Biosecurity Standard

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Official

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[V 3.0]	1/07/2025	Executive People and Stakeholder	Major review

TasNetworks acknowledges the palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal community) as the original owners and custodians of lutruwita (Tasmania). TasNetworks, acknowledges the palawa have maintained their spiritual and cultural connection to the land and water. We pay respect to Elders past and present and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Contents

1. Purpose and scope

This standard sets out TasNetworks requirements for managing biosecurity risk associated with all relevant aspects of TasNetworks operations, assets and supply chain. It applies to all in-field operations undertaken by, or on behalf of TasNetworks and, the importation of goods and services from interstate which are potential carriers of invasive pests and disease.

Additionally, it outlines how TasNetworks will plan and prioritise its strategic weed management program to help land managers control, manage, or eliminate declared weeds within TasNetworks' easements.

2. Scope

This standard applies to everyone working for, or on behalf of, TasNetworks. Specifically, it includes:

1. TasNetworks minimum requirements for minimising the spread of weeds, pests and disease associated with TasNetworks operations
2. The prioritisation of weed management works as part of TasNetworks Strategic Weed Management Program

3. Responsibilities

Anyone working for, or on TasNetworks behalf who might reasonably encounter a biosecurity hazard or risk, must meet the aims and objectives of TasNetworks Environment and Sustainability Policy. This includes **all legislative and statutory obligations, guidelines, codes of practice and agreed charters.**

Work that will deviate from the requirements in this standard, must be risk assessed, documented, and authorised by the applicable TasNetworks Executive.

4. Common terms and definitions

Term or Acronym	Definition
AHT	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
Biosecurity direction	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Biosecurity emergency	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Biosecurity event	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Biosecurity impact	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Biosecurity matter	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Biosecurity risk	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*

Term or Acronym	Definition
Carrier	Carrier means anything (other than a human), whether alive, dead or inanimate, that has, or is capable of, having biosecurity matter on it, attached to it or contained in it
Clearing	Clearing means impact, or removal of vegetation, usually involving the use of heavy machinery or mobile plant. Includes broadacre herbicide spraying.
CEMP	Construction environmental management plan
Construction work	Any work that involves the development, installation, replacement, refurbishment or upgrade of electricity infrastructure, telecommunication infrastructure or facilities including access tracks, and any other works needed to complete the job or project
Cultural heritage	Includes all historic and Aboriginal Heritage sites, properties, artefacts, relics and remains protected under law.
'Emergency work' or 'fault work'	Fault jobs (asset defects) required to be completed within 7 days or as otherwise defined under *section 55 of the Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995:*
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
ERAPT	Environmental Risk Assessment and Planning Tool
Environmental specialist	Individual with qualifications in environmental management, environmental science, ecology or similar. This includes members of TasNetworks E&S team
Environmental Protection Agency	EPA
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
General Biosecurity Duty (GBD)	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Ground disturbing work	Is any work that involves: • work that disturbs the ground greater than 200mm in depth; or • work that disturbs an area of ground greater than $1m^2$; or • includes the use of tracked machinery; or • mechanical clearing of vegetation Excludes pole testing and driving off road in non-tracked vehicles.
Hazard Tree	Dead or dying trees, and trees with obvious externally visible defects that indicate poor structural integrity, which based on the inspector's experience are at high risk of failure in foreseeable weather conditions, and upon failure would be likely to come into contact with overhead power lines
High-value areas	All public or private reserves listed under the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002 or, primary production areas (e.g. agricultural areas) with active biosecurity requirements in place

