

Anything to declare?

Australian biosecurity

- 1 Live animals and plants, plant material, animal products and some food from overseas could introduce some of the world's most serious pests and diseases into Australia, devastating our valuable agriculture and tourism industries and unique environment. Therefore it is important that people cooperate with the Australian declaration policy.



- 2 The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), along with other jurisdictions, industry and the community, plays a vital role in maintaining Australia's clean and wholesome food supply – at home and abroad. Australia's biosecurity system protects our human, animal and plant health by reducing the risk of unwanted pests and diseases arriving in the country. Everyone benefits from a strong biosecurity system so everyone has a role to play.
- 3 You will be given an Incoming Passenger Card before you arrive in Australia. This is a legal document. If you are carrying food, plant material or animal products, you must tick YES on your card to declare them. You can take these declared items with you to the clearance point where they will be assessed by a DAFF officer. Alternatively, you may dispose of food, plant material or animal products on arrival in the quarantine bins located in the airport terminal.
- 4 On arrival your baggage may be assessed by x-ray, detector dog or inspected by a DAFF officer. If you fail to declare or dispose of any biosecurity risk items, or make a false declaration:
 - you will be caught
 - you could be fined \$340 on-the-spot, or
 - you could be prosecuted, fined more than \$66,000 and risk 10 years jail and a criminal record.

You will not be penalised if ALL items are declared, even if they are not allowed into Australia.

5 **What happens to items I declare?**

Any items that present a biosecurity risk will be withheld. However, in many cases items you declare will be returned to you after inspection.

For products that are withheld you can choose to:

- pay for the item to be treated (for example fumigation, gamma irradiation)
- store the item at the airport for collection upon departure from Australia
- export the item, or
- have the item destroyed.

DAFF makes every effort to minimise the risk of damage caused as a result of treatment, but does not accept liability for any damage that may occur.

6 **Reporting biosecurity risks and breaches**

Report suspected breaches of Australian biosecurity, export or food inspection laws to the DAFF Redline 1800 803 006. It is a free telephone service that you can use to confidentially report someone you suspect of breaking Australian laws. You can also write confidentially to DAFF's Redline, Investigations and Enforcement Program, GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 or send an e-mail to compliance@daff.gov.au. You can also report suspected unwanted pests to 1800 020 504.

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