TRANSMISSION COMPANY VICTORIA

Biosecurity Policy

April 2024

VNI-West Project

Transmission Company Victoria

Important Notice

Purpose

RMCG prepared this document to set out biosecurity policy for TCV, its employees and contractors to follow when accessing private land for field survey activities for the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) project.

It has been adopted for use by TCV and is made available to the public via the TCV website.

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Table 1 Version Control

Version	Release Date	Authors	Approval Date	Reviewed By	Approved By	Changes
1.0	April 2024	Chris O'Halloran, Sam Magee, Shayne Annett RMCG	2 April 2024	Claire Cass	Merryn York	Initial version

This document has been created by the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) Project Team. This document will be reviewed from time to time. Any queries or suggestions for improvement should be addressed to the VNI West Project Director.

1 Introduction

Overview

This document contains biosecurity policies that apply to Transmission Company Victoria Pty Ltd (**TCV**). TCV's policies and procedures apply to all TCV employees, contractors and consultants carrying out site visits.

TCV is delivering the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector electricity transmission line project, known as 'VNI West' and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Australian Electricity Market Operator Limited (**AEMO**).

2 Context and background to policy

2.1 Purpose and objectives of the policy

This document provides guidelines to manage the risks associated with the introduction and spread of harmful biological agents such as pest animals, diseases, pest plants and contaminants that pose a threat to human, animal, and plant health and to the natural environment. The guidance applies a risk-based approach, using the conventional framing of risks as the combination of likelihood and consequences.

The policy has been developed consistent with the Essential Services Commission (ESC) final *Land Access Code of Practice* (including section 9.3 relating to biosecurity controls), which was developed in consultation with Agriculture Victoria, and which took effect from 1 March 2024.

The preventive measures and mitigations outlined here, and drawn from best practice, will reduce the likelihood of an incursion and spread occurring. It is important to note that they will have limited effect on the impact of any incursion (i.e., the consequence).

It sets out, at a general level, the key legal requirements that may apply to TCV and its employees, agents, contractors and consultants relating to biosecurity in Victoria and key best practice measures to avoid biosecurity risks.

TCV recognises that biosecurity management is a responsibility shared between TCV, the government (with its policy role and as a land manager), industry, landholders, and the community.

If you are uncertain about whether a biosecurity law, policy or standard applies to an activity being undertaken within the scope of your role, you should contact the AEMO Senior Specialist - Health Safety and Wellbeing before proceeding.

2.2 Biosecurity incursions

Because the possible impacts of biosecurity incursions are so significant, biosecurity policy and planning has a strong focus on prevention. These impacts will vary depending on the particular weed, pest or pathogen that enters a property. They can have major impacts on the individual property, but the consequences of an incursion will often extend far beyond the boundary of the property directly involved. There can be regional, industry-wide or state border shutdowns. They can require large scale culling of farmed and domesticated animals. The ability of an agricultural industry to access domestic and international markets for their products can be permanently compromised. The natural environment can be severely degraded with flow-on impacts for native flora and fauna.

These potential effects of biosecurity incursions, with their consequences for the economy, the environment, animal welfare, the natural environment and communities, mean that prevention is critical.

2.3 Related AEMO policies and procedures

This policy should be read together with other applicable AEMO and TCV policies and procedures that apply to TCV's employees, agents, contractors and consultants. These include the most current versions of:

- AEMO Work Health, Safety and Environment Policy;
- AEMO Compliance Policy (approved 3 February 2022);
- AEMO Group Risk Management Policy (dated 27 March 2023);
- TCV VNIW Fieldwork protocol
- TCV Health and Safety Environment (to be confirm)[1]
- TCV Land Access procedure[1]

[1] Procedures and policies are being finalised by TCV.

3 Biosecurity legislation

3.1 Overview

Victorian biosecurity legislation imposes a wide range of requirements in relation to managing declared noxious weeds and pest animals, preventing the spread of diseases in livestock and plants, preventing the movement of infected plant materials and soil around Victoria and controlling access to premises where biosecurity measures are in place.

The key biosecurity duties and requirements that apply to TCV arise under various Victorian legislation. The key legislation is listed in Appendix 3 of this policy.

Most biosecurity-related duties and requirements (e.g. those relating to declared noxious weeds or livestock diseases) are the responsibility of landholders, persons entering and using land and persons responsible for managing or interacting with plants and livestock.

A number of duties apply to persons visiting farm sites, and sites where declared noxious weeds are present. TCV employees, contractors and consultants should be aware of the legislative requirements for persons entering land in association with TCV's ordinary business activities. Specific requirements include:

- prohibitions on transporting plant materials (including inadvertently) which contain declared noxious weeds, pests or diseases; and
- restrictions on entering land where biosecurity measures under the *Livestock Management Act 2010* apply.

