

South East Asian box turtle

Prohibited invasive animal

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell South East Asian box turtles in Queensland.
- Three distinctive yellow stripes on side of the head.
- A hinged lower shell.
- Compete with native turtles for food and space in waterways.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

The South East Asian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*) is native to South East Asia that can live in many natural and man-made habitats in tropical climates and can compete with native turtles for food and space in our waterways. It is a freshwater turtle, up to 25 cm long with a highly domed upper shell and a hinged lower shell that allows the turtle to close its shell almost completely. The upper shell is blackish-brown to olive brown, while their lower shell is yellow, cream or pale brown, with or without dark blotches. Its head is blackish olive with three distinct yellow stripes on each side and it can withdraw head right back into shell (unlike native turtles).

Biosecurity risk

The South East Asian box turtle is a prohibited invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23. You cannot keep a South East Asian box turtle as a pet in Queensland. Penalties may apply.

The South East Asian box turtle has not established in Australia but, if introduced, would compete with native turtles for food and space. To prevent South East Asian box turtles establishing in Queensland, restrictions apply to their import, possession and sale.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen a South East Asian box turtle, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the South East Asian box turtle from escaping, such as shutting doors or windows to contain the animal or placing it in a box or cage.

More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

