

# BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR LANDHOLDERS

This protocol focuses on biosecurity measures that can be adopted by landholders so they can minimise the entry and spread of harmful organisms on Kangaroo Island and their property.

## High Risk Areas

- Identify areas on a property that are contaminated by weeds or diseases so that they can be avoided or precautions can be taken to prevent spread to clean areas. Put up signs and fences to show boundaries of these areas where practicable.
- Wash footwear and hand equipment before entering and leaving high-risk work sites such as nurseries, animal houses, stockyards, and seed crop areas. Bring washing equipment to the site if necessary.

## Plant Health

- Know local weeds so you can identify introduced weeds.
- Where possible, buy seed and planting material that are certified or accredited as being free of pests, diseases, or weeds.
- Source fodder from weed-free properties.
- Ensure soil brought in for landfill or horticulture is free of weeds.
- Check the cleanliness and quality of any seed, grain or hay before it comes onto your property.
- Regularly check stockyards and holding paddocks for new weeds.
- Keep access roads and yards weed-free.
- Have a wash down pad near the main buildings with a sump that can be readily inspected for signs of weeds and pests.
- Minimise the spread of such threats as herbicide resistant weeds within the property:
  - work clean areas first and contaminated areas last
  - restrict access to, and movement of stock and equipment from, contaminated areas
  - control water runoff and soil erosion from contaminated areas
  - dispose of crop/plant residues promptly
  - control weeds before they seed
- Work with neighbours to reduce weed spread.

## Animal Health

- Be aware of common diseases in your area and learn their symptoms.
- Source animals from disease-free properties. Ask the vendor to provide a declaration that attests to freedom from diseases.
- Use Artificial insemination (AI) and Embryo Transfer (ET) to introduce new genetic material unless it is absolutely necessary to introduce live animals.
- Isolate and observe new stock in yards or holding paddocks for seven days to one month. Treat by drenching and vaccinating to eliminate diseases in introduced animals.
- Ensure boundary and internal fences are maintained to a standard that prevents livestock moving through them.
- Work with neighbours to reduce numbers of feral animals. Do not allow animals to escape and add to the feral problem. Capture escaped animals quickly.
- Report any unusual signs or unexplained deaths to a private vet, government vet or stock inspector.

## Visitors

- Restrict property access so that visitors keep to the homestead or central laneways.
- Do not allow visitors near stock unless they have clean boots and clothes
- Where possible, use your vehicle to carry visitors around the property
- Put up signs that tell visitors of your biosecurity expectations
- Make it known that all machinery, vehicles, bins and boxes coming onto your property must be clean.

## Contractors & Suppliers

- Inform all suppliers and contractors that all machinery, vehicles and trucks must be cleaned of soil and plant residue
- Make it easy for contractors and visitors to clean machinery, equipment and boots when they come onto, or before they leave your property
- Turn away or clean anything that does not meet your biosecurity standards

## **Machinery Hygiene**

The spread of weeds and soil borne diseases on machinery and vehicles is a major means of infestation onto Kangaroo Island. Machinery and vehicles can inadvertently spread pests, through daily routines, from region to region, property to property and paddock to paddock, as well as roadsides.

It is easy to overlook the risk of carrying weeds and diseases; the consequences however, are not so subtle. Failure to clean down can result in crop losses or permanent environmental damage, often incurring costs to the landowner or manager.

### **When to clean down**

Clean down is advisable after:

- Operating in an area affected by a weed or disease that is under containment
  - Transporting weeds or soil known to be infected with weed seed or a plant pathogen
- or before,
- Moving machinery out of a local area of operation
  - Moving machinery between properties
  - Moving vehicles or machinery to the Island
  - Using machinery along roadsides or along river banks
  - Using machinery to transport soil and quarry materials
  - Using controlled access vehicle tracks

### **Clean down Standards**

- Park the vehicle, machine or trailer of equipment safely
- Inspect the vehicle, machine or trailer of equipment inside and out for soil and plant material, including seeds. Remove guards, covers or plates if required.
- Knock off clods of mud. Use a crow bar if necessary.
- Use a vacuum, compressed air or a brush for removing plant material from the radiator and other small spaces
- Clean down with a high-pressure hose and stiff brush or crowbar. Use freshwater when washing down in the field. Start with the underside of the vehicle then progress to the sides and upper body.
- Clean any associated implements (eg buckets)

- Check for and remove loose soil or plant material that could be easily dislodged.
- Steam treat or rinse with clean water when cleaning in wash bays.
- Sweep or vacuum the cabin, including mats, floor and under the seat.
- Wash effluent away from vehicle. Do not drive through wash effluent.
- No clods of dirt or loose soil should be present after wash down. Smear soil stains and soil firmly lodged in difficult to access areas are acceptable

Note that some machinery, such as harvesting equipment, cannot be washed with water because of potential damage to sensitive electronic equipment. Always consult and comply with manufacturers recommended cleaning method.

### **Selecting a field clean down site**

Field clean down may be required to contain weeds or plant pathogens to a particular area or where machinery is moved directly between field sites. In selecting a clean down site, consideration should be given to;

- Siting the wash down at the edge, or nearby any areas where weeds or pathogens need to be contained, choose sites where the land slopes back into an infested area or an adjacent area not susceptible to the problem
- Ensuring run-off will not enter any watercourse or water body
- Avoiding sensitive vegetation or wildlife habitat
- Selecting mud free sites (eg well grassed, gravel) which are gently sloped to drain effluent away from the wash down area
- Allow adequate space to move tracked vehicles
- Potential hazards eg powerlines

### **Minimise Initial Contamination**

- Time and coordinate works prior to weed seeds maturing
- Ensure machinery operators are familiar with hygiene protocols and weed identification
- Map and monitor weed infestations
- Strategically designate clean down sites to minimise weed spread
- Work from non-infested areas to infested areas