Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Healthy environment
Healthy landscapes
Healthy people

Why biosecurity matters to Landcare

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The biosecurity system

Offshore

Where possible, we push the risk off-shore

Influencing international organisations, other countries and importers to better manage biosecurity risks in global supply chains. We are increasing effort at the point in which containers, ships, and planes are loaded to address biosecurity threats.

Pre-Border

Strong neighbours = strong biosecurity for Australia

Working in our near region to improve our neighbour's capability to identify and mitigate biosecurity risks. Helping our neighbours helps us.

On the Way

Increased offshore intelligence, research and data analytics

A strong pre-border intelligence and analytics capability helps us to quickly identify emerging trends and risks to inform future planning and allow for timely intervention.

At-Border

An agile and smart system to cope with the (un)expected

Managing biosecurity risks in sophisticated ways that minimize delays/inconvenience at border, whilst still addressing risks. Using technology to identify, understand and mitigate risks.

Immediately Post-Border

Strong government, community and business engagement

Engaging community and businesses immediately beyond the border, at airports and ports (and adjacent to), to aid in the rapid detection and response to pests and diseases.

Post-Border

Rapid detection, response and recovery capability

Building national and local resilience – we will be judged on our ability to respond to an incursion, contain it and then move to declaring freedom.

What is environmental biosecurity?

Biosecurity protects Australian livelihoods and is vital to strengthening and supporting our environment and economy, including tourism, trade and agriculture. It underpins many aspects of our way of life.

National Biosecurity Statement 2019

Our natural environment makes Australia unique. Biosecurity keeps it that way.

Goal

A trusted and robust biosecurity system that embeds consideration of, and actions to address, exotic and emerging pests, weeds and diseases that threaten our natural environment, social amenity, and the resilience of our landscapes

Vision

One system working together to protect our key environmental assets

Understand the risks

Improve research, intelligence, data, risk assessment and prioritisation of pests, weeds and diseases, and the assets and values to be protected

Prevent arrival of exotic pests, weeds and diseases to Australia

Appropriate regulatory powers and actions, and awareness activities that support the public and industry to fulfill their biosecurity obligations.

Intercept at the border

Strengthen understanding and awareness, pathway analysis and commercial solutions

Minimise spread and impact

Progress revised NEBRA, Invasives Plan framework, and national preparedness

Manage pests, weeds and diseases that cannot be eradicated

Prepare for and respond to incursions

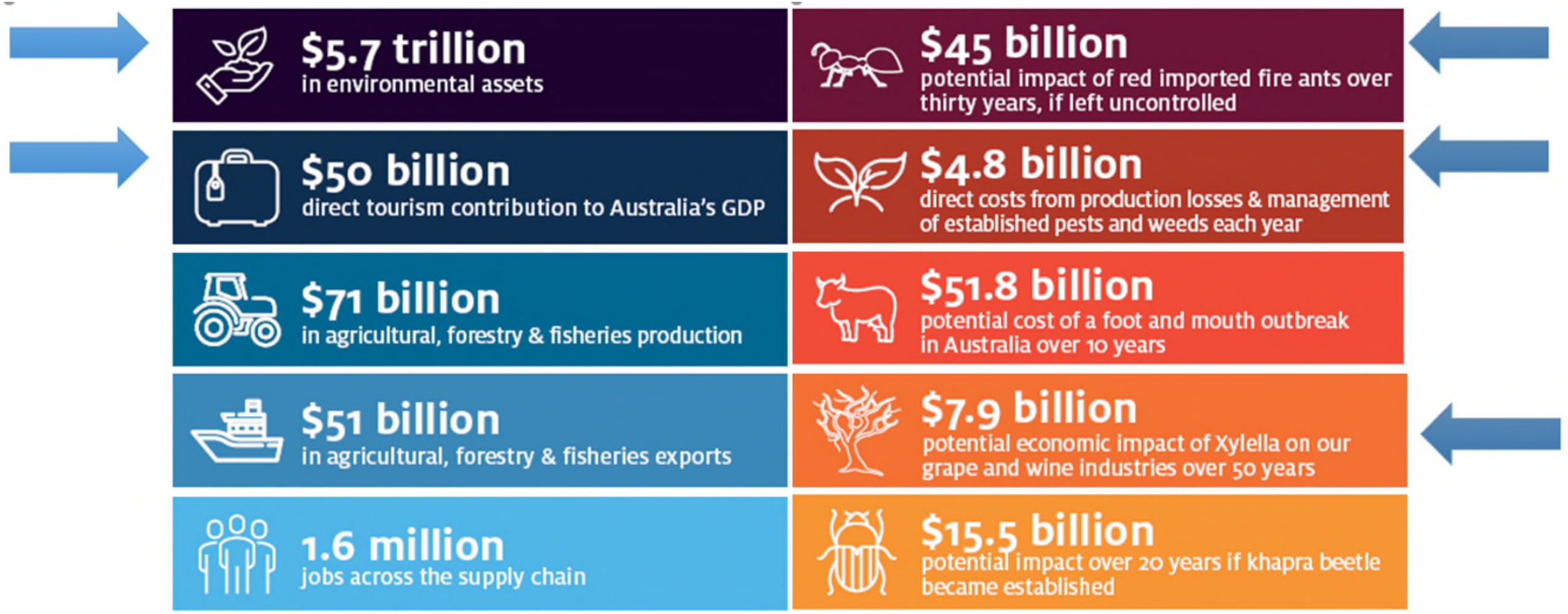
Support implementation of national, state and local plans and programs

