

Biosecurity Bill 2013

DEPARTMENT: Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)		
DIVISION: Infrastructure Management Division		
TEAM: State Program Office: Environment & Heritage Team		
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Document	Section of Document (Page number, paragraph/section number)	Comment/s
Biosecurity Bill 2013	Chapter 4 Invasive animal barrier fencing Part 2 Barrier fences Clause 89 (1a-c) "The barrier fence is the fence made up of the sections of fencing built along the following lines...."	Clause 89 (1a-c) does not appear to include the line shown as the 'rabbit fence with top netting for wild dogs' as shown in the following link: http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/70193/IPA-Wild-Dog-Barrier-Fence-2010.pdf
Biosecurity Bill 2013	Chapter 4 Invasive animal barrier fencing Part 2 Barrier fences Clause 91 (1) " <i>The barrier fence is shown on the electronic map called 'Barrier Fence Map for Queensland'...</i> "	It appears this map (as described in Clause 89) is called "Wild Dog Barrier Fence, Queensland".
Biosecurity Bill 2013	Chapter 4 Invasive animal barrier fencing Part 2 Barrier fences Clause 93 Maintaining barrier fence Point (a) " <i>clear the fence line of vegetation or any other obstruction to a distance of no more than 20m either side of the fence</i> "	The clearing limit of 20m either side of the barrier fence may result in a total clearing of 40m of vegetation either side of the barrier fence. This figure of 20m is excessive to the intent necessary for maintaining a barrier fence and has potential to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create additional maintenance work in maintaining the cleared zone - promote the introduction of pest weed species to the cleared area

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have negative impact to fauna species by the removal of habitat and food trees - create undesired disconnection between vegetation communities - have other unforeseen environmental consequences
General Comments		
<p>DTMR publishes manuals, guidelines and standards to determine necessary clearing limits to transport infrastructure, including clearing around fences.</p> <p>The standards applied by DTMR for establishing necessary zones for clearing are based on road user safety as well as to effectively maintain the infrastructure in a serviceable condition. Examples are provided below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For maintenance: The department's Fauna Sensitive Road Design Manual establishes a maintenance requirement of a three (3) metre buffer on the habitat side of fauna exclusion / koala proof fencing. - Predominantly for safety: The department's RMPC Guideline for Undertaking Routine Maintenance states that a greater distance on the inside of curves is required to maintain stopping site distance, and establishes a maximum fourteen (14) metre width of clearing requirement for speed environments of 130km/h on a curve radius of 800m. - Predominantly for safety: The department's Road Landscape Manual states a typical clear zone width for a straight horizontal alignment road with a cut/fill slope ranging from flat slope to approximately 1:6 slope, the manual establishes a six (6) to nine (9) metre clear zone buffer from the road edge. <p>The above examples of clearing zone limits indicate that a requirement for clearing "no more than 20m" is excessive for maintenance requirements and provides too much leeway for unnecessary over-clearing. It is acknowledged that "no more than" implies a maximum limit, and also that the explanatory notes offer the power for the board to establish the clearing requirements for the site, however risk exists for the clearing contractor to interpret the 20m limit as a standard (referenced) figure to clear to.</p> <p>In addition to environmental impacts of clearing, ongoing cost risks exists for DTMR / Queensland Government to maintain excessively cleared tracts of land where a pest barrier fence is located within land utilised by government supported transport infrastructure.</p> <p>It is suggested that the wording for Clause 93 be amended to delete reference to "no more than 20m" and be replaced with a range</p>		

of options for clearing limits, such as:

(a) establishing a more reasonable minimum buffer (such as three metres) AND

(b) where required, a clearing limit established from a site-specific assessment of risk to the fence barrier from local vegetation (height), that is approved by the board and referenced in the clearing contract.