

# Fodder and the general biosecurity obligation

*Biosecurity Act 2014*



The movement of fodder is a significant biosecurity risk for agriculture, the environment and community.

Fodder provides an ideal medium for wide dispersal of weed seed to new locations around the state. The quality of fodder is variable and often dispersed great distances from where it was harvested. It is not uncommon that weeds present at the point of sale may not be present where the fodder is used. This situation is exacerbated in times of drought where quality often declines and dispersal distances increase. The consumption of weed seed by stock is an ideal mechanism to further spread weed seeds in new situations.

Biosecurity risks such as weed spread can impact landowners and have a significant impact on the profitability and sustainability of the fodder industry.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, biosecurity in the fodder industry will be largely managed through the general biosecurity obligation, where everyone has an obligation to minimise the impact the biosecurity risk of weeds under their control. Growers, sellers and buyers share a responsibility to ensure good biosecurity practices are followed. It encourages the sharing of information on biosecurity to increase awareness of risks and improve risk identification and mitigation.

For example:

- The seller of fodder cannot knowingly spread weeds. The seller should also disclose if a weed may likely be

present in the fodder and advise the buyer on how to treat the product to ensure that any germinated weed seeds are unsuccessful.

- The buyer has an obligation to be vigilant and treat the weed if and when they germinate. It is good practice to restrict the movement of cattle while hand feeding to limit the area where weeds may be dispersed.
- The buyer should consider that the movement of fodder onto their property increases the risk of transferring weeds and pests and ensure this is mitigated by purchasing from a reliable source. It is the buyer's choice whether to ask for a vendor or commodity declaration detailing the likelihood of weed contamination and what weeds to look for.
- It is also important to ensure vehicles and equipment carrying fodder be cleaned before and after to reduce the spread of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants. Land managers are within their rights to request this and to not allow any vehicles on to their property that present an unreasonable risk.

## Further information

For more information about the Act visit [daf.qld.gov.au](http://daf.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.



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