



Key highlights

- Align resources to risk
- Risk-based decision-making framework

Biosecurity risks are increasing, services are changing and national cost-sharing arrangements are in place for many aspects of biosecurity. As such, the levels and mix of biosecurity investment in the state will continually need to be re-examined.

Continuation of the significant investment in emergency response activities by government will be important and ways to increase resources into prevention, preparedness and surveillance activities will be explored.

There are many investors in biosecurity—public and private. As we move forward with more collaborative approaches to biosecurity, more flexible mechanisms by which partners can co-invest will need to be found.

The development of a risk management approach to biosecurity is likely to raise issues of what amount people or organisations who either exacerbate a biosecurity risk or significantly benefit from a biosecurity activity should contribute. These issues will need to be explored carefully over the next five years, particularly how they relate to any national agreements or legislative provisions.

Biosecurity science

Queensland's future success in addressing the range of biosecurity challenges will be shaped by having access to high quality, multi-disciplinary biosecurity science.

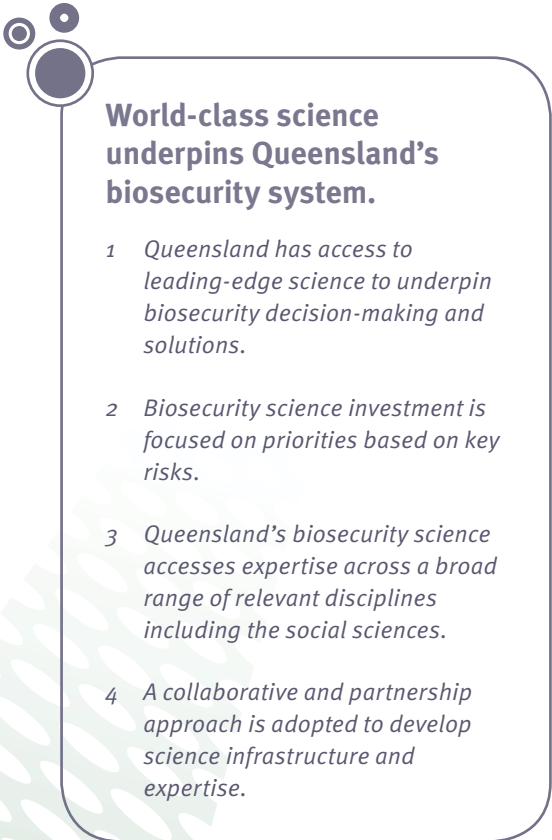
Risk assessments and decision-making need to be underpinned by high quality scientific information. Similarly, new and better ways to prevent, prepare for and manage biosecurity risks require assimilation of the best available information. Access to leading-edge, rapid diagnostics and scientific knowledge to guide treatment and control strategies is important, particularly during an emergency.

Biosecurity science is underpinned by a network of science-based institutions and covers a complex range of areas. Positioning biosecurity science in Queensland will be the subject of a specific action plan to be developed in 2009.

The Biosecurity science action plan will provide guidance on our science direction, priorities, delivery and uptake. It will include the development of innovative ways to adapt existing and new technologies to improve the efficiency of biosecurity programs. It will complement national R&D strategies and position Queensland within the national R&D framework.

A key area of focus will be the development of diagnostic capability, for which gaps exist across the range of sectors where biosecurity must operate, particularly in plant and marine biosecurity.

Collaborative work on climate change aspects of pest and disease distribution will be pursued as there are many unknowns and a holistic approach will be important.



World-class science underpins Queensland's biosecurity system.

- 1 Queensland has access to leading-edge science to underpin biosecurity decision-making and solutions.*
- 2 Biosecurity science investment is focused on priorities based on key risks.*
- 3 Queensland's biosecurity science accesses expertise across a broad range of relevant disciplines including the social sciences.*
- 4 A collaborative and partnership approach is adopted to develop science infrastructure and expertise.*



Key highlights

- Science action plan
- Strategic partnerships
- Diagnostic capability
- Social science

Developing scientific knowledge is resource intensive, and will rely heavily on private and public sector cooperation between science providers across state, national and international boundaries. Queensland is already well positioned with many existing linkages. Ways to strengthen these relationships and create new partnerships will be explored.

