



Department of Agriculture
Government of Western Australia

QUARANTINE: PLAYING THE GAME FAIRLY – PROTECTION PAYS

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Travellers, particularly the four wheel drive fraternity, have been reminded of the importance of their quarantine obligations when entering Western Australia on roads or trails that do not have a quarantine checkpoint.

The Executive Director, Agriculture Protection Rob Delane said quarantine regulations were vitally important to protect Western Australia's environment and its \$4.5 billion agricultural industries.

"Our agricultural industries enjoy an enviable market position, partly due to the State's freedom from many serious diseases of animals and plants that cause problems interstate and overseas," Mr. Delane said.

"Travellers need to ensure they exercise a spirit of responsibility and a fair go to protect our agriculture and our environment from the introduction of animals, plants, weeds, pests and diseases that could seriously threaten Western Australia's agricultural industries, jobs, health and exports," he said.

"Quarantine measures are in place at airports, seaports and road checkpoints. However, remote entry points to Western Australia cannot be serviced in this way, so a responsibility falls on the 'off-road' and interstate traveller to be aware of what items have restricted entry into our State," he said.

"An example is honey, carried by many outback travellers including caravanners. It may seem an innocent grocery item, but honey, pollens and bee products are all prohibited from entry into Western Australia because they may introduce serious bee diseases such as European Foul Brood.

"If this or other bee diseases took hold, Western Australia's bee and honey industry, which is currently worth \$6 million a year, would be badly affected. The State's horticultural and agricultural crops - worth \$90 million annually - depend on bee pollination and also would be significantly affected."



Mr. Delane said travellers carrying honey or pollen products should consume them or dispose of them safely before entering Western Australia.

"Bury the containers with the lids on to prevent access by bees. If washing out the containers, make sure the waste water is also buried as bees could access potentially infected honey," he said.

Mr Delane said apples were another example that had the potential to introduce the serious diseases of codling moth and apple scab.



“On several occasions in the past, Western Australia has had to spend millions of dollars to eradicate codling moth from apple orchards. The State is presently free of this extremely serious pest which exists in other states. But it can so easily be introduced via motorists bringing in infected fruit or infected plant material.”

Mr Delane said introduced fruits could also carry various species of fruit fly that, if introduced, would threaten the status of areas designated free of fruit fly.

Restricted items

- Fresh fruit and vegetables. (Home dried products are usually seized at quarantine checkpoints.)
- Honey is not permitted unless treated under quarantine supervision and certificates issued.
- Plants, seeds, cut flowers and walnuts.
- Soil or sand. (As an example of a serious pest introduced through soil, a pot plant from Brisbane may contain the Red Imported Fire Ant for which an eradication program is under way in Queensland.)
- All used agricultural bags/sacks/boxes/containers are prohibited from entry. This includes potato sacks, wheat bags, chaff bags, fruit and vegetable cartons and styro boxes.

Permitted items

- Dehydrated (dried) fruit and vegetables commercially produced and packaged, are subject to inspection for insect infestation on arrival in Western Australia.
- All cooked and tinned food is permitted.
- Dairy and meat products are permitted.
- Frozen fresh food is permitted except for apples, grapes, stone-fruit, paw paw, onion and potatoes.
- Other processed food such as flour, biscuits, fruit cake, dried packet foods, pickles, relishes, jams and fruit juice/cordial are permitted.
- There are no restrictions on cats and dogs, budgerigars, cockatiels (weiros) and chickens. Domestic rabbits are also permitted, but most other pet animals require checking. Pets other than these should be referred to the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) for inspections. Horse floats and stock trucks may have to be washed down to remove weed seeds and straw. Bird cages must be free of fruit, straw and seed. Call the Department of Agriculture on 9366 2300 or CALM on 9334 0441 for further details.

Amnesty bins

A Quarantine Amnesty bin is available on the Great Central Highway, about 20 km east of Laverton. Travellers should deposit items as indicated by signs. Bins are also installed along the Tanami and Buchanan Highways.

You can do your bit:

- Frequently wash down your vehicle and towed vehicles of mud and soil – especially before crossing into Western Australia, to avoid the introduction of weed seeds and pest insects.
- Regularly clean out underbody protection plates and suspension as these areas collect grasses, straw and seeds. In addition to spreading weeds, build up of ‘straw packs’ on body parts presents the risk of fire.
- Clean down boats and boat trailers after use in a waterway before entering Western Australia to prevent the introduction of serious aquatic weeds such as salvinia or hydrocotyl.
- Ensure clothing and camping gear are cleaned of seeds and plant material to avoid spread of weeds.
- Watch for and report unusual weeds to the Department (for example, skeleton weed, rubber vine, Noogoora burr, and Bathurst burr). Similarly, report the presence of such animals as dingo, deer, feral pigs or unusual birds such as starlings or sparrows, which are eradicated if found in Western Australia.

Declaring goods on arrival

All agricultural and horticultural items must be declared on arrival in Western Australia – at a Quarantine Checkpoint or by a Quarantine Inspector located elsewhere as below.

- **The southern Quarantine Checkpoint for Western Australia is on the Western Australian-South Australian border near Eucla.**
- **The northern checkpoint is about 40 km east of Kununurra on the Western Australian-Northern Territory border.**
- **Mobile checkpoints may also operate on other entry roads.**
- **Items can also be taken to a Quarantine Inspector at Perth Domestic Airport or to the East Perth Rail Terminal.**

Note: Where travellers do not pass through a Quarantine Checkpoint and restricted items cannot be seen by a Quarantine Inspector, the next best precautionary measure is to securely bury such items.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the website www.agric.wa.gov.au/quarantine or by calling the Western Australian Quarantine Service (WAQIS) on (08) 9311 5329 or (08) 9311 5333. Ask for the brochure, ‘Travellers’ guide to interstate quarantine’.