

Policy statement

The success and sustainability of the Gympie Region's agricultural industries, natural systems, social amenity and economy are reliant on effective biosecurity risk management. Council is dedicated to providing a regional biosecurity system for the management of invasive plants and animals that is strategic, operated efficiently and adequately resourced, in order to achieve the desired outcomes of reduced biosecurity risk and related impacts, into the future.

In accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) Council will administer a biosecurity management system that is built around a risk-based framework and a shared (by all) general biosecurity obligation. Council's Regional Biosecurity Plan, an integral part of this framework, details the actions to be implemented by Council and the support base that will be provided to the community. The Plan also sets out the actions legally required to be taken by those who 'deal with' biosecurity matter, within the limit of Council responsibility. This policy covers all land within our region under Council's control, and applies to the management of state and private land.

To effectively manage biosecurity risk in the Gympie region, Council commits to:

- Implementing a Biosecurity Plan that is strategic and provides clear directives that define responsibilities and sets out expected actions to be taken by Council and all stakeholders.
- Actively lead-by-example, by undertaking effective management of declared plants and animals on lands and facilities owned and managed by Council.
- Prioritising management of high biosecurity risk invasive species that are currently less prevalent and most likely to impact the future sustainability of our region, whilst supporting land managers to contain established biosecurity threats and limit impacts to high value assets.
- Adequately funding actions that enable implementation of the Biosecurity Plan and thereby deliver effective biosecurity programs to manage current and future invasive species challenges, faced by our region.
- Undertake compliance actions pursuant to the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, based on regional and/or individual property biosecurity risk assessments that prioritise invasive species management where greatest biosecurity risk is observed.
- Engaging with all stakeholders to:
 - Provide advice and education on biosecurity related management actions.
 - Build land manager capacity to effectively manage biosecurity risk and protect assets.
 - Coordinate invasive species management activities to improve pest management outcomes across the region.

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- Provide guidance on balancing invasive species management expectations with the level of biosecurity risk, advice on the costs and challenges related to dealing with invasive species, and information on treatment feasibility and practicality.

Principles of risk based biosecurity matter management

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* takes a risk-based approach to biosecurity threats. The Act focuses on biosecurity risks that are, or are likely to become, a significant problem for human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment. The aim of risk-based decision making is to ensure that the steps taken to manage a biosecurity risk are effective and proportionate to the risk.

To manage biosecurity risks, reasonable and practical steps should be taken to prevent or minimise the risks posed by the biosecurity matter (pest or weed). Management actions required will depend on:

- The likelihood of the risk occurring
- How serious the adverse impact could be
- What is known, or should reasonably be expected to be known about the risk
- How to minimise the risk, including equipment and work practices
- How effective a particular action would be in minimising the risk
- Feasibility and expense of associated actions

The biosecurity matter management goals (Prevention, Eradication, Containment and Asset Protection) and subsequent invasive species management outcomes are defined in Council's Biosecurity Plan. These outcomes are based on the principles of risk-based biosecurity matter management. By following the directives of the Plan and its associated species management guidelines, land managers will meet their respective biosecurity management responsibilities.

Related legislation and documents

This policy complements the Gympie Region Biosecurity Plan and other key biosecurity documents referenced within the *Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy 2019-24*. Other documents may also be relevant.

Review

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

- The legislation/documents are amended or replaced

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Biosecurity Policy - invasive species management



- As determined from time to time by a resolution of Council
- As initiated by the CEO or Executive Team
- Periodic Review – within 5 years from date of adoption

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