Queensland has an opportunity to capitalise on the Queensland Government's Smart State science initiatives to establish internationally recognised centres of excellence in biosecurity science. Better linkages will need to be formed with cooperative research centres, universities and the health sector.

Often good basic science remains under-utilised. Ways to improve collating, integrating and communicating existing scientific data and research will be explored.

Another area of growing interest, both nationally and internationally, is the relevance and importance of social sciences in modern biosecurity systems. Solutions to biosecurity risks are inherently social. This means that understanding human behaviours, values and attitudes, particularly in relation to response to risk, provides opportunities to better target biosecurity measures and achieve greater community engagement. Improving social science capacity will support better decision-making, risk management and community engagement.

Raising awareness and capacity building

Many people do not know what biosecurity is or what role they have to play in protecting Queensland from pests and diseases. Some businesses and industries do not pay close attention to good biosecurity practices until something happens that directly affects them.

These attitudes must change if new pests and diseases are going to be quickly detected, if those that are already established are to be controlled or the inadvertent introduction of a new serious biosecurity risk is to be prevented.


A proactive biosecurity system based on shared responsibilities relies on active participation from people across Queensland. Those on the ground are best placed to detect and respond to a biosecurity threat. They must, however, know what to look for, what to do, who to report it to and what might happen after they report the threat.

Education, awareness raising and community engagement will be used to help Queenslanders see the benefits of good biosecurity not only for themselves, but for the community at large. This will help achieve:

- early detection of possible biosecurity issues
- greater compliance during an emergency response
- support for recovery efforts, inspection and enforcement
- expansion in the overall capacity and capability to reduce the establishment and spread of pests and diseases.

A biosecurity communications and community engagement plan will be developed as a priority.

Changing people's attitudes to biosecurity may take a long time, and the transition could be generational. While every effort will be made to increase awareness of people working in industry—along the supply-chain and in the community—a strong focus will be placed on educating younger generations in good biosecurity practices.



Queenslanders are aware of their role in preventing, reporting and responding to biosecurity risks.

- 1 *High levels of community awareness of the importance of biosecurity.*
- 2 *Incentives to encourage people to actively participate in biosecurity.*



Key highlights

Communications and
community engagement plan
Peri-urban engagement models
Incentives to act

More lateral thinking is required to engage the community in biosecurity. From a commercial perspective, if businesses knew they would be rewarded for good biosecurity through greater market returns they might pay more attention to implementing systems on their property. Incentives for people to report suspect biosecurity threats will be explored and better ways of rewarding people for coming together at the community level to tackle biosecurity issues will be considered.

Better social research into community attitudes to biosecurity and understanding what motivates them to act will be critical in ensuring communication effort produces results. Biosecurity Queensland will also adopt a stronger community engagement focus in how it approaches its business.

It will be particularly important to understand and engage with 'peri-urban' landholders, as traditional approaches to biosecurity management may not be effective. Targeted engagement models will need to be pursued, including the use of pre-existing networks and relationships (such as local government and financial institutions) to distribute information.

