

26 October 2026

Plain English Guide

Biosecurity (Fire Ant – Enfield Intermodal) Control Order NO. 2 2026

Note this is a summary only. All activity should be guided by the Control Order.

Why is a Control Order in place?

The Biosecurity Control Order (the Order) establishes measures and powers to address the biosecurity risk that fire ants will damage the economy, environment and community if they are introduced, present or spread within NSW. The Order will be in place until 25 April 2027.

Who does this Order apply to?

The measures outlined in the Order apply to **all persons who carry out a movement of fire ant carriers** out of the *Enfield Intermodal Control Zone*.

If the Order specifies certain measures must be followed by a specific person or group, then only that person or group is required to implement the measures.

Understanding the Control Zones

Under the Order, the **Zones** are defined as:

- the ***Enfield Intermodal control zone*** means the area within a 2km radius of the nest found, shown in **YELLOW** on the map. Part 2 of the Order applies to movements of fire ant carriers from this area.
- the ***Enfield Intermodal treatment control zone*** means the area within a 500-metre radius of the nest found shown in **RED** on the map.
- the ***NSW Protection Zone*** means the whole of NSW excluding the *Enfield Intermodal control zone*.

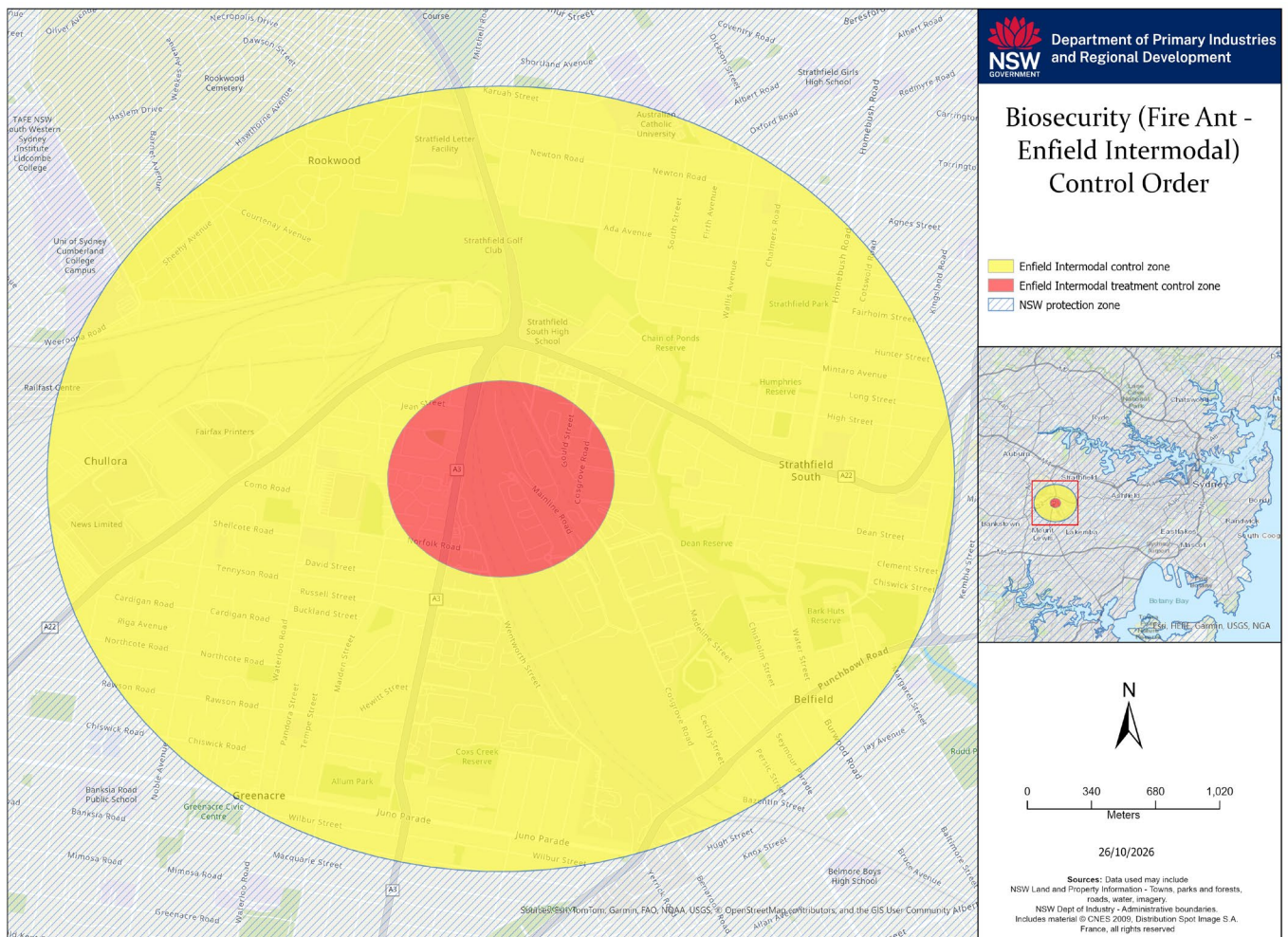


Figure 1: Map of the *Enfield Intermodal* control zone

Important information

For businesses supplying into other states and territories

Are you selling or supplying fire ant carriers from the *Enfield Intermodal* control zone to Victoria or to other states or territories?

Other states and territories have entry requirements that you need to be aware of if you are supplying fire ant carriers from a fire ant control zone. We can help you understand these requirements and how to comply with them, such as how to obtain a plant health certificate from the department.

Find the entry requirements for each state or territory below:

- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

Check the carrier definitions in each state's requirements as they may be different to NSW.

Note. If a person is moving a fire ant carrier for the purposes of transiting through the NSW protection zone into another state from the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* they are required to comply with the mitigation measures in this Control Order.

