

Biosecurity Policy

1. Overview

The purpose of the Biosecurity Policy (the Policy) is to prevent the introduction of exotic species, pests, weeds, and diseases to Wadjmeup / Rottnest Island.

Under the *Rottnest Island Regulations 1988*, Regulation 41 states, a person must not without permission cause or allow any flora or fauna to be brought within the limits of the island. It is Rottnest Island Authority's (RIA) responsibility under this regulation to appropriately control the entry of non-native flora and fauna to Rottnest Island to ensure the protection and conservation of the natural environment.

RIA is committed to conserving the Island's biodiversity ecosystem, species and genetic diversity, protecting and enhancing ecological and landscape values, preventing degradation through introduction of exotic species and weeds.

This Policy and associated Biosecurity-Importation of Flora and Fauna Guidelines (the Guidelines) provide direction for a proponent requesting to import flora or to bring fauna to Rottnest Island and for Officers permitting the activity under the Regulation.

2. Objectives

The key objectives of this Policy are to:

- Minimise risk of weeds such as bridal creeper, pests such as Fire Ants, diseases such as Myrtle rust, and pathogens such as *Phytophthora cinnamomi* when importing flora
- Minimise risk of importation of diseases and pests when bringing fauna to the island
- Provide for the protection of biodiversity
- Enable rehabilitation and landscaping that are consistent with maintaining and enhancing natural landscape and ecological values, viability of island ecosystems and species, settlement heritage landscapes, and visitor amenities
- Ensure that plant selection for landscaping, planting, and gardens is consistent with fire risk management, sustainability principles including water, fertiliser and pesticide use, and cost-efficient and safe maintenance; and promote sustainability

3. Scope

This Policy and any associated guidelines and forms are applicable to all operations and services undertaken by RIA, lessees, licensees, volunteers, contractors, and other government agencies and all visitors to the island.

4. Definitions

Biosecurity - means a set of preventive measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of [infectious diseases](#), quarantined pests, [invasive species](#) and living modified organisms (Koblentz, 2010).

Contractor - defined in the Australian Standard, General Conditions of Contract AS 2124-1992.

Exotic - introduced, alien, non-indigenous or non-native species is a [species](#) living outside its [native](#) distributional range, which has arrived there by [human](#) or natural activity, either deliberate or accidental.

Flora - any form of plant life, and includes any part of such plant including seeds, flowers, leaves or spores.

Fauna - any living thing that is not a human being or a plant and includes the eggs and immature stages of fauna.

Landscaping - any activity that modifies the visible features of an area of land. It means land developed with garden beds, shrubs and trees, or by the planting of lawns and includes features such as retaining walls, rockeries, ornamental ponds, pools, barbeque areas, playgrounds and any other such area approved by the RIA as landscaped area.

Native - flora or fauna species that is native to a given region or [ecosystem](#) if its presence in that region is the result of only natural processes, with no human intervention.

Pest - general term for organisms (rats, insects, etc.) which may cause illness or damage or consume food and other materials important to humans.

Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) - Rottnest Island Authority and the associated agency including all operational staff and associated Fremantle and Island business units, all assets and facilities owned, managed or operated by the RIA.

Settlement - residential, commercial, and industrial areas between Kingstown and Geordie Bay.

Volunteer – as defined in the *Volunteers and Food and Other Donors (Protection from Liability) Act 2002*.

5. Policy Position

It is the policy of RIA that:

- 5.1** All soil and flora brought to Rottnest Island shall be sourced from an appropriately certified supplier by the importer. All imports are to be weed, pest, disease and pathogen free.
- 5.2** All plant, machinery, and vehicles being brought onto Rottnest Island shall be demonstrated to be free from any soil and flora material.
- 5.3** Only flora that is native to Rottnest Island is to be imported for use outside the Settlement for revegetation, conservation, or landscaping purposes.
- 5.4** Within the settlement area, the below may be imported with permission from RIA, based on biosecurity assessment:
 - 5.4.1** Potted plants for residential and business produce gardens
 - 5.4.2** Exotic and heritage plants for landscaping and amenity
 - 5.4.3** Cut flowers for special events, which must then be disposed of in RIA waste bins.

5.5 Environmental and or declared weeds will not be permitted for importation to Rottnest Island.

5.6 No fauna to be imported to the island without permission.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

All RIA Officers, including Board members, are responsible for complying with the requirements of this Policy.

Director, Environment, Heritage and Parks (EHP) - is responsible for the administration, approval, compliance management, evaluation and performance reporting of this policy.

Director, Infrastructure – is responsible for ensuring all ensuring all contractors and works projects comply with the Policy.

Director, Contracts and Planning – is responsible for ensuring that all lease agreements, license and development approvals comply with this Policy.

Rottnest Island Managers and Officers – to ensure that projects comply with this Policy.

7. Statutory Compliance and Relevant Documentation

The policy reflects the requirements of:

- *Rottnest Island Act 1987*
- *Rottnest Island Regulations 1988*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987*
- *Rottnest Island Environmental Policy 2018.*

The powers and functions afforded by the relevant legislation applicable to this Policy are detailed in RIA's Schedule of Delegations and Authorisations, under section s13 (2)(a).

8. Effective Date

The policy is effective from 12 March 2024.

9. Review Period

The Policy is to be reviewed every three years.

10. Policy Custodian

Director, Environment, Heritage and Parks.

11. Policy Authorisation

This Policy details Rottnest Island Authority's policy for formalising the commitment to biosecurity.

Signed:



Jason Banks
Executive Director

13 March 2024

Date:

12. Policy Revision

Rev	Revision Description	Revision by	Date	Page
1	Minor revisions	Rebecca Gabbitus	27 February 2024	All
2	Format to RIA brand style.	Corporate Communications	1 August 2024	All