

## Cane Toad Biosecurity Status by State

Cane Toads (*Rhinella marina*) are a nationally recognised, invasive species in Australia. The biological effects, including lethal toxic ingestion, caused by Cane Toads is listed as a key threatening process under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Specific requirements for control vary by state biosecurity legislation. This document outlines the biosecurity status and control requirements by state or territory.

*Disclaimer: Please note, this document is current as of January 2024. It is your responsibility to understand and comply with biosecurity regulations in your area. Watergum makes no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability, or completeness of any information.*

### Queensland

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's *Biosecurity Act 2014* outlines the requirements for each individual and organisation in relation Cane Toads in the state of Queensland.

- (a) Cane Toads are not listed as a prohibited or restricted invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive animals under their control.
- (b) Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive animals in their area, this plan may include actions to be taken on Cane Toads. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Search local government agency for more information: <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/local-government/for-the-community/local-government-directory/search-the-local-government-directory>

### New South Wales

The Department of Primary Industries' *Biosecurity Regulation 2019* outlines the requirements for individuals and organisations within and outside of the *Cane Toad Biosecurity Zone*. This zone is established as all land within NSW other than the following land:

- (a) all land within the following local government areas:
  - (i) Tweed,
  - (ii) Byron,
  - (iii) Lismore,
  - (iv) Ballina,
- (b) all land within the part of the local government areas of Kyogle and Richmond Valley bounded by Summerland Way in the west,
- (c) all land within the part of the local government area of Clarence Valley bounded by:
  - (i) in the south, the part of the Clarence River east of the town of Lawrence, and
  - (ii) in the west by:
    - (A) the part of Pringles Way between the town of Lawrence and its intersection with Summerland Way, and
    - (B) the part of Summerland Way north of its intersection with Pringles Way.

An owner or occupier of land within the *Cane Toad Biosecurity Zone* must

- (a) if the pest is part of a new infestation of the pest on the land, notify an authorised officer as soon as practicable, and
- (b) to the extent it is reasonably practicable, humanely destroy the pest on the land by any lawful method, and
- (c) to the extent it is reasonably practicable, prevent the spread of the pest from the land. A person must not engage in any of the following dealings with a cane toad in the cane toad biosecurity zone:
  - (i) have possession of the animal,
  - (ii) move the animal,
  - (iii) release the pest animal from captivity.

### **Western Australia**

Cane Toads are declared pests under the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation, and Attractions' *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*. These regulations outline the following requirements:

- (a) for live toads, an 'import and keeping permit' is required from the Department of Agriculture and Food in WA, where strict conditions must be met in order for the application to be approved,
- (b) integration of Cane Toad management with other land management activities, including the Commonwealth's Cane Toad Threat Abatement Plan (2011), 'working on country' plans for Indigenous Protected Areas, and DBCA's management of parks and reserves and biodiversity assets.

### **South Australia**

Cane Toads are a declared species under the Department of Primary Industries and Regions' *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. Under this act, Cane Toads may not be held, traded or released in South Australia without specific authorisation. All Cane Toad sightings must be reported to National Pest Alert Hotline (Freecall): 1800 084 881.

### **Victoria**

Cane Toads are classified as a controlled pest animal under the *Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. Under this act, it is illegal to buy, sell, or keep any pest animals including Cane Toads within the state of Victoria.

### **Tasmania**

Live Cane Toads are strictly forbidden from being imported into Tasmania by Department of Natural Resources and Environment under *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Possession permits are required under the *Wildlife Regulations 1999* for the importation of any non-viable (dead) toads, which must be either frozen or otherwise preserved.

### **Northern Territory**

Cane Toads are identified as a major pest by the Northern Territory Government. There is currently no legislation regarding the control of this species within the Northern Territory, however the Northern Territory Government emphasises the importance of understanding correct Cane Toad identification to prevent the removal of any native frogs from the environment.

### **Australian Capital Territory**

There is currently no biosecurity legislation regarding the control or status of Cane Toads in the Australian Capital Territory. It is recommended that any sightings are reported to the National Pest Alert Hotline (Freecall): 1800 084 881.