Surveillance of your property (*Clause 30*)

Authorised officers will be completing door to door engagement with residents and businesses within the *Enfield Intermodal control zone*. Once you have been **notified**, you may elect for officers to schedule surveillance for fire ants on your property at the time, or at a later date. This inspection is completed at no cost to you and takes around 15 minutes for the average residential block.

If you choose to do the surveillance yourself, you must do so within 10 days of notification. Areas checked must include:

- (a) the ground along the edges of drainage lines, dams and waterways,
- (b) the ground along the edges of driveways, fence lines,
- (c) the ground around power poles, gardens, lawns,
- (d) the ground along the edges of paddocks where crops are grown, and
- (e) all areas within 50 metres of where fire ant carriers are grown, packed, sourced, stored, held or made.

If completing surveillance yourself, you must make a record which includes the date, time, address, and a statement as to whether fire ants were found and email it to invasive.species@dpird.nsw.gov.au within 72 hours. You must also keep a record of surveillance for 4 years.

Treatment of your property when fire ants have been detected (*Clause 32*)

Authorised officers will notify you if treatment is required when fire ants have been detected at your property. This treatment is completed at no cost to you and takes around 15 minutes for the average residential block. Officers will assist you in scheduling the treatment at the time or at a later date.

If you do not consent to treatment, you must engage a pest management technician within 72 hours of notification to complete the treatment at your own cost. The pest management technician must complete treatment below within 28 days of notification:

- treat all fire ant nests at the premises with an **APVMA approved contact insecticide** for treating fire ant nests, and
- treat the premises with **insect growth regulator** bait complying with the chemical label directions and any APVMA permit conditions.

You must then request a treatment record from the pest management technician within 72 hours of treatment and email it to invasive.species@dpird.nsw.gov.au within 48 hours of receiving it.

You must also keep a record of surveillance for 4 years.