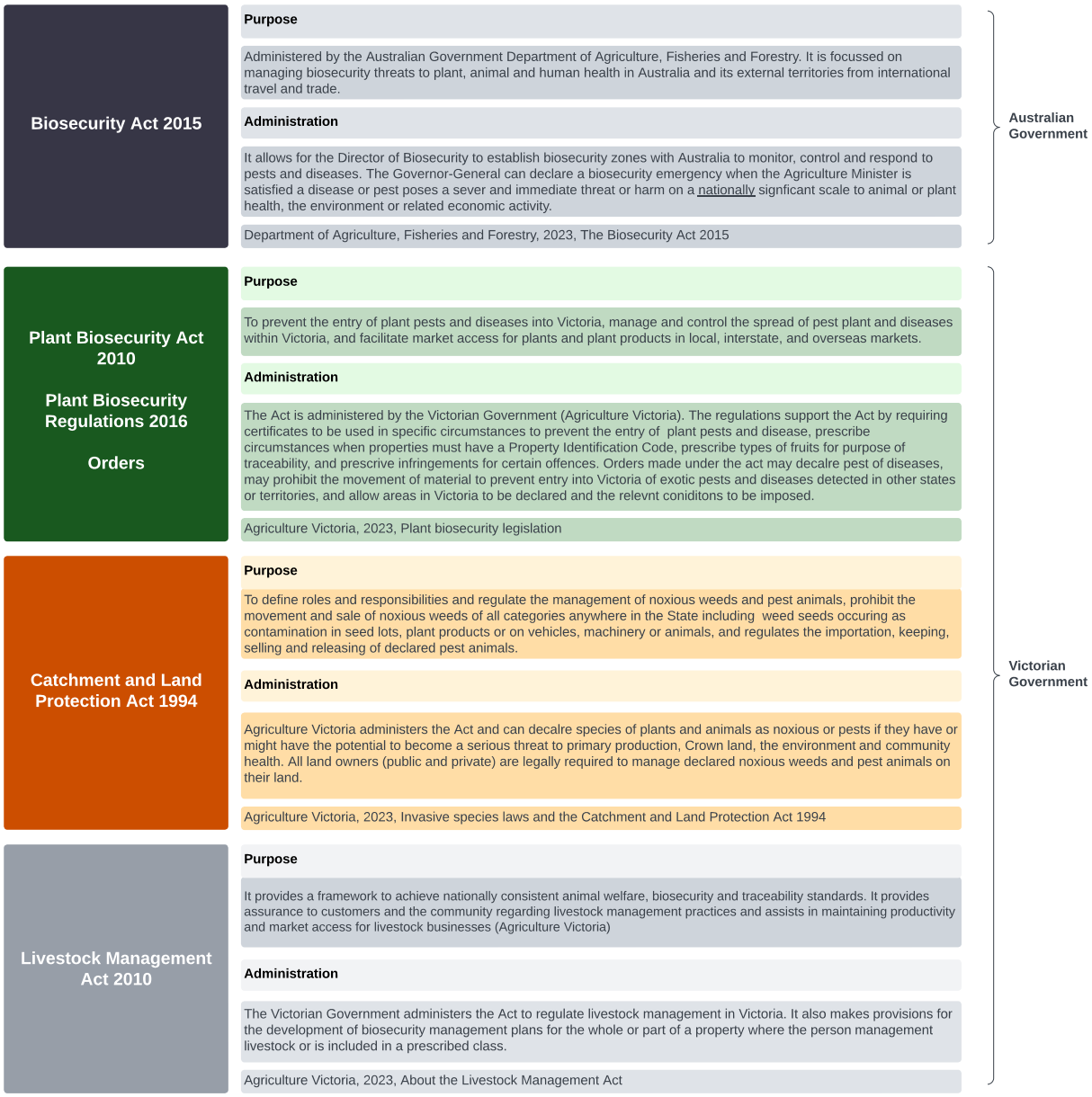
Section 4 of this policy summarises the key Victorian biosecurity measures and legislative duties that apply to TCV's ordinary business activities, with a particular focus on preventing the spread of declared noxious weeds, pests and diseases within Victoria, and preventing biosecurity risks more generally.

Biosecurity in Victoria is also regulated by separate legislative regimes at Victorian and Commonwealth levels. These include statutory protections for certain threatened flora and fauna, land use and planning controls, environmental duties and requirements (including a general environmental duty). This policy does not address these related legislative schemes.

3.2 Legislation – preventative biosecurity measures

Figure 1 below lists key Victorian legislation that focusses on preventative biosecurity measures. Further detail on key legislation regulating biosecurity and associated legislation is listed in Appendix 3 and 4 of this policy.

Figure 1 An overview of biosecurity legislation in Australia and Victoria



3.3 Land Access Code of Practice

The ESC has released a Land Access Code of Practice which came into effect on the 1st March 2024. This Code regulates the rules and processes that transmission companies must follow when accessing, or seeking to access, private land using statutory powers under the Victorian *Electricity Industry Act 2000* (EIA 2000). It also regulates the information that licensed electricity transmission companies must provide to affected parties, and other parties interested in land, prior to entering into access agreements or accessing private land using statutory powers under the Electricity Industry Act 2000[2].

At the time of this policy being published, TCV does not yet hold an electricity transmission licence and therefore is not an 'electricity corporation' with statutory land access powers under the EIA 2000. TCV intends to act consistently with the ESC Land Access Code of Practice, while TCV's electricity transmission licence application is being assessed.

This Code will support TCV, their contractors and consultants to meet the biosecurity-related obligations. Biosecurity is specifically highlighted in the consultation obligations and in the notification obligations. The management actions detailed in section 5 of the Code need to be assessed when consulting with affected parties, adapted as a result of the consultation and reviewed when notifying the affected parties of the intended access.

3.4 Biosecurity Strategy

The Victorian Government has released a new biosecurity strategy (Victoria's Biosecurity Strategy, 2023) which will inform future changes to the biosecurity system in the state. The TCV policy documented here aligns well with goal number two of the state strategy – prevention. The biosecurity strategy also emphasises the collective and shared responsibilities that underpin biosecurity. This is also well reflected in TCV's approach.

The state strategy may lead to new policies and/or legislation from the Victorian state. If this occurs, the TCV policy should be reviewed to ensure its consistency with any new legislation or policies.

[2] Essential Services Commission 2023, Land Access Code of Practice, available: https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/codes-guidelines-and-policies/land-access-code-practice#tabs-container2 accessed 9/1/24

4 Weeds and diseases

4.1 Weeds

In Victoria, declared noxious weeds are categorised into five groups under the CaLP Act 1994, which are further described in Table 1. These plants cause environmental or economic harm or have the potential to cause harm. In some cases, they can present a risk to human health. The list of declared noxious weeds is long and can be updated periodically. It is important to refer to Agriculture Victoria for the latest consolidated list of declared noxious weed species[3].

Table 1 Weeds, seeds and propagules categories

Description	Your responsibility
State prohibited weeds. They are invasive plants that either: ▪ Do not occur in Victoria but pose a significant threat if they invade, ▪ Are present, pose a threat and can reasonably expected to be eradicated.	Practice hygiene methods (as described in this policy). Report sightings to Agriculture Victoria
Regionally prohibited weeds. They are invasive plants which are: ▪ Not widely distributed but can spread further, ▪ Are reasonably expected to be eradicated from a region. Landowners must take all reasonable steps to eradicate the weeds.	Practice hygiene methods.
Regionally controlled weeds. They are invasive plants which are: ▪ Widespread in a region. To prevent spread, ongoing control measures are required, which are the responsibility of the landholder.	
Restricted weeds. They pose an unacceptable risk of spreading in this state and are a serious threat to other states or territories of Australia.	
Noxious aquatic species Some aquatic plans pose a threat to fisheries, the environment or human health. The Fisheries Act 1995 has declared some species as noxious.	

