



ROTTNEST IS

ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY POLICY

BIOSECURITY - FLORA IMPORTATION POLICY

POLICY TYPE: OPERATIONAL

1. OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Biosecurity - Flora Importation Policy is to prevent the introduction of exotic species, including pests, weeds and diseases through plant and soil matter associated with the importation of flora to Rottnest Island.

Under the Rottnest Island Regulation 1988 41B (2) a person must not without permission cause or allow any flora or fauna to be brought within the limits of the Island. It is the Rottnest Island Authority's (RIA) responsibility under this regulation to appropriately control the entry of flora and fauna to Rottnest Island to ensure protection and conservation of the natural environment.

This policy and associated guideline (Biosecurity-Importation of Flora Guidelines) provide direction for a proponent requesting to import flora to Rottnest Island and Officers permitting the activity under the regulation.

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.

2. OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the policy are to:

- minimise risk of weeds (e.g. bridal creeper), pests (e.g. Fire Ants), diseases (e.g. Myrtle rust) and pathogens (e.g. *Phytophthora cinnamomic*) when importing flora;
- 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 amenity;
- 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 the 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: as defined in the Australian Standard, General Conditions of Contract 2124-1992.

Native refers to a 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.

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

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

Landscaping refers to 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.

Pest is a 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 STATEMENTS

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; and

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 potted plants for residential vegetable, herb or fruit gardens, cut flowers for special events and heritage species will be assessed for their suitability and subject to permissions may be imported;

5.5 Cut flowers (no seeds or rhizomes) with an approved statutory declaration form are permitted to be brought onto the Island for special events. All flora decoration is to be disposed of in RIA waste bins or taken off the Reserve once the event is over; and

5.6 Environmental and or Declared Weeds will not be permitted for importation to Rottnest Island.

6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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 Contractors and works projects comply with the policy.
- **Director, Contracts and Planning** – 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; and*
- *Rottnest Island Environmental Policy 2018.*

8 EFFECTIVE DATE

The policy is effective from 1 February 2020.

9 REVIEW PERIOD

The policy is to be reviewed every 3 years.

10 POLICY CUSTODIAN

Director, Environment, Heritage and Parks.

11 POLICY AUTHORISATION

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

Signed: _____

Executive Director

Date: _____

7/2/20

12 POLICY REVISION

| Rev | Revision Description | Revision by | Issue Date | Page |
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