Term or Acronym	Definition
HT	Heritage Tasmania
Heavy machinery	Heavy machinery includes any equipment, or mobile plant, used to: • Perform excavation (including non-destructive digging) • Perform the mechanical clearing of vegetation • Undertake access track construction or maintenance work. Excludes the use of hand-held equipment (e.g. whipper snippers, chainsaws, pole saws).
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
Invasive pest	A pest that is not otherwise known to occur within Tasmania or; as defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Major transmission project	The development of a new transmission line or, the significant augmentation/renewal of an existing transmission line
Mechanical clearing	Any broad scale removal, or impact on vegetation, usually involving the use of mobile plant (e.g. excavator, skid-steer, tractor or similar fitted with a mechanical clearing head). Includes broadacre herbicide spraying. Excludes work that involves the use of hand-held equipment (e.g. whipper snippers, chainsaws, pole saws).
NVA	Natural Values Atlas
NVS	Natural Values Survey
NRE Tas.	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Pest	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Prohibited dealing	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Prohibited matter	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
PWS	Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service
RAA	Reserve Activity Assessment
Related environmental impacts	'Related environmental impacts' are impacts associated with a job or project that are not directly caused by the construction or modification of the primary asset but, are reasonably foreseeable based on the scope works to be completed. Related impacts include, but are not limited to, disposal of wastewater or soil, construction of temporary lay-down areas, permanent or temporary access tracks, mobilisation of plant or equipment to site, increased vehicle traffic, changes to hydrology or waterflow
Restricted matter	As defined under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*

Term or Acronym	Definition
Work site (includes work area or job site)	The area in which work is to be undertaken including all related environmental impacts that affect the site or its surrounds
Work of minor environmental impact	As defined under section 8 of the *Electricity Supply Industry Regulations 2018*

5. External obligations

TasNetworks recognises the importance of preventing the spread of weeds, pests and disease which pose a threat to the Tasmanian environment, community and economy. It acknowledges and is committed to complying with its' legal obligations as described under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*.

TasNetworks further acknowledges the expectations of farmers, primary producers, land managers and private landholders and customers to both manage biosecurity risk and, to manage the spread of weeds, pests and disease from power line easements.

TasNetworks risk appetite for causing wide-spread environmental harm because of its operations is 'low'.

5.1. The General Biosecurity Duty (GBD)

The Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019* (Biosecurity Act) sets out a statutory duty of care for all organisations and individuals, to take 'reasonable' and 'practical' measures to manage biosecurity risk. This legal obligation is known as the General Biosecurity Duty (GBD).

All people working for, and on behalf of TasNetworks must be made aware of their GBD and have the necessary skills, knowledge and tools to effectively and efficiently manage biosecurity risks.

To meet their GBD everyone working for, or engaged by, TasNetworks who might reasonably encounter or generate a biosecurity risk, or be required to manage a biosecurity obligation, must ensure that:

- Work is planned so biosecurity risk is eliminated or minimised as far as reasonably practicable
- Biosecurity risks are identified for all operational work, including areas and zones which need to be kept weed and disease free (high-value environmental and primary production areas)
- Landowners and land managers are consulted about biosecurity risks prior to works commencing
- 'Reasonable' and 'practical' biosecurity hygiene controls measures are specified and implemented
- All required biosecurity controls measures remain effective for the duration work

A significant breach of the GBD that is intentional or reckless, can be treated as an aggravated offence which may carry a significant penalty under the Biosecurity Act.

TasNetworks will take all reasonable and practical steps to help its team members meet their GBD. This includes the provision of systems, tools, awareness training and operational control documentation to enable the effective and efficient management of biosecurity risk across the entire works delivery process, and asset management lifecycle.

5.2. Reporting biosecurity events

Reporting a Biosecurity Event is legally required under section 73 of the Biosecurity Act. This reporting obligation is in addition to, the General Biosecurity Duty (GBD).

Where:

1. **A TasNetworks team member, or contractor, becomes aware of, or reasonably suspects, that a biosecurity event has occurred or, likely to occur (e.g. the presence of a highly invasive pest) and**
2. **They believe the event is having or likely to have, a significant adverse impact on the economy, environment or community**

The team member must notify the Environment and Sustainability Team (E&S Team) as soon as reasonably practical. The E&S team will then notify Biosecurity Tasmania. Failure to notify Biosecurity Tasmania is an offence under section 73 of the Biosecurity Act.

