



## **Biosecurity Management Plan**

### **Port of Mackay**

**17 May 2019**

#### **Emergency Contact Details:**

If you are currently experiencing a biosecurity incident at the port – contact the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF) Hotline on 1800 798 636.

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881 (for plants, pests, diseases, weeds and bees).

Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline: 1800 675 888 (for sick livestock, poultry and aquatic animals).

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## Introduction – Port of Mackay

As Queensland's fourth largest multi-commodity port by throughput, Mackay is one of the major servicing centres for the Central Queensland mining and agricultural industries. The port operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and extends over 800 hectares of land and water under the direct control of North Queensland Bulk Ports.

The Mackay region is the largest sugar producing area in Australia, and the port hosts one of the world's largest bulk sugar terminals. The region also supports the nearby Bowen Basin and Galilee Basin coalfields, which produce most of Queensland's coal.

The Port of Mackay not only services coastal and international shipping but has also become popular with recreational small craft vessels. The neighbouring Mackay Marina (privately owned) features a residential and tourist precinct, major marina amenities, 479 marina berths and lift out shipyard.

Located five kilometres north of the city of Mackay – about halfway between Brisbane and Cairns – the port comprises four wharves within the sheltered waters of Mackay Harbour. Its proximity to the Mackay CBD, and Australia's leading mining equipment technology and services hub in Paget, makes this tailored port an ideal integrated logistics transport solution for trade needs.

## Purpose of this Biosecurity Management Plan

Protecting Australia's biosecurity is a responsibility shared by government, industry and the community. Biosecurity risk management practices implemented by industry can assist in maintaining Australia's pest and disease biosecurity status and reduce incursions that have the potential to impact on port operations leading to schedule slippage and increased operational and project costs.

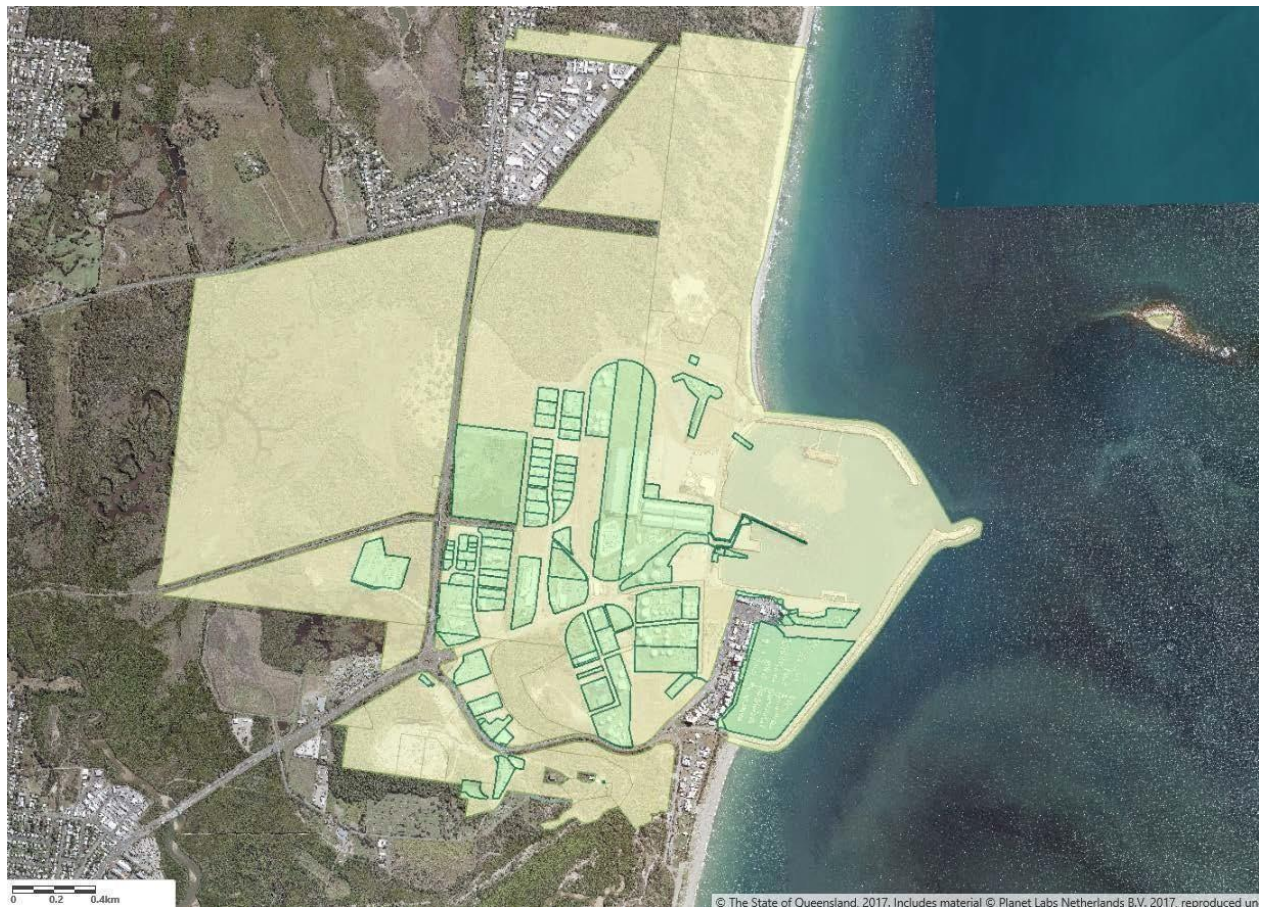
The Port of Mackay has been determined a First Point of Entry (FPoE) under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act). North Queensland Bulk Ports (NQBP) is responsible for the effective environmental management of the Port of Mackay, including complying with FPoE biosecurity standards in order to maintain its approved arrangement with the Department. NQBP has committed to maintaining the approved Biosecurity Management Plan and will continue to comply with regulatory requirements. NQBP will assist all contractors as needed to gain a clear understanding of the legislative requirements under the Act.

