

Biosecurity in the Boardroom

A conversation starter

Biosecurity is more than an agricultural issue - it is a critical risk for all businesses across all sectors and directly impacts Queensland's cultural, economic, environmental, and social values. Biosecurity failures can disrupt supply chains, inflate costs, damage reputations and cause business closures, impacting your bottom line and stakeholder trust.

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity refers to the measures and practices designed to protect industries, the environment, and communities from the risks posed by pests, diseases, and invasive species. It's about preventing, managing, and responding to these threats to safeguard Queensland's economy, ecosystems, and way of life.

Proactively managing biosecurity risks is not just a compliance exercise; it's a strategic imperative to safeguard your business operations, protect your reputation, and contribute to Queensland's broader biosecurity resilience.

This conversation starter provides key questions you can ask to start integrating biosecurity risk management into your business operations.

Why should you care?

Biosecurity risks can have devastating impacts on businesses, with some industries reporting revenue losses of up to 20% in a single quarter due to invasive species and biosecurity breaches. Protecting against these risks isn't just about compliance, it's about safeguarding your bottom line. Every single business across every sector has a role to play - you are an important part of Australia's biosecurity system.

Consider the following risk categories and what they could mean to your organisation



Operational



Reputational



Financial



Leadership insights: what to ask

Below are a series of questions to discuss at a Board and senior leadership level. Use these prompts to guide conversations about how biosecurity risk is identified, managed, and embedded across your organisation. These questions are designed to help leadership teams assess their current practices, assign accountability, and take meaningful action to strengthen your biosecurity resilience.



Risk management

What are the key biosecurity risks facing your business? Is biosecurity included on your risk register?



Culture

How do you engage employees in biosecurity awareness and training? How do you communicate the importance of biosecurity to external stakeholders?



Finance allocation/investment

Have you allocated resources for basic biosecurity measures, such as staff training and facility hygiene to identify risks early?



Meeting legislative requirements

Are you familiar with the biosecurity laws and regulations relevant to your industry, and are you complying with them?



Reputation

How would a biosecurity breach impact your brand reputation? What steps are you taking to reassure customers about your biosecurity practices?

Take action to strengthen your biosecurity practices

By taking proactive steps such as including biosecurity as an important part of your organisation's risk register, and aiming to manage biosecurity as you would other risks such as WHS you can play an important role in maintaining Queensland's biosecurity.

Work with government and industry biosecurity bodies to stay up to date on emerging threats, access biosecurity alerts, and learn best practices.

To start learning more about managing biosecurity risk in your business scan the QR to visit the Business Queensland website.

