



Biosecurity Management Plan

Port of Abbot Point

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 Abbot Point

The Port of Abbot Point is Australia's most northern coal export port and one with remarkable potential for trade growth. In naturally deep water, the port is located 25 kilometres north of Bowen and incorporates the Abbot Point Bulk Coal Terminal (APBC) with a current export capacity of 50 million tonnes per annum. APBC are now in the final stages of reviewing infrastructure requirements to accommodate the Carmichael Rail Network (CRN). The permanent port infrastructure required to link the existing T1 with CRN will include a new coal in-loader and conveyors to link to the existing T1 stockpiles and out-loader streams.

As the port authority, North Queensland Bulk Port's vision for Abbot Point is that it continues to grow as a key strategic coal port and, over time, leverages benefits from the adjoining State Development Area to become a hub for import, processing, manufacturing and export activities of other industries of regional, state and national significance.

The Port of Abbot Point is situated 30km north-west of Bowen, between the existing industrial centres of Townsville to its north, and Mackay to its south. The Port of Abbot Point is a strategic asset to Queensland due to its proximity to the Abbot Point State Development Area, the resource rich Bowen Basin, Galilee Basin and North West Minerals Province, its remote location from urban development, and access to deep water.

Abbot Point has one operating terminal, APBC. Coal is supplied to T1 by rail, and services customers in the Glenden and Collinsville areas and a number of Bowen Basin mines. Tugs, operated by Engage Marine, also service the port. Pilotage is currently provided by Port of Townsville on behalf of Maritime Safety Queensland.

NQBP own and operate the newly refurbished Marine Offloading Facility (MOF), located just to the east of T1. This infrastructure is a common-user, multi-functional facility and allows for safe and efficient operations, including the delivery of a replacement stacker reclaimer for APBC.

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 significantly reduce incursions that have the potential to significantly impact on port operations leading to schedule slippage and increased operational and project costs.

The Port of Abbot Point Port of Bowen (Abbot Point) has been determined as a First Point of Entry (FPoE) under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act). Operators are assessed against FPoE biosecurity standards, and if compliant are listed as having an approved arrangement for the Biosecurity Entry Point (BEP). As such, **it is important to note that terminal operators have their own determination with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF)**. The only Biosecurity Entry Point for the Port of Bowen (Abbot Point) is APBC T1. North Queensland Bulk Ports (NQBP) is responsible for the effective environmental management of strategic port land in the surrounding area but does not hold responsibility within the operational coal terminal. NQBP has committed to maintaining an approved Biosecurity Management Plan and will continue to comply with regulatory requirements, however the scope to which this applies (see below) is of importance. NQBP will also assist the terminal operators 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 Abbot Point and the Marine Offloading Facility. This Biosecurity Plan does not directly address those activities over which NQBP has no operational control, such as the coal terminal itself, or lessee or third-party activities or areas. 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.

The Marine Offloading Facility on Eastern Beach at Abbot Point is under NQBP control. However, this area would only be operated as a biosecurity entry point on a by exception basis. If an international arrival were ever considered for this area, a non-first point approval would be sought from DAFF prior to the vessel's arrival.

NQBP also own and maintain the Bowen Jetty in the town of Bowen. This location is currently utilised by the local tug operator, and the remaining section of the jetty is publicly accessible. The Bowen Jetty is a non-first point of entry, and similar to the Abbot Point MOF would only be utilised for international vessel or cargo on a by exception basis with prior approval from DAFF. NQBP have a single workshop located in the town of Bowen, in close proximity to the Bowen Jetty. This workshop employs two NQBP FTEs, nine days per fortnight.

See Figures 1 to 3 below to give an aerial view Abbot Point's relative location, and location of the MOF and Bowen Jetty, Non-First Points under NQBP control.

