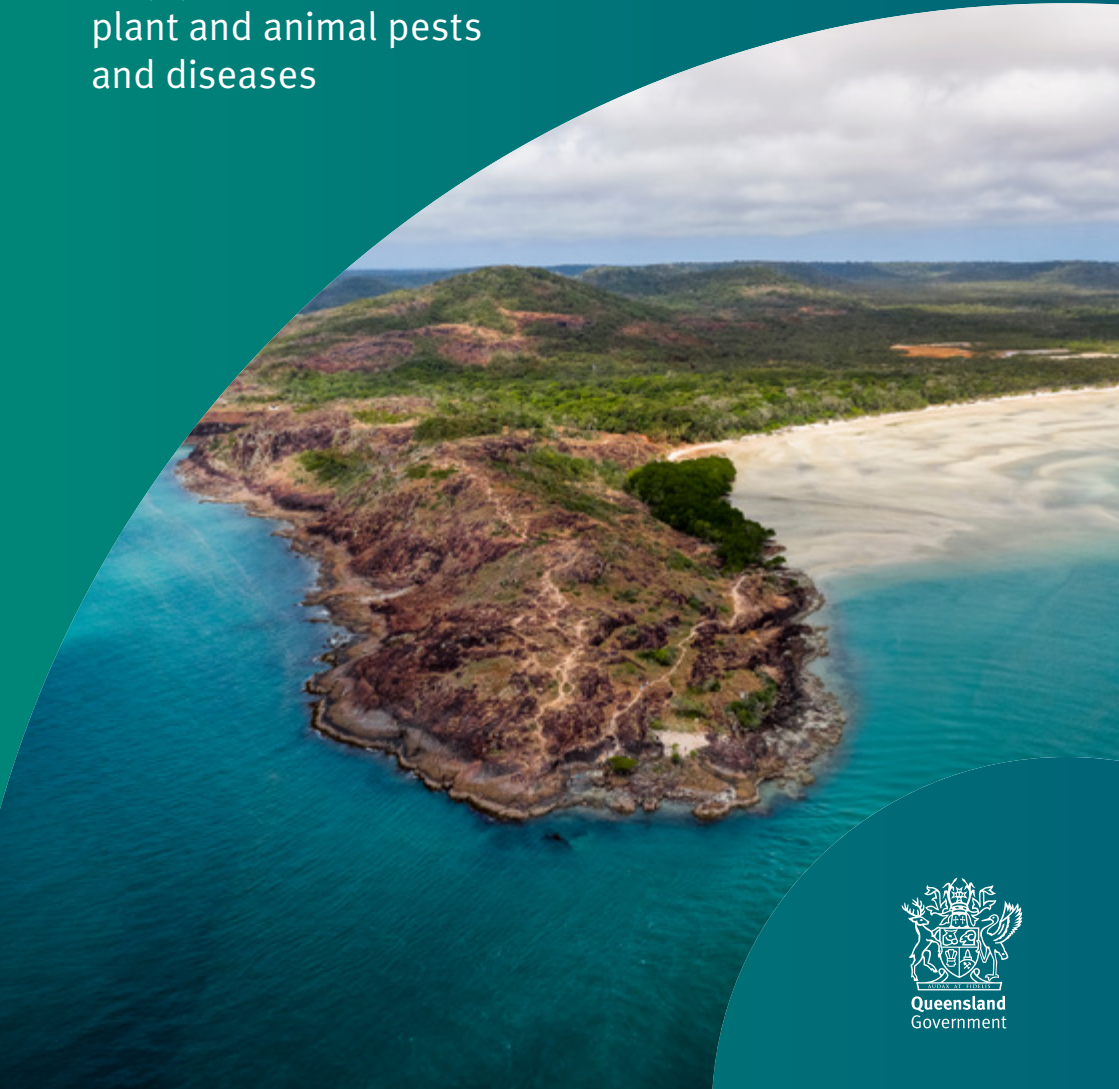




Travelling to Cape York Peninsula or the Torres Strait Islands?

Help protect Queensland from
plant and animal pests
and diseases



© State of Queensland, 2023.

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence.



Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.

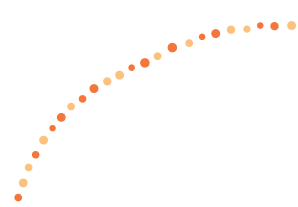
You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland as the source of the publication.

