

**Strategic Risk Assessment
Biosecurity Risks Associated with Rail Trails**

Specific risk	Likelihood of Occurrence	Consequence Rating	Risk Rating	Risk Treatment Options	Residual Risk Rating after Treatments	Activities to address risk
	A. Almost certain B. Likely C. Possible D. Unlikely E. Rare	1. Insignificant 2. Minor 3. Moderate 4. Major 5. Catastrophic	Extreme High Medium Low Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept Reduce likelihood and/or consequence Avoid 		
Animal Health and Production						
A. Trail users introducing exotic animal diseases to the area	D	5	High	Reduce likelihood	E3-low	<p>1. Current national border control and quarantine protocols in place</p> <p>2. Provide bins which fully contain rubbish so that scraps cannot be recovered. Alternatively, providing no bins and instructing people not to leave rubbish may prevent animals being attracted to bins.</p> <p>3. The Biosecurity Act legislates a General Biosecurity Duty which the general public must adhere to.</p> <p>4. Prevent contact between animals and people by using signage to indicate appropriate behaviour and warn of trespass and biosecurity obligations and risks</p> <p>5. Biosecurity risk and responsibilities included in the rules for use of the rail trail. Include warnings about food scraps, human waste, soil, seeds, organisms and people how have been outside Australia in the last 7 days</p> <p>6. Existing trespass laws prohibit entry of rail trail users onto private land</p> <p>7. NSW Government and Local Councils plan for agricultural land use near a rail trail to minimise the risk of biosecurity events and where possible enable future growth and adaptation for agriculture in line with principles of the NSW Government's right to farm policy</p> <p>8. Proponent to have an emergency response plan in place which includes closure of the trail during a disease emergency</p>
B. Trail users introducing non-endemic animal diseases to the area	D	3	Medium	Reduce likelihood	E3-low	<p>1. Prevent contact between animals and people by using signage to indicate appropriate behaviour and warn of trespass and biosecurity obligations and risks</p> <p>2. Fencing along the trail to reduce contact between animals and trail users</p> <p>3. Signage to indicate wheels and shoes must be clean and free of dirt and vegetable matter before entering the trail</p> <p>4. Consider provision of a wash down area for users' bikes, prams, footwear etc at trail heads and high risk areas.</p>

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						<p>5. Biosecurity risk and responsibilities included in the rules for use of the rail trail. Include warnings about food scraps, human waste, soil, seeds and organisms</p> <p>6. The Biosecurity Act legislates a General Biosecurity Duty which the general public must adhere to.</p> <p>7. Existing trespass laws prohibit entry of rail trail users onto private land</p> <p>8. Proponent to have an emergency response plan in place which includes closure of the trail during a disease emergency</p> <p>9. Consultation with farmers around specific biosecurity risks on their farms and any additional measures which may need to be considered</p>
C. Trail users spreading established diseases between farms	D	3	Medium	Reduce likelihood	E3-low	<p>1. Prevent contact between animals and people by using signage to indicate appropriate behaviour and warn of trespass and biosecurity obligations and risks</p> <p>2. The Biosecurity Act legislates a General Biosecurity Duty which the general public must adhere to</p> <p>3. Existing trespass laws prohibit entry of rail trail users onto private land</p> <p>4. Proponent to have an emergency response plan in place which includes closure of the trail during a disease emergency</p>
D. Animals move and spread established diseases between farms	D	3	Medium	Reduce likelihood	E3-low	<p>1. Gates and/or grids are constructed at the border of farms with identified biosecurity risks</p> <p>2. Fencing along the boundary of the rail trail with crossings created where stock or vehicles need to move between each side. These crossings must be designed after consideration of the biosecurity risks specific to the situation</p> <p>3. Existing trespass laws prohibit entry of rail trail users onto private land</p> <p>4. Proponent to have an emergency response plan in place which includes closure of the trail during a disease emergency</p>
E. Animals are released from the containment of their paddock or otherwise enter the rail trail	B	4	high	Avoid/ reduce likelihood	E3-low	<p>1. Include gates along the trail that allow stray stock to be easily moved off the trail</p> <p>2. Lock the gates for extra security so that land holders and council are the only ones who can open them.</p> <p>3. Farm trespass laws are enforced and publicised</p> <p>4. Processes in place for alerting owners of stock if they are on the rail trail</p> <p>5. Advise farmers that they should prevent stock access to trail and monitor compliance</p>
F. Stock infected with	E	3	Low	Reduce	E3-low	<p>1. Existing trespass laws prohibit entry of rail trail users onto private</p>