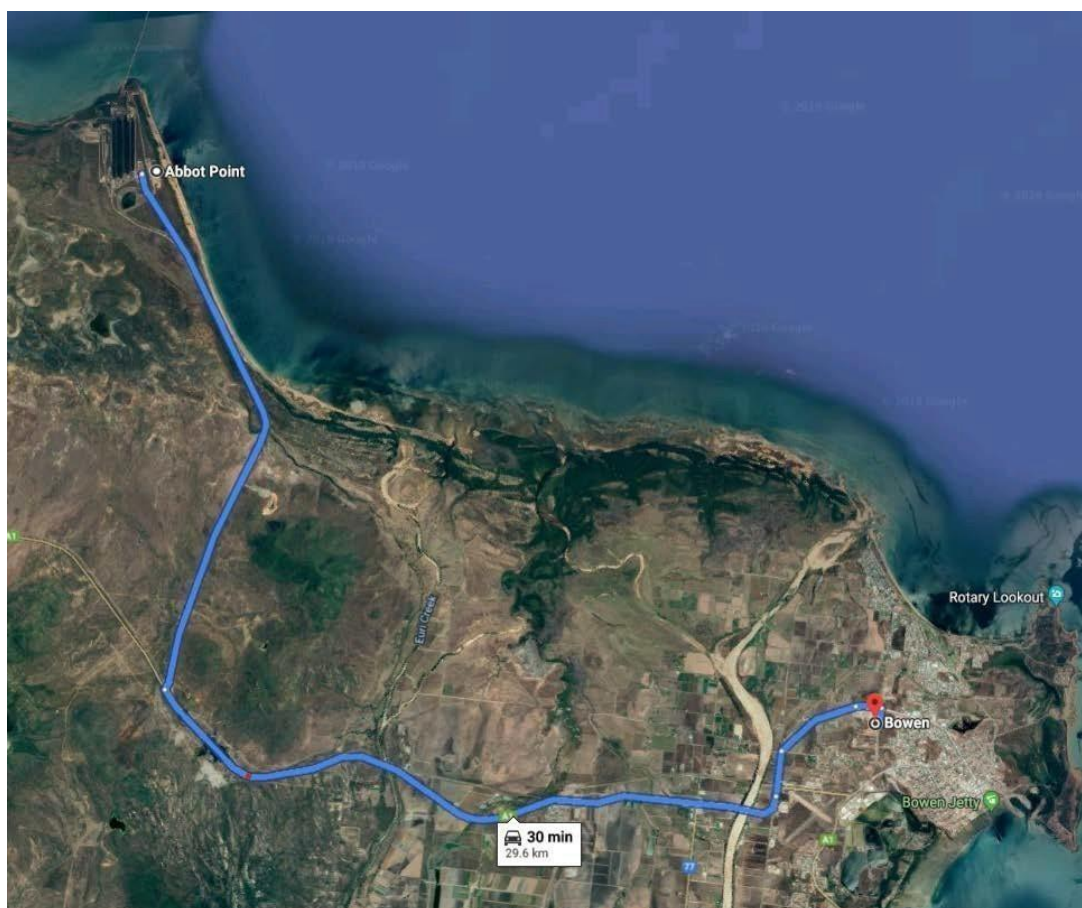


Figure 1: Google Map of Abbot Point Location relative to Bowen



Figure 2: Terminal area and NQBP MOF area



Figure 3: Bowen Jetty area (not a Biosecurity Entry Point)

Note: Bowen Jetty is included in this BMP for **context only**, and it is not a BEP for the Port of Bowen (Abbot Point). It is a Non-First Point of Entry and permission must be given by DAFF before an international vessel can arrive at this location.

Yellow indicates NQBP owned and operated land.

Green indicates NQBP leased area (Engage Marine at the time of writing).

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.