## Scope

This Biosecurity Management Plan addresses all activities over which NQBP has direct control or influence including strategic port land at Port of Mackay. This Biosecurity Plan does not directly address those activities over which it has no operational control, such as lessee or third-party activities or areas, however covers the general management principles of these activities where relevant. All berth operators, including entities operating at one or more of NQBP's common user facilities, are required to have in place their own processes to manage potential biosecurity risks from their operations and to comply with the first point of entry provisions of the Act.

Stevedores (those conducting the loading or unloading of ships) are to have their own biosecurity controls in place for this activity, and NQBP will offer support and guidance in this area as required but do not bear the responsibility of direct biosecurity management for stevedoring operations. A stevedoring licence agreement is in effect for stevedores working at Port of Mackay and contained within that document is NQBP's requirement to ensure adequate biosecurity controls are implemented during operations.

See Figures 1 and 2 below to give an aerial view of NQBP areas of operational control and biosecurity responsibility.



**Figure 1: Area of NQBP control for Port of Mackay**

Yellow indicates NQBP land and waters.

Green indicates land and waters not directly controlled by NQBP.

Note: NQBP does not have direct control over leased areas, and it is the responsibility of the lessee to ensure their general biosecurity obligation is adhered to.



**Figure 2: Secure Port Area**

The secure port area is within the confines of a security fence (indicated by bold yellow). This area has been deemed as a first point of entry for international vessels into Australia. NQBP are the port authority for Port of Mackay and are responsible for biosecurity management within the area. Some areas (indicated by green) are operated by tenants who bear the responsibility of biosecurity management for their areas, with the assistance from NQBP as needed. These tenant operations include but are not limited to grain, sugar, fuel and scrap metal operators. The green area indicated on wharves 3 and 4 (centre of image) indicates wharf loading infrastructure, but NQBP maintain responsibility of the wharves except for stevedoring operations. It is also important to note that Mackay Marina is not part of NQBP operations.

## Management Responsibilities

Below is a table outlining the responsibilities of relevant personnel with regards to biosecurity management. Please note that these responsibilities may be delegated or transferred depending on the context of the incident or risk, however this framework will be generally followed.

