

21 January 2024

## Plain English summary

### Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No 1) 2024

*Note this is a summary only. All activity should be guided by the order, which is available online.*

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#### Why is an Emergency Order in place?

The Emergency Order addresses the biosecurity risk that fire ants will damage the economy, environment and community if they are introduced, present or spread within NSW.

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#### If you are...

**Moving material out of the *fire ant movement control area* in South Murwillumbah or Wardell (See Part 3 of the Order)**

1. Check the definition of your carrier material (Part 1, Clause 9)
2. Check whether the material has always been kept in preventative conditions (Part 3, Clause 43)
3. If it hasn't, ensure that it meets treatment requirements (Part 3, Clauses 31-42)
4. Complete a Record of Movement declaration (Part 3, Clause 30) (excluding green waste and clean machinery)

**Moving material from the *fire ant infested area* in South East Queensland to NSW (See Part 2 of the Order)**

1. Check the definition of your carrier material (Part 1, Clause 9)
2. Ensure it has met treatment requirements (Part 2, Clause 15-26) and
3. Ensure it has been kept in preventative conditions if required (Part 1, Clause 10) and
4. Ensure it has a plant health certificate or Biosecurity Certificate (Part 2, Clause 15-26) and
5. Complete a Record of Movement declaration (Part 2, Clause 12) and
6. If fire ants have been on the property it originates from in the past 7 years, declare that a fire ant treatment regime is in place (Part 2, Clause 14)

See the searchable map at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants)

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## What are preventative conditions?

- Keeping the carrier material completely covered or inside an enclosed building, and
  - High enough off the ground that none of it is touching the ground, or
  - On hard ground treated with bifenthrin, or
  - On concrete or bitumen or heavy plastic where the edges are treated with bifenthrin
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## Moving fire ant carriers from South Murwillumbah or Wardell

### Carriers can move through the movement control area in preventative conditions

If material (for example hay) has been moved into the NSW fire ant movement control area and kept in **preventative conditions**, it can be moved out again without having to be treated or have a record of movement form completed. See Part 3, Clause 43 and Part 1, Clause 10.

### Treatment requirements

Each carrier needs to be treated in a certain way. This process is outlined in Part 3 of the Emergency Order. The table below is a summary only – use the [Emergency Order](#) to inform your decision.

If you see red imported fire ants in NSW, report online at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants) or call 1800 680 244.

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier out of South Murwillumbah or Wardell	Reference in order
Organic mulch, soil, compost and manure	Heat all parts to a min of 65.5° Celsius; or agitate it by spreading it out to 15 cm and piling it back up; or vigorously disturb by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing. Place in preventative conditions immediately after treatment.  For small amounts of soil attached to other waste, cover with a tarp or wrap in plastic and move directly to Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre.  Council waste management services continue.	Part 3, Clause 31
Soil samples prepared for laboratory analysis	Check and ensure free of fire ants, freeze for 48 hours to minus 18° Celsius. No more than 1 kg soil per sample.	Part 3, Clause 32
Growing media	Heat all parts to a min of 65.5° Celsius; or agitate by spreading it out to 15 cm and piling it back up; or vigorously disturb by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing. Place in preventative conditions immediately after treatment.  Alternatively, treat with an APVMA approved chemical.	Part 3, Clause 33

