



ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY GUIDELINES

IMPORTATION OF FLORA

1. OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Importation of Flora Guidelines is to provide clear direction for adoption of the relevant policy statements outlined in the Rottnest Island Authority's (RIA) Biosecurity Policy. These guidelines set standards for critical management elements involved in flora importation, soil hygiene and planting within the terrestrial reserve to prevent the negative effects associated with exotic species, including pests, weeds and diseases.

2. OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the guidelines are to:

- Ensure that all flora and soil importations meet the RIA's statutory responsibilities;
- Protect and promote biodiversity, and contribute to the viability of natural ecosystems by maintaining the integrity of floristic communities;
- Ensure that the appropriate flora species are selected for landscaping, rehabilitation and heritage purposes;
- Reduce the need for and occurrence of watering, and the cost of maintaining plantings and gardens; and
- Minimise the risk of introduction and spread of disease, weed or pests.

3. SCOPE

These guidelines and any associated documentation and forms are applicable to all operations of the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA), its partners, contractors, 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.

Contractor is as defined in the Australian Standard, General Conditions of Contract (AS 2124-1992).

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.

Native refers to a flora 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 any part or seeds or spores of such flora.

Heritage is the legacy of physical attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

Provenance refers to the origins of flora collected from a natural population.

Residential planting refers to flora planted or imported by residents who are holding a temporary or permanent residential lease.

Rehabilitation is the process of replanting to return the environment to its natural state.

Special events refer to weddings, ceremonies, memorials, competitions and any other social, cultural and business occasion.

5.1. FLORA IMPORTATION

- **Under Rottneest Island Regulation 41B (2) No flora to be brought to Island, it is stated that “A person must not without permission cause or allow any flora to be brought within the limits of the Island”. Written permission must be sought from the Manager - Environment, Heritage and Parks prior to the importation of any flora (including seed and flowers) to Rottneest Island. A minimum of four weeks notice is required prior to intended importation occurring.**
- **Unless otherwise specified, only flora species native to Rottneest Island are to be imported for landscaping and rehabilitation purposes. Non-native flora may be imported for the following purposes ONLY (subject to permissions and approval conditions):**
 - **Residential fruit, herb and vegetable garden;**

- *Floral decoration for special events (i.e. weddings);*
- *Pot plants;*
- *Heritage purposes, and;*
- *Amenity purposes within the Settlement Area.*

5.2. CERTIFICATION

- *All flora brought to Rottnest Island shall be sourced from an appropriately certified supplier to ensure that it is weed, pest, disease and pathogen free.*
- *All soil brought to Rottnest Island shall be sourced from an appropriately certified supplier to ensure it is disease, pest, and weed (including seed) free.*
- *If soil or flora is not appropriately certified then there is a risk that the materials will either be disposed of or sent back to the mainland.*
- *If certified documentation is not able to be provided then there is a risk that the materials will either be disposed of or sent back to the mainland.*
- *The Authority recognises the following industry certification standards for soil products and seed material:*
 - *Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA)*
 - *Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR)*
 - *Nursery and Garden Industry Australia*

5.3. LOCAL PROVENANCE

- *In the first instance, seed or cuttings collected from Rottnest Island should be used for direct seeding and plant propagation for landscaping and rehabilitation requirements on the Island.*
- *All seed collectors require a valid Department of Parks and Wildlife license to take flora.*
- *If seed or plant stock sourced from Rottnest Island local provenance is unavailable then it may be sourced from Swan Coastal Plain local provenance only, subject to approval from the General Manager – Environment, Heritage and Parks.*

5.4. LANDSCAPING

- *All landscaping is to comply with the requirements of the RIA Development Planning Guideline No 03 Sustainable Development (3.3 Landscaping)*

- **All landscaping works shall engage the Rottnest Island Conservation team at the earliest possible stage in the planning process**
- **Flora species selection must be based on suitability to the purpose and use of the area (particularly within the Settlement and developed areas) with due consideration of each of the following factors:**
 - **Safety (including potential for shedding limbs or hard fruits, and potential for obstructing visibility of pedestrian, bike and vehicle traffic);**
 - **Sustainability (including pruning requirements, water consumption, leaf litter maintenance);**
 - **Consistency with surrounding landscapes;**
 - **Maintenance and/or enhancement of vistas (e.g. ensure plantings will not obstruct views from accommodation), and;**
 - **Maintenance of structural integrity of built environment (including buildings, paved areas, roads and infrastructure).**

5.5. REHABILITATION

- **Rehabilitation projects shall ensure the selection of species that promote structural and floristic diversity.**
- **Rehabilitation projects shall reintroduce original floristic communities and species that previously occurred within the vicinity of the project area.**
- **Rehabilitation projects shall engage the Rottnest Island Conservation team at the earliest stage of the planning process.**

5.6. TURF

- **Turf selection must be based on suitability to the purpose and the proposed use of the area, with due consideration of shade tolerance, drought tolerance and wearability.**
- **Turf varieties that have low water and fertiliser requirements should be selected, wherever practicable.**

5.7. RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- **Residents are not to plant on or alter the landscape outside of the leased area.**

