

SA Power Networks Biosecurity and accessing your property



Biosecurity is a series of measures to protect against the entry and spread of pests and diseases - the spread of weeds and diseases can impact agriculture, human health and the environment. Biosecurity is a shared responsibility, meaning that both landowners and SA Power Networks personnel and contractors have a role to play.

What are we doing about biosecurity?

Our electricity distribution network stretches across South Australia, comprising thousands of kilometers of powerline and hundreds of substations.

To inspect and maintain this network means that our staff and contractors must access our infrastructure, sometimes requiring access through farm and other properties. So that we minimize the risk of our activities introducing or spreading pest plants or disease, our personnel undertake a range of biosecurity measures. Controls can greatly reduce the risk, including:

- utilizing pest plant and disease geospatial information when planning works
- undertaking a risk assessment and ensuring all environmental controls identified in the planning process are communicated and implemented by field staff and contractors
- following property entry and exit requirements signposted on individual property gates
- regularly inspecting, cleaning and disinfecting vehicles, plant and equipment
- inspecting and maintaining SA Power Networks properties and easements to remove weeds and pest animals.

As a landowner, what can you do?

Producers play a key role in protecting Australian plant and livestock industries from pests and diseases by implementing sound biosecurity measures on-farm.

If a new pest or disease becomes established on your farm, it will affect your business through increased costs (for monitoring, production practices, additional chemical use and labour), reduced productivity (in yield and/or quality) or loss of markets. Early detection and immediate reporting of an exotic pest or disease increases the chance of effective and efficient eradication.

The Farm Biosecurity program is an important part of Australia's emergency animal disease and exotic plant pest surveillance systems. Surveillance allows us to preserve existing trade opportunities and provides evidence of Australia's pest and animal disease status to support access to international markets.



The Farm Biosecurity website (www.farmbiosecurity.com.au) is a very useful and practical source of ideas, tools and information for protecting your farm from biosecurity risks.

If you spot anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline **1800 084 881** or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline **1800 675 888**.



Gate signage is an effective biosecurity measure and can be obtained from the Farm Biosecurity website (www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)