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Biosecurity Standard

Approval

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Next Review:			01/01/2024

Feedback

Contact the Environment and Sustainability Team if you have feedback in relation to this standard: environment@tasnetworks.com.au

Contents

1. Purpose

This standard sets out TasNetworks minimum requirements for managing biosecurity risks associated with TasNetworks program of work, maintenance and operations.

All work undertaken by or on behalf of TasNetworks must meet the aims and objectives of TasNetworks Environment and Sustainability Policy and all relevant legislative and statutory requirements, guidelines, codes of practice and agreed charters.

As well as setting out the minimum business requirements for managing biosecurity risks, the standard also sets out how TasNetworks will plan and prioritise our strategic weed management program to support land managers control, manage or eliminate declared weeds in TasNetworks easements.

The specific requirements and controls for biosecurity hygiene are described in the Biosecurity Hygiene Work Practice.

2. Scope

This standard applies to everyone working for, or on behalf of, TasNetworks, while planning or executing our program of work and any other operational or maintenance work that has the potential to spread weeds, pests or disease.

Specifically, it includes:

1. TasNetworks minimum requirements for minimising the spread of weeds, pests and disease during the delivery of the program of work (including major projects).
2. A description of TasNetworks strategic approach to weed management in TasNetworks easements.

3. Background

TasNetworks recognises the importance of controlling, managing and preventing the spread of weeds, pests and disease to minimise adverse impacts to the Tasmanian environment, community and economy. Under the *Biosecurity Act 2019*, TasNetworks, TasNetworks team members and contractors, have legal requirements to fulfil to meet their General Biosecurity Duty (**GBD**) and report (significant) biosecurity events. All weeds that were previously declared under the *Weed Management act 1999*, are now declared pests under the new Biosecurity Regulations 2022 (Biosecurity Regs.).

3.1 The General Biosecurity Duty (GBD)

The *Biosecurity Act 2019* (Biosecurity Act) created a statutory GBD which came into effect on 1 April 2021. The GBD enacts an individual duty of care on all persons to 'take reasonable and practical measures to manage biosecurity risks'. The primary biosecurity risks for TasNetworks are outlined in section 4.

All people working for, and on behalf of TasNetworks should be aware of their GBD and have the necessary skills, knowledge and tools to effectively to manage biosecurity risks.

To meet their biosecurity duty, everyone working for, or on behalf of TasNetworks should:

- Plan work to avoid or eliminate biosecurity risks where practical to do;

- Identify biosecurity risks and areas which need to be kept weed and disease free prior to undertaking operational or construction work;
- Implement all required biosecurity controls where risk cannot be eliminated;
- Ensure that the required on-ground controls remain effective at all times and;
- Report any suspected biosecurity events and consult with relevant land managers as required.

A significant breach of the GBD that is intentional or reckless, can be treated as an aggravated offence which may carry a significant penalty under the Biosecurity Act.

3.2 Reporting Biosecurity Events

The Notification of a Biosecurity Event is a legal requirement under section 73 of the Biosecurity Act. This requirement is in addition to the GBD.

Where a TasNetworks team members becomes aware of, or reasonably suspects, that a biosecurity event has occurred and is having or likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the economy, environment or community, team members must notify the Environment and Sustainability Team (E&S Team) as soon as practical. The E&S team will then notify Biosecurity Tasmania.

A significant adverse effect in general applies to the spread or introduction of pests or invasive pests as defined under The Biosecurity Act which, have not been previously introduced to Tasmania or, have had a previously limited distribution in a particular area. Particular care and focus should be given to biosecurity events in high-value areas such as the Wilderness World Heritage Area (**WWHA**), National Parks and other reserves and agricultural areas or properties with biosecurity plans in place.

Biosecurity events are not the same as TasNetworks environmental incidents (see section 5.3). For example, an incident or near miss would be a situation where TasNetworks operations are responsible, or potentially responsible, for the spread of weeds, disease or pests.

Biosecurity events are significant biosecurity risks, incidentally observed in the course of a team member under taking duties on behalf of TasNetworks. A biosecurity events does not need to result from TasNetworks operations to be reported to Biosecurity Tasmania under this legal requirement i.e. a team member suspects they observed a fox or sees orange hawkweed growing on a road side in the WWHA.

All TasNetworks team members should remain vigilant and make reasonably practical efforts to restrict access to areas where known, or suspected biosecurity events have occurred.