- ***Non-native species other than fruit, herbs or vegetables must not be planted in the ground within leased areas or imported to free leased area.***
- ***Pot plants containing non-native species are allowed, however they must be confined to the leased area.***
- ***Non-compliant plantings or pot plants that have been introduced historically may remain on the premises, however, non-compliant species are not to be introduced in addition to or in replacement of these.***
- ***Residents are responsible for ensuring that no fruit or vegetable, seed or flora material exit the leased area.***
- ***Residents may request RIA's assistance with obtaining indigenous plants and advice on species selection.***
- ***The resident is to maintain the garden area and control weeds within the leased area.***
- ***The failure of complying with the Biosecurity guidelines may lead to disposal of all non-native plantings other than vegetables, herbs and fruit trees, and replacement with approved native plants.***
- ***When leases are to be renewed, the removal of non-compliant plants may be required.***

5.8. DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS

- ***Where clearing of vegetation is unavoidable, flora offsets must be planned and implemented for an equivalent area of vegetation. This should be undertaken in accordance with the Authority's Development Planning Guideline No 08 – Environmental Management of Flora, Fauna and Marine.***
- ***Approvals for land use and development require appropriate planning and implementation of measures to effectively protect native flora, control weeds and minimise risk of the introduction of pest, disease and costly maintenance regimes.***
- ***Current tenders are to replace any exotic species that die for native species (unless specified otherwise) and new tenders will only be permitted to use flora native to Rottneest Island.***
- ***Native vegetation is to be retained and enhanced wherever possible as part of development, in accordance with these guidelines.***
- ***Protection of flora during any construction (including significant trees) is to be undertaken in accordance with the Authority's Development Planning Guidelines No. 10 Construction Management.***

5.9. VEHICLES AND MACHINERY

- *All plant, machinery and vehicles being brought onto Rottnest Island shall be free from any soil and flora material.*
- *The Contractor is responsible for having adequate clean-down procedures in place to ensure that each item of plant and equipment (including vehicles, tools and boots) is free of any pests, weeds, or other invasive species before entering the Island.*
- *Contractors are responsible for ensuring adequate inspection processes are in place to ensure compliance with the relevant Policy, guidelines and Rottnest Island Regulations as applicable to this guideline.*

5.10. PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, FERTILISERS AND SOIL WETTING AGENTS

- *Approval must be sought prior to the introduction of pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers, and soil wetting agents to Rottnest Island, and their application.*
- *The use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers, and soil wetting agents are to be kept to a minimum.*
- *Application of pesticides and herbicides must be undertaken by appropriately licensed and trained personnel.*
- *Due care must be taken to ensure that spray drift does not occur during application of herbicides and pesticides outside of the target area during application.*
- *Only slow-release fertilisers that have been specially formulated for use on Australian native plants may be used for plantings.*
- *Low environmental impact soil wetting agents made from natural products (not petro-chemical based) may be used on turf areas.*
- *All herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers and soil wetting agents must be used and stored in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions and specifications and at the appropriate application rates.*
- *All herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers and soil wetting agents must be contained within the target area and should never be allowed to enter lakes, seeps, swamps, groundwater or the ocean.*

5.11. FLORAL DECORATION

- *Floral decorations comprising species that are not native to Rottnest Island are limited to cut flowers for special events only (i.e. weddings).*
- *All floral decorations must be of low risk to biosecurity, no seed or rhizomes may be imported to the island as part of decorations.*
- *Floral decorations are not permitted to be brought to Rottnest Island for any purpose other than that stated in this document.*

- ***Organisers are required to fill out a statutory declaration form, sign and submit to the Environmental Coordinator - Marine and Terrestrial Reserve prior to bringing floral decoration to the Reserve. Confirmation on receipt of the signed form will be provided and constitute as a permit.***
- ***All floral decoration is to be disposed of on the mainland following the event.***

5.12. CULTURAL HERITAGE

- ***Existing exotic settlement trees will remain until replacement is required or death of the individual.***
- ***Replacement of dead individuals shall occur in accordance with this policy, in consultation with RIA Environment, Heritage and Parks branch.***

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Director, Contracts is responsible for ensuring all Development Applications are assessed against this Biosecurity Guideline and that the guidelines are made available to applicants. All leasing and permits awarded are compliant with the policy.
- Director, Visitor Services is responsible for ensuring all events are compliant with the policy.
- Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks is responsible for the approval, compliance management and evaluation of this guideline.

5. STATUTORY COMPLIANCE AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION

The policy reflects the requirements of:

- Rottneest Island Act 1987.
- Rottneest Island Regulations 1988.
- Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
- Rottneest Island Authority Environmental Policy (2018).
- Development Planning Guidelines No 03 – Sustainable Development.
- Development Planning Guideline No 08 – Environmental Management of Flora, Fauna and Marine.
- Development Planning Guideline No 10 – Construction Management.
- Development Planning Guideline No 04 – Cultural heritage – Places and Heritage Precincts.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This guideline is effective from 25 January 2019.

7. REVIEW DATE

The biosecurity policy is to be reviewed every three years.

8. CUSTODIAN

Director, Environment, Heritage and Parks.

9. POLICY AUTHORISATION

This document details the Rottnest Island Authority's guidelines for the management of Biosecurity on Rottnest Island.