[3] Agriculture Victoria, 2024, Consolidated lists of declared noxious weeds and pest animals, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/protecting-victoria/legislation-policy-and-permits/consolidated-lists-of-declared-noxious-weeds-and-pest-animals, accessed 09/01/2024

4.2 Animal and plant diseases

Animal diseases

There are several diseases which pose a significant threat to livestock, wildlife, and the environment. An outbreak of some diseases can result in mass culling of livestock, restrictions of movement for the industry and limitations to production, resulting in significant economic and social impacts for the industry. All due care must be taken by contractors to prevent spread of animal diseases.

Important animal and plant diseases to be aware of, that may be spread by humans via soil or contact, are listed in Table 2. These are classified as Emergency animal diseases and notifiable diseases and have been shortlisted because they are most likely to be relevant to the work being undertaken by TCV contractors. A more comprehensive list of Emergency Animal Diseases and notifiable diseases can be found through the Agriculture Victoria website (https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/emergency-animal-diseases/about-emergency-animal-diseases). If a contractor suspects an animal has an Emergency Animal Disease or notifiable disease, they have a legal obligation to report it to Agriculture Victoria.

Table 2 Emergency animal diseases

Disease	Known to occur in Victoria	What is it?	Impact of the disease	Your responsibility
Anthrax in animals[4]	Yes	It is an infectious bacterial disease of animals, cause by a spore-forming bacteria. It can affect humans and a wide range of animals. Nearly all cases in Victoria have been seen in sheep and cattle.	Sudden death of livestock with blood from orifices. Often before death animals show signs of high fever.	Practice good hygiene (as set out in this policy). Report any concerns you have about potential serious disease outbreaks to TCV and Agriculture Victoria and / or the landowner. Do not touch any sick, injured, or dead livestock or wildlife.
Foot and mouth disease[5]	No	Highly contagious viral disease in cloven-hoofed animals. It is not yet present in Australia but is endemic throughout the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and South America.	Death of livestock. Blisters on mouth and feet prior to death. If it enters Australia, it could result in export market closures, and disruption to production associated with disease response initiative.	

[4] Agriculture Victoria, 2023, Anthrax in animals, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/foot-and-mouth-disease, accessed 14/11/2023

[5] Agriculture Victoria, 2022, Foot and mouth disease, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/foot-and-mouth-disease, accessed 14/11/2023

African Swine Fever[6]	No	Contagious viral disease of pigs causing fever, blotching of the skin, incoordination, bloody diarrhoea and pneumonia.	Death of livestock. If it enters Australia, it could result in export market closures, and disruption to production associated with disease response initiative.	
Lumpy Skin Disease[7]	No	Viral disease of cattle, buffalo and wild ruminants resulting in lumps on the skin that can turn into necrotic lesions.	Severe or fatal leading to lesions in the respiratory or gastrointestinal tract, depression and anorexia. It can also be confused with other diseases.	

What symptoms should a contractor or staff member look for?

- Blisters, erosions, lumps or ulcers in their mouth, around their muzzle, feet, udder, neck, scrotum or teats.
- Tremors or paralysis
- Multiple species suffering from these symptoms.

Suspected cases can be reported to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888.

Plant diseases

Grains, pulses and cereal diseases

There are many grain, pulses and cereal diseases that are a threat to Victorian agriculture. Given this risk, TCV staff and contractors must wear disposable boot covers, gaiter covers or overalls if they need to walk through a crop or to a part of the site. All protective gear should be disposed of in a sealed waterproof bag before moving to another paddock (and not reused). In addition, the minimum practice is to disinfect all equipment, vehicles and soles of boots between paddocks.

Soil borne and native vegetation diseases

There are two plant diseases that are of environmental concern, that are not easily identifiable but are noted as important by Parks Victoria[8] - cinnamon fungus and myrtle rust. The main symptom of these diseases is extensive plant die back. These diseases pose a significant threat to native vegetation and all caution should be taken when entering native vegetation sites to prevent spread. The local Parks Victoria office or Catchment Management Authority will be able to advise if these diseases are a known problem in the area you are working in.

[6] Agriculture Victoria, 2024, African Swine Fever, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/pig-diseases/african-swine-fever, accessed 08/01/2024

[7] Agricultura Victoria, 2024, Lumpy Skin disease, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/emergency-animal-diseases/lumpy-skin-disease, accessed 08/01/2024

[8] Parks Victoria, 2024, Weeds and diseases, available: https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/conservation-and-science/conserving-our-parks/weeds-and-diseases. Accessed 8/01/2024.

