

# Biosecurity Act 2014

## Responsibilities of residents



*The Biosecurity Act 2014* is designed to provide a framework that facilitates timely and effective biosecurity responses that protect human health, the economy, the environment and social amenity from pests.

### The general biosecurity obligation (GBO)

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). For example, this includes whether you have the invasive plant or animal on your property or whether you are undertaking an activity that could be spreading weed seeds, such as a slashing contractor. The GBO can apply to any plant or animal species not just those listed as prohibited or restricted. How you manage an invasive plant or animal is based on the risk that species poses to the economy, the environment, human health and social amenity.

### Prohibited invasive plants and animals

Prohibited invasive plants and animals are not currently present in Queensland and if introduced could seriously threaten Queensland's economy, the environment, human health and social amenity. If you find or suspect a prohibited invasive plant or animal you must report it to Biosecurity on 13 25 23 within 24hrs and take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risk of it spreading until you receive advice from an authorised officer.

### Restricted invasive plants and animals

Invasive plants and animals that are listed as 'restricted matter' are already present in Queensland. They have an adverse impact and as a result, restrictions are placed on all dealings with these invasive plants and animals to best manage the risks they pose. Each restricted invasive plant or animal has one or more category restrictions. You will need to know these restrictions (unless you have a restricted matter permit) to deal with that species to meet your GBO.

**Category 1:** Must be reported to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries within 24 hours of discovery.

**Category 2:** The invasive plant or animal must be reported within 24 hours Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**. Your GBO requires you to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risk of the plant spreading or animal escaping until they receive advice from an authorised officer.

**Category 3:** The invasive plant or animal must not be distributed either by sale or gift, or released into the environment.

**Category 4:** The invasive plant or animal must not be moved.

**Category 5:** The invasive plant or animal must not be kept.

**Category 6:** The invasive animal must not be fed.