

Biosecurity management plans - protecting exhibitors against biosecurity risks

Overview

A person should not enter your property without permission. Unauthorised entry to premises where animals are kept can pose biosecurity risks. This includes the potential spread of disease from infected people to animals and the spread of diseases and pests carried on people (e.g. clothing, footwear), vehicles or equipment moving onto a property. In April 2019, amendments to Queensland's biosecurity laws came into effect to address the potential biosecurity risks of unauthorised entry to places where animals are kept

The amendments afford a level of biosecurity protection for holders of an authority under the *Exhibited Animals Act 2015*. They will assist authority holders in preventing the spread of pests and diseases. If authority holders have a biosecurity management plan detailing specific requirements about entry to a particular place, people entering the management area that are not complying with requirements of the plan may be in breach of the new laws and penalties may apply.

It is important to note that the Queensland Police Service should always be the first point of contact for any form of unauthorised entry such as trespass. The recent amendments to legislation are a way of providing an additional level of protection in the event that a biosecurity management plan has not been complied with.

Biosecurity management plans

The new laws will only apply if you have a biosecurity management plan (plan) that identifies reasonable measures to prevent, control or stop the spread of biosecurity matter (such as pests and diseases) into, at or from a place where an exhibited animal is kept (the management area). The plan must detail measures a person must comply with when entering, present at or leaving that management area.

It is an offence for someone entering, being present at, or leaving a management area not to comply with the plan.

A plan could identify a management area as:

- an entire premises normally closed to the public
- particular areas that have restricted entry (e.g. enclosures or off exhibit areas) on premises that are normally open to the public.

For example, an authority holder may have a particular enclosure (the management area) where members of the public may enter, provided they are guided by the authority holder who will ensure each person complies with the requirements of the plan for that particular activity.

A plan might include details about the following:

- the location of the enclosure (the management area) on a map
- procedures for entering or exiting enclosures (the management area) that manage the biosecurity risks such as disinfecting, foot baths, clothing that must be worn and how these help prevent, control or stop the spread of biosecurity matter
- restrictions on entering, for example, a staff member may be required to accompany guests entering the enclosure (the management area) to ensure procedures for disinfecting are

carried out correctly and procedures that persons must comply with whilst in the enclosure that manage the biosecurity risks are followed

- procedures that must be complied with on exiting the enclosure that manage the biosecurity risks.

You may have other requirements and restrictions on activities conducted within the area that are not related to biosecurity. For example there may be some workplace health and safety requirements that must be adhered to. You can mention in the plan that there are other requirements and restrictions but the plan should not include these.

It is important to note that:

- the plan must be kept as a separate document at the premises
- if a person asks you to view the plan during ordinary business hours, a copy must be made available for inspection
- the plan should cover only detail relevant to the prevention and spread of biosecurity matter into a management area.

Biosecurity management plan signs

Visitors must be made aware of their biosecurity obligations prior to entering a management area, that there is a biosecurity management plan for the area and that it is an offence not to comply with the biosecurity management plan.

A downloadable sign is available with key criteria recorded to assist authority holders meet their notification obligations. Signs should be clearly visible and erected on each management area boundary, particularly at entry and exit points. A copy of the sign is below at *Image 1* or can be downloaded at:

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-planning>

For more information contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23.

Image 1 – Biosecurity management plan sign



Check list

- ✓ Ensure the plan is clearly titled 'biosecurity management plan' and add a section that states 'this is a Biosecurity management plan in accordance with Section 41B of the Queensland *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*'.
- ✓ Include a statement that the purpose of the plan is to: 'State the measures to prevent, control or stop the spread of biosecurity matter into, at, or from the management areas as defined in the biosecurity management plan, pursuant to the Queensland *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*'.
- ✓ Clearly identify all the potential biosecurity risks to the management area posed by the entry of people.
- ✓ Include a clearly defined biosecurity management area where the plan applies (a map or diagram of the area is recommended). If you have different areas with varied levels of risks and requirements, ensure a plan is devised for each one or the differences are clearly stipulated on the one plan.
- ✓ Display signs (Image 1) on your property that clearly identify each management area.
- ✓ Clearly define the measures a person is required to comply with when entering, is present at, or leaving any management area at the place.
- ✓ If the entire premises is a management area ensure this is identified clearly in your plan and clear visible signs are erected at various points on the perimeter fence including entry and exit points.
- ✓ You must make a copy of the plan available for inspection, on request, during ordinary business hours.
- ✓ It is recommended that you ask any person entering a management area to confirm they have read and understood the plan and they understand their obligations under it.
- ✓ Consider whether it is a reasonable requirement to require visitors entering the management area to record in a register some or all of the following:
 - personal details
 - vehicle details
 - purpose of their visit
 - a declaration that they have read the plan and they understand the measures they must comply with when entering, being present at, or leaving the place.
- ✓ If creating your own [display signs](#) ensure that all information captured in the template sign is recorded.
- ✓ Include a contact number and ensure the authority holder or an authorised person for the authority can be reached to make the plan available for inspection upon request during business hours.