Table 3 Plant diseases of environmental concern

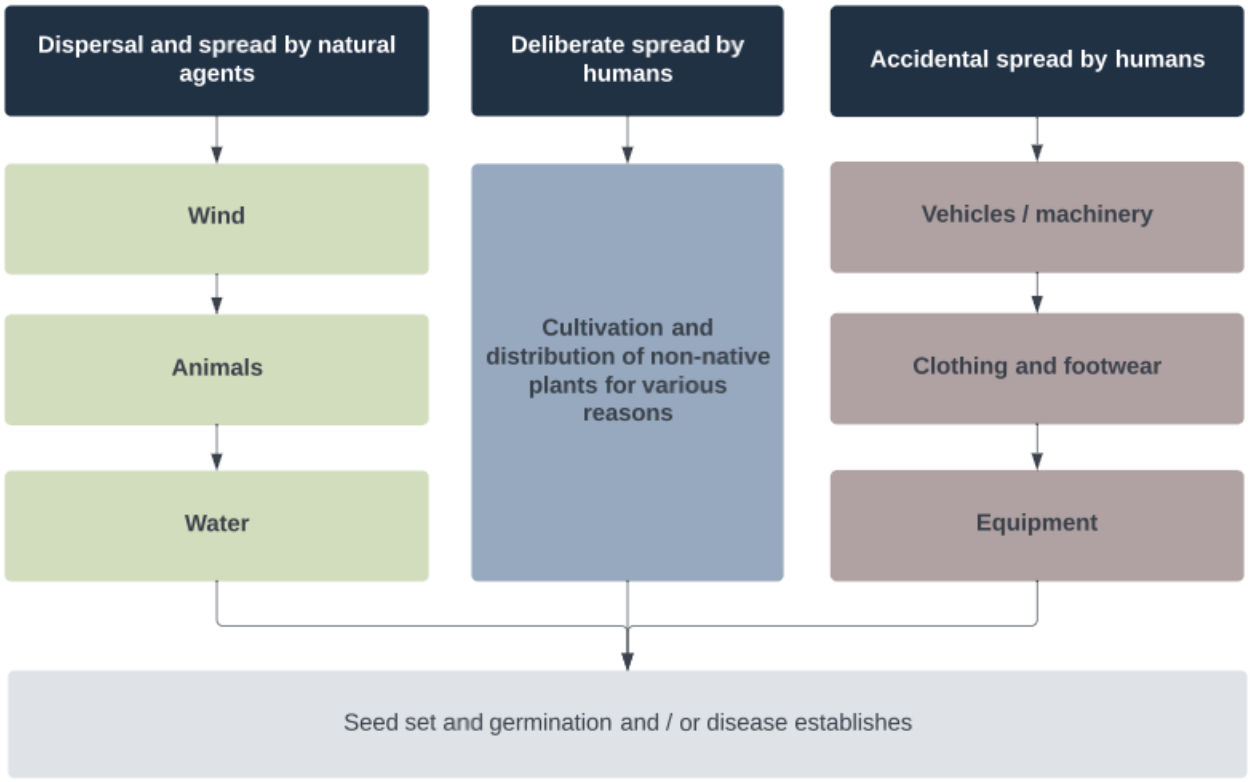
Disease	Known to occur in Victoria	What is it?	Impact of the disease	Your responsibility
Cinnamon Fungus *Phytophthora cinnamonii*[9]	Yes	Fungal plant disease, typically found in damp areas (soil or water) and spread through contaminated soil.	Die back in plants and vegetation communities, potentially altering the ecology of ecosystems.	Practice good hygiene (as set out in this policy). Report any concerns you have about potential serious disease outbreaks to TCV, Agriculture Victoria and / or the landowner. Do not remove or touch any plant material that appears to be affected by disease.
Myrtle Rust[10] ***Austropuccinia psidii***	Yes	Plant fungal disease, found in Victoria. It has bright yellow spores especially on young plant material (e.g. new leaves).	It causes deformed leaves, heavy defoliation of branches, dieback, stunted growth, and plant death.	

[9] Parks Victoria, 2023, Weeds and diseases, available: https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/conservation-and-science/conserving-our-parks/weeds-and-diseases#:~:text=It%20is%20listed%20in%20the,closely%20related%20to%20brown%20algae. Accessed 14/11/2023.

[10] Agriculture Victoria, 2023, Avoiding spread of myrtle rust in bushland, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/plant-diseases/shrub-and-tree-diseases/myrtle-rust, accessed 14/11/2023

4.3 Pathways of spread

There are several pathways of spread for pests, diseases and weeds. This policy and guidelines focus on preventing accidental disease and weed spread by humans. Given this focus, the preventative measures described in more detail in the next section, focus on the movement of vehicles and machinery, on clothing and footwear, and on equipment.



5 Procedures for managing on-site biosecurity risks

In this section the specific actions required to manage biosecurity risks are described. They consist of:

- Responsibilities of contractors, consultants and employees
- A description of the minimum standards required in all situations
- A simple risk assessment process to classify low, medium and high risk situations
- A list of the actions required for each level of risk.

5.1 Responsibilities

All contractors, consultants, and employees, have a responsibility to maintain biosecurity practices that protect the businesses that operate throughout the regions you work in, from the risk of biosecurity events. It is essential that contractors, consultants, or employees:

- Arrive on-site clean, and to the extent it is possible stay clean and leave clean consistent with Agriculture Victoria's best practice guidelines.
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of declared noxious weeds throughout Victoria, including the steps set out in this policy. This includes, whenever possible, seeking information from landholders, or others with knowledge of the site, about known biosecurity issues at the site and scheduling work to occur in clean areas first and then move to infested areas last.
- Check whether they are entering an area that has been declared under the *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010* (Vic) or the *Livestock Disease Control Act 2010* (Vic), and if so, escalate the matter within TCV to confirm whether entry to the premises is necessary and to obtain further advice if necessary.
- Check whether a biosecurity management plan is in place on each premises where entry is proposed and, if so, seek permission from the landholder of the premises, before entering.
- Consult with the landholder regarding preferred access tracks and any reasonable biosecurity requirements.
- In the event of refusal of access, escalate internally and seek further advice before seeking to enter any land or premises without consent.
- Are trained in biosecurity awareness and procedures. Refer to Agriculture Victoria's website for free information and online training.
- Keep records of the movement of people, vehicles, machinery and equipment onto and off properties. These records must be kept in such a way that they can be readily accessed and supplied for the purposes of monitoring and in the event of an incursion.

If an incursion of a significant weed or disease becomes apparent to the TCV employee, contractor, or consultant, they must inform TCV management and refer it to Agriculture Victoria. Whenever possible the landholder/manager should also be notified.

5.2 Minimum conditions checklist

The minimum standards for vehicles, machinery, equipment and people conducting any site visit are present in Table 4. If any of these minimum conditions cannot be met, then the risk level associated with that activity is affected. The actions required for each risk level are described in section 4.4.

Table 4 Minimum conditions and impact to risk level.

Minimum conditions for hygiene	**Impact to risk level if condition is not met**
Stay on formed tracks where possible. Leave the gates as you found them. Promptly advise of any stray animals (take a photo) on public roadways.	All pre-determined low risk activities must be changed to medium risk.
▪ **Avoid travelling across paddocks when soils are saturated or there is standing water in paddocks (aim is avoid moving soil (as mud) on vehicles)** ▪ **Plan to only take equipment that you need to do the job which can be easily cleaned.** ▪ **All clothing and footwear must be clean. Do not wear clothing and footwear that has been used on properties interstate or internationally. If clothing is used from interstate, it should be hot washed with detergent prior to its use in the field in Victoria.** ▪ **Note and consider whether people should attend site if they recently been to a biosecurity hotspot.** ▪ **Do not bring field equipment used in other states or on other properties. If this is unavoidable, all equipment must be thoroughly cleaned using a disinfectant, unless not required following a preliminary risk assessment.** **Field equipment includes any vehicles, machinery, tools or equipment that could come in contact with soils or plants. Sensitive equipment, that would be damaged by conventional washing (such as computers or electronic equipment), still need to be cleaned as well as possible, focussing particularly on removing any soil or plant matter.** ▪	If any of these conditions cannot be met, activities become high-risk.
▪ **Ensure each vehicle has a fully equipped biosecurity kit for the site visit, that includes:** – **A hard brush for removing debris and soil.** – **A spray kit with disinfectant (e.g., F10, Phyto clean, or 70% ethanol or methylated spirits solution in water).** – **A drum of clean water.** – **A handheld blower or air compressor for blowing out the engine bay and other areas of vehicles (e.g., wheel wells).** – **Rubbish bags or buckets for collecting all removed mud, soil, and organic matter.** – **Soap, and bucket with lid for handwashing.** – **Bucket with a lid suitable for footbaths (specialised footbaths are commercially available).** – **Change of clothes or disposable boot covers, overalls and caps for instances where clothing becomes dirty, or for entering crops and known myrtle rust sites.** **Log movements between paddocks and any mitigations implemented at each point (e.g., vehicle cleans or wash downs, change of clothes,**	Site visits cannot be conducted if this condition is not met.

