

# Chinese stripe-necked turtle

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



Photos courtesy Col Limpus

## Chinese-stripe-necked turtle (*Mauremys sinensis*)

- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell Chinese stripe-necked turtles in Queensland.
- It's claws are longer than native turtles and has yellow and black lines along the neck.
- May carry new diseases.
- Chinese stripe-necked turtles are not native to Australia and have the potential to become a problem if they escape or are released into the wild.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

### Description

The Chinese stripe-necked turtle, native to China, Vietnam and Korea is an potential invasive freshwater turtle species that grows up to 24 cm long. The shell is reddish-brown to black, with yellow stripes, the underside of the shell is yellow. It has a narrow head and cream-coloured jaws and chin. Females are larger than males. Unlike native turtles, which tuck their heads in on the side, the Chinese stripe-necked turtle retracts its head straight back into the shell. This is the most reliable characteristic for distinguishing these turtles from our native species.

### Pest risk

The Chinese stripe-necked turtle is a prohibited invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**. The Chinese stripe-neck turtle not established in Queensland but, if introduced, would compete with native turtles for food and space. To prevent Chinese stripe-necked turtles establishing in Queensland, restrictions apply to their import, possession and sale.

### What should I do?

If you think you have seen a Chinese stripe-necked turtle, report it to Biosecurity Queensland immediately on **13 25 23**. Until an authorised officer contacts you, take reasonable and practical steps to prevent this invasive 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](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