Treatment of your property within the Enfield treatment zone (*Clause 33*)

Authorised officers will also notify you if treatment is required for your property within the *Enfield Intermodal treatment zone*. This treatment is completed at no cost to you and takes around 15 minutes for the average residential block. Officers will assist you in scheduling the treatment at the time or at a later date.

If you do not consent to treatment, you must engage a pest management technician within 72 hours of notification to complete the treatment at your own cost. The pest management technician must complete treatment below within 28 days of notification:

- treat the premises with **insect growth regulator** bait complying with the chemical label directions and any APVMA permit conditions.

You must then request a treatment record from the pest management technician within 72 hours of treatment, and email it to invasive.species@dpird.nsw.gov.au within 48 hours of receiving it.

You must also keep a record of surveillance for 4 years.

Authorised officers

Authorised Officers (AO) have powers available to them under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* to destroy or direct someone to destroy fire ant carriers, to move fire ant carriers for testing, and stop and inspect a vehicle and anything in or on that vehicle.

Movement of fire ant carriers

Carrier treatment

Any fire ant carrier moved from the *Enfield Intermodal fire ant control zone* needs to be treated to mitigate the movement of fire ants out of the zone. These treatments may include use of registered insecticides, vigorous disturbance, agitation, heat treatment, freezing, cleaning, covering, off-ground storage or visual checking.

If you see red imported fire ants in Qld, report to the National Fire Ant Eradication Program on 13 22 68 or complete the online form at fireants.org.au.

Preventative conditions

Preventative conditions are defined in *Clause 8* of the Order and include:

- Keeping the carrier material **completely covered or inside an enclosed building**, and
- High enough **off the ground** so that none of it is touching the ground, or
- On **hard ground treated with bifenthrin**, or
- On **concrete or bitumen or heavy plastic where the edges are treated with bifenthrin**.

For most carriers, preventative conditions are required immediately after the carrier treatment has been carried out. Read the Control Order (*Clause 9*) and understand your duties.

Carrier requirements

Heavy vehicles

A vehicle (with or without attached trailer) used to transport a fire ant carrier. It has a gross weight of over 4.5 tonnes and includes tipper and dump trucks, tray trucks, skip bin trucks (with skip bins), semi-trailers, B-double freight trucks, road trains, vehicle carriers and low loaders. (Clause 11)

To move this carrier from the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by ensuring it is clean and free of soil, growing media, mulch, compost and manure from relevant parts. This includes outside the cab, outer body, underside (chassis, axles, differentials, belly plates and suspended spare tyres), radiator, grill, wheels (rims, arches, tyres and mudflaps), bins and trays.

This does not apply if the vehicle transits through the zone without stopping, for reasons other than:

- a legal requirement to stop, or
- to obtain reasonable supplies for the vehicle and/or occupants, or
- if the vehicle is not carrying a fire ant carrier – for the minimum time reasonably necessary to load or unload cargo while the vehicle is standing on a sealed area of hardstand, pavement or road, or
- an emergency situation.

Agricultural and horticultural equipment

Equipment used to produce, cultivate, harvest or process fire ant carriers and includes tractors, harvesters (including combs or fronts), planters, bins and balers. (Clause 12)

To move this carrier from the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by ensuring it is clean and free of soil, growing media, mulch, compost and manure from relevant parts. This includes outside the cab, outer body, underside (chassis, axles, differentials and belly plates), radiator, grill, wheels, rims, arches and tyres), tracks (rollers, frames and inside frames) and attachments (buckets, hoes, scrapers, combs, fronts and bins).

This clause does not apply if the agricultural and/or horticultural equipment:

- is loaded on a heavy vehicle, and
- the heavy vehicle entered the Enfield Intermodal control zone from the NSW protection zone, and
- while in the Enfield Intermodal control zone, the heavy vehicle does not stop, and
- the agricultural and/or horticultural equipment remains on the heavy vehicle.