3.3 Weed management and control

As TasNetworks does not own the easements used to supply electricity (with the exception of some substations), the primary legal responsibility for managing declared weeds (pests) exists with the land owners (refer to section 15 of the Biosecurity Regs.). However, TasNetworks acknowledges that it has a shared responsibility to help the Tasmanian community manage invasive weed species which pose a threat to the environment economy and community.

Power line easements can provide a pathways for weeds, pest and disease to spread to potentially from one area to another. Therefore, minimizing the introduction and spread of weeds requires a proactive, collaborative approach between all stakeholders (customers, property

owners, land managers, regulators) if high-value areas[1] are to remain free of high-priority (Zone A) weeds over time.

TasNetworks will make reasonably practical efforts to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to achieve strategic and effective weed management outcomes for high-risk weeds in high-risk locations in line with the principles described in the Australian Weeds Strategy. This approach is described in more detail in section 5.

TasNetworks will control or eradicate any declared weeds within the boundaries of any TasNetworks owned facilities, depots and substations as required to prevent the occurrence of a 'prohibited dealing'. TasNetworks may also be legally exposed if it causes, allows, or fails to prevent the release or spread of weeds, pests or disease into the environment (i.e. during operations or construction work).

4. Biosecurity risks

TasNetworks is large linear infrastructure business, with a high volume of operational and capital work. As a result, the spread of weeds, soil and water borne disease and other pests is a high environmental, reputational and compliance risk (as defined in the Environment and Sustainability Risk Register).

Weeds, soil and water borne disease and other pests can be easily and inadvertently spread with the movement of people, vehicles, tools, PPE and machinery, particularly when work involves the disturbance of soil, mud, water, plant and animal material. Work that involves travel or work on unmaintained roads or access tracks, the cutting or clearing of vegetation, significant ground disturbance or the use of fill, poses and elevated level of biosecurity risk.

Managing biosecurity risks also includes containing weeds, pests and disease to a certain area or work site, or conversely excluding biosecurity risks from high-value environmental, economic or community areas. For example, the Wilderness World Heritage Area, National Parks and agricultural areas are highly sensitive to the introduction of invasive pests, weeds and disease.

4.1 Declared and environmental weeds

Weeds[2] are invasive plants that can have a significant impact on the Tasmanian environment, community and economy (see pests and invasive pests). The Biosecurity Act and Biosecurity Regs. outlines responsibility for preventing the spread or release of declared (and unknown) pests, including weeds, into the environment.

A number of declared weeds in Tasmania have statutory management plans which classifies the weed as either Zone A or Zone B, depending on the municipality and known weed distribution. If a weed is listed as Zone A in a given municipality, eradication is the principal management objective. Weeds listed as Zone B require control and containment. All Statutory Weed Management Plans created under the *Weed Management act 1999* are now termed Government Biosecurity Programs with the same meaning and effect.

[1] Any area with significant environmental, community, heritage or economic value. This includes, but is not limited to, all reserves as defined under the Nature Conservation Act, farms and agricultural areas with an active biosecurity plan

[2] All weeds that were declared under the Weed Management Act 1999 are now classified as a declared pest(s); Biosecurity Regs. Section 29

Under the Biosecurity Regs., causing the release, scattering or escape into the environment of a declared pest or disease, or dealing with a declared pest or disease in a manner that resulted in the spread of the pest disease, is considered a 'prohibited dealing' which is an offence under the Biosecurity Act**. TasNetworks will make all reasonably practical efforts to prevent and minimise the spread of weeds, pests and disease during operations, maintenance and construction work in line with the GBD.**

4.2 Phytophthora (root rot)

Phytophthora root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) is an introduced pathogenic water mould which attacks a wide range of native Tasmanian plants. It is one of the worst invasive plant pathogens in Australia and is recognised as a Key Threatening Process under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Infection with this pathogen can severely degrade native vegetation communities and kills susceptible plants.

Phytophthora can be spread to new areas by dirt and mud adhering to vehicles, equipment or footwear. While *Phytophthora* is widespread in Tasmania, several areas with vulnerable vegetation have been identified as a priority for Phytophthora Management Zones, where good hygiene practices are recommended to minimising the risk of spread of *Phytophthora.*

Additional biosecurity hygiene controls must be implemented in Phytophthora Management Zones or in areas with known *Phytophthora* observations (see section 5.1). These can be identified by using the NetMaps layer catalogue, ListMAP or the NVA.