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<i>Cysticercus bovis</i>				likelihood		land 2. Farm trespass laws are enforced and publicised 3. Biosecurity risk and responsibilities included in the rules for use of the rail trail. Include warnings about food scraps, human waste, soil, seeds and organisms 4. Consider the provision of more toilets along the trail
Animal Welfare						
G. Trail users acting cruelly towards animals on adjacent farms	D	2	Low	Reduce likelihood	E2-negligible	1. Prevent contact between animals and people by erection of signage advising of biosecurity and animal welfare obligations when using the trail 2. Fencing along the trail to reduce contact between animals and trail users 3. Existing trespass laws prohibit entry of rail trail users onto private land 4. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and extension programs in place to improve farm animal welfare
H. Rail trail fences prevent stock accessing watering points located on the other side of the rail trail	A	3	high	avoid	E2-negligible	1. New watering points are constructed to provide water to stock on both sides of the rail trail 2. Crossings created where stock or vehicles need to move between each side.
I. Pets on rail trail attack farm animals	D	3	Low	Reduce likelihood	E2-negligible	1. Signage includes prohibition of dogs and horses on the trail 2. Local council monitors dog activity on the trail and responds promptly to any notifications of the presence of dogs. 3. Council dog catcher phone numbers prominently displayed at the beginning of the trail to encourage reporting of stray dogs or misuse of the trail 4. Rail trail corridor is fenced appropriately to exclude animals using the rail trail from paddocks containing stock
J. Use of the trail frightens stock in nearby paddocks or other animals at nearby residences	C	2	low	Reduce likelihood	E2-negligible	1. Prevent contact between animals and people by using signage to indicate appropriate behaviour and warn of trespass and biosecurity obligations and risks. 2. Signage to advise of appropriate behaviour when on the trail eg not making excessive noise that may frighten stock along the trail 3. Signage includes prohibition of dogs and horses on the trail 4. Motorbikes and cars are not allowed on the rail trail
K. Landholders adjacent to	C	3	Medium	Reduce	D2-low	1. Signage includes prohibition of dogs and horses

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trail lay pest animal baits close to the trail, which pets or people could have access to				likelihood		<p>on the trail</p> <p>2. Local council monitors dog activity on the trail and responds promptly to any notifications of the presence of dogs</p> <p>3. Pesticide Control Order for 1080 Bait Products outlines requirements for notification, signage and restrictions for safe use</p>
Pest Animals						
L. Rail trail acting as burrow site for rabbits	C	2	Low	Reduce likelihood	D2-low	<p>1. LLS and Council to work together on rabbit control</p> <p>2. Consider removal of rail sleepers to reduce rabbit harbour</p>
M. Food scraps attracting foxes, pigs and wild dogs	D	2		Reduce likelihood	D2-low	<p>1. Provide bins which fully contain rubbish and are emptied regularly so that scraps cannot be recovered. Alternatively, providing no bins and instructing people not to leave rubbish may prevent animals being attracted to bins.</p> <p>2. Biosecurity risk and responsibilities included in the rules for use of the rail trail. Include warnings about food scraps, human waste, soil, seeds and organisms</p>
Plant Health and Production						
N. Weeds are transferred along the corridor from other properties and from other areas	C	3	medium	avoid	E2-negligible	<p>1. Biosecurity risk and responsibilities included in the rules for use of the rail trail. Include warnings about food scraps, human waste, soil, seeds, organisms and trespassing</p> <p>2. Signage to indicate wheels and shoes must be clean and free of dirt and vegetable matter before entering the trail</p> <p>3. Provision of wash down area for wheels and footwear at both ends of the trail to encourage “come clean, go clean”</p> <p>4. Existing trespass laws prohibit entry of rail trail users onto private land</p>
O. Introduction of Phylloxera to wine growing properties	D	4	Medium	Active management	E3-low	<p>1. Prevent contact between animals and people by using signage to indicate appropriate behaviour and warn of trespass and biosecurity obligations and risks</p> <p>2. Signage to indicate wheels and shoes must be clean and free of dirt and vegetable matter before entering the trail</p> <p>3. Provision of wash down area for wheels and footwear at the head of the trail</p>

