



# WEED HYGIENE



## FACT SHEET

### ABOUT INLAND RAIL

Inland Rail is a once-in-a-generation project that enhances the national supply chain and connects regional Australia to markets, transforming the way we move freight around the country. It will complete the 'spine' of the national freight network between Melbourne and Brisbane via regional Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

This new 1,700km line is the largest freight rail infrastructure project in Australia. It will better connect farms and cities to markets and will support some of Australia's richest farming regions, providing supply chain benefits and substantial cost savings for producers.

### OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to limiting the impact of construction and operational activities on the communities in which we work.

The Inland Rail *Environment and Sustainability Policy* outlines our commitment to practical sustainability measures across the Inland Rail programme. We implement best-practice management measures to protect the environment while also minimising the Inland Rail environmental footprint. Our vegetation management practices and strategies, including our weed hygiene responsibilities, align with our commitment of achieving a balance between our environmental responsibilities while providing a safe and reliable rail network.

This fact sheet is a guide to how we manage our weed hygiene responsibilities as we work on Inland Rail.

### WHAT ARE WEEDS?

Weeds are plants that have been identified as a threat to the natural environment and have impacts on primary industries, natural ecosystems and human and animal health. They can also have substantial financial impacts associated with weed control and lost agricultural production.

### WHAT IS WEED HYGIENE?

Weed hygiene is a biosecurity measure to prevent the spread of weeds. Biosecurity involves protecting people and animals against harmful biological or biochemical substances. Following relevant legislation is one way in which Inland Rail manages the spread of weeds.

Each state through which Inland Rail will pass has specific legislation in place for the management of declared and noxious weed species.

Our teams, including contractors, carry out work in accordance with the legislation and any agreements with state and local governments and individual landowners.

### LEGISLATION

Below is an overview of state legislation governing Inland Rail's approach to managing our weed hygiene responsibilities.

#### QUEENSLAND

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* provides comprehensive biosecurity measures to minimise risks, address biosecurity threats, and align state responses to biosecurity risks with national and international requirements.

Additionally, the *Biosecurity Act 2014* imposes a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) on individuals who deal with biosecurity risks to take all reasonable measures to prevent or minimise risks.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* provides a framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of biosecurity risks. This Act also contains a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) which applies to anyone dealing with a biosecurity matter or a carrier, who knows (or ought to reasonably know) of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed. This person has a duty to ensure that the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

## VICTORIA

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* provides a framework for the control of noxious weeds and pest animals. The act places legal obligations on landowners to take all reasonable steps to eradicate regionally prohibited weeds; prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds; and prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals. Landowners must also prevent the spread of regionally controlled weeds and established pest animals on roadsides that adjoin their land.

## WORKING IN ROAD RESERVES AND ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Before carrying out work in road reserves and private property, we will work with landowners and relevant authorities for voluntary access and to understand their individual requirements.

If voluntary access is agreed to with landowners for us to enter their private property, we will prepare a land access agreement (LAA). The LAA captures landowner requirements which includes weed management.

A clean-down record is a checklist that our team members complete as they enter and leave a property.

A similar process is in place for work on local and state government land. We will work with the relevant authority to ensure their needs are met regarding weed hygiene.

## INLAND RAIL WEED HYGIENE RESPONSIBILITIES

We observe the following weed hygiene principles during activities that could increase the spread of existing declared and noxious weeds on properties that we enter for Inland Rail work.

ARRIVE CLEAN

STAY CLEAN

LEAVE CLEAN

There are many sources and carriers of weed seeds that could expand the distribution of declared and noxious weeds. They include clothing, shoes, heavy machinery, vehicles, tools and wheeled loaders.

## WEED CLEAN-DOWN SPECIFICATIONS

We use clean-down procedures to help remove weed, seeds, soil and other foreign matter from vehicles and machinery used during construction and other activities.

Our approach to manage our weed hygiene responsibilities includes criteria that must be met to achieve a satisfactory clean-down in a variety of scenarios.

Where practical (in close proximity to Inland Rail's activities), third-party certified companies will be used to clean vehicles and equipment used for Inland Rail activities.

## OUR WEED HYGIENE ACTIONS

- ▶ We identify weed infested areas through surveys and notify Inland Rail staff and contractors.
- ▶ As part of a risk management strategy the level clean-down, and frequency of clean down, is assigned on the basis of the level of risk in each instance.
- ▶ We regularly clean all our vehicles, clothing, boots and equipment, including contractor vehicles, in designated wash-down areas to manage risks identified in the field survey.
- ▶ Where required, we ensure that all vehicles working on private property, outside road and rail corridors, hold an Inland Rail clean-down record.
- ▶ We provide ongoing education internally and as part of inducting contractors about weed identification and wash-down.
- ▶ We only enter private land where we have a signed LAA and abide by additional weed clean-down activities requested by the landowner.
- ▶ We undertake road reserve work and rehabilitation as we have agreed to with relevant authorities.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

ARTC is committed to working with state and local governments, communities and landowners as a vital part of our planning and consultation work, and we value your input. If you have any questions or comments about the xxx project, please let us know.

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ARTC

The Australian Government is delivering Inland Rail through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), in partnership with the private sector.

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