A significant adverse impact, in general, applies to the spread or introduction of pests or invasive pests, as defined under the Biosecurity Act which, have not been previously introduced to Tasmania or, have not been known to occur in a high-value area previously. It also includes any extraneous material (animal, plant or soil material), that arrives with any goods delivered from interstate, or internationally, which is a potential carrier of a pest of disease.

Biosecurity events, or suspected biosecurity events, occurring in high-value environmental, or primary production areas, must be treated more seriously and urgently.

It should be noted that a 'biosecurity event' is not the same as an 'environmental incident'. An environmental incident is a situation where TasNetworks operations are, or could have been, responsible for the spread of weeds, pests or disease into the environment.

All TasNetworks team members and contractors should remain vigilant and make reasonably practical efforts to restrict access to areas where known, or suspected, biosecurity events have occurred.

5.3. Biosecurity importation requirements

There are numerous biosecurity threats (i.e. invasive pests and diseases) that have the potential to significantly impact the Tasmanian environment and economy. In particular, the importation of untreated plant products and the mobilisation of vehicles, machinery and equipment from interstate, have significant potential to introduce invasive pests, or diseases, to Tasmania.

TasNetworks, and its contractors, must assess and manage all potential biosecurity risks when procuring goods or services that may lead to restricted or prohibited matter entering Tasmania.

The importation or introduction of any prohibited or restricted material in Tasmanian must not be done so without approval from the Environment and Sustainability Team and Biosecurity Tasmania. **All contractor vehicles, machinery, equipment and PPE, must arrive from overseas and interstate clean and free of animal, plant and soil material.**

5.4. Working on private farmland

Agricultural pests and diseases can be inadvertently spread from property to property on contaminated vehicles and equipment. In performing work on all agricultural land, TasNetworks seeks to take all reasonably practical measures to meet the agreed objectives in the Charter for Working on Private Farm Land.

To meet both its external and internal commitments TasNetworks team members and contractors must:

- **Aim to arrive clean (vehicles, machinery, equipment and PPE free of soil, plant and animal material)**
- **Make reasonable efforts to consult with landholders on biosecurity matters prior to entering private farmland**
- **Follow reasonable directions from land managers to minimise biosecurity risks**
- **Comply with all reasonable and practical measures specified in a biosecurity management plan(s). This includes all farmgate signage.**

5.5. Working on reserved land

TasNetworks aims to work with the managers of reserved land (e.g. National Parks, Conservation Areas, Conservation Covenants) to keep these areas free of weeds, pests and disease. Where weeds are already present, the focus is minimising spread beyond the currently affected area. In all instances, team members and contractors must:

- Arrive clean (vehicles, machinery, equipment and PPE free of animal, soil and plant material)
- Make reasonable efforts to consult with the applicable land manager prior to going on-site. This includes providing two weeks' notice to the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) when performing routine maintenance works, as per the TasNetworks-PWS MOU
- Follow reasonable directions from the land managers to minimise biosecurity risks
- Comply with all reasonable and practical measures specified in any applicable biosecurity, or environmental management plans (EMP)

5.6. Biosecurity emergencies

A biosecurity emergency can be declared in Tasmania at any time in response to an emerging biosecurity threat. The Biosecurity Emergency Declaration may apply to small geographical area, or the whole state, and affect access to TasNetworks assets and ability to perform planned operations.

Everyone undertaking work for, or on behalf of TasNetworks, must comply with all Biosecurity Tasmania requirements in the event of a biosecurity emergency. This includes any biosecurity directions given by Biosecurity Tasmania or an authorised officer.

TasNetworks aims to reschedule any planned work that is affected by a biosecurity declaration. Where work cannot be rescheduled (e.g. fault work) TasNetworks team members, and contractors, must comply with any elevated biosecurity hygiene protocols specified by Biosecurity Tasmania.

TasNetworks team members and contractors are strongly encouraged to subscribe to Biosecurity Tasmania's Biosecurity Advisories.