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						<p>4. Disinfectant and information on Phylloxera provided at the boundary of properties containing vineyards</p> <p>5. Develop specific local Phylloxera plan through consultation with industry</p> <p>6. Existing trespass laws prohibit entry of rail trail users onto private land</p>
Human health, safety and wellbeing						
P. Rail trail users contract a zoonotic disease along the rail trail	D	4	medium	avoid	E3-low	<p>1. Prevent contact between animals and people by using signage to indicate appropriate behaviour and warn of trespass and biosecurity obligations and risks</p> <p>2. Provision of hand washing and toilet facilities for rail trail users at rest areas along the trail</p>
Q. Rail trail users are injured by livestock	D	4	medium	avoid	E3-low	<p>1. Fencing along the rail trail boundary to prevent stock accessing the rail trail</p> <p>2. Procedures in place to minimise the time that stray stock are on the trail</p> <p>3. Contact numbers provided on signage for people to report stray stock</p> <p>4. Fences to be monitored and maintained</p>
R. Rail trail users are injured by fencing	C	3	Medium	Active management	D2-low	<p>1. Fencing along the rail trail boundary to be appropriate for controlling stock, but not dangerous to people (appropriate use of barbed or electrified wires)</p> <p>2. Fences to be maintained and monitored for hazards</p>
S. Faecal contamination of the rail trail from stray stock causes WHS risks to users and risks spreading disease along the trail.	B	3	medium	Active management	D2-low	<p>1. Fencing along the boundary of the rail trail with crossings created where stock or vehicles need to move between each side. These crossings must be designed after consideration of the biosecurity risks specific to the situation</p> <p>2. Procedures in place to minimise the time that stray stock are on the trail</p> <p>3. Contact numbers provided on signage for people to report stray stock</p>
T. Road accidents involving cyclists or pedestrians where the	C	5	High	Active management	D4-medium (Cannot be	1. Avoid road crossings where vehicle speeds are high and/or visibility is low

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trail crosses public roads					reduced any further due to consequence of human injury)	2. Install signs to warn motorists or crossings 3. Create crossing infrastructure for trail users such as gates or crib crossings
U. Reduced privacy in buildings and paddocks adjacent to rail trail	A	2	Medium	Avoid	C2-low	1. Proponent to consider installation privacy screens blocking line of sight between buildings and trail 2. Include landholders in planning through a consultation process in line with principles of the NSW Government's right to farm policy
V. Trail users are exposed to herbicides used on the trail or adjacent land	B	3	Medium	Active management	D2-low	1. Council spraying protocols are followed and these include reducing spray drift, use of low risk chemicals and practices and informing adjacent landholders of planned spray events 2. Landholders follow 'good practice' principles for chemical use including signage where appropriate
Economic						
W. Farmers will have less access to previously grazed land in the rail corridor	B	2	Medium	Active management	C2-low	1. Fencing along the rail trail will create a corridor about 5 metre wide. The existing rail corridor is generally around 20 metres wide. The rail corridor land is owned by the crown
X. Decreased land marketability due to negative impact of rail trail	C	2	Low	Active management	C1-negligible	1. Reports that other rail trails have had a neutral or positive impact on land values. 2. Encourage positive media around the rail trail to ensure it is perceived as an opportunity rather than a threat 3. Support landholders adjoining the rail trail to encourage productive businesses that can benefit from the rail trail where possible
Commercial						
Y. Disruption to running of farm properties due to paddocks being cut and access to creeks and water supplies being restricted	A	3	high	avoid	E2-negligible	1. Fencing requirements along the rail trail negotiated with the adjoining landholders 2. Stock access negotiated with landholders so that stock can access land on either side of the trail where required
Z. Exclusion from markets with Quality Assurance programs	B	2	Medium	Active management	C1-negligible	1. Industry and landholders to communicate with markets to ensure Quality Assurance requirements can be maintained 2. Communications with TEYS and JBS during December 2015 found that there were no known QA issues
AA. Bush fire risk and subsequent loss of stock increased by people traversing this	C	4	high	Reduce likelihood	E2-negligible	1. Signage reminds people of their responsibility around fire prevention during fire danger period and safe cigarette disposal provided at rest points along the trail 2. Rail trail maintained in good order to reduce the build-up of