Earth moving equipment

Equipment used for disturbing, scraping, carrying, digging or levelling soil or other fire ant carriers and includes dozers, graders, excavators, loaders, trenchers, compactors, scrapers and backhoes. (Clause 13)

To move this carrier from the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by ensuring it is clean and free of soil, growing media, mulch, compost and manure from relevant parts. This includes outside the cab, outer body, underside (chassis, axles, differentials and belly plates), radiator, grill, wheels (arches, rims and tyres), tracks (rollers, frames and inside frames), scraper blades, and implements and attachments including buckets and hoes.

This clause does not apply if the earthmoving equipment:

- is loaded on a heavy vehicle, and

- the heavy vehicle entered the Enfield Intermodal control zone from the NSW protection zone, and
- while in the Enfield Intermodal control zone, the heavy vehicle does not stop, and
- the earthmoving equipment remains on the heavy vehicle.

Pallets, packaging, containers or covers *and shipping containers*

Equipment or materials used to package, contain, cover or transport a fire ant carrier and includes potted plant containers and trays, wrapping used for excavated plants and stumps, bags (used for soil, growing media, mulch, manure, compost), silage wrap or silage film, tarps or coverings that have been used to cover and secure a load of fire ant carriers, and plastic used to wrap pallets. Pallets need to be free of soil regardless of being used to move fire ant carriers or not. A shipping container is defined as a reusable transport and storage unit for moving products and raw materials by means of rail, road or sea. (Clause 14)

To move this carrier from the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by ensuring they are clean, so they are free of soil, growing media, mulch, compost and manure.

Green waste and building waste

Waste including bricks, concrete, paper, plastics, glass, metal, plaster and fibre cement board, timber waste, grass, vegetation and clippings (but doesn't include mulch). (Clause 16)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by ensuring it is free from soil.

Exemption: A NSW council, or a person on behalf of a NSW council, may move residual soil attached to waste out of the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* as part of the council's waste management services.

Mulch, soil, compost and manure

Soil (excluding soil samples) and materials made from plant or organic waste including **mulch** (bark, wood chips, sugarcane, sawdust and bagasse), **compost** (organic matter used as a soil conditioner or fertiliser), and animal **manure** (excluding manure produced by livestock during a controlled movement). (Clause 18)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by either:

- **agitating** it by spreading it on a hard surface by hand or machine until the layer is no more than 15 cm deep and then forming it into a pile (the process of loading it onto a truck or trailer does not meet the requirement to be agitated); OR
- **heat it** to a minimum temperature of 65.5° Celsius; OR
- **vigorously disturb** it by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening (by passing all the fire ant carrier through a screen bucket, grate or other sieve), mechanised turning (by a machine that creates disturbance, including by rotary hoe, trommel or windrow turner) or washing.

Place it in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until it arrives at its destination.

Growing media

Material used to provide physical support to plants, facilitating root growth, and delivering aeration, nutrients and water to the plant and includes potting mixes and manufactured soil products. Growing media that is part of a potted plant is subject to Clause 20.

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by either:

- agitating it by spreading it on a hard surface by hand or machine until the layer is no more than 15 cm deep and then forming it into a pile (the process of loading it onto a truck or trailer does not meet the requirement to be agitated); OR
- heating it to a minimum temperature of 65.5° Celsius; OR
- vigorously disturbing it by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning (by a machine that creates disturbance, including by rotary hoe, trommel or windrow turner) or washing; OR
- treating it with an APVMA approved chemical which remains effective until it arrives at its destination.

Place it in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until it arrives at its destination.

Soil samples

A sample of soil prepared for the purpose of laboratory analysis. (Clause 19)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by inspecting each sample to ensure it is free of fire ants and then cool to below -18° C (a domestic freezer is adequate) for 48 hours prior to movement. Each sample may be no more than 1 kg of soil.