For more information on this licence, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The Queensland Government shall not be liable for technical or other errors or omissions contained herein. The reader/user accepts all risks and responsibility for losses, damages, costs and other consequences resulting directly or indirectly from using this information.

Contents

Welcome	1
Do not move fruit, soil or plants	2
Biosecurity zones	3
Dispose of food waste safely	4
‘Come clean, go clean’	5
Look, report, protect	6
More information	7
Invasive plants—be on the lookout	8
Koster’s curse.....	8
Siam weed	8
Limnocharis.....	9
Mikania vine	9
Miconia.....	10
Salvinia.....	10
Hymenachne.....	11
Rubber vine	11
Invasive insects and diseases—be on the lookout	12
Mango leaf gall midge	12
Red banded mango caterpillar.....	12
Vegetable leaf miner.....	13
Island sugar cane plant hopper	14
Jack Beardsley mealybug.....	15
Contact us	16





Welcome to Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Islands!

As a traveller in this unique part of the world, you play a vital role in protecting Australia's pristine environment.

We are fortunate to be free from serious animal diseases found in other parts of the world including Asia and Europe, such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), African swine fever (ASF), and lumpy skin disease (LSD). These diseases impact livestock such as cattle, pigs, sheep and goats. If introduced into Australia, they could have a huge impact on our farmers, environment, and communities.

There are also plant and animal pests and diseases not present in Cape York or the Torres Strait that are a risk to the region, and it's important that travellers don't introduce them. Likewise, there are pests and diseases in Cape York and the Torres Strait that we don't want to spread to the rest of Australia.

Pests and diseases are known as 'biosecurity matter' and the plants and animals they infest or infect are known as 'biosecurity carriers'.

Under Queensland legislation, everybody has a general biosecurity obligation. That means all people who deal with 'biosecurity matter' must take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise risk to human health, agriculture, the environment, social amenity and the economy.

Cape York and Torres Strait residents and visitors play a key role in helping to detect exotic pests and diseases. Early detection is vital to successful pest control and eradication.

The tips in this guide provide information on what you can do (and not do) while travelling in Cape York and the Torres Strait, to help maintain the unique beauty and health of this region.



Do not move fruit, soil or plants

Biosecurity zones

To protect Cape York, the Torres Strait and the rest of Queensland, the Queensland Government has established two biosecurity zones north of Coen to prevent the movement of plant and animal pests and diseases:

1. Far North Biosecurity Zone 1 (FNBZ 1)
2. Far North Biosecurity Zone 2 (FNBZ 2).

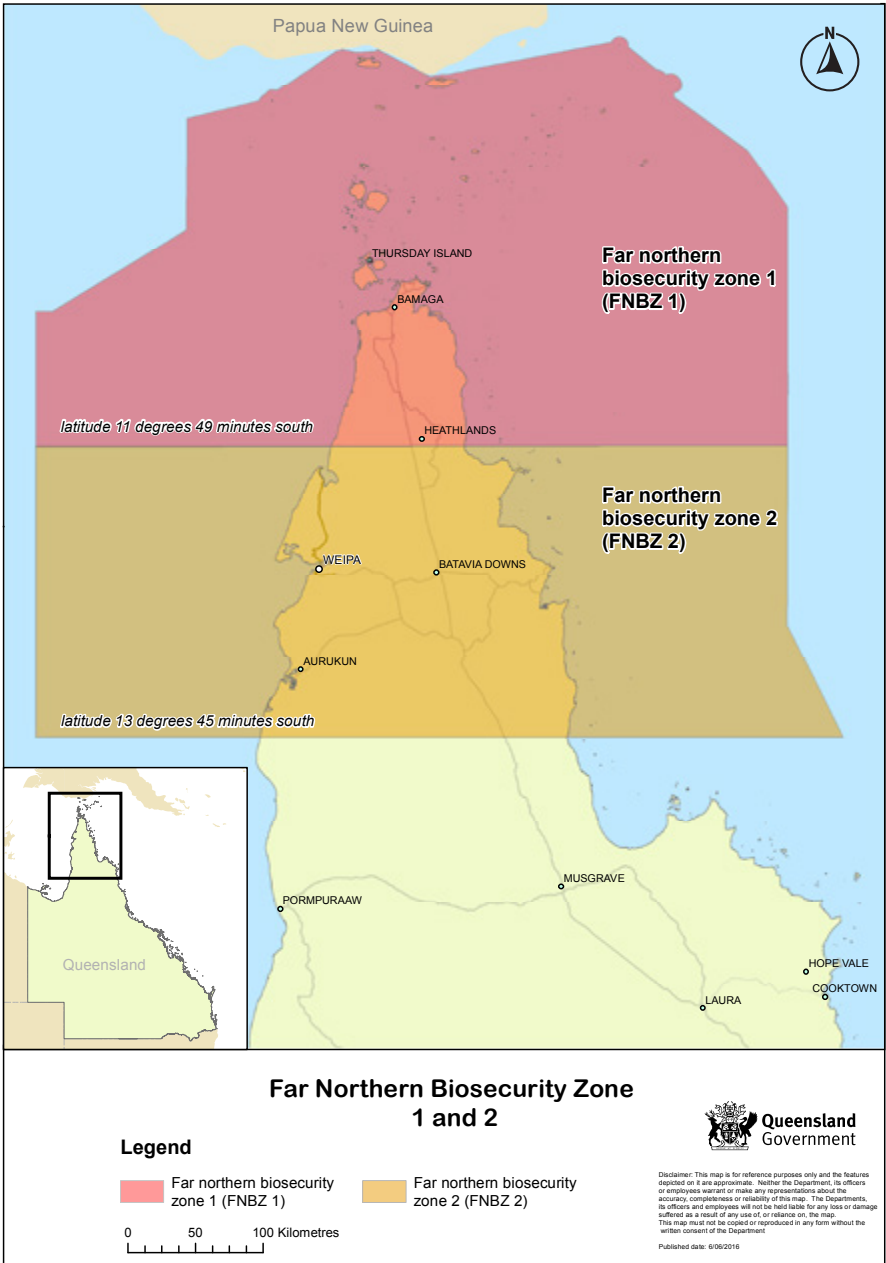
The Australian Government also manages quarantine zones within the Torres Strait—movement controls apply. For more information about these controls, contact **1800 900 090** or visit agriculture.gov.au.