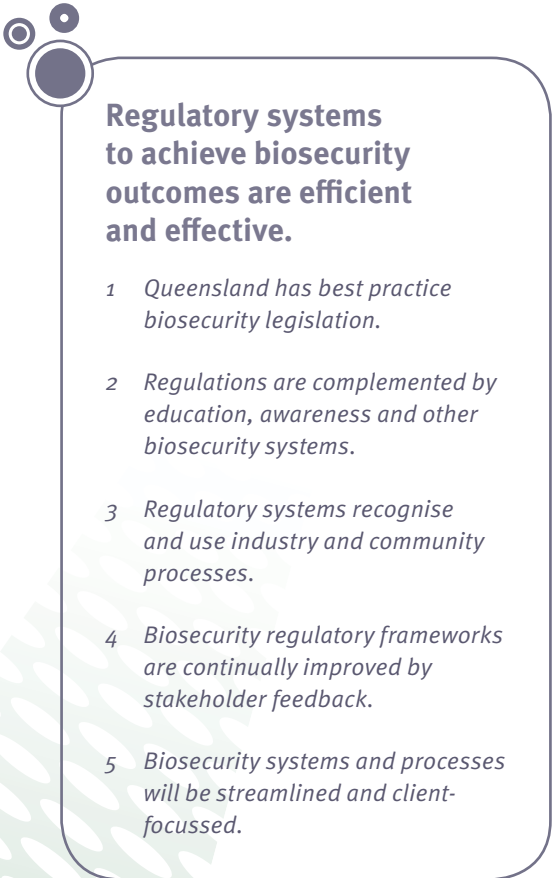
Legislation and compliance

Regulatory and administrative processes are important tools in changing or influencing people's behaviour. Regular reviews of such processes are needed to ensure that the measures are effective, efficient and of value.

Regulation should only be used where other approaches cannot produce the desired outcome or as part of a mix of strategies to achieve a biosecurity outcome.

A biosecurity regulatory reform program will be implemented to reduce the complexity of biosecurity for all stakeholders, while providing flexible tools and simplified risk-based decision-making processes for taking action regardless of the risk involved.

Legislation will adopt the principle of shared responsibility by recognising that everyone has a duty of care to ensure that Queensland is not exposed to biosecurity risks, or that risks are managed appropriately. A precautionary approach will be incorporated so that, where there are serious threats, lack of full scientific information will not prevent action being taken.



Regulatory systems to achieve biosecurity outcomes are efficient and effective.

- 1 Queensland has best practice biosecurity legislation.*
- 2 Regulations are complemented by education, awareness and other biosecurity systems.*
- 3 Regulatory systems recognise and use industry and community processes.*
- 4 Biosecurity regulatory frameworks are continually improved by stakeholder feedback.*
- 5 Biosecurity systems and processes will be streamlined and client-focussed.*



Key highlights

Single biosecurity Act
Reduced compliance costs
Third party certification

The new biosecurity legislative framework will be designed to:

- make decisions and take actions based on risk analysis
- reduce administrative burden, enhance efficiency and reduce overall costs of biosecurity to government and stakeholders
- streamline processes and mitigate uncertainties for businesses and individuals
- remove regulations that are no longer necessary and where applicable replace them with more efficient regulatory tools
- enhance capability by making laws that are easier to administer, can be consistently applied to a range of biosecurity risks and enable stakeholders to share the responsibilities
- provide for greater use of co-management approaches to enable industry and community groups to more readily take an active role
- provide a range of flexible legal instruments to facilitate appropriate action while holding decision-makers accountable
- improve biosecurity governance and accountability and clarify roles and responsibilities for stakeholders.

Systems and processes will also be reshaped over time to improve efficiency and minimise compliance costs, particularly those relating to intra- and interstate movement of goods and materials. Electronic certification systems, online access to information, consolidation of auditing processes and use of third party providers will be investigated.

Building capability and enhancing services


Underpinning any biosecurity system is the need for a good skills base, quality systems, infrastructure and other resources.

There is a skills and labour shortage in the Queensland biosecurity workforce—across government, industry and the community. There is also a need to develop capability in new skills to reflect the contemporary biosecurity system.⁵

Biosecurity services are changing, particularly for government. Twenty years ago, services focussed on controlling ticks, eradicating brucellosis and tuberculosis, distributing 1080 bait and controlling weeds and other endemic pests. Today, the main focus is on traceability systems, certification services, disease and pest surveillance, planning, building capacity of others to deliver biosecurity services, management tools, and emergency response.