Put the community, including First Nations groups, at the centre of our actions

Detect incursions beyond the border

Enhance surveillance, including through citizen science, and taxonomic /diagnostic capabilities

Why does it matter?



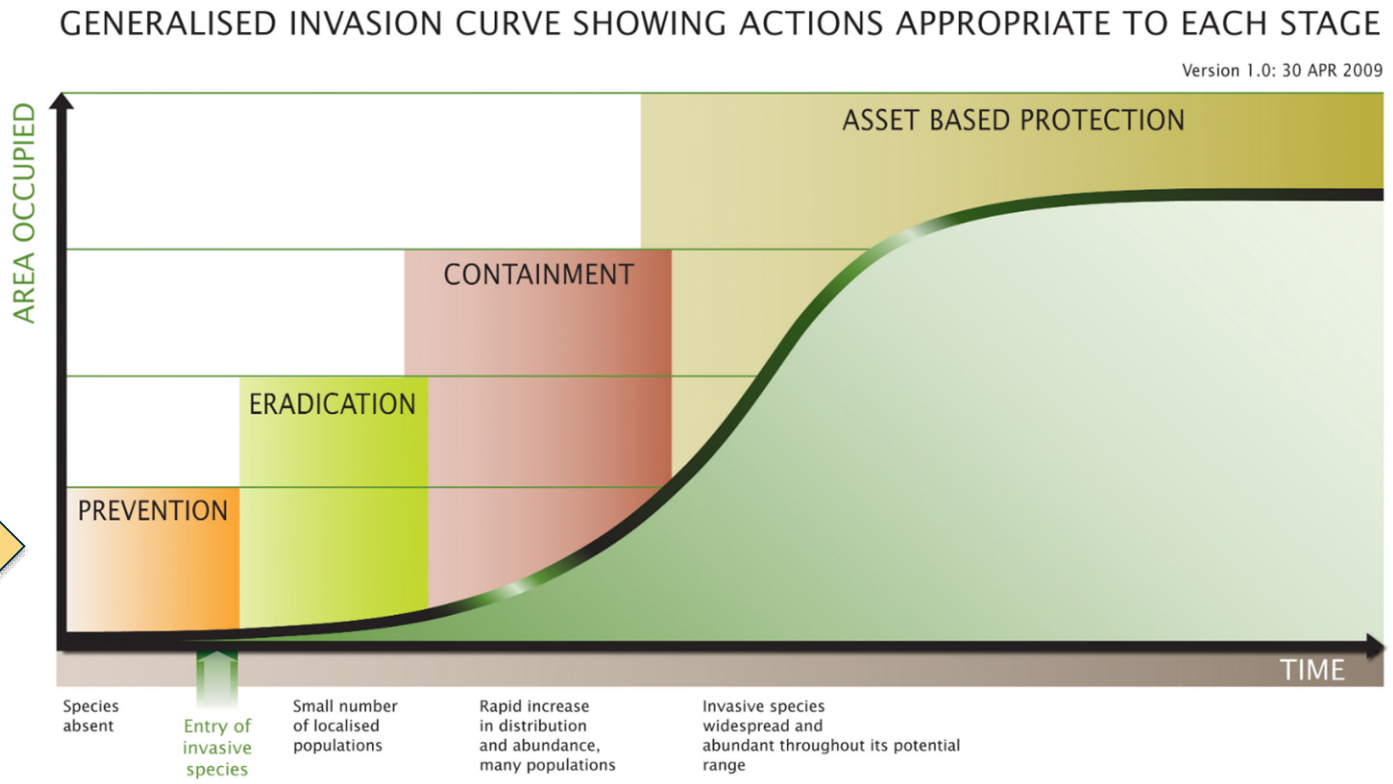
What do we do?