**Table 1: Roles and Responsibilities**

Personnel	Responsibility	Timeframe
Employees, contractors and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be observant and mindful of any potential biosecurity incident or risk and report any suspected or potential biosecurity issues to their supervisor.</li> <li>To act in accordance with this Biosecurity Management Plan to ensure all possible actions are undertaken to reduce the potential impact of a biosecurity incident.</li> <li>Report any biosecurity risks directly to NQBP or your supervisor.</li> <li>Port Service Worker for Hay Point attends the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Meetings</li> </ul>	<p>Immediately</p> <p>At all times</p> <p>Quarterly</p>
Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report any suspected or potential biosecurity incident to the NQBP Duty Phone on 0417 761 086.</li> <li>Manage the risk when safe to do so until NQBP assistance can be rendered.</li> </ul>	Immediately
Environmental Advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for production of the Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP) and its incorporation into the NQBP Environmental Management System.</li> <li>Responsible for the review of the BMP every two years to ensure currency.</li> <li>Responsible for fielding enquiries and incidents around biosecurity and notification to relevant stakeholders including government agencies and NQBP management.</li> <li>Responsible for providing advice to safely manage a biosecurity risk.</li> <li>Responsible for incident reporting and investigation of biosecurity incidents.</li> <li>Responsible for biosecurity awareness training for internal NQBP personnel.</li> <li>Management of invasive fauna and flora.</li> </ul>	At all times
Senior Manager Commercial/Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring all existing and new trading parties are aware of their biosecurity obligations including inspections and cleaning.</li> <li>Ensuring facilities meet DAFF standards prior to import of any cargo.</li> </ul>	At all times

Personnel	Responsibility	Timeframe
Senior Manager Port Operations and Maintenance*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that all personnel working in the secure port area have completed an induction which includes fundamental biosecurity obligations such as the requirement to report.</li> <li>Ensuring operations staff field after hours enquiries and attend to incidents around biosecurity.</li> <li>Ensuring notification of any biosecurity issues to Environmental Advisor.</li> <li>Ensuring operations staff monitor for biosecurity risks during general duties around the port.</li> </ul>	At all times

\*Port of Mackay has 24 hour security personnel and surveillance operating. Operations and Security Officers (OSOs) can be contacted on the duty phone 0417 761 086 at any time throughout the year, including public holidays. All biosecurity hazards or incidents must always be reported immediately.

## Cargo Types

Port of Mackay imports and exports international goods and commodities. As such, biosecurity management must consider controls for both incursions and forward contamination.

Some examples of international goods and commodities handled at Port of Mackay include, but are not limited to:

- Fuel
- Fertilizer
- Grain
- Breakbulk cargo
- Roll-on Roll-off cargo
- Magnetite
- Biosecurity waste generated by ships (transported to Hay Point quarantine waste facility).

Note: Accompanied crew baggage is permitted to be offloaded at every FPoE however, it will still be subject to assessment by biosecurity. The Vessel Master will report or submit a crew change request form to DAFF listing declared biosecurity items and this will be assessed by a biosecurity officer.

## Biosecurity Risks

At the time of writing, the following outbreaks have been confirmed in Queensland, under the DAFF National Outbreak List located at <http://www.outbreak.gov.au/current-responses-to-outbreaks/>:

- Brown marmorated stink bug
- Varroa mites
- Red witchweed
- Electric ants
- Red Imported Fire Ants
- Four Tropical Weeds Eradication Program
- White spot disease
- White Colonial Sea Squirt



- Black scar oyster

Even if the aforementioned species have not yet been sighted in Mackay, all reasonable effort is to be made to reduce their impact, and the impact of all invasive fauna and flora. The key point to remember is if you suspect any biosecurity risk – REPORT IT.

The following list identifies key biosecurity risks at Port of Mackay. This list is not exhaustive but is intended to highlight the most probable biosecurity risks to assist port users identify potential issues.

## Invasive Fauna

**Mosquitos** - The Port of Mackay provides a potential entry route for exotic and invasive mosquitos. The two most common mosquitoes found in the port precinct are *Aedes notoscriptus* and Southern House Mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*), however these are rarely implicated in the spread of disease.

Two species of greatest risk for NQBP are Dengue mosquitos (*Aedes aegypti*) and Asian tiger mosquitos (*Aedes albopictus*); these are known carriers of Dengue Fever, Chikungunya virus and Yellow Fever overseas. Various other lesser known mosquitos can be responsible for Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and Malaria.

The management of mosquitos is a shared responsibility between NQBP, tenants and various levels of government. Currently a mosquito monitoring program is run by Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWE) utilising tyre traps. If mosquito wrigglers are identified the specimens are sent for laboratory testing to identify species and risks. Mackay Regional Council also conduct local spraying treatments. NQBP would seek assistance from government agencies including council should an issue arise. Pooling water should be avoided to reduce breeding grounds for mosquitos. The NQBP Environmental Coordinator monitors for this on site, during project audits and general inspections, and raises this at stakeholder meetings.