equipment cleaning). There does not need to be a separate log as such, but these details need to recorded. Other records from field work can be used as evidence but would need the additional biosecurity details (mitigation steps) recorded.	

5.3 Assessing the risks

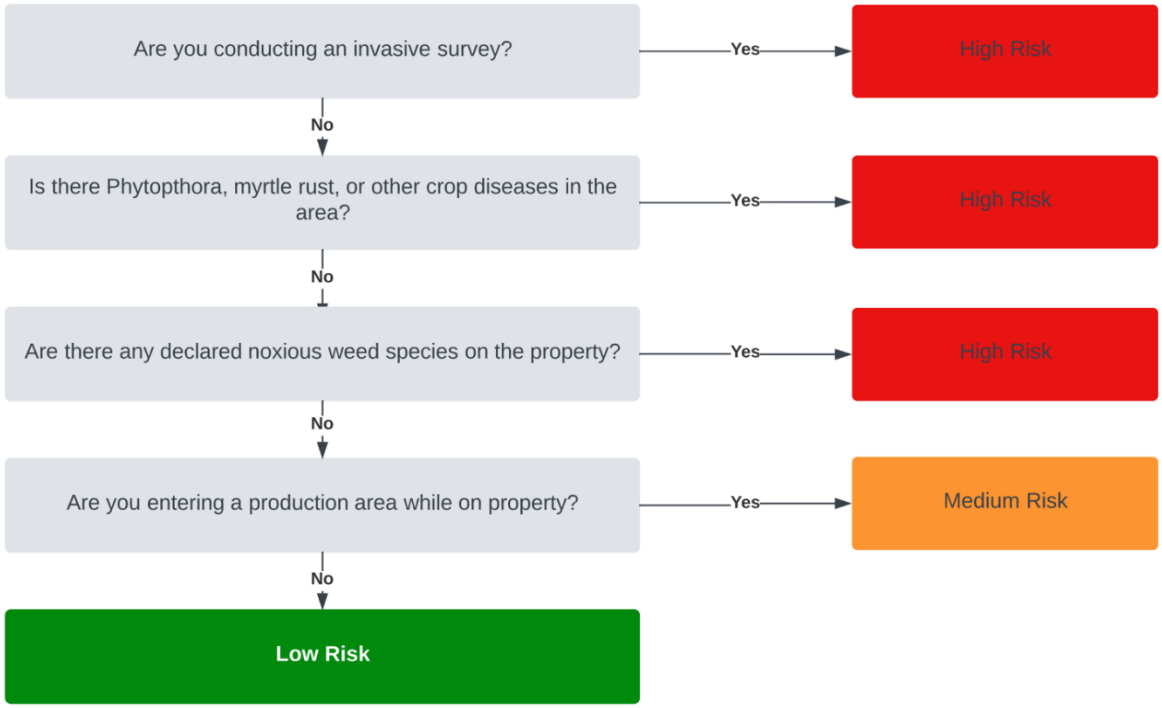
Before undertaking any field-based activity, all contractors, consultants, and employees must undertake a biosecurity risk assessment. To assist with the risk assessment, the proposed activities should be discussed with the landholder/manager where possible.

As part of this process, any weeds, pests and diseases that are known (or are likely) to occur on the paddocks must be identified. This information should be gathered from local knowledge as well as using the fact sheets and other resources maintained by Agriculture Victoria11. The Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia websites contain information on all aspects of biosecurity for agriculture. It may also be necessary to understand what the relevant weeds, pests and diseases look like at different development stages, their host range and how they can be transmitted. This may mean that a specialist needs to be engaged for this risk assessment.

The following chart should be used to determine the level of risk of the proposed activity. All risk assessments must be documented and submitted to TCV along with other documentation describing the activity (e.g., a site visit plan).

Figure 2 Assessing risk levels when entering properties.

Where a significant high-risk survey is being undertaken, it may be appropriate for the contractor to propose a survey specific biosecurity plan. Such a plan would utilise pre-assessments prior to the high-risk work being undertaken, to identify the differing levels of risk for that given survey. Drawing on this pre-assessment, the plan would identify critical control points to mitigate biosecurity risks. This approach could be more efficient for activities like cultural heritage assessments. Such a plan would need agreement between TCV and the contractor prior to commencement of work and would need to be reviewed by an appropriate technical specialist prior to implementation.



[11] Agriculture Victoria, 2024, Biosecurity, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity

Definitions in Assessing Risk

Invasive survey: This is any kind of survey work that requires disturbing soil. This could include geotechnical surveys, land capability assessments, or heritage assessments.

Production Area: Any area of land in agricultural production (i.e., crops, pasture, plantation forestry), or facilities that handle livestock (i.e., shearing sheds, dairies, feedlots, yards). This does not include visits to the dwelling only.

5.4 Mitigations based on risk level

Determining appropriate mitigations depends on the level risk associated with the on-site activities. Typical activities, their risk level and the mitigations required are described in Table 5. These mitigations are in addition to the minimum conditions described in section 4.2.

Where possible, the proposed activities should be discussed with the landholder/manager. Their local knowledge will be invaluable for understanding existing conditions including pre-existing disease areas or weed infestations and areas of phytophthora.

Table 5 Procedures for managing on-farm biosecurity risks.

