



Technical fact sheet

Managing biosecurity, pests and weeds

Our commitment

Inland Rail recognises we all have a role to play in protecting Australia's strong biosecurity safeguards.

Inland Rail's Environment and Sustainability Policy outlines our commitment to practical sustainability measures across the Inland Rail program. We implement best-practice management measures to protect the environment while also minimising Inland Rail's environmental footprint.

Our biosecurity and vegetation management practices and strategies, including our pest and weed hygiene responsibilities, align with our commitment to achieving a balance between our environmental responsibilities while providing a safe and reliable rail network.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity covers measures taken to minimise the risk of infectious diseases caused by viruses, bacteria or other microorganisms impacting Australian communities and potentially harming our food security and economy.

We recognise that existing and newly introduced pathogens, like foot and mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD), are of significant concern to some landowners.

We continuously and actively review our Biosecurity Management Strategy to ensure our strategies are fit for purpose to mitigate any impact from known or new diseases.

Many of the standard practices we already apply, like vehicle wash downs, minimising unnecessary travel off-road and robust pest and weed hygiene practices to assist in managing pests, weeds and disease spread. We also actively seek direction and advice from biosecurity agencies and apply recommended measures as required.

Inland Rail representatives do not enter any landowner's property if the landowner is expressly concerned about potential disease spread.

Need to know



Inland Rail has strategies and work practices in place to manage our biosecurity and environmental obligations.



Applying good pest and weed hygiene practices helps protect the natural and agricultural resources along our alignment. It's our responsibility to minimise the spread of pests and weeds, and harmful biological or biochemical substances to the environment, landowner crops and livestock.



Inland Rail is a 1,600km fast freight rail line between Brisbane and Melbourne that is connecting businesses, manufacturers and producers to national and global markets and generating opportunities for industries and regions during construction and beyond.



Delivering Inland Rail will help shift more goods onto rail and take tens of thousands of large trucks off our roads. This means faster, more reliable freight; safer, less congested roads; and fewer emissions.

Pests and weeds

Pests and weeds are species identified as a threat to the natural environment and which impact on agricultural production, natural ecosystems and human and animal health.

Our state-specific pest and weed hygiene management strategies, which align with state regulations, provide guidance to help us prevent the spread of declared and noxious weed species.

Our teams, including construction contractors, carry out work in accordance with relevant legislation and any agreements with state and local governments and individual landowners.

Working in road reserves and on private property

Before carrying out work in road reserves and on private property, we work with landowners and relevant authorities to understand their individual requirements before seeking voluntary access to their properties.

If a landowner voluntarily allows us to enter their property, we prepare a Land Access Agreement (LAA) to capture landowner requirements, including weed management.

We complete and maintain clean-down records so landowners can see our movements across their properties.

A similar process is in place for work on local and state government land. We work with the relevant authority to ensure their needs are met regarding biosecurity, pest and weed hygiene.

Weed hygiene responsibilities

There are many sources and carriers of weed seeds that could expand the distribution of declared and noxious weeds. Weed hygiene practices are followed whenever we, or our contractors, enter properties to reduce the spread of existing declared and noxious weeds.

They include cleaning clothing, shoes, heavy machinery, vehicles, tools and wheeled loaders.

We use clean-down procedures to help remove weed seeds, soil and other foreign matter from vehicles and machinery used during construction and other activities.

We check biosecurity requirements through state regulator websites and ensure compliance. Our approach to managing our weed hygiene responsibilities includes criteria that must be met to achieve a satisfactory clean-down in a variety of scenarios.

Where practical, third-party certified companies are used to clean vehicles and equipment used by Inland Rail and our construction contractors.



Legislation

Below is an overview of legislation governing Inland Rail's approach to managing our biosecurity, pest and weed hygiene responsibilities:

Australia

The Biosecurity Act 2015 provides Australian requirements to manage diseases and pests that may cause harm to human, animal or plant health or the environment.

Queensland

The Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014 provides comprehensive biosecurity measures to minimise risks, address biosecurity threats, and align state responses to biosecurity risks with national and international requirements.

New South Wales

The New South Wales Biosecurity Act 2015 provides a framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of biosecurity risks.

Victoria

The Victorian Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 provides requirements to protect Victorian livestock from disease, maintain and enhance domestic and international market access and protect public health.

The Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 provides a framework for the control of noxious weeds and pest animals.

Want to know more?

Inland Rail is committed to working with property owners, communities, state and local governments as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

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