**Bees** - Asian Honey Bees (*Apis cerana*) and Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) are monitored for from eight sentinel bee boxes (in accordance with ECP015Op - Sentinel Bee Box Biosecurity Monitoring) located just outside the secure port area. A colonisation from any fauna species within these boxes will be reported to Biosecurity Queensland. If a bee colony is located, it is reported to Biosecurity Queensland, the bees are destroyed and retained for laboratory analysis.

**Rodents** - Ship Rat (*Rattus rattus*), Sewer Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and House Mouse (*Mus musculus*) are high risk at Port of Mackay. The primary control for rodents is that once berthed and alongside, all ships at Port of Mackay install rat guards on their lines to prevent the movement of rodents on or off the vessel.

**Foxes** - Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) sightings in 2018 initiated to a fox control program lead by NQBP, which eradicated a number of dens in the local area. At the time of writing, fox numbers at Port of Mackay are reported as very low. Fox monitoring is undertaken on a regular basis in conjunction with Mackay Regional Council.

**Toads** - Cane Toads (*Rhinella marina*) are a low risk species to gain entry to a vessel, however sightings have been observed proximal to the wharves. In January 2021, NQBP and Biosecurity Queensland commenced a Surveillance Program for Asian Spine Toad.

**Cats** - Feral Cat (*Felis catus*) numbers have been reported since 2019. NQBP will continue to

monitor this and are currently exploring options to control this pest.

**Rabbits** - Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) sightings around the port are very minimal; low risk species at time of writing.

**Ants** – Invasive exotic ant species are another form hitchhiker pest that can easily stowaway on an international vessel or cargo. Various small incursions of exotic ant species have occurred in Townsville and Airlie Beach (Yellow Crazy Ants and Electric Ants) and are currently in the process of being monitored so as to inform eradication techniques. In December 2020, NQBP partnered with Biosecurity Queensland to establish an invasive exotic ant surveillance program at Port of Mackay in accordance with ECP016Op – Sentinel Ant Biosecurity Surveillance Program

**Fish** - Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus* and *Tilapia mariae*) are a risk at Port of Mackay. No water intake for vessels within port limits will mitigate biosecurity risk relating to fish.

**Stinkbugs** - Brown Marmorated Stinkbug (*Halyomorpha halys*) - ongoing monitoring for this species due to high potential impacts of cropping/produce industry. No reported sightings at time of writing.

**Invasive marine pests (IMPs)** - Such as Asian Green Mussel (*Perna viridis*) present a significant risk to biosecurity. NQBP currently monitor for IMPs each quarter by inspecting marine pest plates and notifying the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAFF) of any suspicious species. At the time of writing, NQBP in partnership with government are exploring even more robust monitoring techniques such as plankton tows and DNA testing.

Invasive Marine Pests are monitored in accordance with:

- ECP12Op – Invasive Marine Pest Monitoring and
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – Invasive Marine Pest Sampling

In March 2020, there was a confirmed detection of an invasive marine pest, known as the White Colonial Sea Squirt (*Didemnum perlucidum*) found at the Port of Mackay (and also in the Gulf of Carpentaria south of Weipa). The Colonial Sea Squirt originates from the Caribbean and this is the first detection in Queensland. It is white in colour and is known to foul submerged and floating infrastructure such as pylons, pontoons, moorings, boats, buoys and can quickly overgrow native marines species, limiting habitat and biodiversity values. It can also be found on hard natural substrates.

It is not possible to eradicate this pest species due to its high reproductive capacity and inability to effectively treat established populations or control its further spread. The specimens in Mackay were found as a result of a Q-SEAS marine pest pilot program, while the detection in the Gulf occurred during a marine pest survey.

Biosecurity Queensland are continuing to monitor the extent of this species and work closely with port authorities and maritime industries to minimize impacts.

For further information on the Colonial Sea Squirt, visit: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/pests/invasive-animals/prohibited/white-colonial-sea-squirt>

## Invasive Fauna Summary

NQBP Environmental Coordinator will continually monitor for and manage increased numbers of invasive fauna. If an increase in an invasive fauna species is identified, then control measures will be put in place to control spread, and assistance will be sought from relevant government agencies when required.

Many species not listed within this BMP are still to be reported, these may include moths, beetles, borers and parasites. Pooling water and rubbish should be avoided to mitigate invasive fauna. A pest controller is utilised by NQBP as needed at wharf crib huts. Standard knockdown sprays are kept on site at the NQBP operations office for insect treatment and specimen capture.