4.3 Chytrid fungus

The Chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) causes a disease known as chytridiomycosis which currently threatens Tasmania's frog species. The fungus infects the skin of frogs destroying its structure and function causing death. On mainland Australia, chytrid has caused frog extinctions and it is listed a Key Threatening Process under the EPBC Act.

The Chytrid fungus can be spread to new areas by water and mud in and adhering to vehicles, equipment or footwear. Chytrid fungus is found along the north and east coasts of Tasmania, however the interior of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (**TWWHA**) is still free of the disease and provides a safe haven for Tasmania's endemic frog species.

Biosecurity hygiene controls must be implemented in areas with known chytrid observations or chytrid hygiene areas (see section 5.1). These can be identified by using the NetMaps layer catalogue, LIST Map or NVA.

4.4 Other biosecurity risks

There are numerous biosecurity risks that have the potential to significantly impact environmental, economic and community values. Agricultural pests and pathogens can be inadvertently spread from property to property on TasNetworks contaminated vehicles, plant and equipment or introduced during the provision or mobilisation of goods and services from interstate. **Biosecurity risks must be considered when procuring goods or services that may lead to the introduction of restricted or prohibited matter into Tasmania.**

The importation or introduction of any prohibited or restricted material in Tasmanian must not be done so without approval from the Environment and Sustainability Team and Biosecurity Tasmania. **All contractor vehicles, machinery, equipment and PPE, must arrive from interstate clean and free of plant and soil material.**

4.5 Accessing private farm land

TasNetworks seeks to take all reasonably practical measures to meet the agreed objectives in the Charter for Working on Private Farm Land**.** In particular, our people must:

- **Make reasonable efforts to consult on biosecurity matters with landholders prior to entry and follow any signposted biosecurity protocols;**
- **Follow any established Biosecurity Plans where practical to do so and;**
- **Follow reasonable directions from land managers to minimise biosecurity risks.**

4.6 Biosecurity emergencies

TasNetworks must also be prepared to respond to declared biosecurity emergencies, by rescheduling work and follow elevated biosecurity protocols if required to by Biosecurity Tasmania (i.e. fruit fly). **Everyone undertaking work for, or on behalf of TasNetworks, must comply with all Biosecurity Tasmania requirements in the event of a biosecurity emergency.** TasNetworks team members and contractors are strongly encouraged to subscribe to Biosecurity Tasmania's Biosecurity Advisories.

TasNetworks requirements for responding to epidemics and pandemics are described in TasNetworks Epidemic and Pandemic Management Plan.

5. General biosecurity requirements

5.1 Biosecurity planning and controls

Where required, team members and contractors must assess the level of biosecurity risk posed by their work. This should be done by completing both a desktop environmental assessment and an on-site assessment (including customer consultation on any relevant biosecurity risks). The level of risk depends on the location (see definition of high-value areas) as well as the scale, type and timing of the work to be undertaken. **All team members should ensure that biosecurity risks have been assessed and controls specified and implemented to minimise the spread of weeds, pests and soil borne disease, particularly in high-value locations.**

To meet these requirements, team members and contractors are encouraged to complete the following steps before and during work:

1. **Plan:** Identify and assess biosecurity risks prior to undertaking work by completing an environmental assessment (section 5.2). Escalate work in high-risk or near high-value areas for environmental advice where required.
2. **Do:** Control the risk by avoiding high risk locations, times and sensitive areas. Arrive clean, leave clean. Move from clean to dirty sites where practical to do so.
3. **Check:** Check that the specified controls are effective at all times. Stop work if on-ground controls become ineffective.
4. **Act:** Dispose of any contaminated plant and soil materials safely and correctly. Report any suspected environmental incidents, near misses and significant biosecurity events as required by this standard.

Biosecurity planning (assessment) and biosecurity controls (on-ground controls) will be described in more detail in the relevant work practices (to be developed).

5.2 Biosecurity planning and environmental assessments

An environmental assessment must be completed and documented prior to any construction work commencing. The assessment must specify the controls required to manage identified biosecurity risks, particularly in high-value areas. Work that will cause significant ground disturbance, impacts vegetation, or involves the use of vehicles or machinery on unmaintained roads or access tracks, also poses an elevated level of biosecurity risk.