Hay

The term 'hay' refers to hay, haylage and straw. (Clause 23)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by:

- inspecting the hay and ensuring it is dry and free of soil, AND
- using an APVMA approved chemical for the control of fire ants complying with all chemical label directions and permit conditions, AND
- placing it in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until it arrives in NSW at its destination.

Chaff

Chaff is hay that is hammer milled or cut with a chaff cutter into small pieces. (Clause 24)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by: hammer milling it or cut it with a chaff cutter, AND placing it in preventative conditions (for example, in a sealed bag) immediately after treatment until it arrives in NSW. Check every bag for rips or tears.

Silage

Silage (including haylage) is a type of fodder produced by ensiling and fermenting pastures. (Clause 25)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by wrapping bales in at least 6 layers of silage wrap or film and ensuring it remains undamaged and intact. Wait 6 weeks after making bales before making a controlled movement. Check every bale for holes or tears or soil stuck to wrapping.

Turf

Turf is the upper layer of grass and soil harvested for transplanting (sometimes called sod). (Clause 26)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it with an APVMA approved chemical prior to harvest and harvest it in accordance with APVMA requirements.

Place it in preventative conditions immediately after harvest until it arrives at its destination.

Potted plants

A potted plant is a plant in a container that was grown or re-potted in growing media and includes the plant and the growing media (excludes bare-rooted plants, tissue culture, seedlings in plugs or cells used to grow or transport plants (volume < 0.1 litres)). (Clause 21)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat the growing media of the potted plant with an APVMA approved chemical which remains effective until it arrives at its destination.

Chemical treatment is not required if:

- the potted plant originated in the control zone and is kept in preventative conditions at all times while it is in the control zone,
- it is an indoor potted plant under certain conditions, see below.

Indoor potted plants

A potted plant that has been indoors continuously in the previous 3 months. (Clause 22)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat by keeping them indoors for a minimum of 3 months, then move them directly from indoors to a vehicle without being placed on the ground; or uproot them and remove the soil or any other fire ant carrier material. Check for any signs of fire ants. Keep them indoors for a minimum of 3 months after the controlled movement.

Excavated plants and stumps

Include mature or advanced plants (dead or alive) that are removed from the ground with a root ball and includes the plant, root ball and any soil attached to the root ball (excluding potted plants). (Clause 17)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat it by:

- ensure the root ball is clean so that it is free from soil AND

- treat the root ball and any attached soil with an APVMA chemical and immediately place it in preventative conditions. Both the treatment and preventative conditions must remain effective until it arrives in NSW.

Sand, rocks and stones (under 20 mm diameter), recycled concrete aggregate (under 20 mm diameter), coal fines and chitters

This includes sand, rocks and stones (including gravel, decomposed granite and coal stones), by-products of the processing of coal including tailings, and aggregate made from recycled concrete. (Clauses 27)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat the material by either: agitating it by spreading it on a hard surface by hand or machine until the layer is no more than 15 cm deep and then forming it into a pile (the process of loading it onto a truck or trailer does not meet the requirement to be agitated); OR vigorously disturb it by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning (by a machine that creates disturbance, including by rotary hoe, trommel or windrow turner) or washing.

Place it in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until it arrives at its destination.

Note: These requirements do not apply to recycled concrete aggregate or rocks and stones over 20 mm in diameter. You must treat these materials in accordance with Clause 28 of the Order (see below).

Rocks and stones (over 20 mm diameter) and recycled concrete aggregate (over 20 mm diameter)

This includes rocks and stones (including gravel, decomposed granite and coal stones), and aggregate made from recycled concrete with a diameter greater than 20mm. (Clause 28)

To move this carrier if it originated in the *Enfield Intermodal control zone* you must:

Treat the materials by ensuring they are clean, so they are free of soil.

More information

Online: Visit the NSW DPIRD website at www.dpird.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants

Report suspected fire ant sightings: Online at www.dpird.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants or by phone on the NSW Biosecurity helpline at 1800 680 244.

Email: invasive.species@dpird.nsw.gov.au

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