

Excluding Cane Toads from Water Bodies

Why Control Cane Toads?

- Increase the number and diversity of native wildlife, especially frogs, on your property.
- Reduce the risk of domestic animals being poisoned by toads.
- Improve the environmental health of your pond or dam.



Cane Toad *Bufo marinus*

Source: D.Milledge

Less Cane Toads & More Native Frogs

- Catching and euthanizing individual toads has a small effect on Cane toad populations. Female toads lay up to 35 000 eggs per clutch therefore excluding Cane toads from breeding has a significant effect on reducing populations.
- Cane toads have specific preferences for breeding sites, they prefer disturbed areas with lots of open ground, low vegetation and gently sloping banks. A pond or dam that is mown or grazed right to the waters edge is prime real estate for cane toads.
- Barriers around the water are an effective way to stop Cane toads breeding because Cane toads cannot jump or climb very high. Fences and dense vegetation can be used together to form effective barriers. Native frogs can jump or climb and will still be able to access the water.

Making a Cane Toad Proof Fence

- Shade cloth or sediment films are cost efficient fencing materials
- 900mm wide cloth provides enough height (at least 70 cm) and depth into the ground (at least 10 cm).
- Posts should be spaced approximately 1.6 m apart
- Dig a trench at least 10 cm deep and drive posts into the trench
- Secure the cloth tightly between posts with the base of the cloth in the ground
- Backfill the trench to cover the base of the fencing material
- Once the barrier has been erected, check regularly to make sure no toads are trapped inside the fence. This is also an opportunity to look for native frogs.
- If the dam is used to water stock then new watering troughs should be at least 60cm high to keep toads out.



Breeding Exclusion Site - Mullumbimby



Philydrum lanuginosum



Dianella caerulea



Lomandra hystrix



Persicaria decipiens



Juncus sp.

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Baumea articulata</i>	Jointed Twig-rush
<i>Baumea rubiginosa</i>	
<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i>	Marsh Club-rush
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge
<i>Carex fascicularis</i>	Tassel Sedge
<i>Carex polyantha</i>	
<i>Crinum pedunculatum</i>	Swamp Lily
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Blue Flax lily
<i>Eleocharis dulcis</i>	
<i>Fimbristylis dichotoma</i>	Common Fringe-sedge
<i>Gahnia clarkei</i>	Tall Saw-sedge
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	Red-fruit Saw-sedge
<i>Juncus kraussii</i>	Sea Rush
<i>Juncus usitatus</i>	
<i>Lepironia articulata</i>	Grey sedge
<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	Matrush
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i>	Frogmouth
<i>Schoenoplectus mucronatus</i>	
<i>Schoenoplectus validus</i>	

What to Plant?

A minimum of three rows of plants are needed to create a barrier. Plants such as sedges and native grasses provide habitat for native frogs and are also a barrier to Cane toads. These clumping plants need to form a dense barrier so they are best planted between 0.5 and 1 m apart.

Natural regeneration is common around dams and it is likely that native water plants such a *Persicaria spp.* and *Ludwigia* will regenerate around the dam when exotic plants are cleared.

Many water birds such as swamp hens like feeding on the base of these plants and will pull up the plants. Therefore the plants often need to be protected by grow bags. The bags can be moved once the plants have almost outgrown the bag and have strong roots.

Demonstration site at Mullumbimby Golf Course

BEFORE



AFTER



Byron Shire Council
 Further Information: Wendy Gibney
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NSW Environmental Trust
 This program has been assisted by the NSW government through its 'Environmental Trust' initiative.