

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD POLICY

TITLE	Plant Importation Policy		
DATE ADOPTED	March 2004	AGENDA ITEM	12
CURRENT VERSION	July 2015	AGENDA ITEM	CEO Approval
REVIEW	5 years	FILE REFERENCE	CO0007 & PO0015
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	<i>Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014</i> <i>Noxious Weeds Act 1993</i> <i>Plant Diseases Act 1924</i> <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i>		
ASSOCIATED POLICIES	LHI Biosecurity Strategy 2015 LHI Phytosanitary Protocols for Myrtle Rust and Phytophthora LHI Biodiversity Management Plan 2007 LHI Weed Management Strategy 2006		

1 Introduction

The introduction, establishment and spread of introduced plants and plant diseases present a major threat to the environment and economy of Lord Howe Island (LHI).

1.1 Objective

The policy objective is “to minimise the risk on the economy and environment of LHI from the introduction of non-native plants, plant material, exotic plant pests and pathogens.”

1.2 Scope/Application

The policy relates specifically to the importation of plants, plant material, plant diseases and pathogens. Under this policy ‘plants’ refer to:

- Potted plants;
- Plant material that is intended for the use of growing e.g. seeds, bulbs, cuttings and root stock (bare-rooted);
- Cut flowers and foliage, including bouquets;
- Stock feed/hay; and
- Mulch.

The Policy and Strategy does not apply to the importation of:

- Fruit and vegetables (except prohibited species, including all Myrtaceae) for consumption;
- Wood products such as timber, crates and furniture or

- Compost and potting mix products certified free of soil in accordance with Australian Standard ISO 5 ticks.

Relevant Australian Standards for potting mix is AS 3743 and for composts and soil conditioners (including mushroom kits) AS 4454.

“Plant” can be defined as “the whole or any part of any tree, shrub, fern, creeper, vine, palm, plant, flower, seed, root, herbage or other vegetative cover” as described in the *Lord Howe Island Regulation, 2014*.

2 Policy

The policy objective is to be achieved through the adoption of the following eight policy elements:

2.1 Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP)

This policy adopts an appropriate level of protection (ALOP) of ‘Low’ aimed at reducing risk to very low levels, while not based on a zero risk approach. To reduce the risk of introduction of myrtle rust from import of non myrtaceous nursery stock to LHI, an ALOP of ‘Moderate’ has been adopted. This is consistent with the Australian Government’s ALOP, and is based on careful consideration of the consequences of pest introduction, and the implications of these restrictions on the community and trade on the Island.

It is recognised that LHI is relatively free from pests, weeds and pathogens. The consequence of incursions is considered greater than that of other areas in NSW due to the geological isolation and high levels of endemism on the LHI Group.

2.2 Effective Legislation, Policy and Procedures to Control Identified Risks

A consistent and integrated approach to managing plant biosecurity risks requires a legislative framework that is easily understood and consistently applied. The effectiveness of the plant biosecurity system is underpinned by the quality of its regulation and compliance programs.

It is recognised that the biosecurity risks are, in some cases, a result of domestic and interstate travel, and that existing legislation and policies do not effectively manage this risk.

2.3 Least Restrictive Phytosanitary Requirements

The Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB) applies a range of Phytosanitary measures in order to achieve our appropriate level of protection. Mitigating measures are designed to minimise the risk on the economy and environment of LHI while allowing trade to occur in the least trade restrictive manner.

Import requirements are outlined in the LHI Plant Importation Strategy.

2.4 Science-Based Risk Analysis

Threat identification and risk analysis are significant components of the LHIB’s approach to plant biosecurity. Risk analysis is undertaken using a pre-border Weed Risk Assessment (for proposed imports of new plants that are not listed as permitted or prohibited) and a risk evaluation matrix for other plant products (Table 1). The Weed Risk Assessment is a question based screening system to assess the weed potential of plant introductions (Pheloung, 1995). The risk evaluation matrix

enables consistent, semi-quantitative and a repeatable processes to establish minimum requirements for the importation of a commodity/plant product.

