

PIRSA

South Australia's Biosecurity Policy 2020-2023



Minister's foreword



Underpinning South Australia's rigorous biosecurity system are comprehensive measures to ensure economic, environmental and social assets and public health are protected.

The South Australian Biosecurity Policy aims to reduce pest and disease impacts, maintain food safety and support responsible agricultural chemical use.

Strong biosecurity policy is critical in protecting the State's \$14.8 billion primary industries and agribusiness sectors. Through these biosecurity efforts we are able to maintain the productivity of our primary industries, produce clean and safe food and beverages, protect our natural environments and sustain the health and wellbeing of our communities.

The policy focuses on six priority areas: primary produce and food safety, detection and response to new pests and diseases, minimising the impacts of pests and diseases, technical expertise, government, industry and community working together, and modern infrastructure.

The State Government has a suite of activities in place, including surveillance, planning and preparedness activities, which focus on maintaining our biosecurity objectives. We have also introduced zero tolerance at the Yamba Quarantine Station and random roadblocks to protect the state from fruit fly and phylloxera. Furthermore, the \$25 million rebuild of the South Australian Dog Fence is providing support against the wild dog threat.

The Government has taken the first step in reviewing the state's biosecurity legislation with the intention to create a consolidated, modern Biosecurity Act. The Act will provide a simpler and more effective legal framework for the management of pests and diseases, trade in plant and animal products and biosecurity emergencies.

To safeguard our primary industries, we work collaboratively and closely with government, industry and community to ensure the challenges and risks we face are reduced.

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility – so let's all play our part to protect our primary industries.

Tim Whetstone MP

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**



Our approach to Biosecurity

South Australia's Biosecurity Policy outlines how together we can protect and improve the state's economy, environment, amenity and public health by preventing and reducing pest and disease impacts, maintaining food safety and ensuring responsible agricultural chemical use.

Biosecurity risks are a continual challenge. The threats we face are growing in scale and complexity due to increasing trade and travel, climate change and population growth. To manage these threats our biosecurity practices need to evolve and change.

South Australia's robust biosecurity system relies on a partnership approach between government, industry and the community. Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility whether you are a landowner, agricultural producer, food manufacturer, transporter, tourist or member of the community. We all have a role to play.

Landowners and producers have a responsibility to manage existing established pests and diseases on their own land and aquatic infrastructure.

The South Australian Government prioritises its biosecurity activities by taking into account the risks, feasibility of control, cost effectiveness and public interest. Through these activities we aim to:

- protect and improve market access
- increase farm productivity
- protect public safety, and
- protect biodiverse landscapes.

Biosecurity goes beyond our state's border.

The South Australian Government is a signatory to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB), and works with the Australian and state and territory governments, as part of a cohesive national biosecurity system.

The State Biosecurity Policy 2020-2023 is guided by the following principles:

1

Collaboration is central to our approach and there is an understanding of the accountabilities between governments, industries, communities and individuals.

2

Development, implementation, monitoring and review of biosecurity programs is underpinned by science.

3

Detection and identification of new pests, diseases or contamination sources is both rapid and accurate.

4

Preparedness, prevention and early intervention form the central focus of our activities.

5

Our biosecurity systems evolve as new knowledge and technologies become available to meet ever changing pest and disease threats.

6

Cost of biosecurity programs is shared equitably where feasible, between beneficiaries and risk creators.

7

We take a collaborative and integrative approach to human, animal and ecosystem health.

Policy framework

**South Australia's Biosecurity Policy
is delivered through six priority areas:**



Securing primary production and food safety



Detection and response to new pests and diseases



Minimising the economic, social and environmental impacts of pests and diseases



Government, industry, and the community working together to enhance biosecurity



Biosecurity technical expertise



Modern fit for purpose infrastructure



Securing primary production and food safety

To maintain domestic and international market access, the South Australian Government works to minimise and manage high-priority biosecurity threats to the integrity and reputation of our primary produce and food by:

- designing biosecurity programs in partnership with industry sectors to manage priority food safety and contaminant risks
- undertaking traceability and surveillance activities to support market access and providing proof of freedom certification for agricultural produce
- partnering with industry to develop market-driven systems for on-farm biosecurity such as 'One Biosecurity' for livestock production
- promoting awareness across all primary industries for improved biosecurity including clarity of roles and responsibilities
- undertaking prevention and surveillance activities for pests and diseases such as fruit fly and Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS)
- undertaking an annual fruit fly community awareness campaign to build understanding of the behaviours to support keeping South Australia fruit fly free
- enforcing strict quarantine requirements for plant and animal entry to South Australia, including zero tolerance at Yamba Quarantine Station.



Detection and response to new pests and diseases

Border quarantine and post border procedures help prevent the introduction and establishment of exotic pests and diseases. While biosecurity at South Australia's international borders is the responsibility of the Australian Government, incursions of pests and diseases that breach the international border are managed in collaboration with the State Government.

