

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

Biosecurity Regulation 2017

Turf and the general biosecurity duty

People, livestock and products constantly on the move present challenges for managing the biosecurity risks of disease, pests and weeds spread across the country. The movement of turf is a significant biosecurity risk for agriculture, the environment and community.

Biosecurity risks such as weed spread or the establishment pests such as red imported fire ant can have a significant impact on landowners and the profitability and sustainability of the turf and other primary industries as well as the environment and social assets.

The general biosecurity duty will be the main tool used to manage such risks in the turf industry.

Under the general biosecurity duty, growers, sellers and buyers share a responsibility to ensure good biosecurity practices are followed, risks are identified and mitigated and information on biosecurity is shared and awareness increased.

For example:

1. The seller of turf cannot knowingly spread weeds. The seller should also disclose if a weed is likely be present in the turf and advise the buyer on how to treat to the turf to ensure weed seeds do not germinate.
2. The buyer has a duty to be vigilant and treat any weed if it germinates. This may not be until the turf is established, typically only a few months.
3. The buyer should consider that the movement of turf products onto their property increases

4. The risk of transferring weeds and pests and ensure this is mitigated by purchasing from a reliable source.
5. It is also important to ensure vehicles and equipment carrying turf is cleaned before and after use to reduce the spread of pests, diseases, weeds. Land managers are within their rights to request this and to not allow any vehicles on to their property that present an unreasonable risk.



The general biosecurity duty supports the principle of shared responsibility. It means everyone should be doing what is reasonable for them to do to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risks.

For more information about the Act visit our website or contact us:

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