

Interagency Biosecurity Performance Quarterly Report (Q4-FY25/26)

A statewide view of how NSW biosecurity regulators work together to prevent, detect and manage exotic and established pests, weeds and diseases. We are better together!

1 April-30 June 2026

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au



What is the Interagency Biosecurity Performance Quarterly Report?

This performance report provides a statewide view of how NSW biosecurity regulators come together as one to protect NSW and its people, economy, culture and environment in NSW.

This report brings together the combined regulatory activities and outputs delivered by NSW biosecurity regulators between 1 April-30 June 2026 (Q4 FY25/26).

The NSW biosecurity regulators who contributed to this report include NSW DPIRD (Agriculture & Biosecurity, Fisheries and Forestry), Local Land Services, NSW Police (sourced from Revenue NSW), Local Control Authorities and the Lord Howe Island Board.

Regulatory Activities

A Regulatory Activity is an action undertaken by a regulator to educate, enable or enforce biosecurity duties under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*.

1

Regulatory activities



128 Compliance audits

Conducted by an authorised officer to assess and identify compliance with the Act, including audits of goat depots, Interstate Certification Assurance/Certification Assurance conditions, or permits.



4,150 Compliance inspections and surveillance

Conducted to check biosecurity practices and confirm compliance under the Act, including ruminant feed checks, abandoned orchard, and saleyard inspections. Not included in the number above is 31,652 livestock inspections and ongoing regular surveillance at high-risk saleyards across Northern NSW. Livestock are inspected for cattle tick prior to the sale commencing, and cattle sold and returning to a property are plunge dipped before leaving the saleyards to prevent the spread of cattle tick.



544 Complaint investigations

Investigations into suspected biosecurity risks or alleged breaches of the Act.



16,857 Priority weed inspections

Conducted by authorised officers to confirm the presence, spread, and control of priority weeds.



2,425 Beehives verified

Hives checked by an authorised officer to confirm registration details and biosecurity compliance.



868 Diagnostic submissions

Diagnostic data is regulatory research that monitors and reports on priority diseases to inform and enable good decision making on regulatory action.

Tropical Soda Apple stopped using livestock traceability

Regulatory Impact at a Glance

Activity	Result
Livestock movements traced	1,652
Cattle assessed	12,673
Intelligence reports issued	61
LGAs covered	47
Locations	North Coast, Hunter, Riverina and Murray
Enforcement actions	Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order in place
Local Control Authorities involved	35
Inspections undertaken	70
New infestations identified	1+

A cattle movement can carry more than livestock from one property to another. Tropical soda apple (TSA) is a state priority weed to manage. Where it is present, moving cattle can also mean moving tropical soda apple seeds into new farming districts, waterways and environmentally sensitive areas.

Authorised officers from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Local Land Services and Local Control Authorities worked together to complete approximately 70 proactive compliance inspections across the North Coast, Hunter, Riverina and Murray. The operation used livestock traceability data to identify risk earlier, direct inspections to properties most likely to have been exposed and help landholders stop the spread of TSA through cattle movement.

The biosecurity threat: Tropical soda apple is a highly invasive, prickly weed that can rapidly overtake pastures, cropping areas, forests and

waterways. It reduces agricultural productivity, affects biodiversity and can restrict livestock access to shade and water. Cattle can eat the fruit and pass viable seed in manure for up to six days. For this reason, the trace-forward program examines cattle movements over a seven-day period, allowing for slower digestion, delayed movement reporting, contaminated feed before transport, and seed or manure carried on an animal’s coat or hooves.

Action taken: Under the NSW Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order, landholders must report and eradicate tropical soda apple. DPIRD Biosecurity and Agriculture, Local Land Services and 35 Local Control Authorities coordinated infestation records, property information and National Livestock Identification System data to identify high-risk cattle transfers. Between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2026, agencies identified 1,652 high-risk property-to-property movements involving 12,673 cattle across 47 local government areas.

Cattle movements were assessed against factors including timing, cattle numbers and whether tropical soda apple had previously been recorded near the destination. Sixty-one privacy-compliant intelligence reports were issued across two rounds, giving Local Control Authorities practical information to guide targeted property inspections and landholder engagement. Identified landholders were contacted and provided with information about tropical soda apple risks, including best-practice guidance on holding cattle in quarantine paddocks before movement.