TasNetworks requirements for responding to epidemics and pandemics are described in TasNetworks Epidemic and Pandemic Management Plan.

As far as reasonably practical, TasNetworks will be prepared to respond to a declared biosecurity emergency as part of our business contingency, and emergency response planning. This will help to minimise impacts and risks to our customers, stakeholder and team members during a biosecurity emergency.

6. Internal obligations

6.1. Environmental risk assessments

Environmental risk assessments must be completed in accordance with TasNetworks Environmental Risk Management Standard for all work performed by, or on behalf of TasNetworks where there is the potential for biosecurity risks or environmental impacts. This includes an assessment of biosecurity risk (desktop and in-field) and where applicable, the specification of adequate biosecurity hygiene control measures to manage any identified biosecurity risks.

6.2. Biosecurity hygiene

TasNetworks applies a risk-based approach to biosecurity hygiene. This means that controls to be specified and implemented must be proportionate to the level of risk posed. Works that poses an elevated level of biosecurity risk includes:

- Work off maintained roads and access tracks
- Work that involves significant ground disturbance
- Work that involves the construction or maintenance of access tracks
- Work near weeds, pests or disease and potential carriers of weeds pests and disease
- Work in areas that need to remain weed and disease free (e.g. farmland, National Parks)
- Mechanical clearing of vegetation

Biosecurity hygiene control measures includes both tools used for vehicle and equipment wash-down and, how the work is designed, planned and performed (e.g. performing work in a weed affected area last on a given day of work). In all instances, TasNetworks preference is to avoid or eliminate biosecurity risk wherever practical.

Regardless of the level of risk posed, the aim is to Arrive Clean and Leave Clean during all in-field work.

All TasNetworks team members completing in-field work must comply with TasNetworks Biosecurity Hygiene Work Practice and any measures specified on an environmental management plan (EMP).

Contractors performing in-field work on TasNetworks behalf must develop and maintain their own biosecurity operational control documentation. Contractor operational control documentation must be adequate to manage all biosecurity risks associated with the work to be performed and be consistent with this standard.

Contractors must comply with all biosecurity hygiene measures specified on an applicable environmental risk assessment, or EMP, as part of any TasNetworks initiated works.

6.3. Tools for biosecurity hygiene

TasNetworks will provide its team members with adequate, fit-for-purpose biosecurity hygiene tools and equipment which enables them to meet their legal obligations. This includes access to adequate, operational vehicle wash-downs at all TasNetworks operational depots, or access to a suitable commercial wash-down facility.

Additional biosecurity hygiene items available include:

- Wash-down trailers
- Handheld high-pressure washers
- Blowers and vacuums
- Dry-wash-down kits (contains brush, scraper, bin liners and dustpan and broom)

Disinfectant for farm, or other in-field use, can be made available for use for specific jobs or projects on a case-by-case basis. You must contact the E&S team prior to sourcing any disinfectant for in-field use.

All contractors are expected to provide their personnel with systems, tools and equipment adequate to manage any biosecurity risks associated with any in-field work performed on TasNetworks behalf.

6.4. Sourcing weed and disease-free quarry material

All reasonable and practical efforts must be made to source (soil, sand, gravel and water) that is not contaminated with weeds, pest and disease for all work undertaken by, or on behalf of TasNetworks. Work that involves the construction or upgrade of access tracks, can result in the significant mobilisation of weeds and disease via contaminated quarry material.

When planning the work that involves the use of quarry material on behalf of TasNetworks, the works manager, or contractor, must request that the supplier:

- Provide a declaration that their product(s) are weed and disease free and/or
- Provide an independent biosecurity hygiene assessment report of their operations and/or
- Provide adequate evidence that their quarry operations maintain effective biosecurity hygiene measures.

Where practical, works owners/project managers should aim to follow the guidance in NRE's Weed Management and Hygiene Guidelines

Where a supplier of quarry material declares their product to be free of weeds and disease and yet that product introduces unrecorded weeds or diseases to a previously unaffected area, TasNetworks shall, at its discretion, hold that supplier responsible for any costs associated with eradicating any weeds or disease spread by any contaminated quarry material in accordance with the terms of the relevant supply contract or at law. TasNetworks will also report breaches by any supplier or contractor of environmental legislation to relevant regulatory authorities.

