

Managing Concerns

Utility Workers

If you are unsure about what biosecurity practices you need to follow, always ask landholders.

If you see a biosecurity sign at a farm entrance, call the number before coming on the farm and ask any questions you might have about farm biosecurity. Farm gate biosecurity signs do not mean a biosecurity incident has occurred - they are there to help landholders control access to their property.

If you need to enter a property in an emergency, implement biosecurity practices as much as possible (for example - clean vehicle and boots and only entering necessary areas).



Landholders

If you are concerned about utility workers not complying with your biosecurity requests:

- Record the date/time and what happened
- Put your concerns in writing to the utility provider and request the outcome be provided to you in writing

If you believe an intentional, serious biosecurity breach has taken place, contact Biosecurity Tasmania.

For more information on farm biosecurity contact:

Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association

Phone:
(03) 6332 1800

Email:
mandy.bowling@tfga.com.au

Website:
www.tfga.com.au/environment/bio-security



To report any biosecurity concerns contact:

Biosecurity Tasmania

Phone:
(03) 6165 377 or 1300 368 550

Email:
Biosecurity.Tasmania@dPIPWE.tas.gov.au

Website:
www.dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania

Emergency Animal Disease Watch

Hotline: 1800 675 888

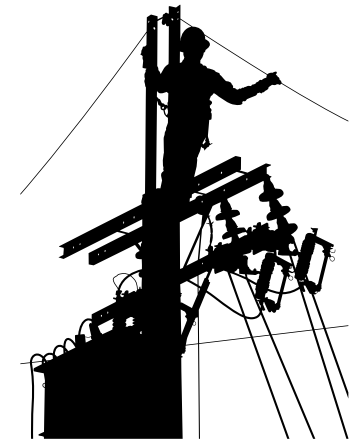
Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881

SUPPORTED BY



Landholders and Utility Provider Farm Biosecurity

Everyone has a role to play in protecting Tassie farms from pests, weeds and diseases



Utility Worker Responsibilities

Utility workers have a responsibility to follow any biosecurity practices on farms they are visiting. Utility workers can protect properties from pests, weeds and diseases by:

- Planning for the visit as much as possible
- Contacting the landholder with an arrival date and time and discussing any biosecurity requirements with the landholder
- Following any biosecurity signs at property entrances
- Calling the number on the sign before entering the property
- Following any specific instructions for the property, such as permission to enter a property with a biosecurity sign even if the owner can't be contacted
- Signing visitor registers
- Arriving with a clean vehicle
- Arriving with clean boots
- Following any biosecurity instructions from the farm manager

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2019* we all now have a **General Biosecurity Duty** which means we have a legal obligation to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risk during our business and recreational activities.

To learn more about the GBD and how you can meet your GBD obligation visit:
www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/GBD

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity is a set of measures put in place to protect our primary industries and environment from the negative impacts of pests, weeds and diseases. Biosecurity measures are in place at national and state borders to prevent the entry of exotic pests and diseases.

Biosecurity measures are also in place to protect farms and our agricultural industries from pests, weeds and diseases. Farm biosecurity measures aim to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with farm inputs and outputs. A utility worker entering a farm property is an example of a farm input.

Without biosecurity, profits for sheep, dairy and beef producers are estimated to be 8-12% less, 15% less for pig producers and 7% less for cropping enterprises

Why does biosecurity matter?

Biosecurity is our defence against pests and diseases that can cause production losses and serious illness or death in plants and animals.

Compared to other countries, Australia is relatively free of many pests and diseases and Tasmania is free from many of the pests and diseases found on the mainland. Biosecurity is important to help ensure we continue to be free of these pests, weeds and diseases and we can also prevent the spread of pests, weeds and diseases between farms.

Landholder Responsibilities

Landholders have a responsibility to implement biosecurity practices on their farm and communicate them with farm visitors, including utility workers. Landholders can protect their property and assist utility workers by:

- Having a biosecurity sign with a contact number
- Discussing biosecurity requirements with utility workers before they visit the property, such as permission to enter the property if there is a biosecurity sign and they can't contact the landholder
- Clearly indicating where vehicles can park
- Having a visitor register for workers to sign
- Removing any stock from areas workers may visit
- Having a vehicle wash down area
- Having a footbath/ area for workers to clean boots
- Clearly communicating any biosecurity requirements for your farm
- Advise utility workers if there are any active biosecurity concerns on the site (for example an active plant or animal disease)

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