



Is your site **fire ant** compliant?

Fire ant rules already apply across SEQ — under Queensland biosecurity law, NFAEP movement controls and relevant council requirements. *Can you produce an auditable fire ant compliance plan and evidence file for your site?*

SITE WHS CHECK · fire ants are a WHS risk, not just a biosecurity risk

Has your site risk-assessed fire ant stings — first aid access, emergency response, staff training, 24-hour reporting, and whether an adrenaline auto-injector is required for your worksite conditions?

DID YOU KNOW

Every Queenslanders has a **General Biosecurity Obligation** to prevent fire ant spread — even with no nest on site.

Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld), ss23–24

DID YOU KNOW

Fire ant biosecurity zones can be **redrawn at any time** — sometimes more than once a month. Your site can fall inside the zone tomorrow with no change on your part.

Qld DAF / NFAEP — zone updates can occur at any time

DID YOU KNOW

Compliance teams aim to run **up to 12,000 audits a year** — targeting high-risk industries, reports and outlier detections.

Biosecurity Regulation 2016, Ch 5 Pt 5

DID YOU KNOW

Fire ant carriers legally include **soil, turf, mulch, hay, manure, potted plants and quarry products**.

Biosecurity Regulation 2016, Ch 5 Pt 5 & Sch 11

DID YOU KNOW

Red imported fire ants are **Category 1 restricted matter**. Suspected detections must be reported within **24 hours**.

NFAEP — restricted matter reporting

DID YOU KNOW

You do **not** need to see a nest for the **law to apply**.

NFAEP — zone & GBO guidance

YOU ARE AT RISK IF — any one of these is true on your site:

- ▶ You move soil, mulch, turf, manure, hay, quarry product, potted plants or soil-contaminated machinery within, into, across or out of a fire ant biosecurity zone.
- ▶ You don't know whether your supplier's material came from a fire ant zone.
- ▶ You move plant, vehicles, tools, containers, site sheds or portable structures that have been exposed to soil or stored on the ground — without clean-down evidence.
- ▶ You don't have surveillance records showing who checked the site, when, and what they found.
- ▶ You rely on the supplier or subcontractor to have handled compliance.
- ▶ You receive soil, mulch, turf, manure, hay, quarry material or potted plants without a source-address record.
- ▶ Your contractor inductions don't cover fire ant carriers, cleaning or reporting.
- ▶ You've never reported a sighting — or aren't sure how to.
- ▶ You can't produce a current, dated NFAEP fire ant map / zone check for the source property and movement date.
- ▶ You have no carrier register, no movement decision log or stockpile record.
- ▶ Your last EMP doesn't mention fire ants at all.
- ▶ You treat fire ant compliance as an environmental issue only — not a WHS, project delivery and supply-chain risk.

MAX CORPORATE EXPOSURE

\$2.50M

Aggravated tier — 15,000 penalty units × \$166.90. Current to 30 June 2026. Approx. \$2.59M from 1 July 2026.

INDIVIDUAL OFFENCE

\$500,700

Aggravated tier — 3,000 penalty units × \$166.90, **or 3 years imprisonment**. Current to 30 June 2026. Approx. \$518,100 from 1 July 2026.

WORKSITE STOPPAGE

STOP

Biosecurity officers can issue directions or biosecurity orders. Worksites may be stopped until risk is mitigated.

Fire ant compliance is no longer just an environmental issue. **It is a project delivery, audit, supply-chain, WHS and director-risk issue.**

THE COMPLIANCE WORKFLOW — what your evidence pack should mirror, step for step.

Zone check	Carrier register	Movement pathway	Treatment	Induction	Evidence file
Book a FREE 15-minute Fire Ant Risk Check Before your next soil, turf, mulch, manure, hay, quarry product or potted-plant movement.				(07) 3018 7538 info@queenslandecologists.com.au queenslandecologists.com.au	



FIRE ANT COMPLIANCE REFERENCE | What inspectors look for, what trips sites up, and what your evidence file needs.

