

# Overseas visitors and biosecurity in Australia



Good travel hygiene is essential for all visitors coming from overseas or travelling between different regions within Australia.

You may be attending a conference, an agricultural event, be part of a delegation of industry members, conducting field research or a visiting researcher. If your itinerary includes visiting rural properties or wilderness areas, there is a risk that a new disease, pest or weed could enter Australia or be moved between regions as a result of your travels.

## What do you risk by not considering biosecurity?

- introducing a new pest, disease or weed to an area with associated control and management issues and ecological ramifications
- negative feedback for your organisation
- reluctance of farmers and others to host future visits
- failure to take on your responsibility and 'duty of care'.

## Entering Australia

Plant pests, diseases and weed seeds can potentially enter new areas on footwear and clothing. Travellers are known to have inadvertently carried fungal spores into the country on their clothes, and weed seeds can easily be carried in soil on boots and clothes. Some pests can also hitch hike on vehicles, equipment or in personal baggage.

## Domestic quarantine and travelling between regions in Australia

There are some pests, diseases and weeds that are confined to particular regions in Australia. These include herbicide resistant weeds, fungicide resistant pathogens and insecticide resistant pests, the presence of which may not be evident on visual inspection.

Please make sure all clothing, equipment and baggage is clean of soil and plant material before moving between different states or territories in Australia.



## Biosecurity tips for overseas researchers

### Before you come to Australia:

- Ask the organisers of your trip or local researchers if there are any specific biosecurity requirements for the area(s) you are visiting.
- Wash and scrub your footwear and equipment with soap and water, and then treat with a disinfectant.
- Wash all the clothes you plan to wear before you come to Australia, including hats and caps.

### As you enter Australia:

- Declare if you have visited a farm or wilderness area.
- Declare any items listed on the incoming passenger card.



## Further information

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website **[agriculture.gov.au](http://agriculture.gov.au)** has sections about biosecurity when travelling to Australia. Interstate travel quarantine is also featured on the page **[agriculture.gov.au/travelling](http://agriculture.gov.au/travelling)**

The Australian Interstate Quarantine website **[interstatequarantine.org.au](http://interstatequarantine.org.au)** has a section for travellers, including maps of quarantine or biosecurity zones and a guide for travellers that lists what plant and food items can and can't be taken from one state to another.



If your itinerary includes visiting rural properties or wilderness areas, there is a risk that a new disease, pest or weed could enter Australia or be moved between growing regions as a result of your travels.

## Reporting pests, diseases and weeds

In Australia, any unusual plant pest, disease or weed should be reported immediately to the relevant state or territory agriculture agency through the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline** on **1800 084 881**.

**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,  
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

**1800 084 881**



Before your trip ensure you wash and scrub your footwear and equipment with soap and water, and then treat with a disinfectant.



Pests, disease causing organisms and weed seeds can be present on hands, clothing, footwear and personal items.

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