Typical Activity	Risk Level	Risk Pathway	Mitigations
Visiting – These activities apply when a contractor is undertaking a visit with the landholder, without entering productive areas or native vegetation areas. (e.g., a visit to meet with a landholder in a farmhouse or office).	Low	-	Stop and conduct a visual inspection of vehicle before and after leaving a property, especially the tyres and footwear. With low-risk activities maintaining a visibly clean vehicle, boots and equipment is key. The person/team will clean their vehicle(s) after each farm visit where soil has been picked up by the vehicle or clothing/shoes. Remove any loose dirt and use a pressure washer if required, depending on the level of dirt picked up. Ensuring compliance with existing biosecurity procedures.
Surveys – These activities are when a contractor is undertaking non-invasive survey work.	Medium	Vehicles	Stop and conduct a visual inspection of vehicle before and after leaving a property, especially the tyres and footwear. Enter paddocks in a farm owned vehicle. If use of their own vehicle is required, before entering the property clean off loose dirt and plant material and disinfect tyres (e.g., using backpack spray unit with suitable disinfectant solution).

Typical Activity	Risk Level	Risk Pathway	Mitigations
			All vehicles to be pressure cleaned as needed, depending on the level of dirt picked up but weekly at a minimum. Stick to tracks where possible.
		Boots	If entering the paddock on foot, ensure you have clean boots. If walking through a standing crop, wear disposable protective wear (e.g., boot covers or coveralls) that exceed the height of the stand you are in. (e.g., if it is ankle height, boot covers are sufficient, if its knee or waist height you will need coveralls). Dispose of protective wear between paddocks. Scrape down boots, cleaning off all dirt and use a disinfectant spray or footbath on the soles at the edge of the paddock or in the laneway prior to departure. Stick to tracks where possible.
		Equipment	Ensure machinery and other equipment is thoroughly cleaned of loose dirt, disinfected and plant debris between paddocks as required.
		Clothing	Clothing will be kept clean. Avoid wearing clothing or footwear that have been used on other properties, if it is soiled, interstate or in other countries. Ensure all clothing is washed regularly. Have a change of clothes and footwear available.
Invasive surveys – These activities are where a contractor is undertaking invasive survey work such as when soil must be disturbed (e.g., a cultural heritage survey requiring a dig or a geotechnical survey).	High	Vehicles	Enter paddocks in a farm owned vehicle or on foot (with clean boots). If use of their own vehicle is required, before entering the property clean off loose dirt and plant material and disinfect tyres (e.g., using backpack spray unit with suitable disinfectant solution). If disease is present or suspected, or you attend an intensive animal farm (e.g., dairy, piggery) all vehicles must be washed between properties and at the end of the day at an approved location (e.g., high pressure wash with detergent facilities in a location where water and debris is captured i.e., a carwash).
		Boots	Scrape down boots, cleaning off all dirt and use a disinfectant spray or footbath on the soles at the edge of the paddock or in the laneway prior to departure.

Typical Activity	Risk Level	Risk Pathway	Mitigations
			If walking through a standing crop, wear disposable protective wear (e.g., boot covers or coveralls) that exceed the height of the stand you are in. (e.g., if it is ankle height, boot covers are sufficient, if its knee or waist height you will need coveralls). Dispose of protective wear between locations. Boot scrapers/brushes will be installed in or on the vehicles to allow cleaning boots at the vehicle prior to departure. Boots and the scrapers/brushes will be rinsed off prior to departure. F10 (or other approved) disinfectant will be utilised when needed on remaining dirt. A clean pair of boots and sturdy boot covers should be carried for the cases where cleaning cannot be done as well as required. Avoid wearing footwear that has been used interstate or in other countries.
		Equipment	Equipment (including hand tools) will be brushed clean and/or washed and disinfected between sampling activities. Excess sample material will be disposed of in a manner that avoids potential transmission risk i.e., in the paddock it was collected from or in the general wastebin (landfill).
		Clothing	Soiled clothing is removed or disinfected (spray) between crops and properties. It is best to use single-use overalls, gaiters or waterproof pants. All clothing is hot washed if possible, or regularly machine washed at the end of the day using detergent before being re-worn in another paddock / site with detergent. Avoid wearing clothing that has been used interstate or in other countries. If clothing is used from interstate or other countries it should be hot washed with detergent prior to its use in the field in Victoria If fungal, bacterial or virus diseases that can be carried on clothing are present or suspected in the vegetated areas, change clothes or remove disposable overalls and deposit them in a bag before leaving the paddock and / or

Typical Activity	Risk Level	Risk Pathway	Mitigations
			site. This includes all hats, gloves, clothes, and footwear. A spare set of clothing/overalls should be carried in the vehicle.

6 Compliance monitoring

6.1 Risk based compliance monitoring

Compliance monitoring is also based on the risk assessment completed for the planned activities. This means that monitoring is more intense for higher risk situations. Table 6 sets out a framework for compliance monitoring, showing the roles for both TCV and for contractors, consultants, and employees.

Table 6 Compliance monitoring framework

Risk level	Contractor / staff requirements	Transmission Company Victoria (TCV)
Low risk	Minimum monthly report, outlining: ▪ Overview of activities with reference to risk assessment. ▪ Approach used to manage biosecurity risks for each activity. ▪ Instances where risk level may have been increased due to pest or disease on-site that was previously unknown. ▪ Logbook submission	Review the monthly report to assess compliance with this policy. In the event compliance is not evident, suspend site visits and work with the contractor or staff member to develop and implement an action plan to improve compliance. Training should be provided to improve compliance. In the event of persistent non-compliance, use performance management measures to increase compliance or suspend contract.
Medium risk	Weekly report, outlining: ▪ Overview of activities with reference to risk assessment. ▪ Approach used to manage biosecurity risks for each activity. ▪ Instances where risk level may have been increased due to pest or disease on-site that was previously unknown. ▪ Logbook submission	Review the weekly report to assess compliance with this policy. In the event compliance is not evident, suspend site visits and work with the contractor or staff member to develop and implement an action plan to improve compliance. Training should be provided to improve compliance. In the event of persistent non-compliance, use performance management measures to increase compliance or suspend contract.
		Random spot checks at least once per month and findings documented.
High risk	Real time daily report, submitted as soon as practical to do so (by 4pm to the extent possible): ▪ Logbook details ▪ Risk level details and mitigation plan ▪ Evidence of washdown and personal cleaning (all clothing/boots) (time stamped photo evidence of vehicles, equipment and boots cleaned). ▪ Evidence of compliance with all reasonable requirements of the landholders' industry based existing biosecurity plan	Review daily report by 12pm, the following day. If the report is unsatisfactory, suspend work for the following day.
		Random weekly spot checks and findings documented.