Systems for the early detection and containment of new pest and disease incursions are implemented by the South Australian Government to enable eradication, where feasible, by:

- establishing surveillance programs for the early detection of new threats to industry, the environment and the community
- developing, implementing and exercising pest and disease response plans
- building and maintaining an emergency response system to deliver whole-of-government responses to incursions as required
- conducting emergency response and recovery to incursions in a rapid, professional manner, as achieved with the recent Khapra beetle and Riverland fruit fly eradication responses.



Minimising the economic, social and environmental impacts of pests and diseases

The South Australian Government minimises and manages the entry, spread and impacts of pests and diseases within the state by:

- partnering with the Australian, state and territory governments, along with industry, to develop and implement pre-border and border quarantine controls
- developing and implementing management plans and programs aimed at detecting, containing and reducing the impacts of established priority pests and diseases, such as wild dogs, rabbits and enhanced abattoir surveillance
- supporting research into new and improved control tools promoting their adoption by end-users
- applying containment protocols for the display or commercial use of potentially invasive organisms
- partnering with land, fisheries and natural resource managers in managing established priority pests and diseases.



Government, industry and the community working together to enhance biosecurity

Biosecurity not only protects primary industries but also public health and the conservation and tourism benefits of the state's natural environments. As part of this, South Australian Government agencies work with industry and the community to enhance biosecurity by:

- establishing and maintaining stakeholder advisory groups, such as the Riverland Fruit Fly Committee, for priority biosecurity issues
- establishing institutional arrangements that engage relevant government agencies, industries, community groups and advisory boards
- raising awareness of people's responsibilities in preventing the arrival, establishment and spread of pests and diseases
- engaging industry and the community in surveillance, detection, incursion responses and recovery plans.



Biosecurity technical expertise

The South Australian Government provides a coordinated biosecurity system aimed at preventing and reducing pest and disease impacts, maintaining food safety and ensuring responsible agricultural chemical use by:

- establishing and supporting registration and traceability systems such as the National Livestock Identification System and Property Identification Codes
- assessing and prioritising biosecurity risks for industry sectors, the environment and public amenity
- coordinating government capabilities, both intra and interstate, including laboratory diagnostic and research capacities
- developing and maintaining an effective biosecurity system with a focus on science, innovative technologies, risk assessment, information management, planning, training and communication
- actively contributing to the development of national biosecurity policies and programs
- maintaining biosecurity legislation and issuing specific policies and compliance processes to deal with prevention, surveillance, eradication and ongoing control programs.



Modern fit for purpose infrastructure

The South Australian Government maintains and upgrades its facilities and infrastructure to ensure it can support the work to reduce pest and disease threats, by:

- upgrading the infrastructure for entry points to the state, such as the Yamba Quarantine Station
- establishing a dedicated Sterile Insect Technology facility to produce sterile Queensland fruit flies to support the fight against fruit fly during eradications
- maintaining signage for travellers entering the state, including rest stops
- upgrading the Loxton Research Centre to a world class hub to undertake key research and development activities and be the central point for local emergency responses
- upgrading the South Australian Dog Fence to prevent wild dog incursions inside the fence and protect the livestock industry.

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility

Primary Industries and Regions SA is the lead South Australian Government agency for state level biosecurity policy and management, including emergency pest and disease response, through its division Biosecurity SA. Its services include:

- agricultural and veterinary chemical use
- animal health
- aquatic health
- invasive species management (weeds, vertebrate pests, aquatic pests)
- plant health
- primary industry food safety.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provides policy and technical support for aquatic animal health.

PIRSA also supports the state's emergency service agencies as part of responses to natural disasters which have impacted South Australian primary producers.


Biosecurity SA collaborates with the following South Australian Government agencies, boards and authorities on biosecurity matters:

- Landscape Boards and Greening Adelaide (vertebrate pests and weeds)
- Department for Environment and Water (livestock welfare and environmental biosecurity)
- SA Health (food safety, controlled substances, regulated crops and zoonotic diseases)

- Environment Protection Authority (pesticide use, carcass disposal, marine biofouling treatment)
- Local government (food safety and social amenity pests)
- VineHealth Australia (wine and grape diseases and biosecurity)
- DairySafe (food safety)
- Dog Fence Board
- Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia.

The South Australian Government is a signatory to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB). As part of this Biosecurity SA represents the South Australian Government on the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC), which develops and reviews national biosecurity policies, including IGAB oversight and implementation.

Biosecurity SA works with all other Australian jurisdictions to deliver a coordinated national approach to the funding of and response to exotic pest and disease incursions. It also collaborates with the Australian Government on matters affecting the international border as it relates to South Australia.



“Biosecurity is everyone’s responsibility whether you are a landowner, agricultural producer, food manufacturer, transporter, tourist or member of the community. We all have a role to play.”



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