

# Biosecurity in Queensland

## Advancing Response Readiness Framework

Ready to respond to emergency plant and animal disease and pest threats to reduce impacts on Queensland.

Queensland is a frontline state for biosecurity outbreaks.

Protecting Queensland’s economy, communities, environment and world-class agricultural industries requires a risk-based approach to develop response readiness and support recovery and resilience.

Response readiness relies on continual maintenance and improvement of systems, plans and protocols and upskilling at all levels of government, industry and community. Ongoing investment is required to sustain biosecurity emergency incident management capacity and capability.

For optimal response readiness, it is critical we work collaboratively across the Queensland biosecurity system.

It takes all stakeholders to invest in biosecurity response readiness to enhance operational efficiency, reduce risk, and minimise impacts.

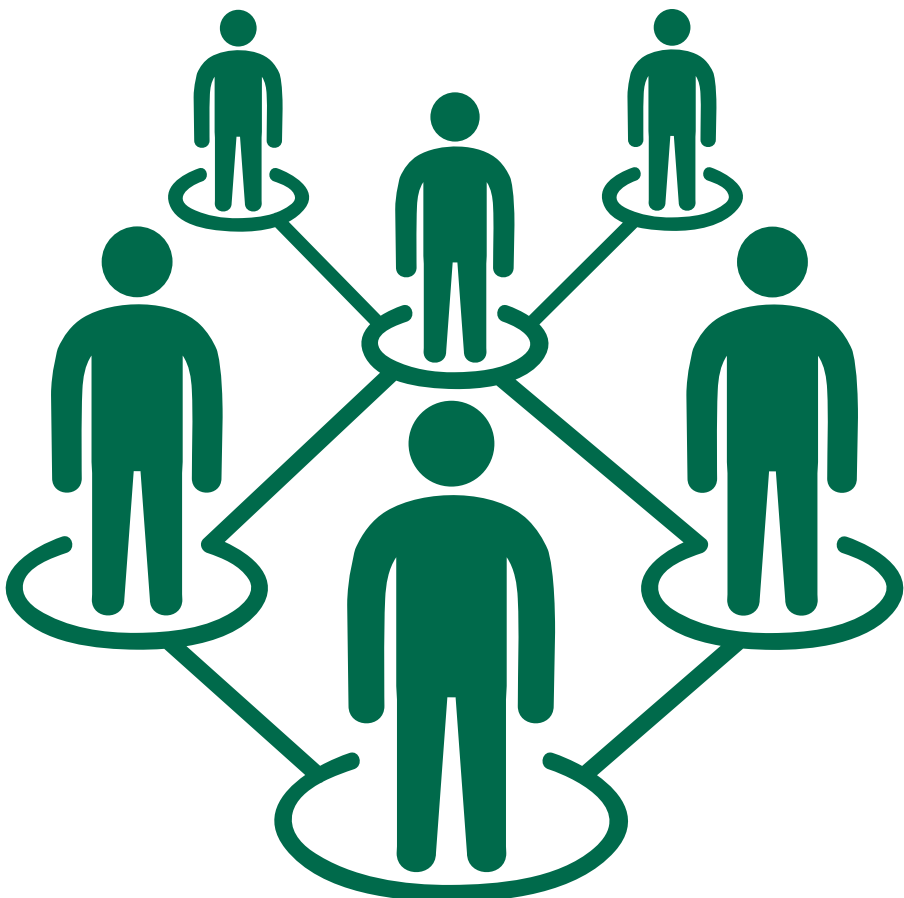
This proactive approach leads to **faster response times, lower recovery costs, improved performance outcomes, and greater resilience.**

“By 2029, key partners in the biosecurity response system are connected and have the capability and capacity to build resilience and reduce the harm associated with biosecurity threats.”

*Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024 – 2029*

### Response readiness fundamentals:

- ✓ **Identify** biosecurity threats through surveillance that results in early detection and reporting
- ✓ **Build and test** biosecurity-specific response capabilities across government and stakeholders
- ✓ **Connect** key partners in the biosecurity and emergency management response systems
- ✓ **Communicate** through established channels using concise, accurate and timely messaging
- ✓ **Enhance** response capabilities through a continuous improvement program
- ✓ **Prioritise** preparedness activities using intelligence, science and sound assessment of risk