Management Responsibilities

Below is a table outlining the responsibilities of relevant personnel with regards to biosecurity management for Abbot Point. 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
Abbot Point Bulk Coal (APBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure alignment with the conditions stipulated within their respective Biosecurity Incident Response Plans endorsed by DAFF. Notify NQBP in the event of any biosecurity incident. 	At all times
Employees, contractors and visitors working on NQBP land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be observant and mindful of any potential biosecurity incident or risk and report any suspected or potential biosecurity issues to their supervisor. 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. 	At all times
Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any suspected or potential biosecurity incident to the NQBP Duty Phone on 0417 761 086. 	Immediately
Environmental Advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for production of the Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP) and its incorporation into the NQBP Environmental Management System. Responsible for the review of the BMP every two years to ensure currency. Responsible for fielding enquiries and incidents around biosecurity and notification to relevant stakeholders including government agencies and NQBP management. Responsible for incident reporting and investigation of biosecurity incidents. Responsible for biosecurity awareness training for internal NQBP personnel. Management of invasive fauna and flora. Attends Bowen/Abbot Point Regional Pest Management Group Meetings 	At all times Quarterly
Senior Manager Commercial/Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring all existing and new trading parties are aware of their biosecurity obligations including inspections and cleaning. Ensuring facilities meet DAFF standards prior to import of any cargo. 	At all times
Senior Manager Port Operations and Maintenance*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Ensuring operations staff field after hours enquiries and attend to incidents relating to biosecurity. Ensuring notification of any biosecurity issues to Environmental Advisor. Ensuring operations staff monitor for biosecurity risks during general duties around the port. 	At all times

*For any biosecurity incidents outside of the operational terminal areas, NQBP 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

The Port of Abbot Point is used for the following cargo:

- Export – Coal
- Import – Nil

Note: Crew baggage may be offloaded but it is subject to customs laws and is not included under this Biosecurity Management Plan. Please note that 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 Abbot Point, 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.

Live animal trade is not active at the time of writing, however if this practice becomes established the additional control of animal carried diseases needs to be considered. For cattle, this includes, but is not limited to, Anthrax, Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), Foot & Mouth Disease and Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL). It will be the responsibility of the lessee to ensure the biosecurity obligations are adhered to as NQBP does not have direct control over leased areas.

Below are lists identifying key biosecurity risks at Port of Abbot Point. These lists are not exhaustive but are intended to highlight the most probable biosecurity risks to assist port users identify potential issues.

Invasive Fauna

Mosquitos - The Port of Abbot Point 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*) 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 Dengue Fever, Chikungunya virus and Yellow Fever overseas. Various other lesser known mosquitoes 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. The NQBP Environmental Coordinator monitors for pooling water on site during project audits and general inspections and raises this issue at stakeholder meetings.

Bees - Asian Honey Bees (*Apis cerana*) and Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*). A colonisation from any bee species is to be reported to NQBP Environmental Coordinator who will arrange biosecurity attendance and lab analysis as required.

Rodents - Ship Rat (*Rattus rattus*), Sewer Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and House Mouse (*Mus musculus*) are moderate risks at Port of Abbot Point. The primary control for rodents is that once berthed and alongside, all ships at Port of Abbot Point install rat guards on their lines to prevent the movement of rodents on or off the vessel. The terminal operators are responsible for compliance with this.

Foxes - Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) sightings have been limited at Abbot Point. At the time of writing there are no concerns with numbers.

Toads - Cane Toads (*Rhinella marina*) are a low risk species to gain entry to a vessel, however a population does exist in the surrounding lands. Mainly a risk as a hitchhiker pest, controls include adequate inspection of cargo against an exotic toad species.

Cats - Feral Cat (*Felis catus*) numbers have not been reported as an issue. NQBP will respond should this become problematic on port land.

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.

Fish - Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus* and *Tilapia mariae*) are a risk at Port of Abbot Point. 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 sights at time of writing.

Invasive marine pests (IMPs) - Such as Asian Green Mussel (*Perna viridis*) present a significant risk to biosecurity. Other species include but are not limited to American slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata*, Asian basket clam (*Potamocorbula amurensis*), Asian shore crab (*Hemigrapsus sanguineus*), black striped mussel (*Mytilopsis sallei*), Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*), Asian paddle crab (*Charybdis japonica*), Rapa or veined whelk (*Rapana venosa*), soft shell or long-necked clam (*Mya arenaria* and *Mya japonica*); present a significant risk to biosecurity. NQBP currently monitor for IMPs each quarter by inspecting marine pest plates and notifying the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Biosecurity Queensland) of any suspicious species.

