

South East Asian box turtle

Call Biosecurity Queensland immediately on **13 25 23** if you see this species



South East Asian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*)

- 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 helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

A native from the South East Asia, the box turtle is able to live in many natural and man-made habitats in tropical climates and would 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. It's head is blackish olive with three distinct yellow stripes on each side and it can withdraw head right back into shell (unlike native turtles).

Pest 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 in **13 25 23**. 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 an South East Asian box turtle, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the South East Asian box turtle from escaping.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit our website at biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

