



Great Barrier Reef Island Biosecurity Commitment 2016

Background

The State Government of Queensland will be introducing legislation in mid-2016 to simplify and streamline state biosecurity requirements. Wild Mob is committed to the 4C's (Conservation, Culture, Community and Commerce) and biosecurity has potentially devastating impacts on all of these.

Wild Mob sees this legislation as a step in the right direction for genuine commitment to biosecurity in Queensland and wish to take part in the control and prevention of spread of pests and disease and impacts of contaminants on the islands of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR).

Wild Mob activities potentially pose a risk to biosecurity in the GBR and we are obligated both by our own philosophy and legislative requirements to minimise any possible impact. Wild Mob understands the importance of biosecurity and wish to work proactively with government, private and other landholders to minimise any possible risk posed by our organisation to the greatest extent possible.

Our commitment

Wild Mob commits to managing biosecurity risk to the GBR Islands to the greatest possible extent. Wild Mob wishes to take an active role in the management and response to pest and disease outbreaks and prevent impacts from contaminants. As such, the general principals below apply to all Wild Mob activities within the Great Barrier Reef Region:

- Island Arks – Maintaining and improving the condition of islands by preventing the spread of pests and disease and ensuring our operations do not result in environmental contamination. Improving island condition by removal of priority pest species where feasible.

- Maintaining and Improving – “Keeping the good stuff good” – Ensuring that islands in pristine or near pristine condition have a very high level of biosecurity emphasis placed on them during Wild Mob activities.
- Simplicity and economy of prevention rather than control or containment – An understanding that preventing a pest or disease outbreak is the best method of island protection, both environmentally and fiscally but that early detection and spread prevention is also highly important.
- Collaboration & Education - We will work collaboratively with all stakeholders to apply the general principles and strive to educate passengers and the broader community about environmental impacts and risks to biosecurity on the GBR islands.

Legislative Requirements

[Australian Government – Biosecurity Act, 2015.](#)

[Australian dangerous goods code Edition 7.4](#)

[State of Queensland – Biosecurity Act, 2014.](#)

[State of Queensland – Work, Health and Safety Act 2011.](#)

Details

Wild Mob will take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk to island biosecurity including:

Education & Awareness

- Passenger briefings: Highlighting the importance of biosecurity and the risks posed to island biodiversity. This will also apply to existing and new Wild Mob staff and in media where possible.

Equipment Checks & Cleaning

- Checking camping and other equipment when packing and unpacking. – Visual inspection.
- Personal Gear Checks: Checking both staff and passenger personal gear (bags, boots, socks etc.) gear before landing and between islands. – Visual inspection.
- A stiff brush and spray bottles containing 70% methylated spirits (to scrub and clean equipment e.g. hiking boots and prevent the spread of *Batrachochytrium Dendrobatidis*) is mandatory equipment aboard Wild Mob vessels operating in the GBR Region.

Vessel & Small Plant

- Keeping the hull, interior, bilge (vacuum) and deck of vessels free of seeds and other contaminants (e.g. marine and terrestrial vertebrates and invertebrates as well as chemical contaminants) as far as is reasonably possible.
- Any small plant transported on vessels will be thoroughly inspected prior to departure from the mainland and between islands. Visible contaminants will be removed and the exterior sprayed with 70% methylated spirits.

Chemicals – Storage, Handling & Transportation

- Wild Mob will transport and store chemicals in line with relevant codes and legislation as a minimum standard, but will seek to improve on these codes and legislation where possible.

Chemical Use – Pest Control

- The use of chemicals in the control of pests on islands will be avoided whenever possible. Where chemical use is necessary for the greater good of the environment and all other non-chemical control method options have been exhausted, chemicals will be applied to minimise environmental contamination.
- In this context, Wild Mob will strive to minimise to the greatest possible extent, impact on both biotic and abiotic environmental features (e.g. soil/sand/sediment and soil microbes, air, water, flora and fauna). The use of Atrazine and Glyphosate in particular will be avoided where possible. However, where the use of glyphosate is required, only glyphosate-isopropyl 360 g AE litre⁻¹ SL will be used.

Chemical Use – Other

- Where possible and practical Wild Mob will utilise environmentally and fiscally friendly alternatives to commercial chemicals for activities such as domestic cleaning (e.g. vinegar (CH₃COOH) or bicarbonate of soda (NaHCO₃)). However, the focus will remain on the health and safety of staff and passengers and where no known, effective or readily available natural alternative is feasible, chemicals may be used.
- Unavoidably, the good work we do in the Great Barrier Reef is only fiscally feasible at this time with the use of motorised transport. This necessitates the use of chemicals such as petroleum-based products, coolants and other chemicals to keep our vessels and vehicles serviceable, registered or in survey. Where possible, Wild Mob will seek and employ more environmentally friendly alternatives where possible and practical.

References

Draft Lord Howe Island Biosecurity Strategy 2016

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Lindsay, E. A. & French, K, (2004) The impact of the herbicide glyphosate on leaf litter invertebrates within Bitou bush, *Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp rotundata*, infestations Pest Management Science Volume 60, Issue 12, pages 1205– 1212, December 2004, DOI: 10.1002/ps.944.