Pre-border and border activities

National Priority List of Exotic Environmental Pests, Weeds and Diseases

Biosecurity import risk analysis and live import list assessment

Convention on Biological Diversity targets



Threat Abatement Plans

Other pest animal and weed strategies, action plans and coordinators

National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA)

Established Pest Animals and Weeds Management Pipeline Program

Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds

+ a number of others

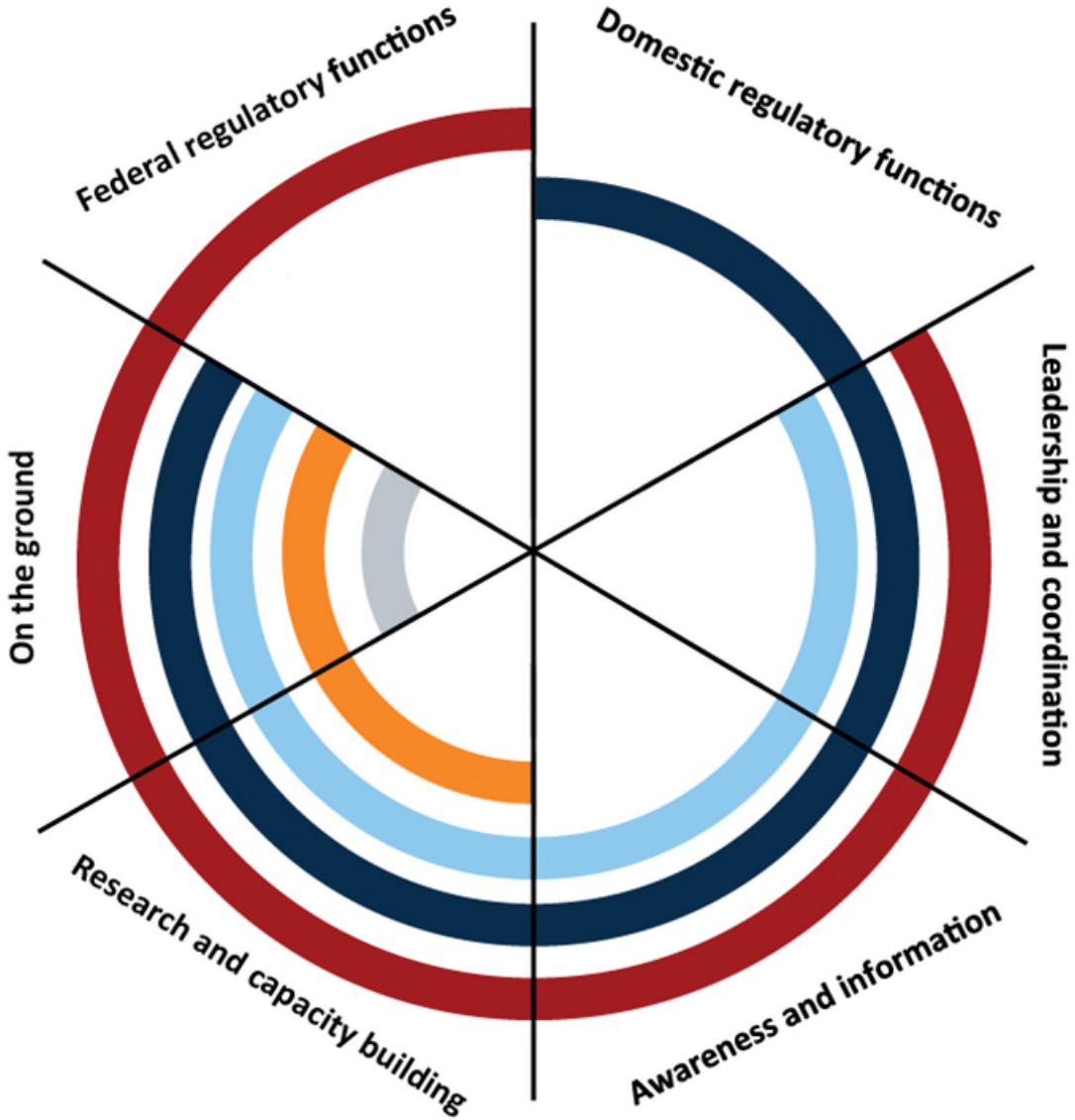
Biosecurity is a partnership

- Australian government
- State and local government
- Representative bodies
  e.g. industry, environmental, natural resource management and community groups
- Research organisations
- Individuals

Improving **community awareness, engagement** and **participation**

A greater understanding of the **personal and cultural values** connected to Country and our environment

Effective collaboration to better manage biosecurity risk and response



Myrtle Rust

The Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers surveying for Myrtle Rust with Dr Geoff Pegg (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on K'gari (Photos: BLSR) https://finia.org.au/2020/11/14/myrtle-rust-update/

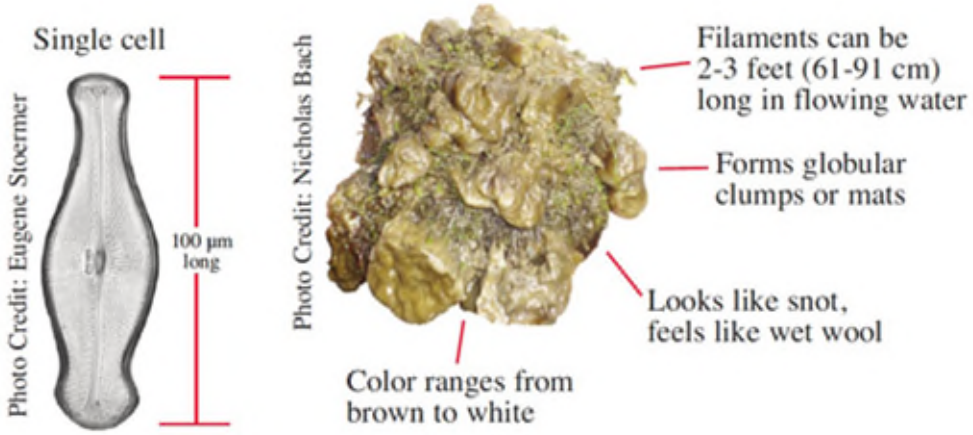
Myrtle rust infection of growing tips results in dieback and prevents flowering in Melaleuca quinquenervia https://landcareaustralia.org.au/project/myrtle-rust-threat-australias-unique-biodiversity/