Please observe the quarantine restrictions that apply to the movement of animals, plants, soil and other carriers of pests and diseases in Cape York and the Torres Strait.

When travelling **south** from Cape York, do not move plant or fruit material from Zone 1 into Zone 2, or out of Zone 2 into the rest of Queensland.

You must not move fruit, plant material and soil out of Zone 1 or south from Zone 2 **without a permit. To obtain a permit visit business.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.**

There are also mango amnesty bins south of the Jardine River ferry crossing where you can dispose of your mangos.



Far North Biosecurity Zone 1 and 2



Dispose of food waste safely

Careful rubbish disposal is crucial in the Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait. There are limited waste disposal sites on the Cape, so disposing of rubbish can be difficult for travellers.

Plan ahead of your journey to learn where waste disposal sites are and reduce how much rubbish you generate. Dispose of any food waste by securing bags and containers, put waste in the next available waste disposal site, or best yet, take your rubbish with you.

Making sure animals cannot access food waste is a key aspect of helping to prevent diseases like FMD and ASF. While on the Cape, do not feed any food scraps to wild animals, including pigs, dogs and poultry. If you're at a campsite, make sure you put the food scraps in a designated bin that has a lid, so animals cannot access them. If the bin is full or doesn't have a lid, take the scraps with you.

‘Come clean, go clean’

Invasive weeds are a major environmental problem and increasing threat to native plants and animals, farm crops and to the region’s cultural heritage. They love to hitch a ride on your vehicles, clothes and tents.

Small insects such as plant hoppers and midges can:

- hide inside plant material e.g. inside rolled leaves
- easily be moved in vehicles, especially when parked under trees.

Soil can also carry diseases that can affect animals.

To help reduce spread, before you leave home, ensure your vehicle, caravan, trailer, boat and camping gear are clean from dirt and plant material.

Take a dustpan and brush/broom with you on your travels and regularly clean the inside and outside of vehicles and clothing, particularly long pants, socks and boots.

When driving your vehicle please stick to the designated tracks and roads.





Look, report, protect

Cape York and the Torres Strait consist of millions of hectares of diverse habitat, flora and fauna. Given its immense size, it is important that we all take responsibility for its wellbeing and report any suspect invasive plant or animal pest and disease to Biosecurity Queensland.

It is important that you do not approach or touch feral animals. However, you can help detect the presence of diseases such as FMD, ASF and LSD. If you see something unusual in cattle, buffalo, pigs, goats or camels, such as large numbers or groups of sick or dead animals or unusual behaviour such as not responding to your presence, limping, stumbling or walking hesitantly, contact **Biosecurity Queensland**.

