

# Biosecurity Plan for the Grains Industry fact sheet



**GRAINS FARM  
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## Key points

- Biosecurity measures are the responsibility of industry, governments and individuals to preserve Australia's environment, industries and way of life.
- Plant pests can reduce crop yield, affect trade, market access and increase costs of production or even cause system failure.
- Identifying pests of concern and investing in preparedness, surveillance and response systems supports an effective plant biosecurity system.

## Introduction

Australia's grains industry is proactively planning for its future by minimising biosecurity risks posed by plant pests and developing effective response strategies in the event of an incursion.

The Biosecurity Plan for the Australian Grains Industry 2023-2028 identifies more than 1,300 plant pests and potential threat to the grains industry. It details current activities and highlights new areas for focus and investment to guide preparedness, surveillance and responses.

The Plan is intended to give state and territory governments, the Australian Government and industry the tools to maintain and improve Australia's plant biosecurity system and safeguard the grains industry.

## Australia's biosecurity system snapshot

Australia has a comprehensive biosecurity system that undertakes risk reducing activities through a continuum of pre-border, border and post-border. Despite this effort, protecting the grain industry from exotic pests remains an increasing challenge.

The risks posed by exotic pests and diseases continue to change due to growing international passenger, mail and trade volumes, population expansion, increasing dispersal of pests globally and regional development.

At the same time, our trading partners are also requiring evidence from formal surveillance programs to support our claims of area freedom from a range of quarantine pests and to ensure that their quarantine requirements are met.

Now more than ever, specific biosecurity activities need to be undertaken with enough confidence to identify incursions early enough to successfully eradicate them and to defend our pest status claims.

## What is the Biosecurity Plan for the Australian Grains Industry?

Shared responsibility and strong industry partnerships are central to the national biosecurity system, not only in early detection, but also in incursion management.

Our biosecurity system works in a dynamic environment where challenges are rapidly growing and rapidly evolving. The new Biosecurity Plan for the Grains Industry has been developed recognising that the operating environment affecting biosecurity, including market access claims in the grains industry today, is different from that of the past and is unlikely to be the same in future.

Implementing this plan in collaboration with partners and industry stakeholders will be essential to ensure it is effective and robust, yet flexible enough to adapt to emerging technologies and industry structures outside that of government, and is underpinned by core biosecurity capacity.

## There are three main components to the Biosecurity Plan:

1. A pest risk analysis for each of the 1,300 identified exotic pests. Ratings are determined for each pest based on their probability of entering, establishing, and spreading within Australia as well as their potential economic impact. From this a list of the highest priority pest are created together with a list of pests to monitor.



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2. A stocktake of the preparedness information resources currently available.
3. An implementation plan that outlines specific actions and tasks that will improve pre-border and border pest risk and pathway assessment by better understanding pest risk profiles and pathways and targeting surveillance efforts. For post-border surveillance, it describes an enhanced partnership approach between Grain Producers Australia (GPA), Grain Growers Ltd, Plant Health Australia (PHA), Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), and Grain Trade Australia.

## Industry biosecurity risk mitigation activities



### Government and industry-wide risk mitigation

Examples include:

- quarantine legislation and regulations
- movement and import restrictions based on biosecurity risk
- farm level exclusion activities.



### Training, research and quality assurance

Examples include:

- awareness and training activities
- inclusion of biosecurity in farm management and quality assurance (QA) schemes
- response and management research and development for key pests.



### Pest management and farm hygiene

Examples include:

- pest surveillance activities
- management of vectors and beneficial insects through IPM
- management of crop residues
- control of alternative hosts and weeds
- management of fallow
- use of warning and indicator signs
- protectively identifying suspect pests.



### Equipment and vehicle management

Examples include:

- use of dedicated equipment in high risk areas
- managing vehicle movement during high risk times
- provision of parking and wash-down facilities on-farm.



### People and product management

Examples include:

- exclusion activities
- purchasing inputs from reputable sources
- protectively managing stored grain.

## Request a copy of the Biosecurity Plan for the Australian Grains Industry 2023-2028

Scan the QR code for more information on the Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan and to request a copy.

For access to biosecurity resources, visit [grainsbiosecurity.com.au](https://grainsbiosecurity.com.au)