Invasive Marine Pests are monitored in accordance with:

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

In May 2021, there was a confirmed detection of an invasive marine pest, known as the White Colonial Sea Squirt (*Didemnum perlucidum*) found at Abbot Point. The Colonial Sea Squirt originates from the Caribbean. 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 marine 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>

Pigs – Feral Pigs (*Sus scrofa*) cause considerable damage on local port, state and private lands. Currently NQBP have engaged the local council authority to provide an aerial shooting service to reduce the pig population. Once numbers are reduced to a manageable number, a ground-based approach will be explored.

Leptospirosis is of considerable concern at Abbot Point, as this may cause direct economic loss to local graziers.

The below lists all diseases possible in feral pigs in QLD:

- Brucellosis (*Brucella suis*)
- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium* spp.)
- Classical Swine Fever
- Porcine Parvovirus
- Aujeszky's Disease
- Leptospirosis (*Leptospira* spp)
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Melioidosis (*Pseudomonas pseudomallei*)
- Swine Vesicular Disease
- Sparganosis (*Spirometra erinacei*) African Swine Fever
- Murray Valley Encephalitis Trichinosis
- Screw-worm Fly infestations

NQBP will continue to manage this biosecurity issue but rate the risk of forward contamination by pig or pig related disease making it onto a berthed vessel as negligible.

Wild Dog – (*Canis familiaris*, *C. lupus familiaris*, Sightings of wild dogs have increased in the last few years. Wild dogs compete directly with dingoes for food and living spaces, particularly in refuge areas. They also prey on small remnant populations of native species such as, koalas and quolls threatening biodiversity. NQBP will continue to monitor populations and respond by a ground-based approach should the need arise. Wild dogs are also targeted during aerial shooting programs should they be observed during the flight.

Deer – Chital Deer (*Axis axis*) populations around the Bowen region are very minimal; low risk species at time of writing.

Invasive Fauna Summary

NQBP Environmental Advisor will continually monitor for and manage increased numbers of invasive fauna. If an unacceptable 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 as required.

Many species not listed are still to be reported, these may include moths, beetles, borers and parasites. Pooling water and rubbish sites should be avoided to mitigate invasive fauna. Standard knockdown sprays and departmentally approved disinfectant are kept on site at the NQBP Bowen workshop for insect treatment, specimen capture and site sterilisation as required.

As communicated in the relevant section in the body of this document, NQBP has recently created an SOP for Invasive Marine Pest Sampling 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)

