

# Biosecurity

AusNet has an environmental and corporate responsibility to minimise the risk of its activities introducing pests, animal/plant diseases and weeds onto private or public land. ▸

**Biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests, weeds and diseases when planning, scoping, visiting or working on a property.**

The movement of vehicles, plant and machinery from one property to the next is the most common way for the spread of pests, weeds and diseases to occur. Weed seeds and other animal/plant disease spores are small and can be easily and unknowingly transported by vehicles and machinery, particularly as seeds and spores can lay dormant in the soil for many years and are difficult to detect until they start to grow.

AusNet employees and contractors will take reasonable steps during any planned works to understand and manage biosecurity risks and implement appropriate controls to prevent harm to individuals and the environment.

## What are we doing?



### 1. Awareness and Training



AusNet actively trains employees and contractors on its biosecurity procedures and ensures they are aware of their obligations.

### 2. Pre-planning



Prior to the commencement of work, any potential environmental risks relevant to the work or the work site are identified, and relevant controls determined in consultation with the landowner.

### 3. Prior to entering a property



At least seven days prior to entering a property, AusNet or its contractors will contact the landowner and explain the reason for entering the property, and the proposed works to be completed.

### 4. Washing of vehicles before entry



When moving between sites/properties, vehicles, plant and machinery will be visually inspected and washed down if required before entering a property. Vehicle wash requirements may be advised by landowners/managers.

### 5. Identification of hazards



Pests, animal/plant diseases and weeds risks and relevant controls will be discussed and documented on-site during pre-start job safety analysis.

### 6. Recording biosecurity risks/access requirements



Where a new biosecurity risk and/or specific access requirements are identified, these will be captured and recorded by AusNet, including specific information about the hazard identified, the access requirements and a register of all AusNet employees and contractors who have entered and exited the property.

## 7. Completion of works



Upon completion of work AusNet and/or its contractors will:

- report any relevant environmental impact during works caused by AusNet and/or its contractors to the landowner; and
- follow AusNet wash-down or decontamination procedures or as agreed with the landowners.

## 8. Washing of vehicles, boots and equipment



Vehicles, boots and equipment and other plant moving between public and private land or from one site to another will be visually inspected and may be required to be washed down.

If a washdown is required, a checklist will be completed.

Washdown will take place at one of the following locations:

- at a commercial car washing facility; or
- within the property, where the landowner has stipulated.

## Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)

The World Organisation for Animal Health listed Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) as a highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals, including cattle, buffalo, camels, sheep, goats, deer and pigs and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) affecting cattle.

AusNet and its contractors review biosecurity processes and train their personnel to prevent the spread of weeds, seeds and diseases. Biosecurity processes may be adjusted as we receive new information. In the meantime, we will continue to follow our current biosecurity procedures and additional requirements from landowners we visit as part of our ongoing commitment to arrive clean, stay clean and leave clean.



## What are we doing?



AusNet is aware of the risk of FMD/LSD and is continually monitoring the situation. As an organisation, AusNet places a high importance on its biosecurity procedures.

Prior to accessing private property for fieldwork, AusNet staff and contractors will monitor the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, biosecurity page at [www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/animal) for the latest news on FMD and LSD, including any cases of FMD or LSD entering Australia and Victoria.

People who have been in contact with FMD/LSD infected animals or have visited countries where FMD or LSD has been detected will not conduct any fieldwork for a minimum of seven days after returning to Australia. ✓



### Contact Us

AusNet is committed to providing many opportunities for locals to share their knowledge about the area and provide feedback.

For more information, or to speak to a member of our team, contact us via:

[grez.com.au](http://grez.com.au)

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**AusNet**