The program combined education, enablement and enforcement. Education was delivered through direct landholder engagement. Enablement came from practical intelligence that helped officers focus on the highest-risk properties. Enforcement was supported through targeted inspections and the regulatory requirements of the Control Order. At least one new infestation was identified through the trace-forward process within a

known tropical soda apple zone. No incursions outside the established infestation area were detected.

This combined government effort turned livestock movement data into targeted local action. It helped avoid the harms and costs of tropical soda apple spreading and establishing in new areas across the North Coast, Hunter, Riverina and Murray.

The work continues: DPIRD supports and participates in a TSA taskforce alongside other NSW and QLD state and local governments. Further surveillance, compliance monitoring, enforcement, engagement and education, and industry-led improvements to cattle movement practices will happen in 2026-27. The program aligns with [DPIRD Agriculture and Biosecurity's 2026-27 regulatory priorities](#) and demonstrates how state and local government can work together to prevent biosecurity harms to industry, the environment, government and communities.



Cattle can consume tropical soda apple fruit and spread viable seeds in their manure, creating a pathway for the weed to establish far from the original infestation.

Regulatory Outputs

A Regulatory Output is an action issued by a regulator as a result of an activity to enable, educate and/or enforce the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*.

A large, white, stylized number '2' is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping a landscape image. The landscape features a vibrant yellow field of flowers in the foreground, a green field in the middle ground, and a large tree with autumn-colored leaves on the left. The background is a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. A thin white horizontal line is visible above the number '2'.

2

Regulatory outputs



2,083 Permits and certificates

Issued to enable the movement of produce, plants and animals, including machinery inspections, plant health certificates, and fresh fruit and vegetable movement documentation to support market access.



833 Directions, orders and undertakings

A Biosecurity Direction is a formal order under the Act given by an authorised officer to an individual or group to control, manage or eliminate a biosecurity risk. A Biosecurity Undertaking is a formal agreement where a person makes a formal commitment to an authorised officer to rectify a biosecurity issue.



38 Penalty notices

A statutory notice issued by a regulator when it believes on reasonable grounds that a person or entity has committed an offence or contravention of the Act.



51 Warning letters and 1,005 advisory letters

Warning letters are a non-statutory mechanism for responding to alleged non-compliance with the Act. The advisory letters relate to proactive correspondence with landholders about pest animal control and management options, pest levy programs and information sessions (including aerial shooting or control programs) relating to cane toads, feral deer and pigs, rabbits and foxes and included access to deer identification guides.



1,156 Registrations

Registrations issued by the Department to authorise a person to engage in a registrable dealing. This includes beekeeper registrations (recreational and commercial) and registrations for certain non-indigenous animals.

Compliance action reduces banana bunchy top virus risk in Northern NSW

Regulatory Impact at a Glance

Activity	Result
Compliance inspections	5
Enforcement action	3 penalty notices issued under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>
Industry engagement	Australian Banana Growers' Council
Behaviour change	Landholder removes diseased banana plantation and controls weeds
Outcomes	Prevented the spread of banana bunchy top virus in the region

An unmanaged banana plantation in Northern NSW remained affected by banana bunchy top virus. The property presented an ongoing biosecurity risk in one of NSW's important banana-growing regions, where unmanaged infected plants and regrowth could contribute to disease spread if left unmanaged.

The biosecurity threat: Banana bunchy top virus is spread between plants by banana aphids. At the affected property, infected banana plants, regrowth and dense overgrowth created conditions that increased the risk of disease transmission. Managing the site was important to help protect surrounding banana production, industry investment and the regional economy.

Action taken: NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) compliance officers and the Australian Banana Growers' Council worked with the landholder to enable compliance with biosecurity laws.

The landholder was required to manage infected banana plants, weeds and regrowth in line with their General Biosecurity Duty, the Banana (Bunchy Top) Control Order 2021 and an Individual Biosecurity Direction.

Due to continuing non-compliance, enforcement action was issued to address General Biosecurity Duty, compliance with the Control Order and compliance with the Individual Biosecurity Direction. Three penalty notices were issued under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

A follow up compliance inspection confirmed that the landholder removed the infected plantation managing and banana regrowth and weeds. The removal of the infected plants minimised stopped the disease spreading, mitigated the biosecurity risk and protected nearby banana growers and the broader industry.

This highlights how education, enablement and enforcement regulatory functions work together under the [Integrated Regulatory Framework](#).

The work continues: The site will be monitored and inspected to ensure ongoing management of the biosecurity risks and compliance with the Individual Biosecurity Direction.