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corridor						vegetation along the sides of the trail 3. Trail maintenance /management plan developed by responsible organisation 4. Emergency response plan developed
BB. Destruction of fences due to fires either directly by fire or during fire control by emergency crews. Stock may also stray as a result	D	3	Medium	Reduce likelihood	D2-low	1. Include Emergency Services in planning phase to reduce fire risk and consequences of fire response 2. Include adjacent farmers in planning to improve awareness of fire management procedures
CC. Spray drift from herbicides used to control weeds on trail contaminates produce	C	3	Medium	Active Management	D2-low	1. Council spraying protocols are followed and these include reducing spray drift, use of low risk chemicals and practices and informing adjacent landholders of planned spray events
Environmental						
DD. Endangered plants and animals are damaged along the rail corridor	C	2	low		E2-negligible	1. An environmental assessment is completed and appropriate actions taken based on recommendations 2. Any endangered species are identified and actions taken to minimise negative impacts resulting from the rail trail
EE. If additional toilets are required and installed, these may pollute or contaminate surrounding land	B	2	Medium	Active management	C2-low	1. Environmental protection agency consulted and involved in planning of toilets
Organisational Capability						
FF. A biosecurity incident along the rail trail triggers a government response	D	3	medium		E2-negligible	1. Biosecurity risk assessment is completed and actions are taken to reduce the likelihood of a biosecurity incident occurring 2. Government agencies include rail trail in their current emergency management plans
Political						
GG. Landowners concerns regarding biosecurity are not addressed	B	4	high	Reduce likelihood	D2-low	1. Biosecurity Risk assessment is completed and actions are taken to reduce the likelihood of a biosecurity incident occurring 2. A local member of the Local Land Services is represented on the Steering Committee and is available to assist local landholders understand the real level of biosecurity risk. The LLS representative will assist to identify the activities that are planned in the rail trail project to reduce the identified biosecurity risks.
Reputational and Image						

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HH. Landowners stock are contaminated with residues from the railway line	C	3	medium		E3-low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil samples are taken on any areas deemed to be high risk for residue contamination, especially where earth works occur 2. Any affected areas are remediated as part of the rail trail construction phase 3. The trail is fenced to prevent stock being exposed to railway residues
II. Community develops a negative view of LLS/DPI due to support of the rail trail	C	3	Medium	Active management	D2-low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage positive media around the rail trail to ensure it is perceived as an opportunity rather than a threat 2. Support landholders adjoining the rail trail to encourage productive businesses that can benefit from the rail trail where possible 3. A local member of the Local Land Services is represented on the Steering Committee
JJ. Trail users observing poor treatment or welfare of stock	D	2	Low	Reduce likelihood	E2-negligible	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and extension programs in place to improve animal welfare on farms
KK. Trail users misinterpreting condition of animals and reporting to RSPCA	D	2	Low	Reduce likelihood	E2-negligible	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and extension programs in place to improve animal welfare on farms

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Consequence Description for each Area of Impact

Rating	Consequence	Animal health & production	Plant health & production	Human health, safety & well being	Economic	Commercial	Environmental	Organisational capability	Political (govt & business sector)	Reputation & image
1	Insignificant	No loss	No loss	No injuries	No economic loss	No financial loss	No environmental impact	Organisational capability intact, negligible impact on objectives	No political/organisational impact	No damage to reputation/image
2	Minor	Limited illness/injuries &/or deaths on single enterprise	Limited damage/loss on single enterprise	Minor injuries; no public health risk; short term well being impact	Few businesses locally affected or single/few properties	Low financial loss; single/few properties affected	Minor, recoverable short-term isolated/localised environmental impact	Local capability affected, minor impact on objectives, easily remedied	Local political / organisational impact	Recoverable / short term local damage to reputation/image
3	Moderate	Some illness/injuries/deaths on multiple properties across a locality	Some damage/loss on single property – multiple paddocks	Limited public health risk &/or injuries requiring medical & mental health treatment	Widespread industry impact; multiple industries / properties per district	Medium financial loss; multiple properties per district	Moderate, medium term, medium spread environmental impact	Regional capability affected, some objectives affected	Regional political / organisational impact	Medium term / regional damage to reputation/image
4	Major	Considerable illness/injuries/deaths on multiple properties across a region	Considerable damage/loss on multiple properties across a region	Major public health risk &/or major injuries/well being impact	High economic /trade risk to region &/or state	High financial loss	Serious, long term, widespread environmental impact	State capability affected, important objectives not achieved	State political / organisational impact	Long term/ state damage to agency reputation/image
5	Catastrophic	Significant illness/injuries/deaths on multiple regions	Considerable damage/loss across multiple regions	Significant public health risk &/or human deaths/ long lasting well being issues	Major national economic implications	Major national financial loss	Irreversible environmental impact	National capability affected, most objectives not achieved	National political / organisational impact	Long term / (inter) national damage to reputation / image irreversibly impacted

Combined Likelihood and Consequence Risk Rating

