VicGrid

Biosecurity factsheet

August 2026

Biosecurity refers to measures that protect a property and the environment from pests, weeds, diseases and contaminants when people enter or work on the land.

VicGrid recognises that managing biosecurity is crucial to Victoria's agriculture industry and to the prosperity of all Victorians, and that pests and diseases can pose a serious threat to the agricultural sector.

To help manage these risks, VicGrid will take reasonable steps whenever it accesses private or public land for surveys, assessments or consultation to understand and manage biosecurity risks, developing and implementing appropriate measures to prevent impacts to property operations and the local environment.

VicGrid's approach to applying biosecurity measures on the ground is guided by its Biosecurity Management Plan. VicGrid's Biosecurity Management Plan was developed in line with the Essential Services Commission's Land Access Code of Practice (LACOP). The LACOP was developed in consultation with Agriculture Victoria.

Responsible biosecurity management

VicGrid has a responsibility to minimise the risk of its activities introducing pests, weeds, animal or plant diseases and contaminants onto private or public land. This risk commonly occurs via the movement of vehicles and machinery.

People, vehicles, machinery, and equipment can unintentionally transport diseases, pests and weeds onto and throughout farm properties. Weed seeds, fungal spores, plant pests, and other organisms that can cause animal or plant diseases may be carried on things like tyres, tools, clothing, and hair, as well as in soil, plant material, dirt, and manure.

VicGrid is taking the following steps to manage the risk of introducing pests, weeds or diseases onto properties.

Training: VicGrid will ensure all project staff entering a private property or public land are trained in biosecurity management and have the necessary skills and tools to understand biosecurity risks and how they will be managed. Procedures that comply with relevant environmental legislation and regulations, the LACOP, and VicGrid's Biosecurity Management Plan, must be followed by project staff.

Planning: Prior to entering a property, we will identify potential risks through pre-existing information and in consultation with landholders, and ensure reasonable controls are put in place and followed.

Communication: VicGrid will offer landholders an access agreement to voluntarily negotiate the terms and set out the detail of who, when and how the project team will access a property, including biosecurity requirements.

Washdown procedures: Prior to entering and leaving a property for surveys (either via a public road or via a neighbouring private property), vehicle tyres and mudguards, boots and any machinery will undergo a cleaning process, where required, in line with biosecurity requirements. A checklist will be completed each time, and confirmation the procedures have been followed can be provided to the landholder as required.

Recording of requirements: In addition to the standard or agreed biosecurity processes that will be followed, if any new biosecurity risks are identified they will be discussed with the landholder and any relevant documentation will be updated.

Reporting: At the completion of each property access, VicGrid will report any environmental impact during works caused by VicGrid or its contractors to the landholder, along with any steps proposed for mitigation and/or restoration. This will also be recorded in VicGrid's incident management system and an investigation by VicGrid management will be completed. At the completion of each property access, the landowner can request a report, outlining the details of access, and the activities undertaken in relation to biosecurity management.

Ongoing assessment and review: VicGrid's team will monitor Agriculture Victoria's interactive maps for declared area status and the Federal Government's outbreak website (**outbreak.gov.au**) for updates on risks. Plans will be changed as needed, with changes communicated to relevant landholders.

Most importantly, we encourage landholders to discuss any biosecurity and property access requests or concerns with your dedicated Landholder Liaison.

Working with your Landholder Liaison

VicGrid strongly encourages landholders to work closely with their Landholder Liaison to identify and agree on biosecurity requirements for their property via an agreement.

Regardless of whether a voluntary agreement is reached, VicGrid and its personnel must comply with VicGrid's Biosecurity Management Plan and the Land Access Code of Practice (LACOP).

Where reasonable additional biosecurity conditions are requested by a landholder and agreed through voluntary access arrangements, VicGrid will also implement these as part of agreed management plans.

Feedback and complaints

Any feedback, including complaints about the behaviour of VicGrid personnel or contractors regarding land access or biosecurity can be made via your appointed Landholder Liaison, or by contacting VicGrid via email: **enquiries@vicgrid.com.au** or by phone: 1800 418 341.

If a landowner is not satisfied with the response to their complaint, they can contact the Energy & Water Ombudsman of Victoria, via its website: **ewov.com.au** or by phone: 1800 500 509.

More information

More information about agricultural biosecurity, including known and emerging risks, is available at the following websites:

Agriculture Victoria
agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity

Animal Health Australia
farmbiosecurity.com.au

Australian Government Biosecurity
biosecurity.gov.au

Australian Government
outbreak.gov.au

Biosecurity Management Plan
VicGrid's Project Biosecurity Management Plan is available on request.

World Organisation for Animal Health
woah.org

Contact us

Phone: 1800 418 341

Email: enquiries@vicgrid.com.au

If you are deaf and/or find hearing or speaking with people on the phone difficult, please contact the National Relay Service on voice relay number **1300 555 727**, TTY number **133 677,** SMS relay number **0423 677 767** or **communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs**

Need an interpreter? Contact Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 (within Australia) or visit **www.tisnational.gov.au**

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