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier out of South Murwillumbah or Wardell	Reference in order
Hay (grown in the control area)	Ensure bales are dry and free of soil. Treat with APVMA approved chemical (fumigate with methyl bromide if intended for use as livestock feed); or vigorously disturb it. Place in preventative conditions immediately after treatment.	Part 3, Clause 34
Chaff	Hammer mill or cut with a chaff cutter. Keep in preventative conditions (bag) immediately after milling or cutting. Check every bag for rips or tears.	Part 3, Clause 35
Silage (made in the control area)	Wrap bales in at least 6 layers of silage wrap or film and make sure it remains undamaged and intact. Wait until 6 weeks after making before moving. Check every bale for holes or tears or soil stuck to wrapping.	Part 3, Clause 36
Potted plants	Treat the potting media with an APVMA approved chemical and ensure the treatment remains effective until the potted plant is moved out.  This does not apply to movement of 5 or less potted plants or a potted plant kept in preventative conditions.	Part 3, Clause 37
Indoor potted plants	Keep indoors for a minimum of 3 months, then move directly from indoors to a vehicle without being placed on the ground; or uproot the plant and remove the soil or any other fire ant carrier material.  Check for any signs of fire ants.  Keep in preventative conditions and then keep indoors for a minimum of 3 months after moving out of the area.	Part 3, Clause 38
Turf	Treat with APVMA approved chemical. Harvest in accordance with label directions and permit conditions. Keep in preventative conditions immediately after harvesting until it moves out of the area.	Part 3, Clause 39
Agricultural equipment and earth moving equipment	Clean and visually check to ensure it is free from soil and other fire ant carrier material (not required if new and unused).	Part 3, Clause 40
Grass, vegetation or clippings	Cover with a tarp or wrap in plastic before moving and take directly to Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre.  Council waste management services continue.	Part 3, Clause 41
Mining or quarrying materials	Agitate material and keep in preventative conditions.	Part 3, Clause 42

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## Moving fire ant carriers from South East Queensland

### Treatment requirements

Each carrier needs to be treated in a certain way. This process is outlined in Part 2 of the Emergency Order. The table below is a summary only – use the [Emergency Order](#) to inform your decision.

If you see red imported fire ants in Queensland, report to 13 25 23 or complete the online form at [fireants.org.au](http://fireants.org.au).

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier into NSW	Reference in order
Organic mulch, soil, compost and manure	Heat all parts to a min of 65.5° Celsius; or vigorously disturb (by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing). Keep in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until arrival in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 15
Soil samples prepared for laboratory analysis	Check and ensure free of fire ants, freeze for 48 hours to -18° Celsius. No more than 1 kg soil per sample.	Part 2, Clause 16
Growing media	Heat all parts to a minimum of 65.5° Celsius; or vigorously disturb by crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing. Keep in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until arrival in NSW  Alternatively, treat with an APVMA approved chemical.	Part 2, Clause 17
Hay	Ensure bales are dry and free of soil. Treat with APVMA-approved chemical (fumigate with methyl bromide if intended for use as livestock feed).  Keep in preventative conditions immediately after treatment until arrival in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 18
Chaff	Hammer mill or cut with a chaff cutter. Keep in preventative conditions (bag) immediately after milling or cutting until arrival in NSW. Check every bag for rips or tears.	Part 2, Clause 19
Silage	Wrap bales in at least 6 layers of silage wrap or film and make sure it remains undamaged and intact. Wait until 6 weeks after making before moving into NSW.  Check every bale for holes or tears or soil stuck to wrapping.	Part 2, Clause 20
Potted plants	Treat the potting media with an APVMA approved chemical and ensure the treatment remains effective until the potted plant arrives in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 21

What (carrier type)	Treatment prior to moving the carrier into NSW	Reference in order
Indoor potted plants	Keep indoors for a minimum of 3 months, then move directly from indoors to a vehicle without being placed on the ground; or uproot the plant and remove the soil or any other fire ant carrier material.  Check for any signs of fire ants. Keep in preventative conditions until arrival in NSW and then keep indoors for a minimum of 3 months in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 22
Turf	Treat with APVMA approved chemical. Harvest in accordance with label directions and permit conditions. Keep in preventative conditions immediately after harvesting until arrival in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 23
Agricultural equipment and earth moving equipment	Clean and visually check to ensure it is free from soil and other fire ant carrier material (not required if new and unused).	Part 2, Clause 24
Dump trucks and bins moved into the infested area to dump or unload	Dump or unload to empty, check it is free of all carrier material, then immediately cover before returning to NSW.	Part 2, Clause 25
Mining or quarrying materials	Move or turn every 21 days if stockpiled, then prior to moving into NSW vigorously disturb material (through crushing, cutting, hammering, chipping, shredding, screening, mechanised turning or washing) and keep in preventative conditions immediately after disturbing until arrival in NSW.	Part 2, Clause 26

