Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy

Biosecurity Operations, Emerging Challenges Impacting Torres Strait

Building Resilient Communities for Torres Strait Workshop
22 October 2012
Border Control – Torres Strait
Torres Strait Biosecurity

(Above) officers inspecting goods brought ashore by Traditional Visitors from PNG

Cargo and pre-permit inspections
Torres Strait Biosecurity

Surveillance and Public Awareness
Border operations delivered by officers based in Cairns, Weipa, Bamaga and all inhabited islands of Torres Strait.

Torres Strait staff also deliver fruit fly response activities under agreement with the Qld State Gov’t.
Emerging challenges

• Increasing movements
• Offshore biosecurity threats
• Impact of changing climatic conditions.

Opportunities

• Continued staff employment from local communities
• Offshore capacity building with PNG
• Collaborations with other agencies operating in TS on activities relevant to biosecurity
• Biosecurity infrastructure improvements.
Biosecurity Threats in Northern Australia

Rabies

* Endemic in Indonesia and spreading east
* Potential entry via pet animals onboard yachts or FFVs
Biosecurity Threats in Northern Australia

* Screw Worm Fly
  * Endemic in Indonesia and PNG
  * Entry most likely via a human or animal onboard a traditional vessel or FFV
Biosecurity Threats in Northern Australia

Papaya Fruit Fly

Yearly Incursions into Torres Strait.

- Outbreak in 1995 cost $65m in lost exports and eradication costs
- Entry most likely via unregulated yachts and dinghies operating in Torres Strait
Biosecurity Threats in Northern Australia

- Previous outbreak in Torres Strait.
- Entry most likely via Torres Strait dinghy, yacht, or FFV
Biosecurity Risk Pathways

- Major International Shipping Route
- FFV Landing Sites/Camps
- Torres Strait Dinghies
- Onshore winds and tidal movements
- Itinerate Yachts.

26,000 Traditional Visitors from PNG/Yr.