

MEDIA RELEASE

16 April 2018

Aquatic biosecurity awareness – what’s it all about?

The first in a series of six Northern Australia Aquatic Biosecurity Awareness workshops kick off in Darwin on Wednesday 18 April.

The workshops offer biosecurity awareness training including: prevention; early detection of disease; control measures to prevent spread; and eradication.

The workshops are facilitated by Dr Matt Landos, Director of Future Fisheries Veterinary Service (FFVS), who says the workshops offer aquatic producers practical tools to protect their livelihoods from pests and diseases.

“Northern Australia is a vast gateway from all corners of Australia as well as our north, so it’s critical we maintain strong biosecurity practices to keep our industries safe and sustainable for future generations,” said Dr Landos.

“Biosecurity is a term that’s been around for a long time, but its importance has become more evident to the aquatic industry with aquatic outbreaks occurring in Australia over the past few years.

“These workshops will assist participants in securing their farms profitability and enabling greater access to new markets through superior biosecurity assurance.”

The workshops have been developed as a collaborative effort between Animal Health Australia, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and FFVS.

Dates and cities:

- Darwin, NT Wednesday 18 April 2018
- Cairns, QLD Thursday 26 April 2018
- Mackay, QLD Tuesday 1 May 2018
- Townsville, QLD Thursday 3 May 2018
- Thursday Island, QLD Thursday 10 May 2018
- Broome, WA Thursday 17 May 2018

To register your interest in attending one of the above sessions please search for ‘Northern Australia Aquatic Biosecurity Awareness workshop’ on the Eventbrite website (www.eventbrite.com.au).

For further enquiries about the workshops contact Helen Jenkins, Aquatic Biosecurity Liaison Officer Northern Australia on 0477 744 637 or hjenkins@animalhealthaustralia.com.au.

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Animal Health Australia works in partnership with our Members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.

The **Department of Agriculture and Water Resources** safeguards Australia’s animal and plant health status to maintain overseas markets, and protects the economy and environment from the impact of exotic pests and diseases. Biosecurity in northern Australia is supported by the [Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy \(NAQS\)](#), which recognises the unique biosecurity risks facing this region.

Future Fisheries Veterinary Service is a supplier of private aquatic animal health veterinary services to the aquaculture and fisheries industries.

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