In accordance with the ALOP, a commodity/plant product will not be permitted until an assessment of the potential entry of a pathogen or pest against one of three criteria is determined:

- The material/commodity is assessed as not containing a potential pathogen/pest of concern; OR
- The risk of the material/commodity as containing a pest plant is assessed as a “low risk” (acceptable without additional risk management) or lower on the risk evaluation matrix and for the pathogen myrtle rust is assessed as a “moderate risk”; OR
- “Risk management measures” are implemented to reduce the risk estimate for the disease/pest associated with a particular commodity so that it results in a “very low risk” for plants and “moderate” for myrtle rust or lower on the risk evaluation matrix.

Risk Estimation Matrix							
		CONSEQUENCES OF ENTRY, ESTABLISHMENT & SPREAD					
		Negligible Impact	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme Impact
ENTRY, OF	High Likelihood	Negligible Risk	Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Extreme Risk
	Moderate	Negligible Risk	Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Extreme Risk
LIKELIHOOD ESTABLISHMENT & SPREAD	Low	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
	Very Low	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Moderate Risk
	Extremely Low	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Very Low Risk	Low Risk
	Negligible Likelihood	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Negligible Risk	Very Low Risk

Table 1: Risk Estimation Matrix used by Biosecurity Australia (Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, 2001). Risk level of below ‘Low’ satisfies LHI’s Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP) for plants and “Moderate” satisfies LHI’s ALOP for Myrtle Rust.

2.5 Allocation of Resources Based on Risk, Cost and Benefit to the Island

The policy recognizes the resource limitations of the LHIB. In assessing, and responding to plant biosecurity risks, resources should be allocated according to risk, cost and benefit to the Island and its community.

2.6 Improved Communication of Plant Biosecurity Risks and Management Systems

Communication programs are essential in raising awareness and understanding of the Plant Importation Policy and Strategy amongst stakeholders, the broader community and visitors to LHI.

2.7 Shared responsibility

The LHIB has a leadership role with the implementation of the LHI Plant Importation Policy and Strategy. However, it is recognized that strong biosecurity systems are a shared responsibility and

require a collaborative effort between the LHIB, Commonwealth and State government agencies, the broader community, visitors, importers, and transport agencies.

2.8 Remain adaptive to new invasive weeds and diseases

Post-entry monitoring of imported plants species is essential to ensure early detection of new weed species and plant diseases. The LHIB will reserve the right to vary or revoke previous plant imports based on risk.

The policy objectives will be achieved through implementation of the LHIB Plant Importation Strategy.

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

Notice of Intention to Import Plants (Form 1)

Plants: Bulbs, cuttings, rhizomes and potted plants.

- Plants listed as permissible;
- Plants not listed as permissible (A Weed Risk Assessment must be undertaken by Lord Howe Island Board);
- No soil allowed – only soil-less potting medium permitted;
- Myrtaceae species not allowed.

Please return to the Lord Howe Island Board for processing.

Email: administration@lhib.nsw.gov.au Phone: 02 65632066 Fax: 02 6563 2127

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

Lease where plant/s will be kept:

PLANT/PLANT MATERIAL DETAILS

Plants Listed as Permissible Plants not Listed as Permissible (Weed Risk Assessment to be undertaken)

Part of plant (please circle): Seedlings/Potted Plants Cuttings Bulbs/Rhizomes

Plant/Plant Material to be imported (attach a list for larger consignment orders):

Common/Trade Name	Scientific Name – Must be Provided (Genus, species, variety)	Quantity

Mode of transport (please circle): Post Qantaslink Island Trader Port Macquarie Air

Other: Intended Arrival Date and Time:

SUPPLIER DETAILS

Business Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

Plant Phytosanitary/Myrtle Rust Checklist

Ask your plant supplier/nursery to fill out this form. This checklist must be completed and returned to the Lord Howe Island Board to determine whether an import permit will be granted.

