**BIOSECURITY AUDITS OF LOCAL CONTROL AUTHORITIES**

**Helping LCAs achieve continuous improvement**

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**SUMMARY**

Local control authorities have statutory functions under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. These functions have been developed in a measurable framework called the Standard for Weed Management Capacity in New South Wales. The Standard establishes processes to deliver best practice weed management through a supported, skilled and accountable network.

The Standard covers five main areas:

* Partnerships, engagement and adoption,
* A skilled and informed workforce,
* Assessment, monitoring and recording,
* Effective and professional use of regulation,
* Reporting and analysis.

The Standard provides the basis for formal auditing of local control authorities (LCAs) under the Biosecurity Act. The target of the biosecurity audits will be LCA middle and senior management. The audits will not focus on operational activities.

Biosecurity audits in relation to the Standard are intended to be educative rather than punitive and are part of a process of continuous improvement. However, participation in a biosecurity audit is mandatory.