

Changes to Biosecurity in the Australian Sugar Industry

What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity is the protection of the Australian Sugar Industry from infectious diseases, pests and other biological threats. It is achieved through systems that aim to prevent pest and disease introduction or spread, or control an outbreak. The purpose of this regulation is to prevent the movement of important sugarcane pests and diseases on machinery or in plant material through the sugarcane producing areas.

The spread of leaf scald, ratoon stunting disease, sugarcane Fiji disease virus, sugarcane mosaic virus and sugarcane striate mosaic virus has been successfully restricted through quarantine regulations.

Quarantine

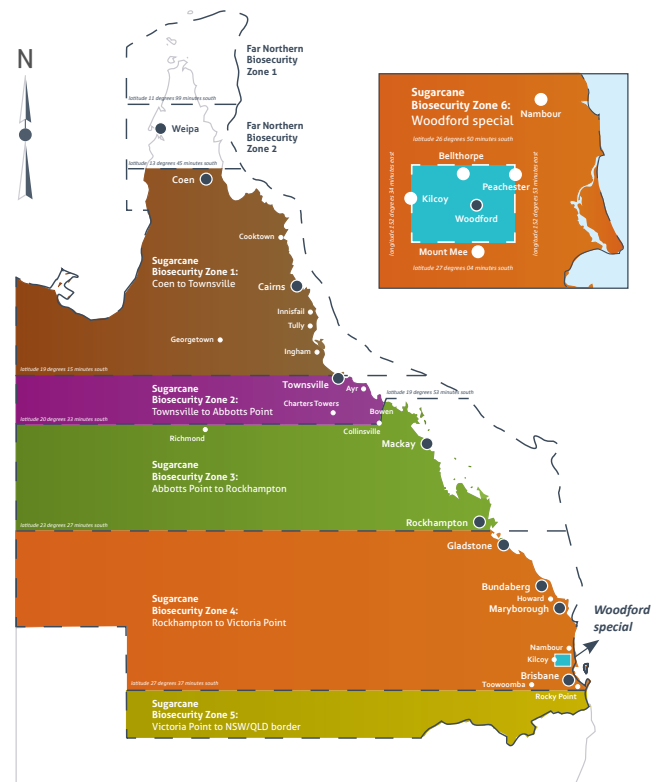
The purpose of quarantine is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, pests and other biological threats, and to contain the contamination such that other sugarcane crops are not put at risk.

There are endemic (In Australia) and exotic (Outside Australia) pests and diseases. It is important to stop the spread of pests and diseases within Australia and to prevent the entry of pests and diseases from overseas. Failure to do so could potentially devastate our sugarcane crop. Sugarcane biosecurity zones protect Queensland, under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*, by controlling the movement of sugarcane and sugarcane machinery, in addition to controlling pests and disease within a zone.

Changes to Biosecurity in the Australian sugar industry with the formation of SRA

With the formation of SRA all biosecurity regulatory roles that BSES conducted in the past for the sugar industry have been passed on to Queensland Biosecurity- DAF. This means that SRA no longer issues approvals (permits) for movement of plant material or machinery between sugarcane biosecurity zones. SRA will continue to assist with biosecurity sugarcane technical issues, conduct research, prepare and respond to biosecurity threats.

Map of Sugarcane Biosecurity Zones within Queensland



Movement of plant material & appliances

Any plant material (roots, leaves and stalks) or appliances (machinery) that has been in contact with a sugarcane plant or soil, on which a sugarcane plant has been growing, **must have a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC)** to move between sugarcane biosecurity zones.

If you suspect you may have seen a suspicious pest or disease, please contact your local Productivity Service, or the Plant Health Australia Hotline on 1800 084 881

Who Issues Approvals now?

The following organisations/departments issue and or conduct approvals/inspections:

Plant movement approvals between sugarcane biosecurity zones – Queensland Biosecurity
Contact DAF Biosecurity Queensland Phone 13 25 23

Appliance approvals – Authorised Inspection Persons under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*: either Productivity Service Officers or Queensland Biosecurity Officers Phone 13 25 23

For more information on Biosecurity threats to the sugar industry visit www.sugarresearch.com.au/page/Research_capabilities/Biosecurity/