6.5. Managing and transporting weeds

Weeds impacted during work, must remain on site and in a manner that will not lead to further spread. Where plant debris containing declared weeds need to be removed from site, all contaminated plant material must be securely transported (e.g. securely bagged or covered) and disposed of at registered waste transfer facility.

6.6. Reporting environmental incidents and near misses

Where a TasNetworks team member, or person undertaking work on behalf of TasNetworks, becomes aware, or reasonably suspects that TasNetworks related operations has led to the spread of pests, weeds or disease, an incident must be reported to the Environment and Sustainability Team and their team leader in accordance with the One Hour Rule.

For example, the slashing or cutting of declared weeds while in seed would constitute an environmental incident. The movement or tracking, or potential tracking, of weed contaminated debris on people, vehicles or equipment following the completion of work, should be reported as a near miss.

Team members are also strongly encouraged to report any suspected biosecurity events to the E&S Team.

6.7. Training, awareness and competency

All people who have responsibilities under this Standard should be made aware of their biosecurity responsibilities. Relevant TasNetworks team members may be provided with training and awareness to implement their responsibilities as per this Standard. Refer to the ESI Competency Matrix and the E&S Training and Awareness Framework to review the current training requirements. It is the responsibility of Team Leaders to ensure their team members participate in any required training.

In accordance with the requirements of this Standard, Contractors are expected to ensure that all relevant personnel, and subcontractors, are aware of, and competent to manage any biosecurity risks related to

the good or services. Where required, they must undertake TasNetworks awareness training as per TasNetworks Learning Management System and the ESI Competency Matrix.

Contractors should consider arranging and providing their team members with training on how to manage biosecurity risks depending on their level of risk exposure and their own EMS requirements.

6.8. Inspections and audits

Inspections and audits of internally and externally delivered work will be undertaken periodically against the requirements outlined in this Standard. All contractors are expected to manage and maintain an environmental assurance program which includes biosecurity risk where appropriate.

7. Weed Management

Under Tasmanian biosecurity law the landowner, or land manager, has primary legal responsibility for managing declared weeds on public or private land (refer to section 15 of the Biosecurity Regulations 2022). However, TasNetworks acknowledges that it has a shared responsibility to help the Tasmanian community manage declared weed species which pose a threat to the environment, economy and community. Power line easements are known to provide artificial pathways which can accelerate the spread of weeds, pest and disease from one area to another via wind, animal or mechanical dispersal.

Therefore, the management of high priority weeds requires a proactive, collaborative approach between all stakeholders (customers, property owners, land managers, regulators) if high-value areas[1] are to remain free of high-priority (Class A) weeds over time.

TasNetworks will maintain a strategic weed management program which enables the management of high-priority weeds (Class A) in high-value areas, in proportion to the level of risk posed. Given the linear nature of TasNetworks infrastructure, collaborative weed management works will be prioritised above one-off support for land holders.

In all instances, TasNetworks will make reasonably practical efforts to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to achieve effective weed management outcomes. However, TasNetworks reserves the right to withhold program funding where there are no agreed long-term weed management outcomes or insufficient stakeholder support.

7.1. Weed management at TasNetworks owned properties

TasNetworks will control or eradicate any declared weeds within the boundaries of any TasNetworks owned facilities, depots and substations as soon as reasonably practicable. Follow-up inspections and works must be undertaken so that the risk of future outbreaks is minimised.

[1] Any area with significant environmental, community, heritage or economic value. This includes, but is not limited to, all reserves as defined under the Nature Conservation Act, farms and agricultural areas with an active biosecurity plan

7.2. Weed Management work for new developments and major projects

For all major projects and new developments allowances must be made for monitoring, management and follow-up of any new weed infestations, for a period not less than three years. Weed management and monitoring will generally be specified as part of any associated environmental approvals or an EMP/CEMP. Monitoring and management of weeds post construction is the responsibility of the project manager, or primary responsible contractor, or as otherwise agreed.