You can also be on the lookout for invasive plant species, and signs of invasive insects and diseases that affect plants. A handy reference guide (with photos) is provided at the end of this guide to help you.

If you think you have spotted a plant or animal pest or disease, record the details of the location, take a photo or video if possible, and note a description of what you have seen.

To report the sighting, contact **Biosecurity Queensland without delay on 13 25 23** or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au

If you find any unwanted hitchhikers like weed seeds or bugs in your car or on your clothes, make sure to remove them and clean your car and clothes immediately to prevent them from spreading.

More information


For more handy tips and information on being a thoughtful traveller, check out Cape York Natural Resource Management's **Thoughtful traveller information kit**.

Thank you for keeping watch over Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Islands while on your travels.

Have a pleasant and safe journey!

Contact us

Biosecurity Queensland

 **13 25 23** within Queensland or
(07) 3404 6999 outside of Queensland

 biosecurity.qld.gov.au

 **BiosecurityQld**

 **BiosecurityQld**

 **DAFQld**

Subscribe for regular biosecurity updates at
daf.qld.gov.au/news-media/newsletters

Invasive plants—be on the lookout

Here are some of the invasive plants and pest diseases to report if you see them on your travels.



Koster's curse

Identification tip

Small shrub with leaves having three prominent veins. Flowers are white and berries are hairy and turn dark purple when mature.



Siam weed

Identification tip

Lots of white to lilac flowers in June to August. Seeds are spread by wind.

Limnocharis

Identification tip

An aquatic plant found in mud along banks and bottom of shallow water bodies.



Mikania vine

Identification tip

A climber with heart-shaped leaves and white flowers.





Miconia

Identification tip

A tree with very large bicolorous leaves (up to 80 cm in length) that are purple on the underside. Three prominent longitudinal veins are also another essential distinguishing trait.



Salvinia

Identification tip

Floating aquatic plant.

Hymenachne

Identification tip

An aquatic grass growing in shallow water to 2 m deep.



Rubber vine

Identification tip

A climber, its young stems without leaves look like whips, white to pink flowers and a distinctive two-lobed seed pod.



Invasive insects and diseases

—be on the lookout



Mango leaf gall midge

Identification tip

Appearance of galls on the leaf, flowers, branches or fruits.

Spread

Insects, eggs and larvae can be transported on plant material. Do not move fruit, plant material and soil out of the Torres Strait or out of FNBZ 1 and FNBZ 2.



Red banded mango caterpillar

Identification tip

Presence of sap stain running from the caterpillar's entry hole and often the hole is surrounded by frass. The caterpillar has distinctive red and white bands across abdomen.

Spread

Movement of fruit, plants and soil can spread this pest. Do not move fruit, plant material and soil out of FNBZ 1 or south from FNBZ 2.

Vegetable leaf miner

Identification tip

Adults are small, greyish-black fly-like insects with a yellow and black body, 1.3–2.3 mm in length. The feeding causes long, narrow 'mines' which appear as white or grey lines on leaves (and can also look like coils) widening towards the end.

Spread

Vegetable leaf miners may be transported with infected green plant material, soil, potting soil or packaging. Do not move fruit, plant material and soil out of the FNBZ 1 or south from FNBZ 2.





Island sugar cane plant hopper

Identification tip

Adult 5 mm long with black wing tips, found in tightly rolled leaves of growing point of sugar cane plant. Red puncture marks on midrib, where eggs have been deposited.

Spread

Movement of sugar cane plants and bugs hitchhiking in cars can spread this pest. Do not move sugar cane or pit material out of FNBZ 1 or south from FNBZ 2.

Jack Beardsley mealybug

Identification tip

Mealybugs are 1–3 mm in length, grey or pinkish in colour, appear to be dusted in flour and their egg masses have ‘cotton wool’ appearance. Mealybugs are often concealed inside the growing tips of plants, or underneath, or at the base of, leaves. Mealybugs produce a sticky substance called honeydew, leading to black sooty mould on plant leaves.

Spread

The Jack Beardsley mealybug is spread long distances by people moving infested plant material, including fruit. Do not move fruit, plant material and soil out of FNBZ 1 or south from FNBZ 2.



Contact us

Biosecurity Queensland

 **13 25 23** within Queensland or
(07) 3404 6999 outside of Queensland

 biosecurity.qld.gov.au

 **BiosecurityQld**

 **BiosecurityQld**

 **DAFQld**