As communicated in relevant sections in the body of this document, NQBP has recently created Biosecurity Monitoring Programs and prepared relevant ECP's or SOP's in order to comply with NQBP's General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO). This documentation has been incorporated into NQBPs Environmental Management System (EMS) as standalone documents and as part of this Biosecurity Management Plan. A summary of these recently prepared documents are:

- SOP – Invasive Marine Pest Sampling (E20/31090)
- ECP015Op – Sentinel Bee Box Biosecurity Monitoring (E19/25813)
- ECP016Op - Sentinel Ant Biosecurity Surveillance Program (E20/48298)

## Invasive Flora

The following list highlights the invasive plant species known to be present around the Mackay area at the time of writing.

### Terrestrial Weeds

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mimosa pigra	<i>Mimosa pigra</i>
Prickly Acacia	<i>Vachellia nilotica</i>
Giant Sensitive plant	<i>Mimosa diplotricha</i> var. <i>diplotricha</i>
Pond Apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>
Parthenium	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>
Rubber Vine	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>
Elephant Ear Vine	<i>Argyreia nervosa</i>
Bellyache Bush	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> and hybrids
Thunbergia	<i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Rat Tail Grasses	<i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i> and <i>S.natalensis</i>
Sicklepod	<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>
Singapore daisy	<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>
African Tulip tree	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>
Asparagus Fern	<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , <i>A. africanus</i> and <i>A. plumosus</i>
Broad Leaf Pepper Tree	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>
Cats Claw Creeper	<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Tobacco Weed	<i>Elephantopus mollis</i>
Leucaena	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>

### Aquatic Weeds

Common Name	Scientific Name
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> and hybrids
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>
Water Lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>

In 2020, NQBP commissioned a comprehensive weed mapping exercise in order to gain a better understanding of the extent, species and locations of weeds on Port lands at Mackay. These maps were then used to create Weed Management Plans that are currently being used to prioritise and guide current on-ground weed control actions.

Comprehensive weed mapping and weed management plans were created for:

- Kommo Toera Trail
- Bedford Paddock
- Eastern Wetlands; and
- Hind Dunes

Mapping and Weed Management Plans are archived at EM/052/00039

NQBP's Port Service Worker for Hay Point attends the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Meetings on a quarterly basis. Meeting correspondence housed on RM8 at EM/015/00003.

# Operational Procedures

## Reporting

All port users must report a suspected biosecurity incident or risk immediately. Report it directly or to your supervisor who must report to NQBP Port Operations on 0417 761 086. Port Operations will notify the NQBP Environmental Coordinator who will notify and arrange support from relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, to initiate a broader scale response.



## Inspections

NQBP have approximately 40 staff working at Port of Mackay. NQBP Maintenance Department carry out monthly environmental inspections of their workshop area. Operations staff also frequently inspect the wharf areas throughout shipping interactions. These staff members are trained in biosecurity awareness and will report any biosecurity incidents or risks witnessed during their duties. This may commonly include identification of invasive weed species and quarterly monitoring of invasive marine pest plates. These inspections are in addition to monthly environmental inspections by the Environmental Advisor. Environmental inspections and marine pest plate inspections are recorded on the NQBP Environmental Management System.

Leased areas are the responsibility of the respective tenant. Tenants/lessees are to notify NQBP in the event of a biosecurity incident. If any incidents are observed within a tenant's leased area the matter will be escalated and managed according to regulatory requirements, however the main responsibility for biosecurity management within leased areas are the responsibility of the tenant.

## Ballast Water

To minimise the risk of invasive marine aliens on our Port environments, in accordance with the Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements, NQBP do not allow ballast water exchange within port limits. Ballast water exchange must have occurred prior to transit through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Area (greater than 12nm), a declared ballast water exchange exclusion area, and in open seas (of at least 50m depth). Some exceptions to this are available, such as where meeting the criteria for "Same Risk Areas" defined within the Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements.

Ballast water is managed by DAFF and AMSA and is in compliance with the IMO International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments ('the Ballast Water Management Convention').

Legislation was developed to bring Australian laws into line with the IMO convention, which Australia is party to and has been ratified. NQBP Ports do not have facilities for the landside collection and/or treatment of ballast water, ballast sediment or slurry.

The IMO Ballast Water Management Convention requires that all vessels built after 8 September 2017 are fitted with a Ballast Water Management System and that those built prior to this are fitted with similar by their renewal survey on or before 8 September 2019 (IOPPC renewal survey under MARPOL Annex I). All vessels to which the IOPP renewal survey does not apply, will be required to be fitted with a Ballast Water Management System by 8 September 2024 (such as vessels less than 400t or floating platforms, FSUs & FPSOs).

