



White Spaces



Biosecurity is a shared responsibility between industry, government, and the community; it is important that everyone who has influence on how land is managed has a full understanding of their general biosecurity duty.

General biosecurity duty, under the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)* is defined as:

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

General biosecurity duty applies to all pest animals and invasive weed species in NSW. In the Western region 13 priority pest animals have been identified; typically, the most relevant are feral pigs, foxes, and wild dogs.

Vertebrate pests cost the Australian agricultural industry \$800 million worth of damage per year with this figure rising. In an aim to help curb the increase of vertebrate pest animal populations in the region, Western Local Land Services has established the White Spaces project.

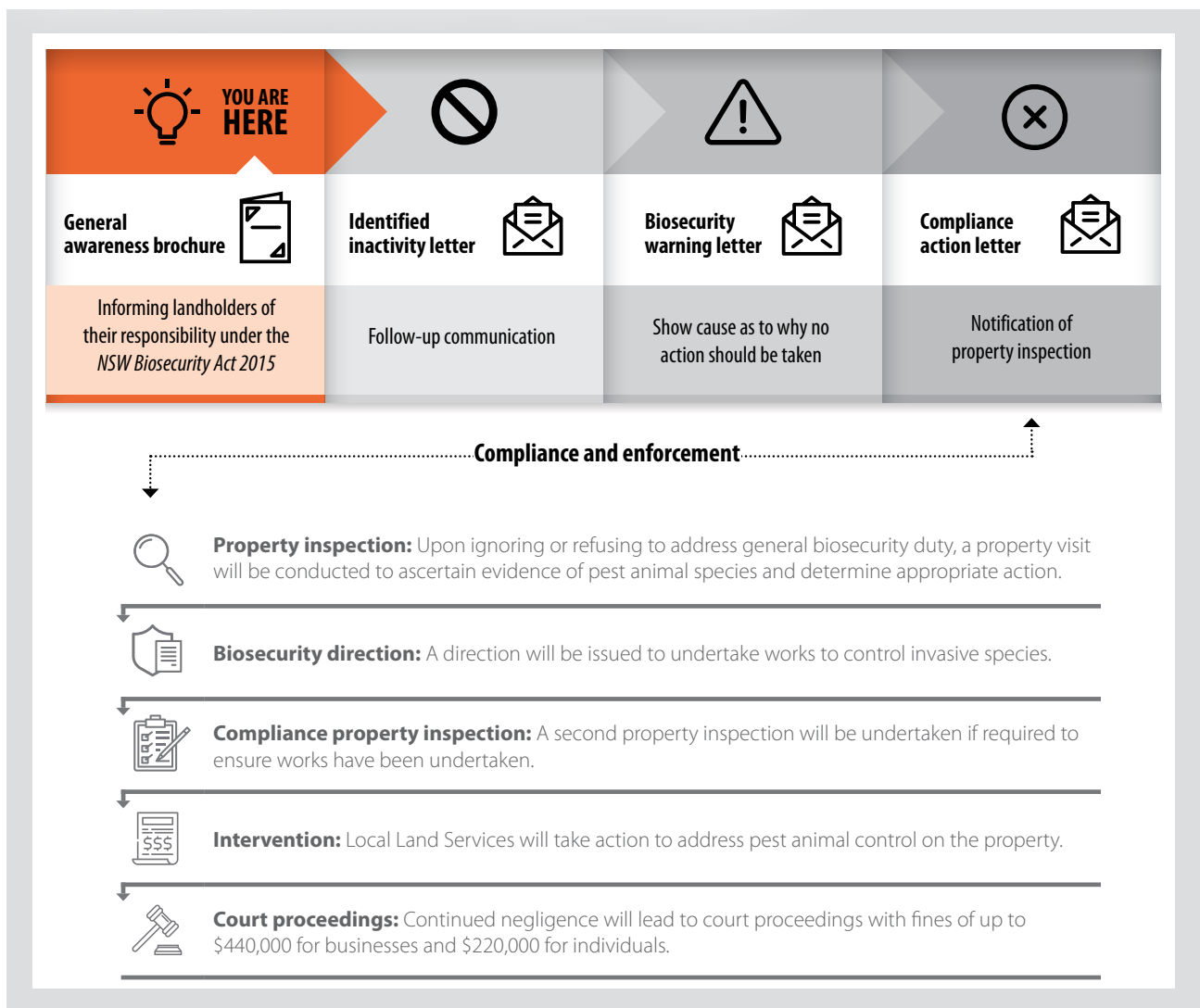
The White Spaces project has been developed to encourage and assist landholders in Western NSW to meet their general biosecurity duty.

White Spaces will ensure that all landholders are implementing effective pest control strategies to actively reduce pest animals while minimising the 'white spaces' between properties. It will also identify landholders who are not participating in pest management groups and assist in providing information about joining a local group or group-based pest management options, or alternatives to meet their general biosecurity duty obligations.

