

## Bio-security Protocols Fact Sheet

Melbourne Water and the Sugarloaf Pipeline project team are committed to working with land owners, land managers and others to prevent the transmission of plant and animal diseases, including Grape Phylloxera, Phytophthora, Johnes Disease and other diseases, as a result of works associated with the Sugarloaf Pipeline Project.

These protocols have been designed in consultation with and endorsed by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for use by staff and contract workers engaged with the Sugarloaf Pipeline Project and for the information of landowners.

Project field staff and sub-contractors are also required to undertake an induction course explaining the risks associated with biosecurity hazards.

### References

- Best Practice Guidelines and Protocols for Pest and Disease and Phylloxera Management for the Yarra Valley *Yarra Valley Wine Growers' Association Technical Sub-committee*
- Surveillance for Phylloxera, PSS-09, Version 3.0, 2006 *Department of Primary Industries*
- Movement Regulations for Grapes, Grape Plants, Grape Plant Products and Associated Material and Equipment from the Proposed Phylloxera Infested Zone, 11 December 2006 *Department of Primary Industries*

- National Phylloxera Management Protocol, July 2003
- Biosecurity Guidelines for Movement of Equipment Contractors between Farms, AG 1171, 2006 *Dr Hugh Millar*
- Equine Influenza Biosecurity Guidelines for Utilities Providers, 15 October 2007 *Department of Primary Industries*

### Decontamination

Effective decontamination relies on a two-stage process of thorough cleaning, followed by disinfection. These two steps are critical as the efficacy of most disinfectants is reduced in the presence of organic material.

Articles must be visibly free of soil and debris. A detergent-based product may be used in the cleaning phase to assist with this.

Specific disinfection procedures are detailed below for Grape Phylloxera, Phytophthora and animal borne disease. Disinfectant solutions are used in accordance with advice and recommendations from the manufacturer and supplier.

### Grape Phylloxera

Decontamination procedures will be adhered to wherever grape vines are present.

- No vehicle, equipment, personnel or any other item taken into the infested zone is to leave without first being treated.
- Tools, footwear and any other items which have been in contact with the soil are to be decontaminated by washing and scrubbing in 2% sodium hypochlorite solution (household bleach diluted in equal parts with water). The solution must be discarded in an appropriate manner after 30 minutes, as it becomes ineffective after that period.
- Clothing will be inspected for insects and other organic matter prior to leaving the survey site. A hand broom may be used to brush down clothing as required.
- Contaminated clothing is to be laundered prior to being worn onto another property.
- Project staff will not enter vineyards in street footwear, but change into suitable footwear prior to entering.
- **Vehicles will be parked outside the block concerned, preferably outside the property.** If this is not practicable, vehicular movements will be restricted to main farm tracks and landowners will be consulted over vehicle access.
- Vehicles taken onto properties with grape vines will be cleaned prior to entry and washed down after the visit using a steam cleaner and high pressure hot water.

Sugarloaf Pipeline Project

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- Disinfection may involve any of the following:
  - application of steam at a temperature exceeding 100°C,
  - immersion in water over 70°C for at least 2 minutes, or
  - placing in a room with a temperature over 45°C for at least 2 hours.
- Where possible machinery will be exposed to full sunlight when parked.
- No project vehicle is permitted to drive on a cultivated site or field in production.
- Growers will be consulted about any additional hygiene considerations required for their property.
- Any unnecessary contact with livestock and associated products is to be avoided when on properties.
- On entry to and exit from properties all personnel will wash their hands, face, glasses and sunglasses, and disinfect footwear in footbaths.
- Equipment used on the property will be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the property. If this is not possible then it will occur as soon as practical at a depot or other suitable site.
- Disinfectants recommended for equipment and footwear are:
  - Chlorhexidine and its analogues (commonly marketed for use on farms)
  - Sodium hydroxide (household bleach), and
  - Quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC)
- Disinfectants recommended for skin are:
  - Soap and water,
  - Antibacterial hand gels, and
  - Chlorhexidine and its analogues
- All disinfectants will be used according to label instructions.
- At the end of each day staff are advised to shower, blow their nose and launder clothing.

### Phytophthora

A 'clean on entry' approach will be taken in areas known or believed to be infested. All machinery will be washed down prior to entering a site within that area and washed prior to leaving.

Wash down consists of removing as much soil as possible followed by a light spraying with a disinfectant such as 'Phytoclean' (this can remain on the machinery as it is non-corrosive). This may necessitate setting up temporary wash down facilities or removal to depots for cleaning.

Boots will be sprayed with methylated spirits on leaving a potentially infected property/area.

### Animal borne diseases

Disinfection guidelines discussed below address the prevention and/or minimise transmission of animal borne disease, including Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD), Bovine Johnes Disease (BJD), Equine Influenza (EI) and Anthrax.

- Vehicles to be parked outside properties, along the road reserve, if practical. If vehicles must be parked inside the property, they should be parked away from animal yards, paddocks and thoroughfares.

### Weed Control

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Project has adopted DPI's *Weedstop* programme, which comprises the following three elements:

#### Logbooks for each vehicle or machine

- record where the machine has been working
- declare what hygiene practices have been undertaken
- may be viewed by landholders for confirmation

### Voluntary vendor declarations

- completed by a vendor declaring the weed status of a good/service
- detail where produce was sourced or machines last used
- used by contractors and landholders to assess the risk of weed spread arising from their activities

### Training

Consists of a series of courses and workshops that aim to increase awareness and reduce the risk of weed contamination.

Employees and sub-contractors also complete the 'Weed Movement, Machinery Inspection and Cleaning Workshops' conducted by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). They are certified in the management of weed control and are able to:

- Identify and record areas of weed infestation
- Identify and establish 'weed infestation zones' in consultation with landowners
- Ensure personnel, equipment and machinery are cleaned and free of soil and other organic matter on arrival
- Use chemical disinfectants as part of a wash down process (Phytoclean is recommended)

In addition, team members are advised to park vehicles outside properties where practicable. Where this is not possible, vehicles will be inspected, brushed down and washed with high pressure water sprays before departure.

### Further Inquiries

For further inquiries regarding biosecurity procedures, contact the Sugarloaf Pipeline Project team on:

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