WHAT INSPECTORS MAY ASK FOR

- Current property-zone check (dated)
- Carrier material register
- Movement pathway decision log
- Supplier and delivery dockets
- Stockpile and storage records
- Treatment records
- Staff and subcontractor inductions
- Evidence machinery and equipment were cleaned down
- BIP / permit records (where required)
- Fire ant sighting and reporting records

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Relying on an old zone map
- Moving soil or mulch without a dated decision trail
- Assuming the supplier handled compliance
- No subcontractor induction
- No stockpile controls
- No treatment records
- No proof of clean-down
- Generic EMP with no fire ant workflow
- No evidence file when an officer asks
- Treating fire ant rules as a one-off, not a daily workflow

KEY OBLIGATIONS — each one is its own audit failure point if missed.

24-HOUR REPORTING

Suspected fire ants must be reported within 24 hours. Do not disturb suspect nests without advice.

BIOSECURITY INSTRUMENT PERMIT

If you cannot comply with the standard movement or storage rules, you may need a BIP before moving material.

INTERSTATE MOVEMENT

Moving carriers to NSW, VIC, SA or other states can trigger destination-state entry requirements. Check before dispatch.

APVMA-ALIGNED TREATMENT

Treatments must follow APVMA-registered labels or permits. Undocumented DIY treatment will not satisfy commercial compliance.

CLEAN-DOWN

Machinery, vehicles, tools and equipment that may carry soil must be cleaned before leaving site — and the evidence retained.

WASTE PATHWAY

Some zone movements require direct movement to an appropriate waste facility, movement within specified timeframes, or other steps.

YOUR EVIDENCE FILE — a defensible pack includes:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ✓ Dated NFAEP map checks | ✓ Carrier material register | ✓ Supplier dockets — source address, destination, date/time, material type |
| ✓ Delivery and stockpile records | ✓ Treatment records (APVMA-aligned) | ✓ Staff and subcontractor induction sign-offs |
| ✓ Clean-down photos with GPS / date stamps | ✓ BIP / permit records (where relevant) | ✓ Incident and reporting logs |

WHO NEEDS A PLAN — if you handle carrier material, your name is on this list.

Property developers · Builders · Civil contractors · Earthmovers · Demolition contractors · Quarries & material suppliers · Skip-bin operators · Waste transfer & landfill operators · Plant hire · Haulage & transport · Road, rail & utility contractors · Turf farms · Nurseries · Landscapers · Sports-field contractors · Schools · Councils & local government · Body corporates · Acreage owners · Pool builders · Retaining-wall contractors · Flood/storm clean-up contractors · Agricultural producers (hay, manure, sugarcane) · Biosecurity Instrument Permit holders

Site roles to brief: principal contractor, site supervisor, project manager, civil contractor, landscaper, supplier and transporter. Each may carry distinct GBO and movement obligations.

FIRE ANT COMPLIANCE ACROSS SEQ COUNCILS

Queensland Ecologists prepares site-specific Fire Ant Management Plans and audit evidence packs for projects across **Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay, Redland, Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley, Somerset and Toowoomba**. Council boundaries do not determine your legal risk — the current [NFAEP property map](#), the source of your material and the movement pathway do.

Book a **FREE** 15-minute Fire Ant Risk Check — before your next movement.

(07) 3018 7538
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Information current as at May 2026. Penalty units and fire ant zones change. Check current requirements before moving carrier material.

General marketing information only, not legal advice. Fire ant zones, movement controls, penalty units, treatment requirements and destination-state rules can change. Property owners, contractors, suppliers and transporters should verify current NFAEP and Queensland Government requirements before moving carrier material. Queensland Ecologists provides operational biosecurity documentation and compliance support; legal advice should be obtained for prosecutions, statutory notices, contractual liability or formal legal interpretation.

Key references: [Biosecurity Act 2014 \(Qld\)](#) · [Biosecurity Regulation 2016](#) · [National Fire Ant Eradication Program](#) · [Report fire ants](#) · [APVMA](#)