



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 30 June 2017

NEW BIOSECURITY ACT TO PROTECT OUR STATE

From tomorrow, the State's new biosecurity reforms will be switched on as the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* commences.

The new Act will replace 14 outdated Acts with a modern, cohesive framework for protecting the State from the threat of diseases, pests, weeds and other contaminants.

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair encouraged everyone – from recreational fishers to rural landholders across NSW – to make sure they're aware of their general biosecurity duties under the new legislation.

"The Act emphasises that biosecurity is a shared responsibility between the public, industry and government," Mr Blair said.

"Across NSW the community has an important role to play in managing biosecurity, particularly as a source of information – they are our eyes and ears on the ground. ."

The new framework is a smarter way of managing biosecurity risks through threat monitoring and management tools, emergency response powers and community education, rather than the old prescriptive regulatory approach.

Mr Blair also launched 11 Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans developed by Local Land Services in conjunction with Regional Weed Committees.

"The strength of these plans is a direct result of the community partnering together to achieve a coordinated approach to landscape-scale weed management in the 11 Local Land Services regions," Mr Blair said.

To support the reform and regional plans, DPI has developed the WeedWise app – an educative tool providing landholders with information on treating and managing weeds.

"We have the legislation in place, regional plans complete and an easy to use app that brings everything together for straight-forward application on the ground," Mr Blair said.

"Today's announcements are a landmark in this Government's commitment to delivering a strong framework to protect NSW from risks which have far-reaching impacts on human, plant and animal health, as well as our environment and economy.

"This legislation ensures our State's reputation for safe, disease-free food and fibre remains the best in the world, safeguarding our \$14 billion primary industries sector."

MEDIA: Evie Madden | Minister Blair | 0409 682 163