and continuous improvement to our practices.



Intelligent Risk Management.

This is about ensuring that biosecurity resources are focused on the highest biosecurity risks with the best chances of risk mitigation.

There is no such thing as "zero risk" in biosecurity. Intelligent risk management is about ensuring that biosecurity risk assessments are done with the best available evidence of risk and that the mitigation measures in Tasmania's import requirements remain abreast of new treatment and/or quality assurance options.

Further, biosecurity risks can change. New threats can emerge, existing species can develop new strains and the spread (or control) of pests or diseases on the mainland can change the level of biosecurity risk to Tasmania. So there is an ongoing need to expand our scientific knowledge about emerging biosecurity threats.

Also, our export markets, and potential markets, may from time to time change their biosecurity requirements. Tasmanian exporters depend on meeting those requirements as they change. The TBS emphasises research and development of available technologies to ensure continuous improvement, so that our surveillance programs and our laboratories are well placed to meet those changes.

National and International Commitments

Tasmania needs to continue to be an active player in the National Biosecurity System. This means working within the international agreements involving the Australian Government. It also means fulfilling our obligations under national arrangements such as emergency animal disease and plant pest cost sharing agreements and other nationally-agreed biosecurity measures.

However, while we will continue to work within the national system, we will always take Tasmania's regional characteristics into account when making biosecurity decisions to ensure the State's best biosecurity interests are served. Our climate, the scale and importance of our primary industries to the State economy as a whole and the fact we are already free of many of the major pests and diseases on the mainland mean that the biosecurity issues and risks we face are also different from the rest of Australia. The TBS ensures that we take those differences into account.

Partnerships

Tasmania's Biosecurity System is a partnership. It cannot work effectively without government, industry, individual enterprises within those industries, environmental land managers and the broader community all playing their part.

Industry, government and the community already invest heavily in biosecurity. The TBS places greater emphasis on making sure the partners in biosecurity get the best possible return on all of that investment by working together.

The TBS also focuses on identifying gaps that exist between the partners, with the intention of ensuring that all partners have, and use, up-to-date biosecurity plans and practices to help minimize the risk of pest or disease outbreaks.

Biosecurity training and education for all partners is important and we will develop an online training and awareness system for all biosecurity stakeholders.

Environment

The need for good biosecurity goes well beyond the farm gate. Tasmania's unique environment could suffer significant damage from incursion by pests and diseases. It is an important issue for our wilderness areas, our managed parks and forests, our inland waterways and our coastal waters.

The TBS focuses on partnerships with those responsible for the management of our natural environment and clearly recognizes the importance of environmental biosecurity to Tasmania.

