# Country Handle with Care

# Episode 4 – Tourism transcript

Dirtgirl, Costa and scrapboy: On country we walk, and see, and listen, and be. At one with the land, with the great open skies, with the water that falls, with it all, with it all, with it all. On country we meet creatures of high, and of seas, of land, and of trees, see plants that amaze and delight. Night and day, days and night. How it is, is what makes it so, so, so unique, so precious. How it is, is how it’s always, always, always been, pristine, serene. Now you and I have a shared mission, a shared vision, a shared responsibility that when on country we understand that our hands, our actions, our movements, our ways have a say in the future. And when we are here, or there, we handle country with care, with care. It’s about leaving it just so, so, for the future to know, to explore and adore, so tread lightly as you go, gently, so well, you know. It remains sustains, flourishes, nourishes, grows. So when it comes to nature, it’s natural, it’s wise, don’t overanalyse, think simple and clear, with a common sense, common heart, common mind. Protect and check, that you take nothing and leave nothing behind that doesn’t belong here, or there, and together we can handle country with care. Let the adventure of a lifetime, of a billion star times, of a dreamtime begin. Begin. Begin.

Community liaison officer: People shouldn’t be fearful of biosecurity. So we’re all in it together, kind of working together as an organisation and as a community. So we want to safeguard the environment and food sources that we eat so don’t be scared if you’re coming back from overseas and you tick that box for food or animal products and plants and things like that. It’s okay to do it because you’re just letting us know we’ll look through your stuff and make sure it’s all safe so it’s not a bad thing, it’s a good thing that you say yes.

Dirtgirl: Let’s get down to the nitty gritty of what you can bring to our land from your faraway cities. We welcome your sense of adventure, your awe, you can bring curiosity but some stuff we implore that you don’t bring. Some stuff you have, we don’t need, can’t afford from foreign shores like a seed on your shoe or on your boot. We don’t need food and we don’t need fruit. To enter country, to cross state borders, to come from down south. It’s not that we’re mean or down in the mouth, this is serious business. See? It can bring disease in, deep down, where the eyes can’t see, see inside, underneath the skin, trouble can begin and spread and affect country forever. Now, even a biscuit, and we don’t wanna risk it, so eat before you reach our door and if you have more then, bin it, don’t bring it in. Don’t sneak it in, there’s nothing to win and so much to lose so choose, choose to start now, start how you plan to continue. Oh bin you so with love and care, this is one thing we don’t want you to share. Hey there.

Biosecurity officer: Hey there.

Dirtgirl: Hey there.

Biosecurity officer: Is there anything you want to declare?

Costa: I’m a garden gnome.

Biosecurity officer: You’re a garden gnome? Oh wow.

Dirtgirl: Oh actually I do. I have a biscuit.

Biosecurity officer: Oh you have a biscuit? I’ll grab that, I’ll bin it for you.

Dirtgirl: Thank you.

Biosecurity officer: No worries.

Costa: And I’ve got this drum that I was given.

Biosecurity officer: Yep that’s the traditional artefacts here so what I’ll do is I’ll inspect it and make sure it’s free of any insect borers and if it does get passed then I’ll give it back to you okay.

Dirtgirl: Thank you so much, that’s great.

Biosecurity officer: No worries and you guys been to any farms?

Costa and dirtgirl: Yeah.

Biosecurity officer: I would have to inspect your boots as well if there’s any mud underneath.

Dirtgirl: And if we do?

Biosecurity officer: I’ll have to give it a clean yeah.

Costa: A clean? Yes, thanks boss.

Dirtgirl: A free boot clean.

Biosecurity officer:So I can see there’s mud and soil here so I’ll give it a good clean and I’ll give it back to you guys okay. Thanks.

Costa and Dirtgirl: Thanks. See you later.

Dirtgirl: What about here?

Scrapboy: Yeah this will be nice.

Dirtgirl: Looks like a good spot? Okay. Pretty good.