Changes in technology and communication techniques have opened up many channels for providing information or services to clients. It has also fundamentally changed the way business operates, with more transactions being done online and an increased need for access to ‘just-in-time, just-for-me’ information and services.

The needs of diverse biosecurity stakeholders must be understood. In the future, biosecurity services will be more client-focussed, aim to foster greater self-reliance, be viable, provide value for money and focus on areas of high biosecurity risk. Stakeholder feedback must drive the continual improvement of biosecurity tools and services.



Queensland can effectively deliver biosecurity outcomes.

- 1 Queensland has access to appropriate skills, resources and infrastructure.*
- 2 Skills development will cover a broad range of technical, scientific, education and community engagement skills relevant to a contemporary biosecurity system.*
- 3 More can be achieved by working together than working alone.*
- 4 Biosecurity activities are delivered by a range of stakeholders.*
- 5 Biosecurity services are aligned to biosecurity risk.*
- 6 Delivery of biosecurity services is continually improved by stakeholder feedback.*

⁵ These skills include policy development, planning, program evaluation, risk assessment, modelling, conflict management, compliance monitoring, managing third-party delivery mechanisms, education, communications and community engagement.



Key highlights

Service delivery plan
Regional planning
Biosecurity skills plan

Over the next five years, work will be undertaken to better define biosecurity service delivery, based on biosecurity risk and client needs, and to examine the most effective and efficient service delivery models.

Industry organisations, local government, natural resource management groups and other community groups also have a role in building the capabilities of people either within their organisations or in the broader community. The availability of quality education tools or training packages for these groups to use will be important to ensure consistent and up-to-date competencies are being provided across the state. Agricultural colleges and other education providers have an important role to play in providing such training.

A high level biosecurity industry skills plan will be developed to address skills shortages and emerging skills needs.

Recognising the skills and strengths of people and organisations, and bringing them together in a constructive and focussed manner, will achieve far more than if people or organisations work separately. Opportunities for local facilitation, building networks and regional planning will be investigated.

Implementation and monitoring

This strategy outlines a vision for biosecurity in Queensland in five years time and what may be achieved by working together. Many of the goals and objectives in the strategy involve long-term processes and will take a number of years to implement. More detailed action plans and specific strategies will be developed over the next five years in order to implement the strategy.

Key performance measures and evaluation strategies will be developed and reported against as part of the implementation of this strategy. The strategy will be periodically reviewed to ensure it meets stakeholder expectations and our national obligations.

Biosecurity Strategy consultation

Targeted forums

Twenty-four meetings were held around the state with key stakeholders to discuss specific aspects of the biosecurity strategy. Public meetings were held in Bundaberg, Mareeba and Brisbane.

Special interest forums covered were animal biosecurity, including separate forums for the bee and horse industries; plant biosecurity; invasive weeds and pest animals; marine biosecurity; biosecurity science; local government issues; and financial institutions.

Consultation also occurred with staff from the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and other government agencies.

Ministerial Dialogue Forum

On 21 October 2008, the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries hosted a dialogue forum of around 40 stakeholders to discuss the key themes of the Biosecurity Strategy.



Public submissions

More than 70 submissions were received from a wide range of biosecurity stakeholders: industry, local government, natural resource management groups, government agencies, shipping and ports, conservation groups and members of the public. A list of submitters is on page 38.

Stakeholder Reference Group

A Biosecurity Strategy Stakeholder Reference Group, comprising representatives of around 30 key stakeholder groups, provided advice on the development of the discussion paper and the key themes of the Biosecurity Strategy. The Group met five times. A membership list is shown on page 40.

Inter-governmental Reference Group

A reference group of 16 state government departments was established and met four times to provide advice on key elements of the strategy.

Stakeholder consultation

One hundred and thirteen stakeholders attended one of the consultation meetings and/or lodged a written submission with Biosecurity Queensland.

Submissions received

76 stakeholders lodged a written submission with Biosecurity Queensland.