For any other minor operational work, such as asset inspections, site visits or meter reading, that involves travel off an established road or access track, team members should identify known weeds and other biosecurity risks before arriving on-site, particularly in high-value locations. This can be completed and documented on a JRA by using the Flora, Fauna and Reserves layer on NetMaps.

The process for completing an environmental assessment will be described in the Environmental Due Diligence Procedure for Non-design Work (to be developed).

Works planning should also consider any significant ground disturbance, or use of fill which may lead to the introduction or additional spread of declared or environmental weeds. A plan to rehabilitate and monitor these sites should be developed in consultation with the E&S Team.

An environmental assessment is not required for fault or emergency work. However, team members should still take all reasonably practical action to prevent the spread of weeds, pests and disease, particularly in the event of a biosecurity emergency.

5.2.1 Desktop environmental assessment

A desktop environmental assessment must be completed and document prior to undertaking any construction work. The desktop environmental assessment should be completed as early as reasonably practical during the works planning process so work can be scheduled to minimise risks, or so an appropriate work method can be implemented. The considerations that need to be assessed are described in section 4 and in the Environmental Due Diligence Procedure for Non-design Work (to be developed).

Team members under taking fault or emergency works should check NetMaps before heading out to site to identify any high-risk or high value areas.

5.2.2 Site assessment and stakeholder consultation

An on-site assessment, including customer and land manger consultation on potential biosecurity risks in high-value location, must be completed and documented prior to undertaking construction work. If the controls required by a property owner or land manager cannot be adhered to, work must not commence until authorised by your Team Leader or the E&S Team.

Where a team members are undertaking fault or emergency works, an onsite assessment is not required prior to undertaking work. **However, team members must notify the Environment and Sustainability team within 24 hours of any work they reasonably suspect may have led to the spread of weeds, pests or soil and water borne disease, particularly in high-value areas (see section 5.3).**

5.2.3 Implementation of biosecurity controls

The specified biosecurity hygiene controls should be informed by the hierarchy of controls and the level of biosecurity risk posed by the type of work to be undertaken. At a minimum, biosecurity controls must be implemented in accordance with TasNetworks Biosecurity Hygiene Work Practice.

Sourcing weed and disease free quarry material

All practical efforts must be made to source (soil, sand, gravel and water) that is not contaminated with weeds, pest and disease for all work undertaken by, or on behalf of TasNetworks. Where practical, works owners/project managers should aim to follow the guidance in NRE's Weed Management and Hygiene Guidelines. This includes sourcing of fill from vendors and suppliers who;

- Provide a declaration that their product(s) are weed and disease free and/or;
- Can provide an independent biosecurity hygiene assessment report of their operations and/or;
- Can adequately demonstrate that their quarry operations maintain sound biosecurity hygiene practices.

Where a supplier declares their product free of weeds and disease and the use of that product can be reasonably demonstrated to have introduced previously unrecorded biosecurity hazards to the work area, that supplier is responsible for any costs associated with eradicating those biosecurity hazards from the area affected.

Vehicle hygiene

Adequate vehicle wash-down facilities, or access to commercial wash-downs, must be accessible and fit-for-purpose at all TasNetworks operational depots and facilities (see minimum vehicle wash-down standard). Additional bookable items, such as wash-down trailers, blowers/vacuums and disinfectant, may also be made available for high-risk work. Vehicle biosecurity kits will be made available as stock items and can be used by TasNetworks team members to help them meet their GBD.

Disturbance and transport of weeds

Weeds impacted during work, must remain on site and in a manner that will not lead to further spread. Where cuttings or declared weeds need to be removed from site, all contaminated plant material must be securely transported and disposed of at registered waste transfer facility.

Monitoring of controls

Biosecurity hygiene controls, must be monitored for the duration of work to ensure that they remain effective at all times. If controls are no longer effective, work must cease until such time that effective controls can be reinstated.

5.2.4 Environmental advice and support

Contact the E&S Team for support with biosecurity planning and biosecurity hygiene, particularly for large-scale or complex jobs in high-value locations. Any major projects that require biosecurity planning to be addressed in an Environmental Management Plan (**EMP**) or other approvals process, must be escalated for environmental advice.