- Endemic presence in eastern seaboard of Australia of myrtle rust *Austropuccinia psidii* pathovar *pandemic* – South Australia and Western Australia currently free
- Exotic strains pose a significant pathogenic threat to Australian native plants
- Entry into Australia through
  - Commodity imports – timber, nursery cuttings
  - Windborne spores – highly resistant but long distances
- Huge capacity for spreading once established and very difficult to eradicate and manage

- Exotic strains on the EEPL and NPPP
- NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub projects
- National Myrtle Rust Action Plan and Symposium

Didymo aka ‘Rock Snot’

- Freshwater diatom found in the cool, nutrient-poor waters of northern Europe and northern North America
- Able to rapidly reproduce from a single cell
- Become an invasive species in its original range and is being found in new areas, including NZ South Island
- Has a range of adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems, as well as human and economic effects
- Once found in a waterway there is **no prospect of eradication**



https://www.watershedcouncil.org/rock-snot---didymo.html

https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/our-natural-environment/pest-management/check-clean-dry/

https://myrivershed.wordpress.com/2018/11/25/rock-snot-as-lovely-as-it-sounds/

Established pest animals

Wild dogs
Canis familiaris

European foxes
Vulpes vulpes

European carp
Cyprinus carpio

Feral pigs
Sus scrofa

Feral cats
Felis catus

Feral deer
Cervidae spp.