7.3. Weed management requests

TasNetworks will make a weed management request form available on the TasNetworks' website so customers, landowners and land managers can report weed outbreaks or infestations in TasNetworks' easements. All requests will be prioritised and actioned in accordance with the criteria described in Appendix D.

TasNetworks reserves the right to decline any request for support or funding for weed management work, where our assets or operations are unlikely to have contributed to an existing weed or biosecurity outbreak, due to financial constraints, or where there is a lack of demonstrated strategic benefit.

Appendix A – external compliance obligations

Type	Title
Legislation	Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995 (Tas))
Legislation	Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975
Legislation	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
Legislation	Animal Welfare Act 1993
Legislation	Biosecurity Act 2019
Legislation	Crown Lands Act 1976
Legislation	Electricity Wayleaves and Easements Act 2000
Legislation	Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995
Legislation	Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
Legislation	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Legislation	Forest Practices Act 1985
Legislation	Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995
Legislation	Litter Act 2007
Legislation	Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
Legislation	Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999
Legislation	Mineral Resources Development Act 1995.
Legislation	National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
Legislation	National Environment Protection Council Act 1995
Legislation	Nature Conservation Act 2002
Legislation	Threatened Species Protection Act 1995

Type	Title
Legislation	State Policies and Projects Act 1993
Legislation	Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022
Legislation	Wellington Park Act 1993
Legislation	Water Management Act 1999
Policy	State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997
Policy	Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004
Policy	Environment Protection Policy (Noise) 2009
Regulation	Biosecurity Regulations 2022
Regulation	Forest Practices Regulations 2017
Regulation	Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021
Regulation	Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2020
Regulation	Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations
Regulation	Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Underground Petroleum Storage Systems) Regulations 2020
Regulation	Electricity Supply Industry Regulations 2018
Code of Practice	Forest Practices Code 2020
TasNetworks agreement	Forest Practices Act Exemption - Distribution
TasNetworks agreement	Forest Practices Act Exemption - Transmission
Code of Practice	Tasmanian Electricity Code – Chapter 8A
TasNetworks agreement	Parks and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding - Distribution
TasNetworks agreement	Parks and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding - Transmission

Type	Title
TasNetworks agreement	Public Authority Management Agreement for Threatened Species
Guidelines	FPA Fauna Technical Notes
Guidelines	Guidelines for terrestrial Natural Values Surveys related to Development Proposals
Guidelines	NRE's guidelines for the safe and effective use of herbicide near waterways
Guidelines	Tasmanian Wash-down Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control
Code of Practice	Code of Practice for Ground Spraying
Guidelines	NRE (2015) Weed and Disease Planning & Hygiene Guidelines
Guidelines	NRE (2010) Keeping It Clean - A Tasmanian field hygiene manual to prevent the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens
Guidelines	Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant Impact Guidelines
External Standard	Standard: AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites
Guidelines	EPA (2018) Information Bulletin 105 Classification and management of Contaminated Soil for Disposal
Guidelines	EPA (2012) Information Bulletin 101 Notification of Contaminated Sites
Guidelines	EPA (2022) Approved Management Method for the disposal of Clean Fill Type 1 and Type 2
Guidelines	EPA (2021) Environmental Guidelines for Stockpiling Waste
Guidelines	EPA (2015) Bunding and Spill Management Guidelines
Guidelines	EPA (2022) Controlled Waste Transport Spill Management Plan Guide

