



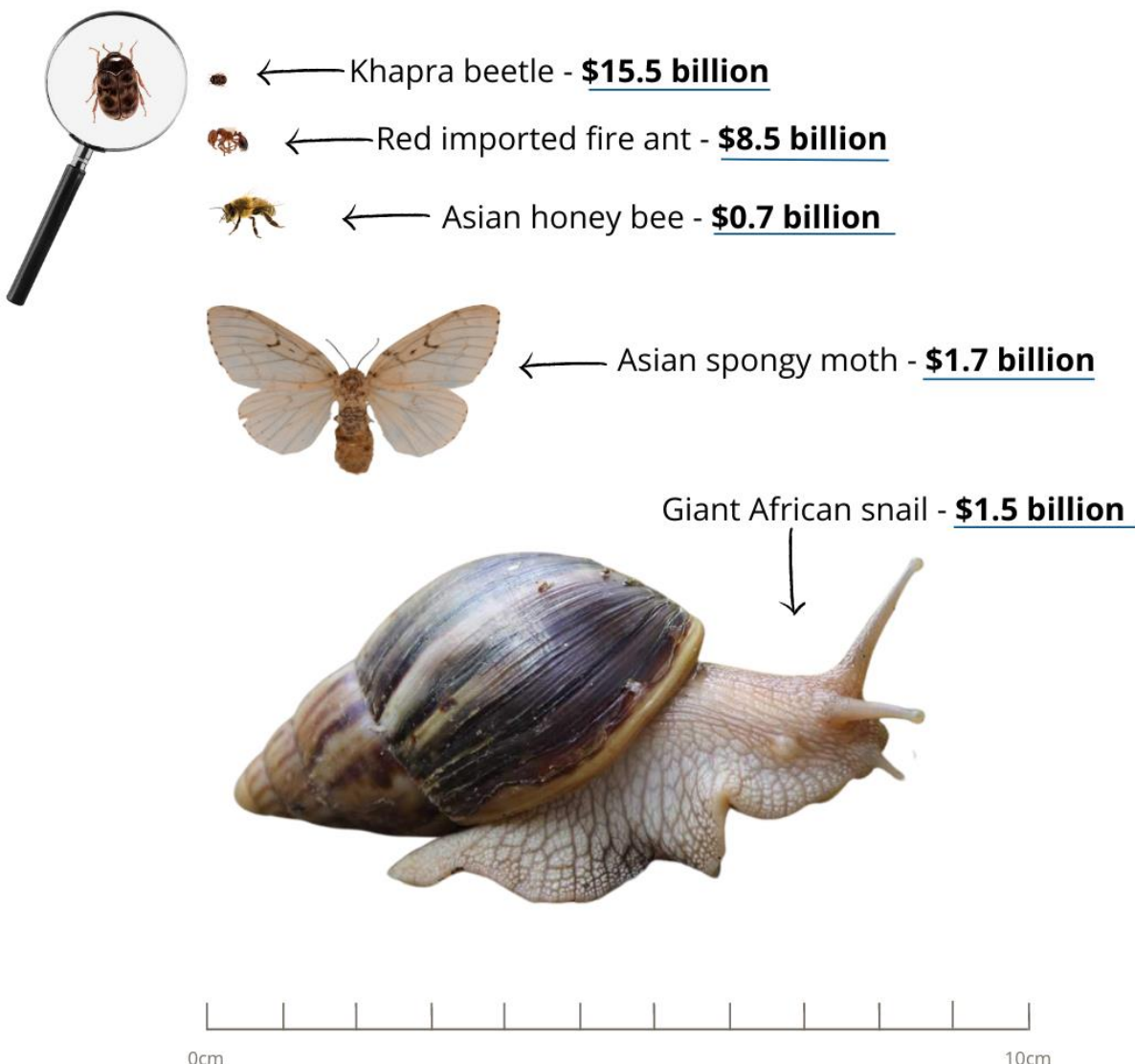
April 2024

Protecting Australia from hitchhiker pests

Australia has a strong biosecurity system in place to prevent the entry and establishment of pests that could threaten our agricultural industries, economy, environment and way of life.

But some serious pests, known as hitchhiker pests, have a specific biology or behaviour that enables them to associate with goods or conveyances, survive the extended journey to Australia, and then actively disperse into the environment. Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in movement of these pests globally. An outbreak of a hitchhiker pest in Australia could cause serious damage to our agricultural industries and environment, costing us billions of dollars.

Cost over 20 years to eradicate Australia's top 5 priority hitchhiker pests



Actual size when printed A4

The Hitchhiker Pest Program

The Hitchhiker Pest Program aims to address the risk of hitchhiker pests that can be carried via sea containers, their cargoes and associated packaging.

Around 2.5 million sea containers arrive in Australia each year. Due to this significant volume, it is not feasible to inspect all sea containers on arrival. Instead, the Hitchhiker Pest Program aims to better manage the threat of hitchhiker pests by targeting sea containers that present the highest risk. It also aims to deliver faster and safer clearance of lower risk sea containers.

The program is being delivered over four years (2021-2025).

Program benefits

The Hitchhiker Pest Program aims to deliver:



Reduced risk arriving at the border

Reduced resource effort at the border & faster border clearance



Intervention targeted at the highest risk

Enhanced biosecurity controls, ICT systems & data capture to target intervention at the highest risk



Co-regulatory arrangements

Enable re-allocation of biosecurity officers to highest risk & rapid & cost-effective management of risk through efficiencies in operations & systems

Program projects and focus areas

The Hitchhiker Pest Program encompasses 26 projects across 3 focus areas, as well as enabling projects



Expanded use of offshore controls

3 projects including the Sea Container Design Improvement project



Targeted onshore risk intervention & surveillance

4 projects including the Hitchhiker Risk & Control Framework project



Partnerships with industry, government & researchers

12 projects including the Hitchhiker Pest Survey project



Enabling

7 projects including the Container Data project

More information

Web agriculture.gov.au/campaigns/hitchhiker-pests

Email plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](#) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.