### Transiting through the area

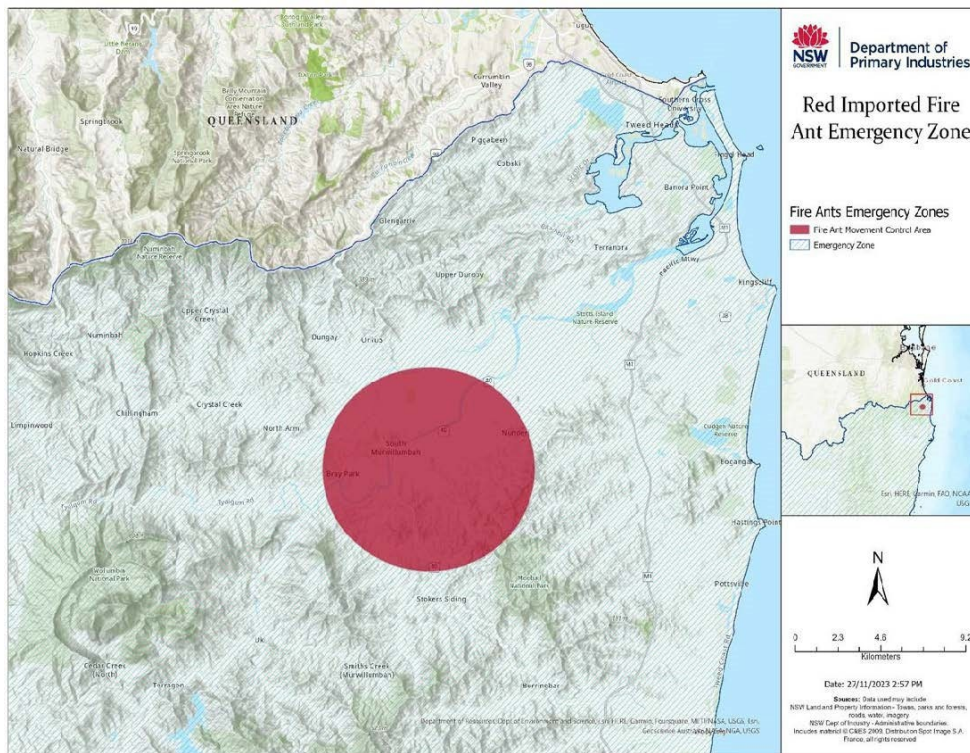
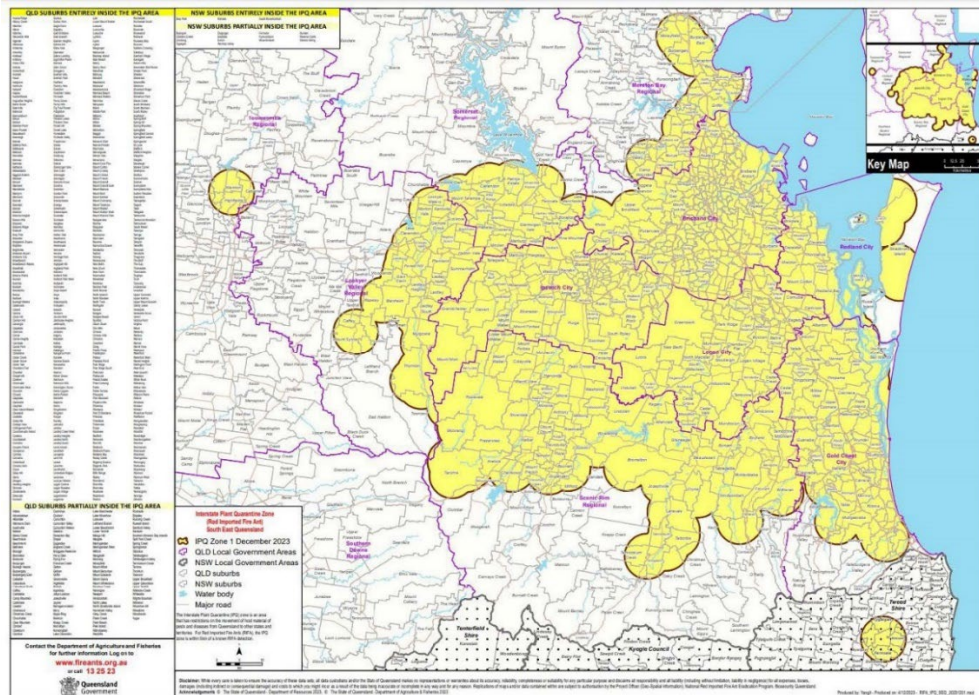
Keep fire ant material in preventative conditions while it is in the fire ant infested area and until the material is out of the fire ant infested area.