Deballasting, the discharge of ballast water during loading, is a required activity to maintain the safe operation of a vessel. All vessels must be operating in accordance with the Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements, and therefore must have completed a full ballast water exchange prior to arriving at Port in order to manage the risk of invasives during deballasting.

The *TSHD Brisbane* is the dredge vessel ordinarily utilised by NQBP and is operated by Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd, to which the Convention applies. Ballast water is managed in accordance with

Procedure B10 Ballast Water Management of the *TSHD Brisbane* Operational Manual and the procedure has been certified for use by Lloyds Register.

NQBP own and operate some small craft for maintenance and oil spill response but these vessels do not take ballast water. NQBP also own, but not operate, two pilot launch vessels, similarly, these vessels do not take ballast water. No tugboats are owned or operated directly by NQBP.

## Biosecurity Waste

Waste generated by international vessels is deemed biosecurity waste. NQBP owns a Quarantine Waste Handling Facility (QWHF) at Hay Point, 40 minutes south of Port of Mackay by road. The operation of the facility is currently contracted to an approved service provider. The QWHF treats biosecurity waste from vessels mooring at the Port of Mackay on a fee per service arrangement. The waste is transported by road under an approved arrangement with the waste contractor. Biosecurity waste is currently disinfected by autoclaving, before final discharge to a land fill site at Hogan's Pocket. The QWHF consists of two autoclaves with the associated gas fired boilers and auxiliary plant. The waste is treated for a specified period at the pressure and temperature prescribed.

## Hull Cleaning

NQBP do not allow in-water hull cleaning within port limits. NQBP adopt a general 'no maintenance' policy within port limits due to the increased risk of an invasive marine pest incursion. It is acknowledged however that if a special case was ever sought under exceptional circumstance the following endorsements would be required in addition to NQBP approval:

- DAFF – In accordance with Anti-fouling and In-water Cleaning Guidelines.
- Biosecurity Queensland (Under Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)).
- Department of Environment and Science (QLD).
- Maritime Safety Queensland.
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

## Biofouling Management

The *Biosecurity Amendment (Biofouling Management) Regulations 2021* (biofouling regulations) entered into force on 15 June 2022. This requires operators of all vessels to provide information on biofouling management practices prior to arriving in Australia.

The Australian biofouling management requirements provides details of Australia's pre-arrival reporting requirements and guidance for operators of international vessels that are subject to biosecurity control while in Australian territorial seas. The Australian biofouling management requirements are now available at [Managing biofouling in Australia](#).

The department's Maritime Arrivals Reporting System (MARS) pre-arrival report (PAR) will include mandatory questions relating to biofouling management practices.

The biofouling questions on the pre-arrival report will include:

- 1) Does the vessel have an effective biofouling management plan?
- 2) Has the vessel been cleaned of all biofouling within 30 days of arriving in Australia?
- 3) Does the vessel have an alternative biofouling management method that has been pre- approved by the department?
- 4) Do you intend to in-water (underwater) clean biofouling in Australia?

Vessel operators can demonstrate proactive management of biofouling by implementing one of the 3 accepted proactive biofouling management options:

- 1) Implementation of an effective biofouling management plan; or
- 2) Cleaned all biofouling within 30 days prior to arriving in Australian territory; or
- 3) Implementation of an alternative biofouling management method pre-approved by the department.

Documentary evidence must be available upon request by a departmental officer.

Vessel operators that cannot demonstrate implementation of proactive management practices will be asked additional pre-arrival questions. The department will use responses to inform assessments of the biosecurity risk associated with biofouling on vessels. The department may also conduct inspections of submerged hulls and niche areas to inform assessments of whether the vessels

present an unacceptable biosecurity risk associated with biofouling.

The department will be taking an education first approach to enforcing the new requirements between 15 June 2022 and 15 December 2023. During this period the department will be focussing on providing education and advice to ship managers with the aim of minimising unintentionally incorrect pre-arrival reporting. The department will also be working with ship managers to improve the effectiveness of biofouling management plans.

### **New Vehicle Inspections**

NQBP Trade Development Manager will ensure the suitability and adequacy of all infrastructure required for the importation of new vehicles. This will be done in accordance with the New Vehicle Biosecurity Standard regulated by DAFF. The Operator must provide a sufficient hardstand area to support the volume of new vehicles arriving in a consignment. A certified lift must also be provided but only if required by a biosecurity officer. If equipment such as a certified lift is required for the safe inspection of a vehicle, the biosecurity officer will direct the operator to provide this at the time. NQBP will continue to consult with DAFF on this matter as the need arises.