This work aligns with [DPIRD Agriculture and Biosecurity's 2026–27 regulatory priorities](#) targeting invertebrate pests and disease threats to protect the NSW agriculture industry.



Fruit affected by Banana bunchy top virus

Regulatory Education and Engagements

Regulatory Education and Engagements are activities undertaken to enable and educate communities and entities responsible for adhering to biosecurity duties under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*.

A large white number 3 is overlaid on the bottom left of the image. The background is a rural landscape at sunset, featuring a field of dry grass, a line of trees in the distance, and a large hay bale in the foreground. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds.

3

Regulatory education and engagements



69 Social media campaigns

Delivered by to enable and educate landowners and the community about biosecurity risks and their responsibilities under the Act.



242,188 Regulatory extension activities and engagement

Proactive collaboration between co-regulators to engage with the community and landholders on biosecurity matters, promoting and increasing awareness of shared responsibility under the Act. This also includes engagements with beekeepers to extend bee biosecurity advice.



24 Targeted regulatory education events

Formal training courses and workshops for staff, industry and the community. Including Vertebrate Pest Induction, sessions and workshops delivered under the Good Neighbours Program, Moving People Towards Action Training, Vertebrate Pest Management and Vertebrate Pesticide Accreditation.

Regulating online sale of prohibited plant matter

Regulatory Impact at a Glance

Activity	Result
Online listings assessed	30
Sellers directly engaged	25
Listings voluntarily removed or amended	25
Unresolved listings identified for follow-up	3
Regions involved	Sydney, Hunter and Far North Coast
Prohibited Matter (plants) targeted and identified	Water hyacinth, water lettuce, salvinia, frogbit, prickly pear and other regulated species

Online marketplaces have made it easier than ever to buy and sell plants. It is a pathway for prohibited plant matter to spread across NSW and our borders.

The biosecurity threat: When these plants establish in the environment, they can threaten agriculture, waterways, biodiversity and community assets, often requiring significant time and resources to control.

Aquatic weeds such as frogbit can form dense mats across waterways, reducing light penetration, degrading habitat for aquatic species and affecting irrigation systems and recreational waterways. Intervening early helps prevent these harms from occurring and reduces the likelihood that governments, industry and communities will face the higher costs associated with long-term containment or eradication programs.

Action taken: Authorised biosecurity officers from Cessnock City Council, supported by Hunter Local Land Services, undertook a 24-hour pilot focused on the online sale of plants of biosecurity concern. The pilot monitored publicly available online marketplace listings and assessed posts advertising species

that are prohibited or subject to biosecurity requirements.

During the pilot conducted in April 2026, officers assessed 30 online listings involving plants of biosecurity concern. The proactive monitoring of online sales detected species such as water hyacinth, water lettuce, salvinia, frogbit and prickly pear. These are all weeds that pose a significant threat to the environment and agriculture.

Authorised officers engaged with twenty-five online sellers and provided them with information about the law, the risks these species pose, and the actions required to meet their biosecurity obligations. This enabled the online sellers to take corrective action to comply with the law.

The sellers immediately removed or amended the online sales listings.

The work continues: Future monitoring will focus on sustained compliance, follow-up of unresolved listings and assessing whether the approach could be expanded more broadly.

This interagency work and results align with

[DPIRD's regulatory priority](#) on the online trade of state priority weeds. By combining proactive surveillance, with targeted education and voluntary compliance, the pilot helped reduce biosecurity risks before they could cause harm, protecting agriculture, biodiversity and waterways while demonstrating the public value of early regulatory intervention.



Frogbit can form dense mats across waterways, reducing light and habitat for aquatic plants and animals and affecting irrigation and recreation.

The Integrated Regulatory Framework provides a single, consistent foundation for how agriculture and biosecurity regulators work together in NSW. The framework reinforces that regulation is a shared responsibility and that regulators are more effective when they work together — “we are better together”.

Learn more about the Integrated Regulatory Framework [here](#)

The Integrated Compliance Branch supports a more coordinated and consistent approach to regulatory delivery across biosecurity, food safety and animal welfare. ICB works with internal teams, co-regulators, delivery partners, industry and the community to support effective, proportionate and outcomes-focused regulation.

integratedcompliance@dpird.nsw.gov.au

View previous versions of the Interagency Biosecurity Performance Quarterly Reports [here](#)