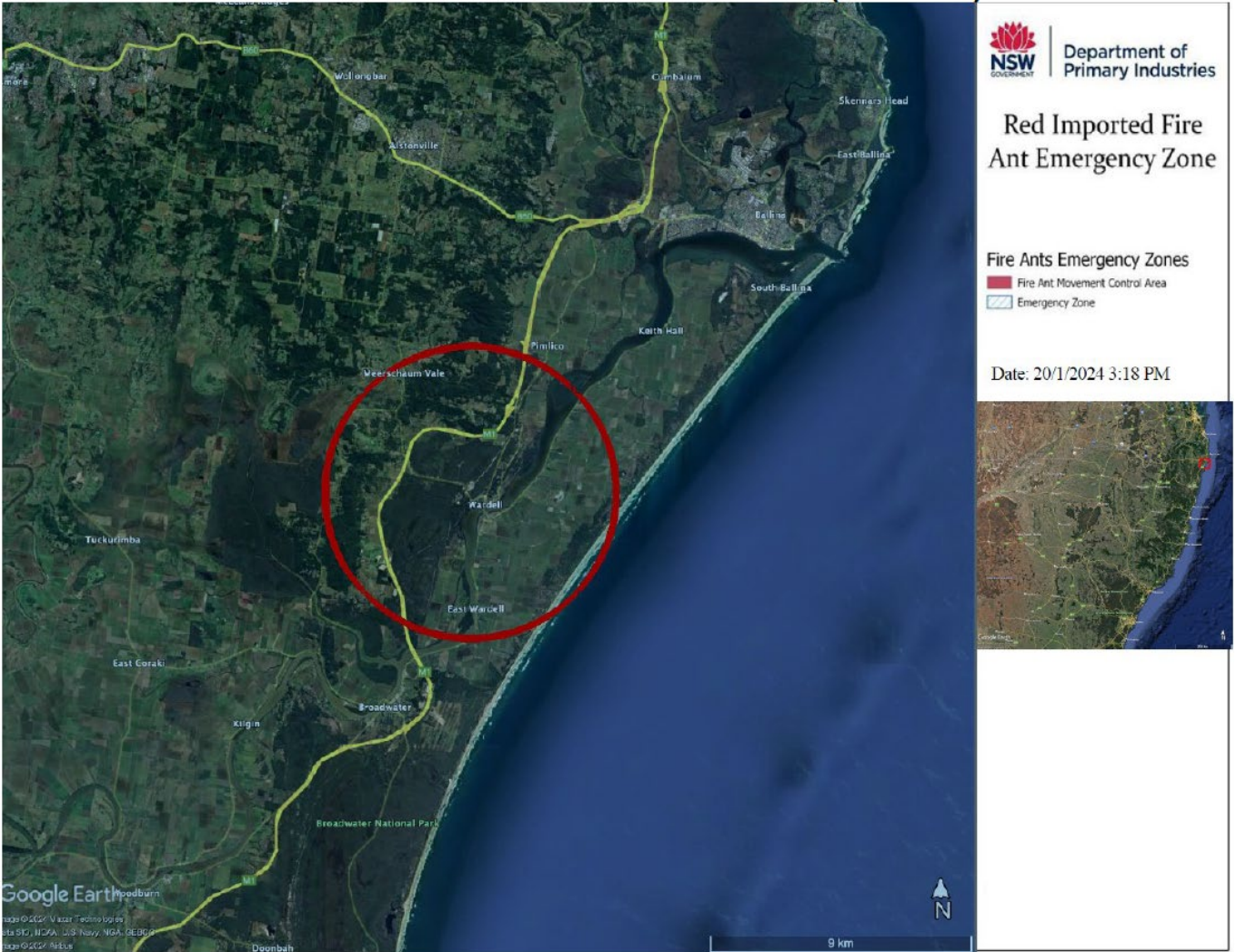
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### More information

Online: Visit the NSW DPI website at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants)

Report suspected fire ant sightings: Online at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants) or by phone on the NSW DPI Biosecurity hotline at 1800 680 244.





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