### **Wash Bay**

NQBP currently have an approved arrangement with DAFF for a 15m x 17m wash bay facility operated by Northern Stevedoring Services (NSS), however limitations exist when importing large equipment of dimensions greater than that of the wash bay facility. As a result, have constructed a much larger wash bay facility with 2 bays (20m x 20m each) and a 40m x 40m hardstand laydown area. This facility can be utilized by exception as needed and will enable larger cargo to enter and be treated in a controlled environment at the Port of Mackay. The new wash bay facility has expanded the scope of the port.



## Biosecurity Incident Response Plan (BIRP)

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* requires persons in charge of goods that are subject to biosecurity control to notify the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAFF) of reportable biosecurity incidents.

There are five (5) key areas of the BIRP, which are Awareness, Isolate, Contain, Report and Treat. Further information on these areas is detailed below.

### Awareness

A biosecurity incident is an unintentional, unforeseen or uncontrolled exposure to exotic pests and diseases.

- 1 If you become aware of a potential biosecurity incident you must report it or inform your supervisor or the Environmental Coordinator immediately. This is to ensure the event can be determined as a biosecurity incident and the correct reporting channels are followed.
- 2 Until the event has been determined as a Biosecurity Incident, you must follow the steps of the BIRP to take measures to manage the risk to an acceptable level and reduce any potential biosecurity risks.
- 3 Here are some examples of biosecurity incidents.
  - a Garbage bag received from vessels splitting and spilling contents
  - b Sighting of hitchhiker pest on an arriving vessel
  - c Discovery of an ant's nest in the port precinct
  - d Discovery of bees or wasp nest in the port precinct
  - e Soil contamination on exterior of an overseas container
  - f Sighting of a rat or other exotic animal on the wharf
- 4 Exotic pests or disease may actually be detected during a biosecurity incident, or they may only be suspected. For example, discovering webbing, borer holes, egg masses, or soil contamination are all examples of an actionable biosecurity incident.
- 5 All port users (personnel who hold a port access card) will be provided training on biosecurity via the port induction; internal staff will be trained in accordance with the DAFF training material at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/before/pests>

### Isolate

- 6 Suspected or detected biosecurity risks must be isolated immediately.
  - a Isolate risks found at port (such as ants' nests, beehives) using barriers to prevent any movement through the area.
  - b Move all goods away from the suspected biosecurity risk – domestic or otherwise – using an impervious barrier or a minimum pallet width from other good and the boundary fencing
  - c Confine goods containing a suspected biosecurity risk to an isolated area such as the hard stand open area behind the sugar terminals.
  - d Display signage to identify the biosecurity hazard.

### Contain

- 7 All biosecurity risks must be contained when safe to do so. Some containment measures can include:

- a Spillages must be swept up, double bagged and disposed of in a biosecurity receptacle.
- b Use knockdown spray to contain the spread of flying or mobile insects e.g. moths, ladybugs, stink bugs.
- c Collect a specimen to assist with identification if safe to do so.
- d Close doors and create partitions to restrict movement.
- e Use tarpaulins to contain contamination or pest infestation.
- f Ants, bees and wasps can be very dangerous so do not disturb them. Take a picture and record the location. If detected on cargo, do not move it. Instead, take measures to isolate it.
- g In the case of an escaped animal, act as a spotter from a safe distance and keep track of the animal's location. Notify Operations to assist in the coordination of re-capture.
- h Liaise with DAWE and relevant agencies with regards to disposal of any biosecurity related waste generated.
- i Liaise with NQBP Operations to procure departmentally approved disinfectant 'Virkon S' is required to sterilize material.
- j Any waste generated from a biosecurity incident will be deemed biosecurity waste and transported to Hay Point Quarantine Waste Handling Facility for treatment.

## Report

- 8 All port users must report any biosecurity incident of risk. Even if it turns out to be a false alarm, over reporting is far better than under reporting. Remember, failure to report is **against the law**. Call NQBP operations on 0417 761 086 (available 24/7).
- 9 Table 1 – Roles and Responsibilities earlier in this document highlights that all personnel must report a biosecurity hazard to their supervisor. It is the supervisor's responsibility to report this to NQBP on the Duty Phone on 0417 761 086 (available 24/7). NQBP Operations will then take all precautionary steps and notify the Environmental Coordinator who will in turn notify the relevant agencies and potentially seek assistance and ensure all statutory reporting is completed.