5.3 Reporting incidents and near misses

Where a TasNetworks team member, or person undertaking work on behalf of TasNetworks, becomes aware, or reasonably suspects that TasNetworks related operations has led to the spread of pests, weeds or disease, an incident must be reported to the Environment and Sustainability Team and their team leader within one hour in accordance with the One Hour Rule.

For example, the slashing or cutting of declared weeds while in seed would constitute an environmental incident. The movement or tracking, or potential tracking, of weed contaminated debris on people, vehicles or equipment following the completion of work, should be reported as a near miss.

Team members are also strongly encouraged to report any suspected biosecurity events to the E&S Team (see section 3.3).

5.4 Training, awareness and competency

All people who have responsibilities under this Standard should be made aware of their biosecurity responsibilities. Relevant TasNetworks team members may be provided with training and awareness to implement their responsibilities are per this Standard. Refer to the ESI Competency Matrix and the E&S Training and Awareness Framework to review the current training requirements. It is the responsibility of Team Leaders to ensure their team members participate in any required training.

Contractors must ensure they are competent to implement the requirements in this Standard and must undertake the required TasNetworks training as per TasNetworks Learning Management System. Contractors should consider arranging and providing their team members with training on how to manage biosecurity risks depending on their level of risk exposure and their own EMS requirements.

5.5 Inspections and audits

Inspections and audits will be undertaken periodically against the requirements outlined in this Standard. Refer to the PC&C Audit Plan and the E&S Inspection Plan to review the current audit and inspection plans.

6. TasNetworks strategic weed management program

There are significant areas of declared weeds in and near TasNetworks easements. While TasNetworks does not own the land used to supply electricity, TasNetworks may contribute to collaborative, strategic weed management efforts to manage high-risk weeds in high value locations. The Australia Weed Strategy principles states that:

> 'Individuals, organisations and industry groups that create risks that may result in a weed entering, emerging, establishing or spreading in Australia have a role in minimising the impacts and contributing to the costs of management'.

6.1 A strategic approach

To achieve the best environmental, economic and community outcomes within the constraints of a fixed budget, TasNetworks will prioritise high risk weeds in high value areas for eradication or control within existing TasNetworks easements**.** Work must also be planned with collaborative

and long-term weed management objectives in mind. This will maximise the overall reduction in biosecurity risk per dollar spent. **Figure 1** describes how areas of weeds in TasNetworks will be prioritised for management (shown on next page).

Where possible, work should consider other relevant landscape factors (i.e. erodibility), the management of secondary weed species and measures to prevent secondary outbreaks.

6.2 Weed Management work for new capital work and major projects

For all major projects and new capital work, allowances must be made for the management and follow-up of any new weed infestations, for a period not less than five years. This is particularly important when weed management is required under a Permit to Take, EMP, or a Reserve Activity Assessment.

6.3 Weed management planning

To ensure that effective, collaborative and long-term weed management outcomes are achieved, a weed management plan must be either prepared by or approved by TasNetworks, or the primary land owner or land manager, prior to commencing work as part of TasNetworks Weed Management Program. At a minimum, the weed management plan must address the following:

- The target species types, their classification and the size of the infestation
- The most appropriate treatment method and timing of work to effectively manage the target species over time, stipulating follow-up treatment requirements
- Identification of all relevant land owners or land managers and any consultation and coordination between stakeholders required
- A plan to monitor the work site and conduct follow-up management work if required
- An assessment of environmental and heritage values and potential off-target impacts posed by the work
- Disposal of vegetation contaminated with declared weeds at a registered waste disposal facility
- Safety risks posed by the use of plant, machinery, herbicides and/or manual handling
- The proximity of work undertaken near live electrical equipment

The plan must also consider:

- Methods that limit disturbance to off target species, particularly threatened flora
- Alternatives to chemical treatment, particularly in proximity to waterways (as per NREs Guideline for the Safe Effective Use of Herbicides Near Waterways)
- Actions to prevent secondary outbreaks or reinfestation

Any person completing weed management work outside of a TasNetworks owned property or on behalf of TasNetworks, must have and provide on the immediate request of an employee of TasNetworks, a TasNetworks representative, or officer of a land management or regulatory authority, documentation which shows that an environmental assessment has been completed prior to work commencing. The environmental assessment should include copies of which any required permits or authorisation (as per the draft Environmental Assessment Procedure for Vegetation Management). A record of all environmental assessments must be captured in TasNetworks document management system for performance assessment and auditing.