Importation Requirements for Lord Howe Island

	Y/N
No soil allowed, only soil-less potting medium is permitted.	
Pots must be new, clean and free of soil.	
The consignment enclosed in new and clean packaging.	
Plants must be free of pests and diseases.	
Plants sourced from interstate QLD must be certified free of Red Fire Ants per ICA 39.	
The nursery or supplier NIASA accredited.	
The nursery or supplier ICA 29 accredited.	

Please note that Lord Howe Island is free of Myrtle Rust – *Puccinia psidii*.

The import of Non-Myrtaceae species is permissible; however we require information on nursery hygiene and standards for monitoring purposes.

Myrtle Rust Checklist

	Y/N
Import of Myrtaceae plants or plant material is prohibited	
Does the nursery grow or stock plants from the Myrtaceae family?	
Is the nursery located in a Myrtle Rust infected area and with infected plants in nursery and surrounding environment?	
Does the nursery have a myrtle rust management plan as outlined in the Australian Nursery Industry Myrtle Rust Management Plan. Note: this is preferred but not essential.	
Is the nursery ICA – 42 accredited? Note: this is preferred but not essential.	

Declaration

Name:

Signature: Date:

Please forward this form to the Lord Howe Island Board for processing.

Email: administration@hib.nsw.gov.au Phone: 02 6563 2066 Fax: 02 6563 2127

Giving false or misleading information is an offence.

Information contained on this form will be used for monitoring purposes in the event of an incursion of an unwanted pest or pathogen. This is important to enable the LHIB to develop rapid response protocols and treatment measures.

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

Notice of Intention to Import Mulch or Fodder (Form 2)

- Tea Tree mulch is not allowed.

Please return to the Lord Howe Island Board for processing.

Email: administration@lhib.nsw.gov.au Phone: 02 65632066 Fax: 02 6563 2127

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

Lease where material will be kept:

MULCH OR FODDER DETAILS

Name of Product	Quantity

Mode of transport (please circle): Post Qantaslink Island Trader Port Macquarie Air

Other: Intended Arrival Date and Time:

SUPPLIER'S DETAILS

Business Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

The following restrictions apply; please check this list:

Mulch is restricted to dried sugar cane mulch (hammer milled and shrink wrapped) and commercial composted pine bark or pine chip (sterilised, heat treated and packaged).	
Fodder is restricted to hammer milled lucerne chaff, wheaten chaff or hammer milled clean oats (packaged).	
Plants coming from interstate QLD must be certified free of Red Fire Ants.	
Free of insects, cane toads and weed seeds.	
On import the product must be placed in the sun before opening to desiccate potential diseases.	
The product must be inspected by the importer on opening and any presence of insects or pests immediately reported to the Lord Howe Island Board.	

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

Notice of Intention to Import Cut Flowers or Bouquets (Form 3)

- Plants listed as permissible;
- Plants not listed as permissible (A Weed Risk Assessment must be undertaken by Lord Howe Island Board);
- Myrtaceae species not allowed.

Please return to the Lord Howe Island Board for processing.

Email: administration@lhib.nsw.gov.au Phone: 02 65632066 Fax: 02 6563 2127

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

CUT FLOWERS OR BOUQUET DETAILS

Please list all species in your bouquet/cut flowers intended for importation:

Common/Trade Name

Mode of transport (please circle): Post Qantaslink Island Trader Port Macquarie Air

Other: Intended Arrival Date and Time:

SUPPLIER DETAILS

Business Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

CHECKLIST FOR ITEMS NOT PERMISSIBLE

Restrictions on species composition apply. The following products are not permitted. Please tick this checklist to ensure you meet importation requirements. If yes to any, then import will not be approved.

	Y/N
Foliage of flowers or seeds from the Myrtaceae family. These include but are not limited to: Baeckea, Eucalyptus, Geraldton Wax, Kunzea, Lilipilly, Teatree.	
Grass, palm or fern species.	
Invasive species, see prohibited list (e.g. privet, gorse, glory lily, asparagus species).	
Plants with fruits or seed.	
Soil	