

Biosecurity Act 2019

BIOSECURITY AUDIT FREQUENCY POLICY IN RESPECT OF THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM: TASMANIAN SALMONID INDUSTRY

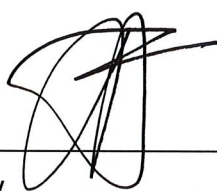
I, Jason Jacobi, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) and acting in accordance with section 153(1) of the *Biosecurity Act 2019* (the Act), hereby authorise the instrument titled –

Biosecurity Audit Frequency Policy in respect of the Biosecurity Program: Tasmanian Salmonid Industry

as may be amended or substituted from time to time, to be the policy applicable to biosecurity auditors for the purposes of assessing a salmonid producer's level of audit frequency required under the Biosecurity Program: Tasmanian Salmonid Industry.

Signed: _____

Secretary



Date: 2 June 2025

1.0 Interpretation

“**the Act**” means the *Biosecurity Act 2019*.

All terms and expressions used in this Policy have the same meaning as in the *Biosecurity Act 2019* and the Biosecurity Program: Tasmanian Salmonid Industry as applicable.

2.0 Purpose and application of the Audit Frequency Policy

2.1 Purpose

An accreditation authority established under the Act is required to adopt a policy in relation to the frequency of audits which may be performed for the purposes of the Act. This policy is referred to as the *Biosecurity Audit Frequency Policy in respect of the Biosecurity Program: Tasmanian Salmonid Industry* (the Policy) and provides for the frequency of compliance audits required to facilitate the operation of the Biosecurity Program: Tasmanian Salmonid Industry (the Biosecurity Program).

2.2 Application of the Policy

This Policy describes how NRE Tas will ensure:

- that compliance audits improve compliance with the requirements of the Biosecurity Program through effective, consistent and appropriate application methods; and
- that audit outcomes are monitored and compliance with the Biosecurity Program standards is reflected in the audit frequency schedule; and
- Compliance audit recovery costs associated with compliance audits conducted for the purposes of the Biosecurity Program are commensurate and applied appropriately; and
- NRE Tas staff and persons appointed as biosecurity auditors have clarity as to when a compliance audit is required for the purposes of the Biosecurity Program.

3.0 Biosecurity Audit Frequency

3.1 Biosecurity audits will improve biosecurity risk management

Outcome:

1. Audit frequency will vary proportionally with the level of compliance identified at an audit.
2. Biosecurity audits will improve compliance with the requirements of the Biosecurity Program and the Act.
3. Biosecurity audit frequencies are consistent across the biosecurity spectrum.
4. Biosecurity audit frequencies are readily available.

Activities that will achieve the Outcome:

- The biosecurity audit frequency will increase in accordance with the Act in response to non-compliance.
- The biosecurity audit frequency will decrease in response to demonstrated compliance.

- Biosecurity audit reporting requirements will be conducted in accordance with the Act.

This Policy will be made publicly available.

3.2 Biosecurity audits will be conducted in a consistent and systematic manner

Outcome:

1. NRE Tas provides standard audit guidelines by which to audit the Biosecurity Program.
2. The frequency of biosecurity audits is specified in the Biosecurity Program (external third-Party audits) and by this Policy.
3. Activities to be audited will be classified based on their risk and audit frequency determined based on the audit result.

Activities that will achieve the Outcome:

- Biosecurity audits will be conducted subject to the Standard Procedures and Guidelines.
- Reporting requirements for biosecurity audits will be conducted in accordance Part 10, Division 2, Subdivision 1 sections 143 and 144 of the Act, [LINK](#). These sections outline biosecurity reporting requirements including providing immediate reports in certain circumstances.
- Each non-conformance will be assessed to ensure consistency when determining audit outcome and the future audit frequency.

3.3 The conduct of biosecurity audits is consistent with the principle that biosecurity is a shared responsibility

Outcome:

1. Regular biosecurity audits will improve compliance which will reduce the cost of biosecurity responses and compliance costs for both government and industry.
2. Biosecurity audits provide for the appropriate application of compliance resources such as where the risk is greatest.

Activities that will achieve the Outcome:

- Biosecurity audits will provide for the recovery of costs from biosecurity participants where cost recovery programs are not resourcing audit function.
- The frequency of biosecurity audits will increase in response to non-compliance and decrease in response to compliance with the requirements of the Biosecurity Program identified at audit.