Image credits: pestsmart.org.au

Weeds

- Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)
  - 32 species
  - Raised awareness, understanding and reduced impact of widespread weeds.
  - Encouraged national partnerships to leverage support and resources
- National Established Weed Priorities (NEWP) framework
  - Co-designed national program
  - Consultation currently underway

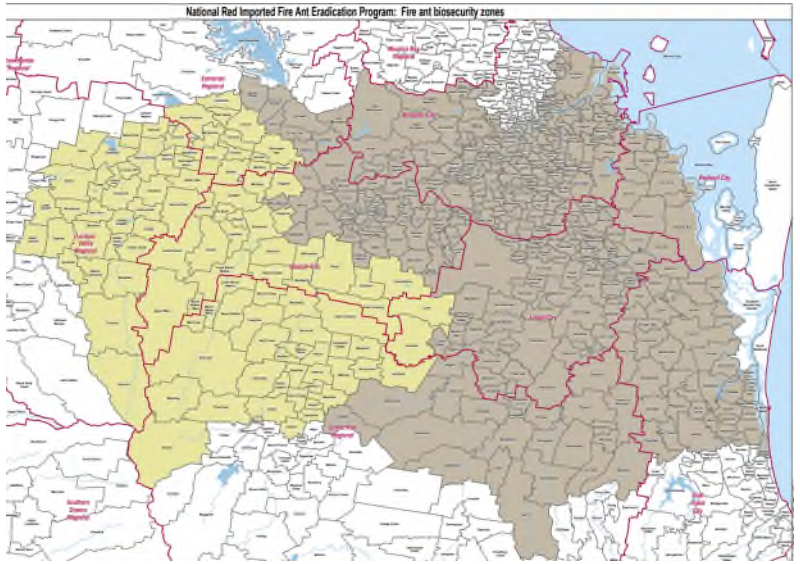
https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weeds-in-the-nt/A-Z-list-of-weeds-in-the-NT/gamba

https://wildmatters.com.au/national-established-weed-priorities/

https://theconversation.com/field-of-nightmares-gamba-grass-in-the-top-end-12178

pestanimals&weeds@agriculture.gov.au

Invasive ants



Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA)

- Approx. 2-6mm in length
- Repeated stings when disturbed
- Form supercolonies
- Economic, environmental and social amenity pest
- Known attraction and damage to concrete and electrical wires

- **National RIFA Eradication Program – 10 years and $411.4m**
- **Multiple successful eradications**

Argentine ants

- Approx. 3mm in length
- Attack nesting birds, hatching eggs and other native fauna
- Form supercolonies
- Can rob commercial beehives

- **Established in areas of mainland Australia**
- **Eradication underway on Norfolk Island**

Yellow Crazy Ants

- Approx. 5mm in length
- Form supercolonies
- Spray formic acid to immobilise prey (including humans when threatened)
- Protect and ‘farm’ sap sucking insects

- **Established in areas of Australia**
  - **Christmas Island**
  - **Wet Tropics World Heritage Area**
- **Eradication has been successful in some places**

It’s all about the people


Gardening


Farming


Domestic travel


International travel


Online shopping


Recreational fishing


Bushwalking


Owning pets


Volunteers working, pulling Bitou bush on Brunswick Heads chemical free site.
https://landcareaustralia.org.au/making-peace-with-the-weeds/

biosecurity.gov.au/report pestsmart.org.au feralscan.org.au

Biosecurity is **YOUR responsibility**

Found a biosecurity risk?

SEE. SECURE. REPORT.

Call 1800 798 636

Report online: awe.gov.au/report