

# Biosecurity Queensland Building an effective biosecurity system for Queensland

(2020–2021 results)



Leading and promoting a biosecurity system that protects Queensland's economy, environment, lifestyle and human health.

## What does Biosecurity Queensland do?

- Prevent, respond to, and recover from pests and diseases
- Protect market access
- Supply safe chemical use in agricultural food production
- Promote and maintain high standards of animal welfare
- Build biosecurity capabilities with industry and the community

### How do we do this?

#### Supporting rural exports and the economy

- 9 607 plant health certificates issued to provide market access for Queensland commodities
- 253 live animal export certificates to provide market access for Queensland commodities

#### Preventing and managing the impact of biosecurity risks

- 214 exotic and established animal and plant pest disease incidents managed
- 6 459 plant biosecurity submissions analysed
- 15 biosecurity eradication and management programs being led by Biosecurity Queensland
- 19 weed species eradicated and 17 on track, saving landholders millions of dollars in long-term control costs
- 4 886 animal biosecurity submissions analysed
- 87 524 biosecurity entities registered with 48 992 online
- 569 700 doses of tick fever vaccine sold

#### Advancing biosecurity capability

- Reached over 2.9 million stakeholders with the Biosecurity Queensland Facebook page with >105 000 followers
- >35 partners of the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2023 and the six action plans

#### Keeping high standards of animal welfare

- 1 932 animal welfare cases investigated
- 126 registration licences issued for using animals for scientific purposes

#### Maintaining market access

- 385 audits to improve supply chain competitiveness and access to plant markets
- 3 823 inspections undertaken to provide market access for Queensland commodities

#### Protecting the environment

- >4 570 agricultural chemical user licences issued

### Why are biosecurity risks on the rise?

- 12 750 biosecurity interceptions** at the Queensland border<sup>1</sup>
- Global trade**: Australian passenger, shipping and container cargo arrivals forecast to increase by >70% by 2025<sup>2</sup>
- Tourism**: Almost 2 million international visitors to Queensland in 2019–20<sup>3</sup>
- Urban sprawl**: QLD's population to grow by almost 55% by 2050<sup>4</sup>
- QLD's Climate**: Suits the majority of the planet's invasive species and pathogens
- Geography**: 6 973 km mainland coastline, plus 6 374 km of island coastline to monitor<sup>5</sup>
- Competition**: Consumers demand clean, green QLD resources
- Continuous change**: Evolving risks need better intelligence and technology

<sup>1</sup> DAWR figures based on 3 international airports and 1 mail facility in Qld <sup>2</sup> Priorities for Australia's biosecurity system (Craik Report) <sup>3</sup> Qld Government Statistician's Office <sup>4</sup> <https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/population/population-projections/state> <sup>5</sup> GeoScience Australia [www.ga.gov.au](http://www.ga.gov.au)

### Who's affected?

As impacts are economic, social and environmental, **everyone** is affected by biosecurity risks.

- An African swine fever outbreak in Queensland would significantly impact pig production. With global spread, Queensland has ramped up prevention and preparedness.
- Khapra beetle detections are on the rise. If it is established Australia-wide, the impact to grain and other stored agricultural products would be upwards of AU \$1 billion per annum.
- Queensland continues the fight against fire ants. In the US, fire ants cost US \$7 billion in damages, healthcare and pest control.

### What can we do?

- Have an on-farm biosecurity plan in place to give you better protection against pests and diseases. Check out our Farm Check-In app to help minimise biosecurity risks.
- Look. Secure. Report. Check packages for hitchhiker pests – especially if it was sent from or made overseas.
- Come clean, go clean – wash your garden, farm, or outdoor recreational equipment and vehicles before moving locations to stop weed spread.
- Check movement restrictions for plants and soil in your area to make sure you aren't spreading pests and diseases.
- Keep your eyes out for exotic pests and diseases – if you spot something unusual, report it at [daf.qld.gov.au](http://daf.qld.gov.au)
- Be cautious when buying plants or animals. They could be invasive pests or weeds that can impact our environment and lifestyle.