Invasive Plants

Whitsunday Regional Council Weeds of Concern

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mimosa pigra	<i>Mimosa pigra</i>
Siam weed	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>
Leucaena	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Navua sedge	<i>Cyperus aromaticus</i>
Rubber vine	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>
Itch grass	<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i>
Prickly acacia	<i>Acacia nilotica (Vachellia nilotica)</i>
Sicklepods	<i>Senna obtusifolia, Senna hirsuta and Senna tora</i>
Prickly pear	<i>Opuntia monacantha, O. stricta, O. tomentosa</i>
Harissia cactus	<i>H. martinii, H. tortuosa and H. pomanesis syn.</i>
Chinee apple	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>
Pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>
Miconia	<i>Miconia sp</i>
Giant sensitive plant	<i>Mimosa diplotricha var. diplotricha</i>
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Giant Parramatta grass	<i>Sporobolus fertilis</i>
American rat's tail grass	<i>Sporobolus jacquemontii</i>
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>
Water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>
Mesquites	<i>Prosopis glandulosa, P. pallida and P. velutina</i>
Singapore daisy	<i>Sphagneticola trilobata syn. Wedelia trilobate</i>
Chinese lantern	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>
Parthenium weed	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>
Cat's claw creeper	<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>
Mother-of-millions	<i>Bryophyllum delagoense (syn. B.tubiflorum)</i>
Bellyache bush	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>
Snake weed	<i>Stachytarpheta spp</i>
Gamba grass	<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>
Cabomba	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
Caltrop	<i>Tribulus cistoides, T. terrestris</i>
Blue trumpet vine	<i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i>
Giant rat's tail grass	<i>Sporobolus pyramidalis and S. natalensis</i>
White Ball acacia	<i>Acaciella glauca (syn. A. angustissima)</i>
Castor Oil Plant	<i>Ricinus communis</i>
Parramatta grass	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i>
Noogoora Burr	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>
Basket asparagus fern	<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>
Water mimosa	<i>Neptunia oleracea and N. plena</i>
Yellow guava	<i>Psidium guajava</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Japanese Sunflower	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i>
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>
Pennisetum / Elephant grass	<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>
Milkweed	<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i>
Broad-leaved Pepper Tree	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>
Dutchman's pipe (exotics)	<i>Aristolochia spp.</i>
Kyasuma grass	<i>Cenchrus pedicellatus</i>
African fountain grass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>
Yellow oleander	<i>Cascabela thevetiana (syn. Theretia peruviana)</i>
African tulip tree	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>
Limnocharis	<i>Limnocharis flava</i>
Khaki Weed	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i>
Glush weed	<i>Hygrophila costata</i>
Guinea Grass	<i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>
Neem Tree	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>
Grewia	<i>Grewia asiatica</i>
Mimosa	<i>Acacia farnesiana syn. Vachellia farnesiana v. nilotica</i>
Bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys sp. and Bambusa sp</i>
Candle Bush	<i>Senna alata</i>
Swamp foxtail	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>
Coral Vine	<i>Antigonon leptopus</i>
Knob weed	<i>Hyptis capitata</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grey Willow	<i>Salix spp. other than S babylonica S. x calodendron, S. x reichardtii and S. chilensis syn. S. humboldtiana</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Thunbergia alata, T. species</i>
Athel pine	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>
Grader Grass	<i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i>
Mossman river grass	<i>Cenchrus echinatus</i>

Confirmed Weeds at Abbot Point*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Rubber Vine (priority weed – currently being managed)	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>
Bellyache Bush (priority weed – currently being managed)	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>
Lantana (priority weed – currently being managed)	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Velvet Tree Pear (priority weed – currently being managed)	<i>Opuntia tomentosa</i>
Prickly Acacia (priority weed – currently being managed)	<i>Acacia nilotica (syn. Vachellia nilotica)</i>
Chinee Apple (priority weed – currently being managed)	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>
Snakeweed	<i>Stachytarpheta sp</i>
Rhodes Grass	<i>Chloris sp</i>
Hyptis	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>
Red Natal	<i>Melinis repens</i>
Stinking Passionflower	<i>Passiflora foetida</i>
Tridax Daisy	<i>Tridax procumbens</i>

*Observed during Weed Survey of Abbot Hill in October 2018.

NQBP's Environmental Advisor attends the Bowen / Abbot Point Regional Pest Management Group Meetings on a quarterly basis. Meeting correspondence housed on RM8 at EM/052/00066/4.

Invasive Flora Summary

NQBP deem the risk of a biosecurity incursion through invasive plant material as low to moderate. Considerable effort has been made to control weeds proximal to the terminal since 2018. NQBP has hired a designated land management crew comprising and managed by local traditional owners. At the time of writing, Abbot Hill, Shark Bay and Eastern Beach have seen a significant reduction in weed populations from this work. On-ground weed control actions have been done in accordance with Weed Management Plans created for the above areas. Further works are planned and budgeted for into the 2020's, including maintenance of previously treated areas.

Operational Procedures

Reporting

All personnel must report a suspected biosecurity incident or risk. This shall be reported either directly or to the work supervisor who must report to NQBP Port Operations on 0417 761 086. Port Operations will notify the NQBP Environmental Advisor who will arrange support from relevant stakeholders, including notification to government agencies to request for a broader scale response as required. The below flowchart details the reporting process.



