



Stop weeds at the gate

Why worry about weed biosecurity?

Weeds can spread in a number of different ways, one of the ways that weeds come onto properties is through the front gate.

Weeds can come in on vehicles or machinery as seeds or as small pieces of vegetation, weeds can be on stock or in their gut and still be viable, they can be in stock feed that has been cut from a weedy paddock or can be on the people that are entering your property.

Weeds and Pests cost rural Hunter landholders \$77m dollars per year and take 680,000 days to control. It's a serious cost worth investing in.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* the carrier of biosecurity matter has a general

biosecurity duty. Landholders also have responsibility under the general biosecurity duty to prevent the spread of weeds from their own place. The graphic below outlines aspects of the general biosecurity duty.

- Weed biosecurity can help protect your place from weed incursions and save you time and money.
- By implementing practices and improving facilities you can prevent weeds spreading from your place and meet your general biosecurity duty.

Completely preventing the spread of weeds is difficult, but there are many ways you can help protect our economy, environment and quality of life.

GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY



Local Land Services



What can you do to stop weeds at the gate

How can I protect my property?

- Install biosecurity signage at property entrance to make visitors aware of not bringing or spreading weeds on property (signage is available from the LLS).
- Have dedicated, permanent vehicle tracks and parking areas on property to reduce vehicle deviation from these areas.
- Understand which weeds are a risk to your property and how to identify them.
- Identify any weed problem areas on property and restrict access from vehicles and livestock while seeding or until fully treated .
- Have a holding paddock/yard area dedicated to receiving new livestock or sending current livestock away to allow for weed seeds to be eliminated from animals.
- Have gauze screens in front of radiators to prevent weed seeds entering and contaminating engine bay if weed seeds are an ongoing issue
- Have a dedicated, well equipped area for washing down and cleaning vehicles and farm machinery.
- Know where your fodder is coming from and ensure that it is weed free.

What should a designated washdown area be like?

- It should be accessible from road without creating risk to your land.
- It should large enough to clean to bigger vehicles that come to your property (about 6m x 8m is large enough for most contractors vehicles and equipment).
- Have signage to direct high risk traffic to use the facilities, contact details and landholder requirements.
- Have a compacted surface suitable for traffic.
- Have a gently sloping and located away from sensitive areas.

- Have bunding or percolation areas to collect seeds that can be treated regularly.
- Have access to power and water.
- Have a blower, high pressure washer, brushes and storage.
- Is regularly maintained and spayed for emerging weeds.

Use a procedure with people coming onto your place

Use the *Stop weeds* at the Gate checklist to:

- Reduce the risk of weed being brought to the property
- Reduce the risk of spread of weeds around the property
- Reduce the risk of spread of weeds from the property
- Assist the landholder and contractors to meet their General Biosecurity Duty

The checklist and other resources are available for downloading and printing at the following websites:



www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weed-control



www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au/index.php/control-methods