6.4 Weed management requests

TasNetworks will make a weed management request form available on the TasNetworks' website so customers, land owners and land managers can report weed outbreaks or infestations in TasNetworks' easements. All requests will be prioritised and actioned in accordance with the criteria described in section 6.2.

TasNetworks reserves the right to decline any request for support or funding for weed management work, where our assets or operations is unlikely to have contributed to an existing weed or biosecurity outbreak, due to financial constraints, or a lack of demonstrated strategic benefit.

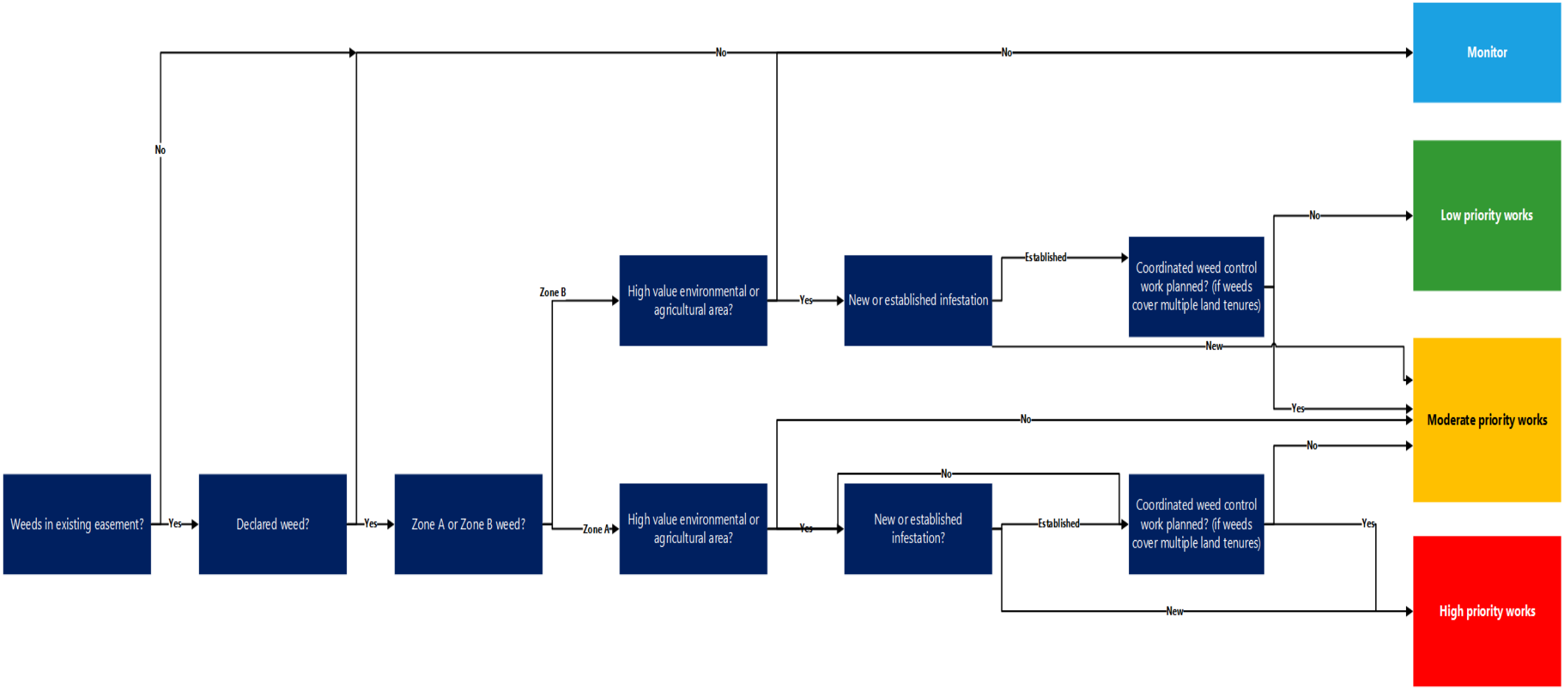

Figure 1 – TasNetworks weed management prioritisation process

7. Responsibilities

The table below summarises the responsibilities of each person for ensuring the requirements of this standard are met.