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



# Major biosecurity responses and programs in Queensland

(2020–2021 results)

## Surveillance for plant biosecurity threats

Surveying for a wide range of risks including Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus, Brown marmorated stink bug, Citrus canker, Tomato potato psyllid, Oriental fruit fly, and Asian gypsy moth

- A total of **8959** trap clearances.
- **6459** plant biosecurity samples collected and analysed of which **6006** were insect samples and **453** disease samples.

## Queensland Feral Pest Initiative

- **\$38.74** million funding since 2015 to assist regional communities construct cluster fences and control invasive plants and animals.
- The Queensland Feral Pest Initiative has received a total of **\$38.74** million in funding since its inception in 2015, with **\$24.74** million contributed by the Queensland Government and **\$14** million by the Federal Government

Locations: Western Queensland Southern Queensland

## National Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Surveillance Program

**71 cattle** and **26 sheep** were tested for TSEs to support market access and early detection.

Locations:		
Blackall	Carpentaria	McKinlay
Barcoo	Cloncurry	Murweh
Banana	Central Highlands	North Burnett
Barcaldine	Flinders	Quilpie
Bundaberg	Longreach	Tiaro
Cook	Mount Isa	Whitsunday

## National Arbovirus Monitoring Program

**117** property visits to monitor for arboviruses to support market access and risk management

Surveillance locations:			
Balonne	Cassowary Coast	Isaac	Sunshine Coast
Barcoo	Central Highlands	Longreach	Torres Strait Island
Blackall Tambo	Cloncurry	Maranoa	Townsville
Boulia	Cook	Paroo	Western Downs
Bulloo	Etheridge	Quilpie	Winton
Carpentaria	Fraser Coast	Southern Downs	

## Four Tropical Weeds (Limnocharis, Mikania vine and Miconia species) 1

Environmental and agricultural weed in North Queensland

- surveyed **5646** ha

## Panama disease Tropical Race 4 3

Serious banana disease threatening Australia's \$580 million banana industry. Over 95% of Australian bananas are grown in Far North Queensland

- **1** new detection of the disease and **4** farms self-managing their biosecurity requirements
- **141** infected plants across five farms infested with Panama TR4
- Surveillance carried out on **266** properties, across **11 774** ha
- **115** compliance inspections and **129** compliance audits undertaken
- Leadership of disease management transitioning to industry in 2023

## Electric Ants 2

Environmental, social and economic pest in Cairns

- **14.37** ha of infestation detected in **9** discrete areas
- **87** ha in **29** areas cleared of infestation and movement controls removed
- **907** ha surveyed including actioning of **923** public reports
- **629** ha treated
- **11 344** samples diagnosed

## Varroa mite 4

Environmental and agricultural parasite of Asian honey bees in Townsville

- **512** actioned public reports
- **392** aerial pheromone trapping sites
- **451** catch box and remote catch box monitors
- **1671** targeted and general sweep net activities
- Visited **254** beekeepers and inspected **261** hives
- **66 300** Rainbow bee-eater pellets collected containing **450 780** European honey bee wings
- **136** bee identifications

\* Note – this program ended 30 April 2021

## Red witchweed 5

Environmental and agricultural weed near Mackay

- Traversed **11 948** km
- Covered **5974** ha of crop, headland and grazing pasture
- **5** Red Witchweed plants detected – a 99.99% decline since 2015–2016 (**3677** detections)
- Treated **94.3** ha
- **32.6** ha released from quarantine and treatment

## Red Imported Fire Ants 6

Environmental, social and economic pest in South East Queensland

- **11 262** ant samples analysed
- **987** compliance audits across **11** industries
- **17 806** properties surveyed
- **82 980** properties treated and **323 103** ha received planned treatment
- **15 416** responses to public reports

