

## Project Brief: Biosecurity and the small lifestyle farmer: Linking spatial data to risk analysis

*How did we get here?*

Previous research exploring the small lifestyle farm sector and extension flagged that the sector poses a possible biosecurity risk both to agricultural industry and commercial farmers.

*Background: Small lifestyle farm sector*

Numerically, small lifestyle farms dominate particular landscapes across Australia. The majority of these properties are located in highly productive regions forming mosaic farming systems. Many small lifestyle farmers have low knowledge levels surrounding rural environmental issues such as weeds, pests, disease, animal care and property planning. The sector is often not well linked to industry bodies or well serviced by extension programs. It is imperative to enhance the capacity of the sector to identify, acquire and apply the skills and information needed to address biosecurity risk.

*Research process and outcomes*

This new project will address prevention and preparedness to assist biosecurity response through targeted strategies. The overall outcomes of the research will be:

- Improved awareness and understanding of the biosecurity risks associated with small landholders to,
- improve communication delivery mechanisms to engage small landholders in biosecurity prevention for,
- enhanced small landholder capacity to develop appropriate rural property plans and manage biosecurity risk.

The project is divided into three phases to deliver the above outcomes:

*Phase I: Project development*

- Project advisory group established.
- Conceptual model developed to understand biosecurity issues in the small lifestyle farm sector.

*Phase II: Research*

- Review communication biosecurity plans and strategies:
  - Revision of key documents.
  - National workshop with key stakeholders.
- Data collection and analysis in case study areas
  - Selection of pilot study regions.
  - Mapping of regions and analysis of data.
  - Qualitative data collection (surveys & interviews) and analysis.

*Phase III: Influence and extension*

- Improve engagement strategies in high risk biosecurity areas (of the sector) with key organisations.
- Communication resource for the sector (booklet).
- Final reporting.