Role	Responsibility
Executives and Heads Of	• Support, understand and communicate the requirements and expectations set out in this standard • Ensure that TasNetworks' team members and contractors are meeting those requirements • Ensure adequate resourcing and funding is made available to meet the requirements in this standard • Ensure findings and recommendations from audit and incident investigation reports are actioned • Review and support environmental objectives and targets, which will drive improved performance and maturity
Works initiator	• Ensure the requirements of this standard are adequately captured in relevant documents, asset management plans and regulatory proposals • Endorse this standard • Support strategies, actions and approaches which minimise the impact and risks to environmental, cultural and heritage values over the life of TasNetworks assets • Ensure that projects or programs are adequately funded to meet the requirements of this standard
Works owner	• Support, understand and communicate the requirements and expectations as set out in this standard • Ensure an adequate environmental assessments are being completed and documented prior to work being undertaken • Make reasonable efforts to avoid or eliminate environmental or heritage risks and specify any controls required • Engage or seek environmental advice for high-risk where required • Support the development and implementation of systems and processes which ensure the requirements of this standard are being met • Help develop and support environmental objectives and targets, which will drive improved performance and maturity • Action findings and recommendations from audit and incident investigation reports
Works delivery	• Ensure that all applicable requirements as described in this standard are communicated, understood and complied with by all relevant team members and contractors • Ensure adequate environmental assessments are being undertaken and documented prior to work being undertaken • Make reasonable efforts to find alternative solutions to eliminate environmental and heritage risks and specify adequate control measures • Ensure that the control measures specified to minimise environmental risk are being implemented by those undertaking work • Escalate high-risk work for environmental advice where required • Ensure all advice, permit conditions and approvals are complied with

Role	Responsibility
	• Report and help investigate any environmental incidents and near misses in line with the Incident Management Procedure and the One Hour Rule. • Stop work if there is the potential an adverse environmental, heritage or community values, until such time that effective controls are in place
Operations	• Ensure that all requirements as described in this standard are communicated, understood and complied with by all relevant team members • Where applicable, ensure an adequate environmental assessments are being undertaken and documented prior to starting work • Comply with all relevant environmental advice, permits and approvals and ensure that the specified controls are effectively implemented at all times • Report any environmental incidents and near misses in line with the required timeframes (the One Hour Rule) and comply with any incident investigations • Stop work if there is the potential to adversely impact environmental, heritage or community values, until such time that effective controls are in place • Ensure all team members are adequately trained and competent to manage environmental and heritage risks
Contractors	While undertaking work on behalf of TasNetworks: • Ensure that all applicable requirements in this standard are being met unless otherwise agreed • Understand and communicate TasNetworks requirements and expectations in relation to the environment and heritage to all team members • Maintain an effective EMS to manage relevant environmental and heritage risks posed by operations • Ensure that all applicable team members are adequately trained and competent to manage environmental and heritage risks • Where required, ensure adequate environmental assessments are being undertaken and documented prior to work being undertaken • Make reasonable efforts to find alternative solutions to eliminate environmental and heritage risks and specify adequate controls • Escalate high-risk work for environmental advice where required • Comply with all applicable environmental advice, permits and regulatory approvals during work • Report environmental incidents and near misses in line with the required timeframes to TasNetworks (the One Hour Rule) and comply with any incident investigations • Stop work if there is the potential to adversely impact environmental, heritage or community values, until such time that effective controls are in place
Environment and Sustainability Team	• Provide or coordinate specialist environmental advice within agreed timeframes or as negotiated with the works owner • Complete or coordinate the application and submission of any environmental or heritage approvals including the development and preparation of EMPs or RAAs • Complete or coordinate the development of EMPs where required for complex or high-risk projects • Assist with or develop training where required • Help develop and implement systems and processes which ensure the requirements in this standard are met

Role	Responsibility
	• Coordinate routine environmental audits and inspections • Liaise with regulators and help facilitate permits applications (unless an alternative process has been approved by the E&S Team) • Coordinate the investigation of environmental incidents or near misses as required by the Incident Management Procedure • Manage, update and review this standard as required by the document management system • Approve the engagement of qualified environmental specialists to provide environmental advice and undertake assessments. • Help develop and support environmental objectives and targets, which will drive improved performance and maturity. • Ensure relevant contracts and contractors environmental management systems meet the requirements specified in this standard.