Inspections

NQBP have a single workshop and two FTE's member working in the Abbot Point area, nine days per fortnight who carry out monthly environmental inspections. 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. Environmental inspections and marine pest plate inspections are recorded on the NQBP Environmental Management System.

Leased areas are the responsibility of the respective tenant. All tenants are to notify NQBP in the event of a suspected incursion, as per the training section in this BMP. 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. Environmental workshop inspections will be carried out monthly and recorded on the NQBP Environmental Management System.

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 DAWE 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. The Port of Abbot Point does not have a facility to treat waste, as such no biosecurity waste is accepted. Port of Abbot Point is not determined as a first point of entry (FPoE) for waste therefore biosecurity waste is not permitted for discharge.

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.

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, Fisheries & Forestry (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/or diseases.

1. If you become aware of a potential biosecurity incident you must 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 or otherwise, 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 working on NQBP land) will be provided training on biosecurity via the generic induction; NQBP 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, bee hives) 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 goods and the boundary fencing.
 - c. Confine goods containing a suspected biosecurity risk to an appropriate isolated area.
 - 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 DAFF and relevant agencies with regards to disposal of any biosecurity related waste generated.

Report

- 8. All port users must report any biosecurity risk. Even if it turns out to be a false alarm, over reporting is far better than under reporting. Remember, **you must report a biosecurity risk**. Call NQBP operations on 0417 761 086 (available 24/7).
- 9. Table 1 – Roles and Responsibilities in this document highlights that all personnel must report a biosecurity incident directly, or to their supervisor. It is then 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, approved disinfectants or herbicides. All other treatment will be conducted by an appropriately qualified person for application of insecticides, pesticides and unapproved herbicides.
- 11. If a direction is given by DAFF to respond to a biosecurity incident (e.g. fumigation), a departmentally approved treatment provider must be used if there is one in proximity. If not, then the treatment must be performed under supervision by DAFF at a fee for service.

Links

Item	Link
NQBP Biosecurity Management Plan	This document is available at E19/14434.
Biosecurity Standard	http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/first-point-entry-and-non-first-point-entry#poe-biosecurity-standards
Biosecurity Awareness Package	http://www.agriculture.gov.au/Documents/seaports-biosecurity-elearning/index.html
Biosecurity Contact	Phone: 1800 798 636 (See, Secure, Report Hotline). Email: biosecurityfirstpoints@agriculture.gov.au

Reference Documents

- Land use plan - https://nqbp.com.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/3274/Port-of-Abbot-Point-Land-Use-Plan.compressed.pdf
- Weed Management Plans for Shark Bay, Abbot Hill and Eastern Beaches (EM/01/07/00006)
- Pest Monitoring – Feral pigs only, other species as required.
- Invasive Marine Pest Plate Inspections – NQBP EMS.
- SOP – Invasive Marine Pest Sampling (E20/31090)
- Monthly Workshop Environmental Inspections – NQBP EMS.
- Bowen / Abbot Point Regional Pest Management Group Meeting correspondence (EM/052/00066/4).

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.

All port users (non NQBP staff) will complete an NQBP induction which contains DAFF approved content outlining the basics of biosecurity awareness and the obligation to report.

All personnel working in the operational terminal areas are under the training programs of their respective terminal operators, done in accordance with their DAFF approved Biosecurity Incident Response Plans.

Auditing

This BMP will be incorporated into the NQBP Environmental Management System (EMS). NQBP maintains the EMS to an externally audited ISO 14001 certification level. As such, this BMP and all linked documents or procedures will be included in this external audit process on an annual basis. An internal EMS audit is also carried out 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. NQBP will at any time make all evidence available to DAFF for auditing purposes.

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 upon request.

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 Mackay and Gulf of Carpentaria Updated acronym from DAWR to DAWE General update
Issue 3	16 December 2020	Luke Galea	Added information on new SOP for Invasive Marine Pest Sampling. General update
Issue 4	12 January 2021	Luke Galea	Amended information on 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 review and update
Issue 8	January 2024	Luke Galea	General review and update