Appendix B – TasNetworks compliance obligations

Document type	Document Number	Document title
Other		TasNetworks Risk Appetite Statement
Framework		TasNetworks Risk Management Framework
Policy	R0001905184	TasNetworks Environment and Sustainability Policy
Register	R0001599490	Environment and Sustainability Risk Register
Standard	R0002849257	Wildlife Interactions Standard
Standard	R0002091338	Biosecurity Standard
Standard	R0001984493	Environmental Standard for Vegetation Management and Clearing
Standard	R0001984493	Environmental Risk Management Standard
Standard	R0002403289	Contaminated Land Standard
Standard	R0002438322	Spill Response Standard
Standard	R0002883762	Waste Management Standard
Procedure	R0002126923	Contractor HSE management procedure
Procedure	R0000793081	Excavation Procedure
Procedure	R0002824987	Environment and Sustainability Escalation Guideline
Procedure	R0000094015	Incident Management Procedure
Procedure	R0000502077	Hazardous Substances Management Procedure
Procedure	R0001596106	HSE audit procedure
Procedure	R0001626148	HSE Documents & Records Management Procedure
Procedure	R0001660044	HSE Accountabilities and Responsibilities Procedure
Procedure	R0002334735	HSE Consultation and Communications Procedure

Document type	Document Number	Document title
Procedure	R0001724259	HSE Inspections Procedure
Procedure	R0001825572	Management of Change Procedure
Procedure	R0002403267	Unanticipated Contaminations Finds Procedure
Rule	R0001753472	One Hour Rule
Rule	R0002820515	Environmental Risk Assessment and Planning Tool Logic
Work practice	R0002340400	Aboriginal Heritage Risk Assessment Work Practice
Work practice	R0002143258	Biosecurity hygiene work practice
Work practice	R0002276096	Controlled Waste Transport
Work practice	R0000112530	Environmental Handbook
Work practice	R0002383718	Environmental risk assessment for access track construction and maintenance
Work practice	R0002383730	Environmental risk assessment for vegetation management and clearing
Work practice	R0002436806	Soil management near ground mount oil filled assets
Work practice	R0002276176	Spill Response - Asbestos, CCA ash, Lead, Mercury
Work practice	R0002276199	Spill response - Oil and Fuel
Work practice	R0001975509	Threatened bird incident response
Work practice	R0002278799	Threatened bird mitigation scoping
Work practice	R0001975433	Threatened bird nest management
Work practice	R0001993657	Transportation of transformers
Work practice	R0002067861	Weed ID guide

Appendix C – Biosecurity risks

TasNetworks is a large linear infrastructure business, with a high volume of operational and capital work. As a result, the spread of weeds, soil and water borne disease and other pests is a high environmental risk for the business (as defined in the Environment and Sustainability Risk Register).

Weeds, soil and water borne diseases and other pests can be easily and inadvertently spread with the movement of people, vehicles, tools, PPE and machinery, particularly when work involves the disturbance of soil, mud, water, plant and animal material. Work that involves travel or work on unmaintained roads or access tracks, the cutting or clearing of vegetation, significant ground disturbance or the use of fill, all pose an elevated level of biosecurity risk.

Managing biosecurity risks includes containing weeds, pests and disease to a certain area or work site or conversely, keeping biosecurity threats out of high-value environmental, economic or community areas. For example, the Wilderness World Heritage Area, National Parks and agricultural areas are highly sensitive to the introduction of invasive pests, weeds and disease.

Declared and environmental weeds

Weeds[2] are invasive plants that can have a significant impact on the Tasmanian environment, community and economy (see pests and invasive pests). The Biosecurity Act and Biosecurity Regulations. outline responsibility for preventing the spread or release of declared (and unknown) pests, including weeds, into the environment.

Declared weeds in Tasmania have statutory management plans which classify the weeds as either Class A or Class B, depending on the municipality and known weed distribution. If a weed is listed as Class A, eradication is the principal management objective. Weeds listed as Class B require control and containment. All Statutory Weed Management Plans created under the *Weed Management Act 1999* are now termed Government Biosecurity Programs with the same meaning and effect.