# Biosecurity Queensland's response ready priorities

Response ready workforce	
Develop a highly skilled and well-prepared, multifunctional team ready to deal with biosecurity incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biosecurity Emergency Response Group capability</li><li>• Standardised biosecurity training and education program and learning pathway</li><li>• Mentoring program for key response position holders</li><li>• Critical mass of officers appointed under and experienced using the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></li><li>• Succession plans for ongoing response skills and expertise</li></ul>
Maintain specialised response expertise to deal with the unique nature of biosecurity incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning pathways for biosecurity stakeholders including into critical roles like liaison officers</li><li>• Network of experts for response support across the biosecurity system ie agronomists, veterinarians</li></ul>
Educate industry and community leaders on biosecurity risks, prevention and response measures with a focus on their role.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response readiness training for key industry leaders and stakeholders</li><li>• Response readiness training for local government</li><li>• On-demand response awareness resources for grass-roots stakeholders</li></ul>
Robust planning, systems and governance	
Identify and assess high-priority pest and disease threats through monitoring and intelligence gathering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental scanning and fore-sighting initiatives to build intelligence capability</li><li>• Biosecurity risk assessment and prioritisation maintained</li><li>• Engage on national biosecurity threats assessments</li></ul>
Establish surveillance systems for early detection and reporting of biosecurity threats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation in national surveillance programs across plant, animal and invasives</li><li>• Behaviour change education program to encourage passive surveillance and reporting</li><li>• Ensure surveillance systems support rapid detection of biosecurity incidents</li></ul>
Develop and maintain comprehensive strategies, legislation, standard operating procedures and contingency plans aligned to state and national response frameworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pest and disease-specific response plans for imminent threats</li><li>• Biosecurity incident response SOPs current, accessible and fit-for-purpose</li><li>• Participate in continuous improvement programs for response frameworks</li></ul>

Develop and/or maintain robust data and information systems to facilitate real-time decision-making and effective communication during crises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved data sharing capabilities nationally</li><li>• Improved IT systems including case management an mapping systems and capability</li></ul>
Conduct regular exercises and simulations to build familiarisation and test biosecurity response processes for government and stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver Biosecurity Queensland exercises for staff capacity building</li><li>• Participate in national biosecurity exercises</li><li>• Deliver biosecurity familiarisation exercises for Queensland disaster management and recovery system</li></ul>
<b>Sustained resource management</b>	
Ensure a systematic coordinated approach to inventory management for all necessary equipment and facilities, including PPE and labs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biosecurity Queensland-wide central documented equipment and facility capabilities</li><li>• Equipment life cycle plan in place</li><li>• Maintain awareness of technology and systems innovations</li></ul>
<b>Connected with stakeholders</b>	
Ensure strong connections with the state disaster management system and national biosecurity system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build relationships with key personnel across the state and national systems</li><li>• Participate in relevant committees and national initiatives such a NAPCaRN and NACN</li></ul>
Understand social licence and build social capital by fostering connections between government and stakeholders to support response and recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Undertake social licence research including reviewing biosecurity incidents nationally to understand challenges</li><li>• Continue to develop the response education pathway for stakeholders</li><li>• Support industry-led exercises</li></ul>
<b>Continuous improvement</b>	
Assess the effectiveness of preparedness and response activities, to identify areas for improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lessons management database</li><li>• Best practice after action review and lessons management process</li><li>• Behaviour research to assess stakeholder impacts</li></ul>
Best practice engagement with committees and groups to share knowledge and learn from others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation in national working groups related to biosecurity emergency response</li><li>• Participation in biosecurity and disaster management events</li></ul>



# Queensland Biosecurity partners' response ready priorities

Stakeholders to identify biosecurity response capability development

Response ready workforce	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you have a workforce/stakeholders with biosecurity skills/knowledge?</li><li>• What expertise or skills do you need? Have you identified these?</li><li>• What training/resources are provided in, or by, your organisation to improve biosecurity preparedness among staff/stakeholders?</li></ul>	
Robust planning, systems and governance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What standard operating procedures and contingency plans do you have in place in relation to biosecurity?</li><li>• What biosecurity monitoring and intelligence gathering does your organisation have in place?</li><li>• Do you share information that supports biosecurity threat planning?</li><li>• How do you encourage early detection and reporting of biosecurity threats?</li><li>• Do you conduct or participate in biosecurity incident exercises?</li></ul>	

Sustained resource management

- Do you have resources that would be needed in a biosecurity response?
- How do you manage/maintain these resources for if they are needed for a response?
- Are there gaps in resources? What support might be needed to fill these gaps?

Connected with stakeholders/members

- Are you connected to state and/or national biosecurity and disaster management groups?
- What do you need to do to build or enhance connections to support response and recovery?
- Do you conduct any biosecurity-related preparedness research in your organisation?

Continuous improvement

- How do you assess the effectiveness of your preparedness and response activities to identify areas for improvement?
- How do you share knowledge and learn from others?
- Do you participate in state or national biosecurity preparedness groups/committees that are developing best practice?