8. Related documents and compliance requirements

8.1 Internal documents

Document Number	Document Title
	TasNetworks Risk Appetite Statement
	TasNetworks Risk Management Framework
	Environment and Sustainability Policy
R0001984493	Environmental Management Standard for Vegetation Management and Clearing Work
R0001975386	Environmental Assessment Procedure for Vegetation Management and Clearing Work (DRAFT)
R0002143258	Biosecurity and Hygiene Work Practice
	Minimum vehicle wash-down standards
R0000112530	Environmental Handbook
R0000502409	Animal Interactions with Power Infrastructure
R0000502011	Environmental Considerations: Distribution – Design, Construction and Decommissioning
R0000480105	Vegetation Asset Management Plan
R0001050776	Vegetation Operations Management Plan
R0000346829	Vegetation Management Scope of Work for Authorised Service Providers
R0000094015	Incident Management Procedure
R0000502077	Hazardous Substances Management Procedure
TBU	One Hour Rule Card
R0001599490	Environment and Sustainability Risk Register

8.2 Compliance requirements

Refer to the Summary of TasNetworks external environmental obligations for more information

Document Title, Section or Part
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995 (Tas))
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975
Biosecurity Act 2019
Crown Lands Act 1976
Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995
Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Forest Practices Act 1985
Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995
Litter Act 2007
Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002
Nature Conservation Act 2002
Threatened Species Protection Act 1995
Wellington Park Act 1999
Water Management Act 1999
Biosecurity Regulations 2022
Forest Practices Regulations 2017
Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021
Forest Practices Code 2020
Forest Practices Act Exemption - Distribution
Forest Practices Act Exemption - Transmission
Tasmanian Electricity Code – Chapter 8A
Parks and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding - Distribution
Parks and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding - Transmission
Public Authority Management Agreement for Threatened Species
FPA Fauna Technical Notes
Guidelines for terrestrial Natural Values Surveys related to Development Proposals
NRE's guidelines for the safe and effective used of herbicide near waterways

Document Title, Section or Part
Tasmanian Wash-down Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control
Code of Practice for Ground Spraying
NRE (2015) Weed and Disease Planning & Hygiene Guidelines
NRE (2010) Keeping It Clean - A Tasmanian field hygiene manual to prevent the spread of freshwater pests and pathogens
Matters of National Environmental Significance - Significant Impact Guidelines
Standard: Protection of trees on development sites

9. Definitions

Term	Definition
AHT	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
Biosecurity matter	As defined under the *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Biosecurity event	As defined under the *Biosecurity Act 2019*
Biosecurity incident	The spreading of any weeds, pests and disease by TasNetworks operations
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
E&S Team	Environment & Sustainability Team
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EMS	Environmental Management System
Environmental, heritage and community values	Environment, heritage and community values includes the definition of 'Important Vegetation' and 'Important Locations' under Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code as well all definitions and obligations under applicable legislation, regulations, codes of practice and guidelines.
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
HSE	Health Safety and Environment
High-risk area	Any locations within 50m of: a declared weed, phytophora or chytrid observations, a listed reserve area, phytopthora or chytrid, Management Areas or any other declared biosecurity emergency management zones
High-value locations	Any location with significant environmental, community, heritage or economic value. This includes, but is not limited to, all reserves as defined under the Nature Conservation Act, farms and agricultural areas with an active biosecurity plan or identified biosecurity considerations.
Important vegetation	As described in Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code (Appendix A).
Important locations	As described in Chapter 8A of the Tasmanian Electricity Code (Appendix A).
NVA	Natural Values Atlas.
Pruning or cutting	The removal of any part of a plant (living or dead) as part of vegetation management work - any work which does not involve the clearing or removal of an entire plant (i.e. tree trimming).
PPE	Personal protective equipment

Term	Definition
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service
RAA	Reserve Activity Assessment
Work site	The area in which work is to be undertaken
WWHA	Wilderness World Heritage Area

10. Document control

10.1 Document history

Version	Date	Amended by	Comments
0.1	18/07/2021	Thomas Webster	First draft
0.2	19/12/2021	Thomas Webster	Draft feedback incorporated from key stakeholders
0.3	25/03/2022	Thomas Webster	Final version ready for sign-off
1.0	27/04/2022	Thomas Webster	Final approved version
1.1	30/01/2023	Thomas Webster	Minor amendments
1.2	05/07/2023	Thomas Webster	Minor amendments, removed Weed Management Act, added Biosecurity Regulations 2022 and statutory requirements