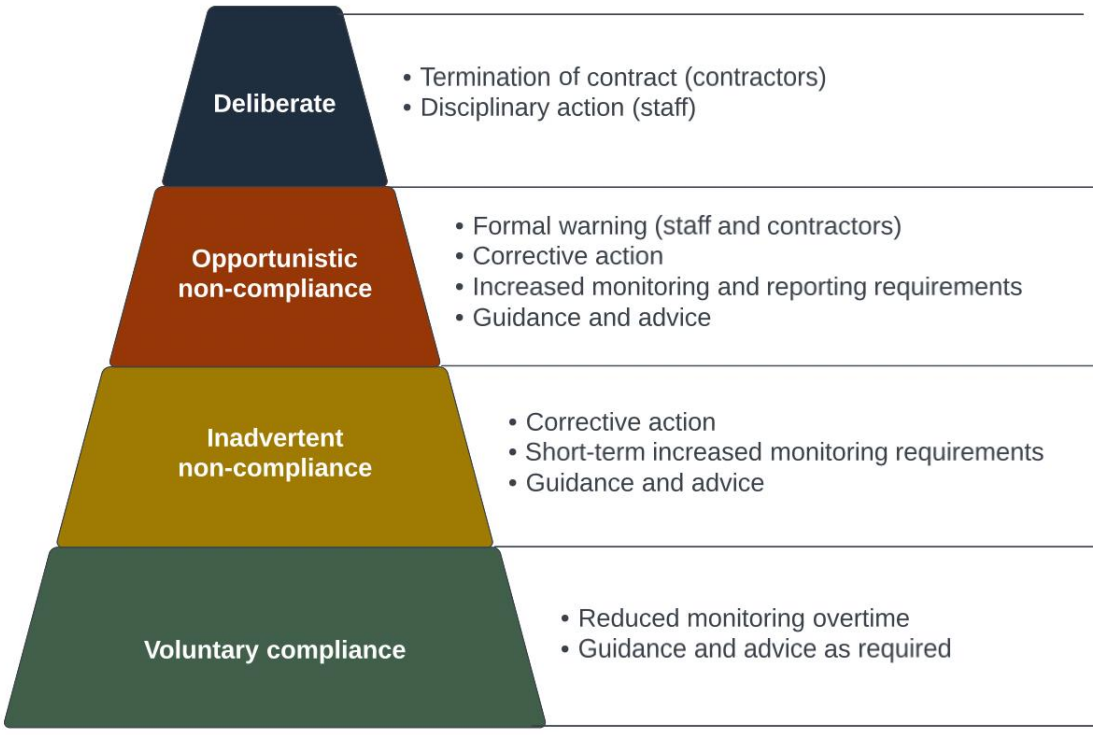
TCV may use a differentiated approach to compliance management if a contractor demonstrates ongoing voluntary compliance or persistent non-compliance. For example, for on-going voluntary compliance with the standard risk-based monitoring protocols and consistent reporting, TCV may approve a reduced monitoring approach subject to a risk assessment (including checks of induction and training records). Figure 3 illustrates the differential monitoring requirements based on level of compliance.

Levels of compliance are defined as follows[12]:

- Voluntary compliance – compliance aware and orientated, fulfills requirements set by TCV.
- Inadvertent non-compliance – Not yet compliant, attempting compliance, developing systems, new contractor or staff member.
- Opportunistic non-compliance – resistance to compliance, lack of compliance, limited or poor systems to manage compliance.
- Deliberate – deliberate non-compliance and breach of legislative requirements.

Every year TCV will assess compliance performance. This assessment will inform further similar activities and contract arrangements with service providers.

Figure 3 Differential compliance management approach (adapted from the Biosecurity Compliance Statement[13])



[12] Adapted from Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, 2016 Biosecurity Compliance Statement
[13] Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, 2016 Biosecurity Compliance Statement, available: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/biosecurity-compliance-statement.pdf

7 Implementation and review

7.1 Responsibility[14]

Title	Key responsibilities
AEMO Senior Specialist - Health Safety and Wellbeing	▪ Notify biosecurity incidents to Agriculture Victoria / DEECA.
AEMO Senior Specialist - Health Safety and Wellbeing	▪ Provide guidance on biosecurity matters to staff.
AEMO Senior Specialist - Health Safety and Wellbeing	▪ Observe biosecurity requirements and prepare Checklist for Biosecurity Measures (see Appendix 1) when accessing or working on easements, projects and premises potentially affected by biosecurity requirements or measures. ▪ Report a suspected outbreak to AEMO Senior Specialist - Health Safety and Wellbeing. ▪ Obtain approval from AEMO Senior Specialist - Health Safety and Wellbeing before commencing work in accordance with Checklist for Biosecurity measures. ▪ Report all biosecurity incidents internally.

7.2 Implementation

The policy will be communicated to all TCV staff and contractors and will be incorporated into TCV's biosecurity training.

7.3 Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if new legislation is introduced from the Victorian government biosecurity strategy.

[14] Any 'AEMO' staff mentioned in this table are acting on behalf of TCV while undertaking tasks in line with this policy.

Appendix 1: Checklist for biosecurity measures

Understanding your risk

Before commencing your work, you must first understand the level of biosecurity risk. This will inform when and how you move around the site, as well as any provisions you will need to make. This checklist will guide you through the development of a risk assessment for the sites you intend to visit.

Item	Yes / No
I have identified which noxious weeds, pests and diseases could potentially be located at the site and I know what they look like, and how they can be spread or transmitted. *Refer to Agriculture Victoria for the latest weed and disease guide.* 	
I have used guides, talked to the land manager (where appropriate) or local authority to identify whether the site has or is likely to contain: ▪ Noxious weed, pest, or disease species. ▪ Diseases such as *Phytophthora spp.,* and / or Myrtle rust, anthrax or other significant diseases in natural vegetation or crop pests diseased or weeds or animal diseases that could be spread by me.	
I have determined all risks (likelihood versus consequences) and mitigation measures associated with potential transfer of diseases, pests or weeds to/from/through/between sites, considering: ▪ handling and operation of vehicles and equipment, ▪ assessments to be undertaken, and ▪ movement throughout site. I have documented my approach in a biosecurity plan.	

Planning your work

There are several principles and measures you can take to prevent pests and diseases. The following checklist will help you to plan where you go and what you will need to take with you. Document this in your biosecurity plan.