Under the Biosecurity Regulations., causing the release, scattering or escape into the environment of a declared pest or disease, or dealing with a declared pest or disease in a manner that resulted in the spread of the pest disease, is considered a 'prohibited dealing' which is an offence under the Biosecurity Act. **TasNetworks will make all reasonably practical efforts to prevent and minimise the spread of weeds, pests and disease during operations, maintenance and construction work in line with the GBD.**

Phytophthora (root rot)

Phytophthora root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) is an introduced pathogenic water mould which attacks a wide range of native Tasmanian plants. It is one of the worst invasive plant pathogens in Australia and is recognised as a Key Threatening Process under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Infection with this pathogen can severely degrade native vegetation communities and kills susceptible plants.

[2]All weeds that were declared under the Weed Management Act 1999 are now classified as a declared pest(s); Biosecurity Regs. Section 29

Phytophthora can be spread to new areas by dirt and mud adhering to vehicles, equipment or footwear. While *Phytophthora* is widespread in Tasmania, several areas with vulnerable vegetation have been identified as a priority for Phytophthora Management Zones, where good hygiene practices are recommended to minimising the risk of spread of *Phytophthora.*

Additional biosecurity hygiene controls must be implemented in Phytophthora Management Zones or in areas with known *Phytophthora* observations (see section 5.1). These can be identified by using the NetMaps layer catalogue, ListMAP or the NVA.

Chytrid fungus

The Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) causes a disease known as chytridiomycosis which currently threatens Tasmania's frog species. The fungus infects the skin of frogs destroying its structure and function causing death. On mainland Australia, chytrid has caused frog extinctions and it is listed a Key Threatening Process under the EPBC Act.

The Chytrid fungus can be spread to new areas by water and mud in and adhering to vehicles, equipment or footwear. Chytrid fungus is found along the north and east coasts of Tasmania, however the interior of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) is still free of the disease and provides a safe haven for Tasmania's endemic frog species.

Biosecurity hygiene controls must be implemented in areas with known chytrid observations or chytrid hygiene areas (see section 5.1). These can be identified by using the NetMaps layer catalogue, LIST Map or NVA.

Appendix D - TasNetworks strategic weed management program

There are significant areas of declared weeds in and near TasNetworks easements. While TasNetworks does not own the land used to supply electricity, TasNetworks may contribute to collaborative, strategic weed management efforts to manage high-risk weeds in high value locations. The Australia Weed Strategy principles states that:

> 'Individuals, organisations and industry groups that create risks that may result in a weed entering, emerging, establishing or spreading in Australia have a role in minimising the impacts and contributing to the costs of management'.

A strategic approach

To achieve the best environmental, economic and community outcomes within the constraints of a fixed budget, TasNetworks will prioritise high risk weeds in high value areas for eradication or control within existing TasNetworks easements. Work must also be planned with collaborative and long-term weed management objectives in mind. This will maximise the overall reduction in biosecurity risk per dollar

spent. Where possible, work will consider other relevant landscape factors (i.e. erodibility), the management of secondary weed species and measures to prevent secondary outbreaks.

Weed management planning

To ensure that effective, collaborative and long-term weed management outcomes are achieved, a weed management plan must be either prepared by or approved by TasNetworks, prior to commencing work as part of TasNetworks Weed Management Program. At a minimum, the weed management plan must address the following:

- The target species types, their classification and the size of the infestation
- The most appropriate treatment method and timing of work to effectively manage the target species over time, stipulating follow-up treatment requirements
- Identification of all relevant land owners or land managers and any consultation and coordination between stakeholders required
- A plan to monitor the work site and conduct follow-up management work if required
- An assessment of environmental and heritage values and potential off-target impacts posed by the work
- Disposal of vegetation contaminated with declared weeds at a registered waste disposal facility
- Safety risks posed by the use of plant, machinery, herbicides and/or manual handling
- The proximity of work undertaken near live electrical equipment

The plan must also consider:

- Methods that limit disturbance to off target species, particularly threatened flora
- Alternatives to chemical treatment, particularly in proximity to waterways (as per NREs Guideline for the Safe Effective Use of Herbicides Near Waterways)
- Actions to prevent secondary outbreaks or reinfestation

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