## Treat

- 10 The only direct treatment NQBP is to conduct is that of standard household knockdown sprays, or flora covered by the NQBP ground distributors licence or any other reasonable and safe control measures. All other treatment will be conducted by an appropriately qualified person for application of insecticides, pesticides and herbicides. Biosecurity waste will be treated by Hay Point QWHF suitable operator.
- 11 Incidents occurring during loading or unloading of ships are to be controlled by the stevedoring company until NQBP can control the scene and arrange government intervention. It should also be noted that that if a direction is given by DAFF to respond to a biosecurity incident (e.g. fumigation treatment onsite), a departmentally approved treatment provider must be used if there is one in close proximity). If not, then the treatment has to be performed under supervision by DAFF at a fee for service. Biosecurity waste must also be managed by an approved waste provider. A list of approved providers can be located at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/arrival/arrangements/sites> but this list is not

exhaustive.

## Links

Item	Link
NQBP Biosecurity Management Plan	This document is available at E19/13335.
Biosecurity Standard	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/first-point-entry-and-non-first-point-entry#fpoe-biosecurity-standards">http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/first-point-entry-and-non-first-point-entry#fpoe-biosecurity-standards</a>
Biosecurity Awareness Package	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/Documents/seaports-biosecurity-elearning/index.html">http://www.agriculture.gov.au/Documents/seaports-biosecurity-elearning/index.html</a>
Biosecurity Contact	Phone: 1800 798 636 (See, Secure, Report Hotline). Email: <a href="mailto:biosecurityfirstpoints@agriculture.gov.au">biosecurityfirstpoints@agriculture.gov.au</a>

## Reference Documents

- Land use plan - [https://ngbp.com.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/3273/Port-of-Mackay-Land-Use-Plan-December-2009.pdf](https://ngbp.com.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/3273/Port-of-Mackay-Land-Use-Plan-December-2009.pdf)
- Weed Management Plans and weed mapping for Kommo Toera Trail, Bedford Paddock, Eastern Wetlands and Hind Dunes – EM/052/00039
- SOP – Invasive Marine Pest Sampling (E20/31090)
- ECP015Op – Sentinel Bee Box Biosecurity Monitoring (E19/25813)
- ECP016Op - Sentinel Ant Biosecurity Surveillance Program (E20/48298)
- Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Meeting correspondence (EM/015/00003)

## Training

All NQBP staff undergo biosecurity training as part of the General Environmental Awareness Induction. Maintenance staff who work in close proximity to the water will also undertake an additional training package on Invasive Marine Pests This training shall be conducted every three years and will be recorded on the NQBP training record platform in PeopleConnect.

All other port users are required to conduct a port induction. Fundamental biosecurity requirements such as the requirement to report will be added to this induction package. This content is to be reviewed every three years as per the EMS.

## Auditing

This BMP is incorporated into the NQBP Environmental Management System (EMS). NQBP maintains the EMS to an externally audited ISO 14001 certification level. As such, this BMP will be included in this external audit process on an annual basis. An internal EMS audit is also carried out on the EMS each year. The review period (below) will be recorded and the Environmental Coordinator will be accountable for ensuring currency of content, and the external audit will give assurance against this

## Review Period

This BMP will be reviewed every two years and the review periods will be added to the NQBP EMS document review schedule. A breach in biosecurity, or a material change in scope will also prompt a document review prior to two years. A record of changes will be tracked as part of the document review process and this will be made available to DAFF at any time requested.

## Document Control

Version #	Date	Approved By	Nature of Change
Issue 1	May 2019	Carl Ptolemy	BMP Production and Implementation
Issue 2	27 March 2020	Luke Galea	Added information on Colonial Sea Squirt incursion at Gulf of Carpentaria and Mackay Updated acronym from DAWR to DAWE Updated section on Wash bay General update
Issue 3	16 December 2020	Luke Galea	Added information on new Biosecurity Monitoring Programs and ECP's. Added information about new weed management plans and weed mapping. General update
Issue 4	12 January 2021	Luke Galea	Updated information relating to Ballast Water
Issue 5	24 January 2022	Luke Galea	General update / review
Issue 6	05 July 2022	Luke Galea	Added section on Biofouling Management
Issue 7	1 February 2023	Luke Galea	General update / review
Issue 8	January 2024	Luke Galea	General update / review