Biosecurity

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Weeds, pest animals and disease-causing organisms already occur in parts of The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 (Rail) project area. Construction activities can spread them through the movement of soil, water, vegetation, vehicles, machinery, footwear and materials brought onto site.

Managing these risks is particularly important near waterways, wetlands, threatened species habitat and areas being rehabilitated.

What did the Draft Public Environment Report (PER) find?

The Draft Public Environment Report (PER) found that biosecurity risks can be managed through pre-construction surveys, treatment, cleaning of equipment and footwear, controls on the movement of materials, and monitoring.

These measures will reduce the risk of introducing weeds, pests and diseases or spreading them between work areas and sensitive habitats.

How impacts will be managed

Identifying risks before work

The project will identify biosecurity risks before work starts and adjust management measures as conditions change. Measures include:

- mapping areas at risk from weeds, pests and diseases, and undertaking surveys and treatment before construction
- identifying unaffected and affected areas, as well as sensitive locations such as waterways, frog habitat and areas being rehabilitated
- assessing newly identified risks and taking action to manage them.

Managing equipment and materials

Cleaning and movement controls will be tailored to the risks at each location. These include:

- inspecting and cleaning vehicles, machinery, tools and footwear before moving between risk areas
- controlling the movement of soil, vegetation, water, mulch, fill and landscaping materials
- using specific measures for fire ants and diseases such as myrtle rust and chytrid fungus where required
- keeping records and monitoring whether treatment and cleaning measures are effective.

What happens next

A Biosecurity Management Plan will be finalised before construction. It will set out risk areas, treatment and cleaning requirements, controls on the movement of materials, and monitoring and record-keeping requirements. It will also specify actions to take if new risks arise or measures need to be adjusted.

Find out more

Read The Wave – Stages 1 and 2 (Rail) Draft PER for the detailed findings and proposed environmental management measures.