Scrapboy: Yeah.

Dirtgirl: I think we’ve done pretty well at this camping business.

Scrapboy: I think we got everything on the list.

Dirtgirl: OK so first of all we asked permission from the Rangers.

Scrapboy: And asked them where we can camp.

Dirtgirl: And we did remember to check the tides. And we remembered to bring water to drink.

Scrapboy: And the weather. And the first aid kit, just in case. I feel like that’s everything on the list for when you set up camping.

Dirtgirl: Yeah we should probably get going I guess. We do have to pack up and there are some things that a Ranger said that we should be doing if we’re packing up.

Scrapboy: I think we are forgetting something. Only if there was a Ranger that we could talk to right now.

Ranger: Hi dirtgirl and scrapboy, my name’s Leroy and I’m a ranger.

Dirtgirl: Hi. Nice to meet you.

Scrapboy: Hi Leroy, nice to meet you. Have a seat.

Dirtgirl: Yeah come on over. Is this your country?

Ranger: Uh yeah, yes it is.

Dirtgirl: Oh cool. It’s so beautiful.

Scrapboy: Thanks for having us, it’s so beautiful.

Dirtgirl: So when we’re packing up and leaving, what are some of the things you think we should do?

Ranger: Well the first thing would be just to clean up the camp area that you’ve been camping at and take all your rubbish with you.

Dirtgirl: Yeah we can do that, yeah.

Ranger: Just not take any animals, plants or shells along the beach, anything like that.

Scrapboy: So leave it the way that we found it?

Ranger: Yeah.

Scrapboy: If we pack up our camp and leave it exactly as it was before, we’ll need to make sure we brush down our gear right?

Dirtgirl: Oh yeah cause there’s sand and dirt.

Scrapboy: And maybe seeds and things on our boots and on the car tires.

Dirtgirl: Yes and on the car tires.

Scrapboy: And the tent and your swag.

Dirtgirl: So we should wash the car tires down?

Ranger: Yeah just give it a little wash down or something or wipe.

Dirtgirl: Are there any other tips you have?

Ranger: Just another tip for next time you come out camping. Don’t camp too close to the waters because up here in the north we have a lot of crocodiles.

Dirtgirl and scrapboy: Crocodiles?

Ranger 2: People can help care for country by washing down their vehicles, especially in tires where seeds get caught and in the radiators.

Ranger 3: Even the bottom of their shoes, just yeah be really careful cause yeah, weeds are spread very easily through vehicles, humans, bird droppings.

Ranger 4: If you don’t want to see the populations of animals decline just pick up your rubbish.

Ranger 5: I think it’s good to care for country because it’s not just for us, it’s for tourists and it’s easy if the place is clean and green.

Ranger 4: Especially like plastic bags. I mean, turtles will mistake them for jellyfish so they will eat them and choke and can die.

Ranger 6: They can’t digest the plastic so they end up dying from it.

Ranger 7: It’s very important to look after country because it’s got to be there for a lot of years to come and generations to come in the end so it’s always good to look after it.

Dirtgirl, Costa and Scrapboy: At the edge of our land, hearts and hands. One shared mission, the vision is clear, right there, handle country with care. In the trails beyond, a unifying bond, our eyes as one, prepared to handle country with care. Look out for the danger of the not so welcome strangers. Weeds and pests and creature galore, by wind and water set to explore. Many eyes needed to see, pests like electric ants, and Asian honey bees. Visitors, farmers, community, all call the number on this screen. One planet we share, handle country with care.

Top Watch Biosecurity

To report and emergency pest, weed or disease call 1800 79 636 or visit [www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/northern-biosecurity](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/northern-biosecurity) for more information

Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

This is an initiative of the Australian Government’s Agricultural Competitiveness and Developing Northern Australia white papers, the government’s plan for stronger farmers, a stronger economy and a safe, secure Australia.

Biosecurity. It’s everyone’s business.