The White Spaces project will be complemented by NSW Government who provide baiting subsidies, trapping programs, collaring programs and has committed to extending the NSW border wild dog fence by 742km.

Process for the White Spaces project

1. White Spaces general awareness and general biosecurity duty brochures will be posted to landholders, these will explain general biosecurity duty and outline the White Spaces project.
2. Biosecurity officers will contact landholders identified as having pest issues and not meeting their general biosecurity duty providing landholders with options to meet their biosecurity duty. *Note: for active participants in pest management groups there is no further action.*
3. An identified inactivity letter will be issued to those landholders who cannot be contacted or have not yet demonstrated how they are meeting their general biosecurity duty obligations. Landholders receiving identified inactivity letter should contact their Biosecurity officer to discuss options for meeting their general biosecurity duty obligations with Local Land Services. Landholders who are meeting their general biosecurity duty will not be contacted.
4. When there has been no contact or agreement with Local Land Services a biosecurity warning letter will be issued, giving the landholder 28 days to voluntarily contact a biosecurity officer and discuss meeting general biosecurity duty obligations.
5. A landholder's continued failure to meet their general biosecurity duty obligations will result in a compliance action letter, this will lead to a property inspection to determine what action needs to be taken. A biosecurity direction or undertaking will be issued which constitutes a written and binding commitment. Failure to meet the conditions of a biosecurity direction or undertaking will lead to fines and an intervention with the work being completed by Local Land Services at the cost of the landholder.



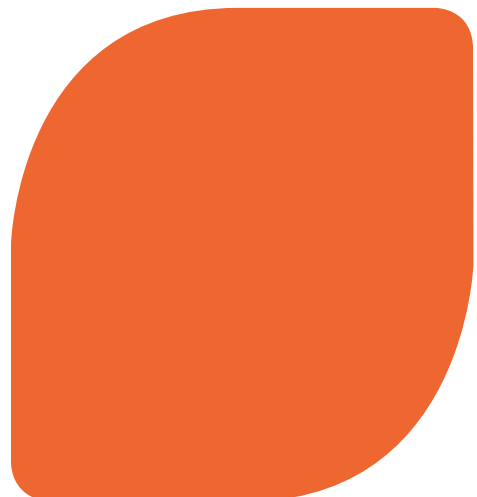
What does the White Spaces project mean to me?

- If you are a member of a pest management group and actively participating in control methods no action is required.
- If your property or the landscape surrounding the property has active pest animal populations and active pest animal groups, but you are not participating, your local biosecurity officer is available to support you in meeting your general biosecurity duty. Alternatively, you will be contacted by Local Land Services to discuss options on meeting your general biosecurity duty obligations.
- If you have vertebrate pest issues in your area and there are no pest management groups currently active call your local biosecurity officer and they can assist you in discussing options for group-based pest management control.
- Failure to comply with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* is a serious offence and can lead to heavy penalties. Failure to participate will lead to compliance action.
- If you are not currently a member of a pest management group and/or do not have a baiting or trapping program contact your local biosecurity officer, as soon as possible, to discuss options to discharge your general biosecurity duty.

Actions to meet general biosecurity duty

The biosecurity expectation is that all landholders will:

- Implement effective pest control strategies to actively control pest animals, aiming to keep numbers to minimal levels.
- Actively participate in pest management group control programs.
- Regularly report numbers, locations, damages, and losses caused by pest animals, to their local pest management group and/or Western Local Land Services.
- Monitor and report results of pest animal control programs to the local pest management group and/or Western Local Land Services.





The importance of pest management groups

Pest management groups provide a way for government, landholders, and the community to work collectively to achieve successful outcomes. Without region wide control, pests overcome control efforts of individual landholders. Non-participation in pest management groups is detrimental to biosecurity in the entire Western region.

The advantages of participating in a pest management group are numerous and include:

- Minimising financial losses from vertebrate pests.
- Assisting neighbours and the local community in a functioning region-wide program.
- Access to Local Land Services programs, resources, and opportunities.

If you have vertebrate pest issues on your property and there are no pest management groups currently active, call your local biosecurity officer and they will assist in discussing options for group-based pest management control.

Across the Western region we have biosecurity officers in many locations, so there's always someone local to assist you. Please contact your closest office to get in touch.

Balranald (03) 5020 1876 or 0429 614 953

Hillston (02) 6967 2507 or 0428 362 073

Bourke (02) 6870 8600 or 0428 722 045

Tibooburra (08) 8087 3378 or 0436 475 814

Brewarrina (02) 6839 2047 or 0448 524 781

Wanaaring (02) 6870 8600 or 0436 475 814

Broken Hill (08) 8087 3378, 0400 873 378 or 0438 382 868

Wentworth (03) 5027 3064 or 0427 200 820

Cobar (02) 6836 2081 or 0439 596 614

Wilcannia (08) 8091 5070 or 0428 915 070

