



Interim statement

Dieback-free basic raw material

Basic raw materials (BRM) are materials such as gravel, sand, limestone and hard rock that are usually used in their unprocessed state. They are very important for road construction and fill. The use of BRM poses a significant risk of spreading *Phytophthora Dieback* (dieback) if it comes from an infested pit, and contracts for the supply of BRM may specify that it is dieback free. There are significant environmental consequences if infested BRM is used in and adjacent to dieback-free, native vegetation.

The supply of dieback free BRM is currently very limited. It is a valuable resource which needs to be used with care. Typically it is used for developments that occur within or adjacent to vulnerable areas of native vegetation that have high conservation significance, and warrant long-term protection from dieback.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has strict standards for identifying dieback free BRM. These standards are endorsed by the Dieback Working Group Inc. (DWG).

BRM is only recognised as being dieback free if it meets the following criteria:

- It is sourced from an area of native vegetation that has been assessed as uninfested by a registered *Phytophthora Dieback* Interpreter;
- The pit has been managed and monitored to maintain its uninfested status, according to an ongoing pit dieback management plan.

In other words, it involves clearing an uninfested area of native vegetation in order to access the BRM resource, and then hygienically managing this resource so as to ensure that it is not subsequently contaminated.

Although BRM can be sourced from sites that are not covered by native vegetation, there is no economically feasible method for sampling the BRM to establish its dieback status, or for monitoring the status of existing pits.

Methods for treating infested BRM are being explored, but are not yet available.

Please monitor the DWG website (www.dwg.org.au) for future updates, including methods for treating infested BRM.

**Statement prepared by the BRM sub-committee of the DWG Inc.
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