Item	Yes / No
I plan to limit how many sites I visit per day.	
I plan to start in clean areas and move into infested areas last to minimise spread.	
I plan to stay on formed tracks where possible.	
I have scheduled activities to avoid where practical: ▪ muddy conditions	
I plan to only take equipment that I need to do the job which can be easily cleaned.	
I have, where possible, avoided bringing in equipment used in other states. Note any exceptions.	
I have discussed this plan with other staff, so they know how to arrive clean, stay clean and leave clean.	
I plan to wear clothing and footwear that has not been used interstate or internationally. Clothing used interstate or internationally has been hot washed prior to use in the field.	

I have a fully equipped biosecurity kit prepared for the journey, that includes: ▪ A Hard brush for removing debris and soil. ▪ A spray kit with disinfectant (e.g., F10, Phyto clean, or 70% ethanol or methylated spirits in water). ▪ A drum of water. ▪ A handheld blower or air compressor for blowing out the engine bay or vehicles. ▪ Rubbish bags or buckets for collecting all removed mud, soil, and organic matter. ▪ Soap, and bucket with lid for handwashing. ▪ Bucket with a lid for footbaths. ▪ Change of clothes or disposable overalls and caps for instances where clothing becomes dirty, or for entering known myrtle rust sites.	
I have prepared the logbook to monitor vehicle usage and cleaning across sites.	
I have a fully equipped biosecurity kit in the event the risk level changes when I arrive to site.	

Before entering and leaving a site

Before entering and leaving a site, you must complete all items on the checklist where appropriate to the risk level you identified in the biosecurity plan and risk assessment.

Item	Yes / No

I have made best endeavours to remove all weed seeds, mud, soil, and organic matter from:
▪ Vehicle
  – Tyres, wheels, wheel well and mud flaps.
  – Footwells / floor mats
  – Engine bay
  – Ute tray or other vehicle storage areas
  – Seats
▪ Clothing
  – Hats	

– Shirts / pockets – Pants / shorts / pockets – Socks and sock covers – Gaiters (if applicable) – Shoes ▪ Backpacks / equipment – Pockets – Surface – Other equipment	
I have washed my all my clothes, hats and gloves that were used on-site each day using a warm or hot machine wash with detergent.	
I have applied disinfectant (e.g., F10 or 70% ethanol or methylated spirits in 30% water) to vehicle wheels, footwear, tools, equipment, and anything else that has touched the ground before entering / leaving a paddock.	
All vehicles and equipment are washed every week at a minimum at an approved location (e.g., car wash) with a high-pressure hose and detergent. However, if the vehicle enters a site with known or suspected disease (e.g., myrtle rust, *Phytophthora cinnamonii,* or anthrax), it must be washed at the end of the working day.	
Important additional measures for myrtle rust	
▪ I have changed my clothes or removed my disposable overalls and deposited them in a bag after being in a known myrtle rust hotspot. This includes all hats, gloves, clothes, and footwear.	
▪ I have removed all plant material from vehicles, equipment, clothing, and footwear at sites infested with myrtle rust.	

Appendix 2: Key resources

Agriculture Victoria, 2020, Invasive plant classifications, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications, accessed 14/11/2023

Agriculture Victoria, 2023, Anthrax in animals, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/foot-and-mouth-disease, accessed 14/11/2023

Agriculture Victoria, 2023, Avoiding spread of myrtle rust in bushland, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/plant-diseases/shrub-and-tree-diseases/myrtle-rust, accessed 14/11/2023

Agriculture Victoria, 2022, Foot and mouth disease, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/foot-and-mouth-disease, accessed 14/11/2023

Agriculture Victoria, 2023, Invasive species laws and the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994, available: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/protecting-victoria/legislation-policy-and-permits/invasive-species-laws-and-the-catchment-and-land-protection-act-1994, accessed 7/11/2023

Agriculture Victoria, 2023 Plant biosecurity legislation, available, https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/moving-plants-and-plant-products/plant-biosecurity-legislation, accessed 7/11/2023

Parks Victoria, 2023, Weeds and diseases, available: https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/conservation-and-science/conserving-our-parks/weeds-and-diseases#:~:text=It%20is%20listed%20in%20the,closely%20related%20to%20brown%20algae, accessed 14/11/2023

Appendix 3: Key legislation and stakeholders

Issue	Legislation	Key statutory authorities
Animal biosecurity **Prevention, management, monitoring and control of livestock disease risk.** **Management of livestock movement within and into Victoria.** **Management of livestock diseases (including emergency powers).** **Compensation arrangements for losses related to biosecurity.** **Biosecurity management standards.**	*Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* *Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2017* *Livestock Management Act 2010* *Livestock Management Regulations 2021*	Agriculture Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Plant biosecurity **Prevention, management, monitoring and control of plant pests and diseases risk.** **Management of the movement of plants, plant materials within and into Victoria.** **Emergency declarations and powers to manage plant pests and diseases.**	*Plant Biosecurity Act 2010* *Plant Biosecurity Regulations 2016* *Subordinate instruments such as importation orders and declared area orders.*	Agriculture Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Invasive species **Prevention, management, monitoring and control of risk of land-based weeds and pests including declared noxious weeds, pest animals, aquatic-based weeds and pests in fisheries reserves.**	*Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* *Catchment and Land Protection Regulations 2022* *Fisheries Act 1995 (relevant to noxious aquatic species)* *Fisheries Regulations 2019 (relevant to noxious aquatic species)*	Agriculture Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Appendix 4: Related Victorian legislation

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic)*
- *Biological Control Act 1986 (Vic)*
- *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987 (Vic)*
- *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 (Vic)*
- *Dairy Act 2000 (Vic)*
- *Emergency Management Act 1986 (Vic)*
- *Emergency Management Act 20136 (Vic)*
- *Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic)*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)*
- *Food Act 1984 (Vic)*
- *Impounding of Livestock Act 1994 (Vic)*
- *Land Act 1958 (Vic)*
- *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)*
- *Meat Industry Act 1993 (Vic)*
- *National Parks Act 1975 (Vic)*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)*
- *Parks Victoria Act 2018 (Vic)*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)*
- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Vic)*
- *Public Health and Well Being Act 2008 (Vic)*
- *Road Management Act 2004 (Vic)*
- *Seafood Safety Act 2003 (Vic)*
- *Wildlife Act 1975 (Vic)*