

Phylloxera Risk Management

Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of SA

Support Paper No. 5:

South Australia's Plant Quarantine Standards

The South Australian Plant Quarantine Standards (PQS) are legislated under section 59 of the *Plant Health Act 2009*. These Standards provide details of the approved conditions of entry into the State of plant and plant related products, including fruit, vegetables, plants, plant products, machinery, equipment and certain related items, from interstate sources. Biosecurity SA administers the *Plant Health Act 2009* and the PQS on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Changes or additions to the Standard are subject to the approval of the Minister.

Under Section 4 of the *Plant Health Act 2009*:

"the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, declare –

- (a) a disease; or*
- (b) an insect, a mite or other arthropod, a snail, slug or nematode; or*
- (c) any other organism; or*
- (d) any other condition,*

that affects or may affect a plant or plant related product to be a pest for the purposes of this Act."

Under Section 7 (2)

"The Minister, for the purposes of preventing the introduction into, or spread within, the State of a pest, prohibit, by notice in the Gazette, the bringing or introduction into the State of a specified class of plant or plant product (either absolutely or subject to conditions)." Under Section 7 (3) "The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, vary or revoke a notice under subsection (2)."

Under Section 59 (1)

"A notice given by the Minister under this Act may (b) apply, adopt or incorporate, with or without modification, any code, standard or other document prepared or approved by a body or authority referred to in the notice..."

Within the PQS, there are conditions that restrict and prohibit the entry of Phylloxera risk vectors across the SA border. Biosecurity SA has arrangements in place to verify compliance with the PQS, including registration of all importers of plant and plant material, direct inspection of imported host material and/or accreditation of importers, and audit of accredited businesses.

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The PQS form part of a broader network of State and Commonwealth legislation which is aimed at maintaining the health and productivity of Australia's agricultural and horticultural industries. South Australia, as part of the Domestic Quarantine group (which includes all State regulators), has had a commitment to use the National Phylloxera Management Protocol as the basis of plant quarantine standards for the movement of grapes and machinery since the mid 90's. In 2011, the government amended the PQS in line with the national protocol.

What is the role of Biosecurity SA in managing risk?

Biosecurity is the science of managing the risks and potential harm to the economy, the environment and the community from pests and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading in Australia. Biosecurity management is a difficult and complex task due to increased international and domestic trade, intensive agriculture, population growth and spread, climate change, and resource and financial constraints.

Biosecurity SA has a focus on plant and animal health, natural resources management, and food safety and emergency management programs to ensure that South Australia remains free from the many harmful pests and diseases that affect primary industries and natural resources. Biosecurity SA minimises risks through effective and efficient prevention, preparedness, response and management with our industry, community and government partners, recognising that biosecurity is a shared responsibility across all sectors.

Investment in science and evidenced based risk assessments, active surveillance programs and emergency preparedness are elements of strategy to maintaining South Australia's favourable biosecurity status, including the grape industry.

References

South Australian Government: Plant Health Act (2009)

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**Phylloxera and Grape Industry
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