AgForce
Animal Health Australia
Australian Pig Doggers and Hunters Association
Australian Seed Federation
Australian Shipowners Association
Breeders, Owners, Trainers & Reinspersons Association (Qld) Inc
Brisbane City Council
Brismark
BSES Limited
Cairns Port
CANEGROWERS
Carroll, MG
CSIRO
Circus Federation of Australia
Cunningham, Susan
Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board
Deardon, Natalie
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Australian
Quarantine Inspection Service
Department of Education, Training and the Arts
Department of Housing
Department of Main Roads
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries staff:
1. Atzeni, Michael
2. Colson, Emma
3. Lawson, Simon
4. McGaw, Clyde
5. Murray, David
Department of Primary Industries (Vic)
Department of Public Works
Department of Territory and Municipal Services (ACT)
Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry
Emergency Services Queensland
Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc.
Environmental Protection Authority
Equine Hoofcare Services Pty Ltd
Flinders Shire Council
Flower Association of Queensland Inc
Gladstone Regional Council
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Greening Australia Queensland (Ltd)
Growcom
Hodgon, John

Invasive Species Council Australia
Ipswich City Council
Local Government Association of Queensland
Lockyer Valley Regional Council
Logan City Council
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Hon Peter Garrett
Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Association
Nursery Garden Industry of Queensland
Ports Corporation of Queensland
Powerlink Queensland
Queensland Egg Farmers Association Inc
Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective
Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc
Queensland Conservation Council
Queensland Corrective Services
Queensland Farmers' Federation
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Inc
Queensland Ports Association
Queensland Water Commission
Queensland Weed Spread Prevention Committee
Queensland Weeds of National Significance Chairs: Hymenchnne,
Lantana, Parthenium, Prickle Bush and Rubber Vine
Rockhampton Regional Council
RSPCA—Queensland
Safe Food Production Queensland
Saw, Darryl
Shipping Australia
Sugar Milling
Sun Water
Sustainable Poultry Alliance
Thomas, Anthony
Timber Queensland
University of Queensland Veterinary School
Wet Tropics Management Authority
Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Stakeholders who attended consultation meetings but did not lodge a written submission.

Australian Biosecurity CRC
Australian Mango Industry Association
Australian Passionfruit Industry Association
Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (A3P)
Australian Rural Exports Pty Ltd
Avocados Australia
Boar Busters
Brisbane Ports Corporation
Bundaberg Sugar Growers
Cairns Regional Council
Carter Holt Harvey
Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Corbek Timber Preservation

Forest Enterprises Australia
Goat Industry Council of Australia
Griffith School of Environment
Gympie Regional Council
Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Hyne Timber
Invasive Animals CRC
Meat and Livestock Australia
Northern Gulf Natural Resource Management
Osmose Australia
Parkside Timber
Plant Health Australia
Queensland Chicken Growers Association
Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation
Queensland Oyster Growers Association
Queensland Sea Scallop Ltd
Queensland Seafood Industry Association
Rapid Training
Shipping Australia Limited
Swift Australia Pty Ltd
Tablelands Regional Council
The Ecology Centre
Toowoomba Regional Council
Tropical Invasive Plants Research Project

Queensland Biosecurity Strategy Reference Group membership

AgForce Queensland
Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria
Queensland
Australian Banana Growers Council Inc
CANEGROWERS
Cotton Australia
Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
DPI&F (Fisheries, Biosecurity Queensland, Strategic Policy)
Environmental Protection Agency
Growcom
Livestock Transporters Association Queensland
Local Government Association of Queensland Inc.
NRM Regional Groups Collective
Nursery Garden Industry of Queensland
Ports Corporation of Queensland
Queensland Conservation Council
Queensland Farmers Federation
Queensland Food, Fibre and Agribusiness Council
Queensland Health
Queensland Horse Council Inc
Queensland Seafood Industry Association
RSPCA Queensland
Timber Queensland
Treasury Queensland

